

# THE SHAWNEE SIGNAL

Chapter 1162 Shawnee Mission Kansas

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)

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*NARFE: Protecting the Earned Benefits of the Federal Employee since 1921*

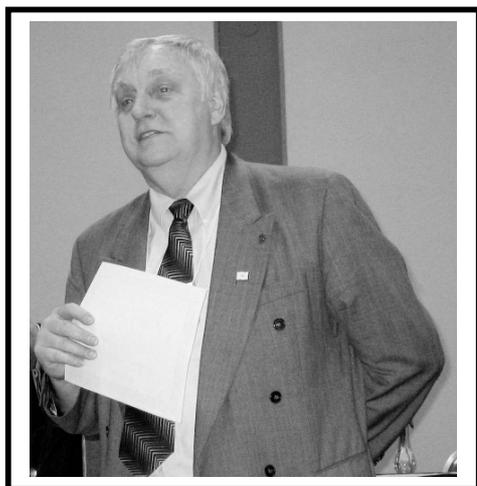
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Richard Thissen, National Field Vice President Region V addressed the delegates at the Kansas Federation Convention in Wichita. Here is a brief summary of his speeches, which he provided for our chapter newsletter.

## **Legislation:**

- a. Number 1 priority is preservation of our current earned benefits. We need to keep in constant contact with our legislators to remind them of our concerns.
- b. NARFE Lobby Week was considered a success. While we did not achieve 100% participation; more members participated than otherwise would have. Another good indication is the increased contributions to NARFE-PAC. As of December 31, 2005, 6,000 members had contributed \$154K. As of March 31, 2006, 54,000 members had contributed \$1.1 Million. Region V has contributed \$94K as of March 31, 2006.
- c. As of now there are 61 sponsors/cosponsors of the Premium Conversion Bill in the Senate. Senator Grassely, Senate Finance Chair, had previously indicated that if we reached the number 60 that Senator Warner and NARFE should come back to see him. That visit is being planned.



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## **Membership:**

- a. Losses throughout NARFE have slowed since the completion of the renewal cycle following the dues increase. Since October, losses are about 1/2 of the previous year. Region V actually showed an increase from the period of December 2005 thru March 2006.
- b. Thanks to all of the Region V members that attended the Region V College of NARFE Knowledge last August and then passed on the information to other members thru local training.
- c. A new change of address form has been developed that will soon be available. It will also be included in the NARFE magazine to encourage members to report changes of address. Form will also include a line to request change of Chapter assignment.

d. A new Form F-121 has been developed to enable recruiters to provide additional info to new members; i.e.- meeting location, time, date, local officers, etc.

**Finances:** Audit of NARFE finances indicates that there is \$70K more in assets at the end of December 2005 than there was at the end of December 2006.

## **2006 National Convention in Albuquerque**

- a. Region V assigned seats in front section right of the stage.
- b. Region V received 16 Committee assignments of a possible 96. Kansas's assignments: Marjory Mortvedt and Don Cooper.
- c. Cities to compete for 2010 convention: Dallas (Adams Mark), Denver (Adams Mark), Grand Rapids, Michigan (Amway Grand), Kansas City (Hyatt Regency), Reno/Sparks (Nugget), Palm Springs, California (Marriott). All hotels have provided guaranteed rates of \$100 or less for 2010.
- d. Important resolutions that will be discussed at Albuquerque and put before delegates for approval/disapproval:
  - (1) Mandatory Chapter Membership. There is NEB resolution to allow members to opt for National Only membership upon renewal. KS federation passed a resolution at 2005 Convention opposing this. College of Knowledge-NARFE attendees also opposed this.
  - (2) One Member/One Vote: There will be a resolution to propose voting for National Officers by postcard ballots instead of thru the chapters by delegates to the National Conventions. I believe there needs to be much more study on the impact on the Chapters and Conventions before this can be adopted.
  - (3) The Articles of Incorporation need to be updated due to the name change adopted at Reno to add "active" to NARFE name. There will be a resolution to update "Articles," Chapters need to support this resolution.
  - (4) The resolution "Association Dues" will be discussed at the Convention. This resolution was developed by Region V Committee (Chaired by John Lancaster) and was established to provide an alternate resolution to eliminate the chapter membership resolution (1) noted above. This resolution would establish "one dues for all." Money would be distributed to the chapters and federations automatically \$8 to Chapters and \$3.50 to Federations. If enacted this resolution eliminates all current incentives and hopefully eliminate longstanding arguments over mandatory chapter membership. •

## Notes from Federation Convention Delegates at Wichita

### Delegate: Agnes Shellhammer — Chapter 1162 President

The 2006 Federation Convention was one of the best I have attended.

All 46 Kansas chapters were there. We did not have a National officer in attendance; however, Region 5 National Field Vice (NFVP) President Richard Thissen was present.

The Alzheimer's live auction was held on Sunday evening. It netted \$1,672.50 and the silent auction netted \$1162.00 for a total of \$2836.50. Our Shawnee Mission chapter had contributed many of the items. We can all be proud of the numbers and

quality of those items that we contributed for the auctions

Monday morning, we held elections for officers of the Federation and Federation Area Vice Presidents. Those elected were President, John Surritte; 1st Vice President, Gary Townson; 2nd Vice President Tom Raby; Secretary Carol Ek, and Treasurer, Madetine Brown. All three of the resolutions that were presented for consideration at the convention were passed.

A Memorial Service for member who had died since the last conven-

tion was held after lunch and then we had Area delegates caucus and election of Area Vice Presidents. I was reelected for Area 1.

The banquet was held at 6:00 p.m. Richard Thissen our NFVP was the speaker. He said GPO and WEP are not looking favorable at this time; however, premium conversion is looking better for passage by Congress.

The next Federation Convention will be held April 29 – May 1, 2007 in Junction City. •

### Delegate: Clara Smith — Chapter 1162, 2nd Vice President

The 2006 NARFE Convention was a good experience.

The meetings started on time, members were enthusiastic, and the NARFE auctions were a success.

Richard Thissen, our Region V National Field Vice President was the speaker on Monday and Tuesday evenings. He stressed the necessity of writing our congressional leaders

to remind them that we vote and our Annuities need to be protected. They are in jeopardy with the U. S. present budget.

I served on the "Time and Place Committee," with Judy Grossnickle as Chair Person. This Committee selects the location of future conventions.

The 2007 Convention will be hosted by Junction City, Chapter 383 and it will be held on April 29, 30, and May 1. That was voted on and approved.

Tentative convention locations for 2008 will be co-hosted by Kansas Chapters 537 of Hutchison and Chapter 1794 of McPherson. •

### Delegate: Flo Biehl — NARFE PAC, Chair

There are many reasons to attend the Federation conventions.

Learning about the organization brought me there the first time. I also met old friends and made new ones. It was fun bidding on things at the silent auction and the live auction that gave proceeds to the Alzheimer's NARFE. Door prizes are also fun.

What I really think about the meeting is a chance to give your opinion and make a difference. We hear speakers from National and from the region. At the next meeting I went to I decided to be on a committee and give of myself. I chose the Constitution

and Bylaws one and I have served on it for three years now. You would think we would get it right by now. But proposals are constantly changing along with the times. This committee does not make proposals but recommends changes. The parliamentarian reviews them and then they may be brought before the whole body in attendance. I served as secretary to the group this year. We had three things to consider

The first was the dues. We recommended that the dues be \$35.00 for almost everyone instead of many amounts for different groups.

The next had to do with "The president shall appoint a three member committee to approve minutes of all meetings." We voted to remove this because it would not be feasible for them to attend all meetings including board meetings.

The last had to do with the financial audit of Federation's books. The area vice presidents would not appoint the auditor as it was originally written in the proposal.

These were approved by the parliamentarian and brought before the main body where they were also approved. •

(Notes from Federation Convention Delegates at Wichita – continued)

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

By Tom Raby, Chairman and Convention Delegate

Welcome to new members: Rodney W. King and Robert K. Tice.

Some of you know that I took a trip to Peru in March/April with the Johnson County Parks & Rec 50-Plus Travel Group. This was a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the land of the Incas. Well, guess what: two other members of our Chapter 1162 were on the trip. We didn't spend a lot of time on NARFE items, but it was nice to have others with a common interest with the group. This is the second time that I've encountered chapter members on a tour.

The 52nd Annual Federation was just completed in Wichita. I would like to say we were well represented. Actually we were well represented by those that attended from our chapter. We just didn't have numbers in proportion to our size. By contrast, Tri-Rivers, Chapter 2098 had 8 attendees in comparison to our 6.

If we followed this proportion, we would have had 64 attendees at the convention.

Our own, Agnes Shellhammer, was re-elected as Area 1 Vice President. John Surritte was elected to replace Don Cooper as President; Gary Townson replaced John as 1st Vice President and Tom Raby was elected as 2nd Vice President. Carol Ek was re-elected as Federation Secretary and Madelyn Brown was elected to replace Jerry Ketter as Treasurer. Other convention news will be shared by Agnes at the regular meeting on May 23. The details of the proposed by-laws changes are interesting and we had some interesting committee experiences. Also, a couple of our members won nice door prizes, and we all bought items at the auctions.

We did have good representation at the Alzheimer's auction(s). I hauled several boxes and bags in my van and Elizabeth, Agnes and Clara also hauled items in their cars. The official results will be available from the Alzheimer's chair soon. If you belong to NARFE for only one reason, the contributions we make for Alz-

heimer's research could be that reason.

Several chapters stepped up to host future state conventions. Sites are firm for 2007 thru 2009 and tentative for 2010 and 2011. This is a great thing. Just a year or two ago we were begging for hosts for future conventions.

Chapter 138, Wichita, did a great job of hosting the 2006 convention. It was a reunion with many old friends, plus making a few new ones. We do miss those that passed away since the 2005 convention. There were some others that couldn't be there this year, we missed them, too. Region V National Field VP, Richard Thissen, did a great job of filling the gap since National Officers no longer attend federation conventions.

This may change in the future. The atmosphere at Albuquerque in September will indicate more about the future of relationships with the national office and officers. •

**Provocative new theory suggests that one root cause of Alzheimer's disease is linked to diabetes —**

**SUPPORT ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH**

Enclosed is my Alzheimer's NARFE contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Every cent that is contributed is used for research.

Please circle: Mr. Mrs. Miss. Ms.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter number \_\_\_\_\_

Your charitable contribution is tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

You will receive a tax-deductible receipt letter from Alzheimer's Association.

Make checks payable to: **Alzheimer's / NARFE Research**

And mail to: Florence L Roy Chapter 1162 Alzheimer's Chair

9619 Outlook Drive, Overland Park, Kansas 66207-2839

It's a theory about to be tested in thousands of Alzheimer's patients given the diabetes drug Avandia in hopes of slowing brain decay.

It's a scary scenario: Alzheimer's already is expected to skyrocket as the population grays, rising from 4.5 million sufferers today to a staggering 14 million by 2050. If the new theory is right, the nation's current obesity-fueled epidemic of Type 2 diabetes could worsen that toll.

But proponents see potential good news: If diabetic-like changes in the way brain cells use sugar to generate energy truly trigger Alzheimer's in at least some patients, then maybe doctors could intervene early and slow down that degeneration.

Researchers who tracked 140,000 diabetic veterans found those who received insulin-resensitizing drugs were less likely to be diagnosed with Alzheimer's years later. [AP May 1]



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**THE SHAWNEE SIGNAL**

## Chapter Announcements

### Regular Chapter meeting May 23 features:

- Delegates talk about their experiences at the Federation Convention in Wichita;
- Reports from chapter officers and committees;
- Time for open discussion on NARFE matters;
- Refreshments – beverage and a wide assortment of pastries.

### **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:**

**June Pot Luncheon on the 27th is Free - just bring a side dish.  
 Luncheon starts at Noon. Questions? Contact Elizabeth Bornman (913) 268-8526.  
 Place: Overland Park Lutheran Church.**

NARFE-Alzheimer's Fund: Use the center section of the coupon on page 3 of the newsletter for mailing your contributions. Save the coupon for when you intend to use it, the coupon will not be in every issue of the chapter newsletter.

### Monthly Social Meeting

2nd Wednesday of the month at the Hometown Buffet, 73rd and Quivira at 1:15 PM. Call Clyde Shellhammer (913 432-0091) for reservations. Luncheon cafeteria-style food service.

### 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.

### Executive Board Meeting

1st Friday of the month. Breakfast at 9:00 AM, meeting starts 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