

ASSOCIATION DUES

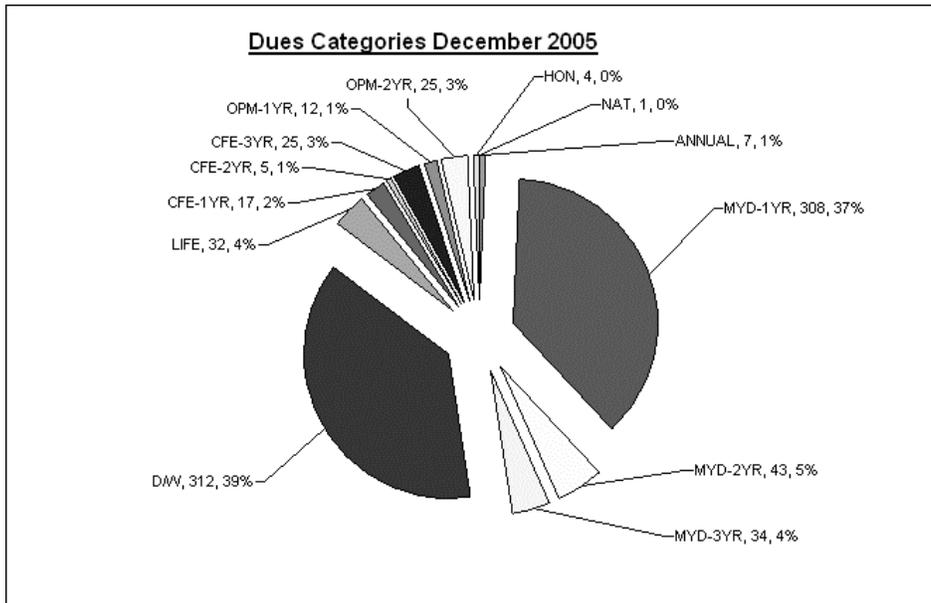
The Kansas Federation has written a resolution to amend our National Bylaws pertaining to the present dues system. A copy of the resolution is on page 3 of this newsletter for your information. The copy shows the present sections of the bylaws that will be amended by the resolution. The purpose of the resolution is to establish a single dues amount that would fund national, federation and chapters components of our organization.

A copy of the resolution is published in the newsletter for two reasons: One (1), so you will have a better understanding of “what’s going on in our organization” above chapter level. Stuff that you don’t read about in NARFE magazine. And two (2) it became apparent at the last chapter meeting in February that the members at the meeting should have had a copy of the resolution to read beforehand, if they were expected to arrive at a consensus whether to accept or reject this resolution. So it was tabled until the March chapter meeting.

The object of this exercise was to give the delegates to the forthcoming Federation Convention in April some idea how the members feel about this resolution – assuming the members at the meeting might reasonably represent our total chapter membership.

We’ll try again at the March meeting to arrive at a consensus now that the members who attend the meeting have, hopefully, read the resolution that’s provided in this newsletter.

Since the resolution deals with amending the dues system, the pie chart below is a graphic dues model of our chapter that shows how our members are distributed in the dues categories at the end of 2005. It identifies the dues category, number of members in that category and its percentage of total membership (e.g. MYD-1YR, 308 members, 37% of total membership.) The chart may be helpful while evaluating the merits the Association Dues resolution.



HON	Honorary	D/W	Dues Withholding
NAT	National only	LIFE	Life (paid up)
ANNUAL	See note [1]	CFE	Current Fed. Employee
MYD	Multi-Year Dues Plan	OPM	See note [2]
[1] Category will disappear when members must transfer to other categories on anniversary date.			
[2] OPM submits mail list of federal retirees which HQ uses for recruiting at special rates.			

MEMBERSHIP AND LEGISLATIVE

By Tom Raby, Membership Chairman

Welcome to new members, George J. McCusker and John H. Renfro.

This month I would like to solicit input from members. Since we don't all know each other, or we don't all know each other very well, I would like you to send me information. This can be about yourself, or another member. A good example of the type info that I need is the example of Frank McGough:

Frank collects and delivers items for the Shawnee Community Center. Frank is a key member of the Marine Corps League. This league makes sure that no deceased marine is forgotten. Frank is a member of the

Color Guard that participates in funeral ceremonies. Frank is active in his church and in his community. He also is our Programs Chair. The entertainment and/or speakers that bring us pleasure or information are arranged by Frank. He also has asked several members to talk about their background at some chapter meetings. Frank is a real asset to our chapter and a true American. Semper Fidelis.

Please send me a profile on anyone you would like to see described in this space. Tom Raby; 15117 S. Symphony Dr. Apt 1203; Olathe, KS 66062 or E-mail thomasraby1@comcast.net

LEGISLATIVE SPECIAL FROM NARFE HEADQUARTERS, MARCH 10TH

On March 8th the 100 member Republican Study Committee released a five-year plan on March 8 to balance the budget. Among items in their plan (RSC's 74-page plan) is a proposal offered last year, as part of Operation Offset, to require future retirees with less than 30 years of service to pay higher Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) premiums. Specifically, for each year less than 30 years, new annuitants would have to pay 2 percent more of their FEHBP premium costs. Prospectively "tenure-testing" FEHBP premiums is estimated to save \$1.67 billion over five years.

House Republican leaders announced there will be no floor action on their version of fiscal 2007 Budget Resolution until after the March 20-24 District Work period.

More worrisome than tenure-testing FEHBP premiums is the possible enforcement of an overall cap on entitlements, except Social Security, via sequestration, or across-the-board cuts. Federal retirement and

the government's share of annuitants' FEHBP premiums are entitlement programs.

Bowing to election year pressures, the Senate Budget Committee, on Thursday, March 9th, decided against entitlement cuts in programs like Medicare, Medicaid and federal civilian retirement in the Budget Resolution they reported to the Senate. Nevertheless, tough limits on spending for the day-to-day operation of government and provisions regarding oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge means there may not be enough votes for the annual budget blueprint when it is considered by the Senate, starting March 13.

NARFE members, especially chapter and federation leaders, should be preparing an all out grassroots effort during Lobby Week, March 20-24. The hierarchy of four legislative goals are: 1st and foremost; defending existing benefits during a difficult budget season; 2nd, opposing the expansion of Health Savings Ac-

count options in our Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP); 3rd, enactment of Premium Conversion legislation; and 4th, repeal or reform of the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision.

Chapter leaders should coordinate plans with federation officers who will be reporting to the regional Field Vice Presidents. An overall assessment will occur at the April meeting of the National Executive Board.

Chapter members who wish to participate in Lobby Week should contact Tom Raby (913 829-6025) our Legislative and Membership Chairman.

Note: AARP is pushing for grass roots efforts during Lobby Week by its members in local chapters, which is okay. But they won't be talking about federal employee retirement and health-care bents – that's our turf.

Office of Personnel Management

NEW," Retirement Services Online"

www.servicsonline.opm.gov/

On this website, OPM provides retirement services on demand.

Use it to:

- Change your federal income tax withholding;
- Change your state income tax withholding;
- Buy savings bonds;

- Request a duplicate of Form 1099-R
- Change your personal identification numbers (PIN);
- Establish allotments to organizations;
- Change your mailing addresses;
- Sign up for direct deposit of their payments;
- Set up checking or savings allotments; and
- View your annuity statements.

ASSOCIATION DUES

Proposed resolution: November 26, 2005

BE IT RESOLVED: That the subject National Bylaws be amended as follows effective 1/01/2007.

Article 1, (of the National Bylaws)

Section 2. Membership categories

A. Regular Members: Members who pay Association Dues through the annual or multiple-years dues billing or dues withholding systems.

B. Life Members:

1. Paid up: Members who pay present and future Association Dues in a Lump sum. A voluntary Life Membership shall be available to all eligible for membership upon prepayment of a non-refundable actuarially determined amount that will yield the approximate equivalent of the annual Association Dues at the time of purchase.

2. Honorary: Annual Paying Members who have been granted the right to an Association membership without further payment of Association dues. Members who attain the age of eighty-five (85) years and who have been NARFE members for no less than 20 years, upon proper certification, shall be given Honorary Life Membership in the Association and all further dues will be waived.

3. Members-at-Large: Members who belong to the National Association but not to a chapter. Members currently classified as Member-At-Large shall be permitted to retain that status until their memberships are terminated. If these former members subsequently choose to rejoin the Association; they shall meet all requirements for membership by paying Association Dues as Regular members.

Section 3: Membership Recruitment

The Association, in addition to direct recruitment, shall recruit members through Chapters. All new members shall meet all requirements of membership by paying annual Association dues.

A. New members not specifying a chapter to which they will belong, shall be assigned to the chapter serving the Zip Code area in which they reside.

B. Zip Codes shall be assigned among the Chapters by the Presidents of the State Federations.

C. A member's assignment to a chapter is usually made based on the Zip Code assignment of the member's permanent legal residence; however, each retains the right and option of belonging to any Chapter.

D. The Association, by action of the Executive Board, may establish a Membership Recruitment Plan for new members at a reduced fee. For this plan, one third (1/3) of the reduced fee shall be rebated to the Chapters in lieu of the regular Chapter rebate from annual Association Dues. Ten Percent (10%) of the Association Dues shall be rebated to the Federation. *Any Chapter extra assessment will not be collected for the first year of this membership.*

E. The National Executive Board may establish incentive programs to benefit member recruitment and retention. In connection with such incentive programs, the National Executive Board may establish a Membership Fee in lieu of the National and Chapter dues, **provided that** (1) Any Membership Fee established under such incentive programs shall not have a term in excess of two (2) years and (2), Under such incentive programs Chapter rebates of record shall be collected and remitted to the Chapters in accordance with the Bylaws *for each year of membership. Any extra assessment identified as needed by the chapter will be collected and remitted to the Chapter.*

Section 4. Association Dues

A. Annual Association Dues for regular members shall be thirty five dollars (\$35.00). Three dollars and fifty cents (\$3.50) will be rebated to the Federation and Eight (\$8.00) to the Chapter.

B. Annual Dues for Members-at-Large will be twenty seven dollars (\$27.00) which represents the Association Dues less the amount rebated to the chapters and two dollars and seventy cents (\$2.70) will be rebated to Federations as 10% funds.

C. The dues amount for Association Life Membership shall be established by the National Executive Board.

D. Annual dues for Chapter Members that were National Life Members prior to the implementation of Association Dues shall be that portion of Association Dues that is rebated to the Chapters, unless the dues are waived by the Chapter. *The extra assessment identified as being required by the Chapter will be collected by HQs and remitted to the Chapter.*

E. Annual Association Dues for Honorary members shall be waived in accordance with the provisions of Article 1, Section 2.B.2.

F. Two dollars (\$2.00) shall be rebated for all new members recruited by the Chapters. The rebate shall be paid to the Chapter of the recruiter.

G. Any member whose Association dues are in arrears for three (3) months or more shall, after due notice by Headquarters, be dropped from the rolls and all rights and privileges granted under the provisions of the Bylaws shall cease.

H. Chapters in need of additional revenue to fund their programs may establish an annual assessment of their members. The annual assessment will be billed with *the* Association Dues renewal notice and shall be rebated in full to the Chapter. Chapters must notify Headquarters of the amount of their annual assessment at least 90 days before the effective date.

Article IV, Section 3, Membership and Dues:

A. Eligibility, 2nd sentence: Change "National" to "Association".

D. 2. Social Members, 1st sentence: Change "National" to "Association".

E. Dues: Change entirely to: National shall rebate to the Chapters a portion of the Association Dues as indicated in Article 1. Section 4. Association Dues: Paragraph A.

ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST: Difficult to determine. It would require re-programming of the NARFE database.



NARFE Shawnee Mission Chapter 1162
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 Shawnee Mission, KS 66202-3866

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THE SHAWNEE SIGNAL

Chapter News

Regular Chapter meeting March 28 features:

- Discussion of proposed resolution “Association Dues;”
- Reports from chapter officers and committees;
- Entertainment – dancing and music by the Great Plains Kids; and,
- Refreshments – beverage and a wide assortment of pastries.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: April regular chapter meeting will be held Tuesday April 18,

NARFE-Alzheimer’s Fund Benefit

Live And Silent Actions

Bring your items for sale at the auctions that will be held during the Federation Convention in April. All proceeds go to Alzheimer’s research. Last year, our chapter’s donations received credit for the most dollars made. Please start a box or bag for items for the auction and bring it to the March meeting. You may have things tucked away that you no longer want or use. But someone else may want, use or enjoy.

If you can’t make it to the March meeting and plan to attend the State Convention, bring your donations with you. It’s for a good cause. Let’s continue the trend of being Number 1. Thanks.

Florence Roy, Chapter 1162 NARFE-Alzheimer’s Committee

Regular Monthly Meeting

4th Tuesday of the month at 1:30 PM at Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79th and Lowell, Overland Park. Features: chapter business, refreshments and entertainment. No meetings July and August.

Monthly Social Meeting

2nd Wednesday of the month at the Hometown Buffet, 73rd and Quivira at 1:00 PM. Call Clyde Shellhammer (913 432-0091) for reservations. Luncheon cafeteria-style food service.

Executive Board Meeting

1st Friday of the month. Breakfast at 9:00 AM, meeting 9:30 AM. Location Denny’s Restaurant, 95th and I-35 exit, Lenexa - adjacent to La Quinta Motel.

Phone Numbers

Agnes Shellhammer	President	913 432-0091	Florence Roy	NARFE-ALZ.	913 642-9477
Elizabeth Bornman	1st Vice President	913 268-8526	Tom Raby	Membership	913 829-6025
Clara Smith	2nd Vice President	913 441-8723	Flo Biehl	NARFE-PAC	913 631-5559
Wayne Smutz	Secretary	913 888-3423	Clara Smith	Public Relations	913 441-8723
Bob Steinert	Treasurer	913 764-7456	Frank McGough	Programs	913 432-7514
Howard Zion	Service Officer	913 236-8131	Bob Steinert	Editor	913 764-7456