



The Shawnee Signal
Chapter 1162 Shawnee Mission Kansas
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

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www.narfe-chapter1162.org

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Sunshine Committee:
Contact Don Faidley if
you know of any mem-
bers who may be sick.

Reminder: Don't for-
get to bring your egg
cartons & plastic gro-
cery bags to meetings
for donation to the
Community Service
Center of Shawnee,

NARFE Federal Bene-
fits Institute webinars:
May 23rd, *Understand-
ing Civil Service Off-
set: Your Retirement
Explained*, 2 p.m. ET.
Register on HQ web-
site www.narfe.org.
Videos of prior webi-
nars available for
viewing.

President's News – Louise Lloyd

As I write this article, the annual Kansas Federation Conference held in Manhattan, Kansas has concluded. Fortunately six members of our chapter attended the conference which included all the elected officers. This was the first annual meeting held as a "conference" rather than a convention, as election of officers and voting on by-laws were voted on ahead of time, based on the "one member, one vote" changes approved at the 2016 NARFE Convention. All chapter members were given the opportunity to vote. Elizabeth Bornman, our chapter's 2nd Vice-President and Service Officer was re-elected as the Federation 1st Vice President. Carol Ek, the Immediate past NARFE Region 5 Vice-President was elected as the Federation Secretary. We are very fortunate that Carol, an extremely dedicated and capable NARFE member was willing to fill this position, as it is very difficult to find someone who is willing to run for this position. It was interesting to learn that there are approximately 3,000 NARFE eligible voting members in Kansas, 2,200 in chapters, and 800 national members. Only about half of the members have provided NARFE their e-mail addresses, and only about 500 members opened their NARFE e-mails.

One of the major highlights of the annual Conference was the presentation by Ken Thomas, NARFE's National President. Some of the highlights of his presentation included the following:

An agreement had been reached with the National Alzheimer's Association that money raised by NARFE member's participation in local Alzheimer's walks will now go solely to Research, rather than just general Alzheimer's general funding.

NARFE is implementing a new system for the NARFE website, known as the Association Management System (AMS). The new system is anticipated to launch on June 1st. Various opportunities to be trained on the new system will be available to NARFE members.

NARFE is extremely dues dependent for its overall operations. 60% of NARFE revenue is from dues. NARFE is continuing to work hard trying to generate more non dues revenue. In an effort to cut costs, NARFE will be bringing the publishing of the NARFE magazine in house.

In order to make some changes that were not able to get done at the NARFE 2016 convention, a special NARFE Referendum will be included in the NARFE August 2019 issue. This referendum will ask members to respond with their votes to approve the proposed changes.

Cindy Rene Blythe, Immediate past president of the Kansas NARFE Federation and now serving as the NARFE Region V Vice-President also spoke at the Federation Conference. Cindy mentioned there were some new NARFE perks that are available to members including discounts available in Las Vegas, Disney World and on Broadway in New York City. Cindy stated that NARFE does benefit financially when members take advantage of the offers made by the affinity partners, so I encourage our members to consider using the services or purchasing thru the affinity partners when possible, especially when it makes sense and is beneficial to you as members anyway. To find out more about exclusive discounts, special offers, preferred seating and tickets to top theme parks, sporting events, hotels, movie tickets and much more, visit www.memberdeals.com/narfe to start saving. The site is definitely worth checking out as a number of venues for Kansas City are on this site.

Also speaking at the Federation Conference was Kristin Little, Legislative Representative from Senator Moran's office. Kristin discussed the various committees that the Senator Moran serves on including Veterans Affairs Committee; Appropriations Committee and Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee. Senator Moran does continue to oppose privatization of the post office. Senator Moran is supporting proposed legislation to address the issue of robocalls.

The Kansas City Star on May 3rd stated that the USDA has announced that Kansas City area is one of three finalists to serve as the new home to the Economic Research Service and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. If Kansas City is selected as the final site, it could ultimately result in as many as 700 federal jobs coming to the Kansas City area. Kansas City is already home to more than 2,000 USDA jobs. Other states in contention include Indiana and North Carolina. However St. Louis and Madison Wisconsin are also under consideration.

NARFE is celebrating Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW) from May 5th thru May 11th. Every year PSRW honors the invaluable role public servants play in our everyday lives. It is unfortunate that nationally the approval rating for work done by federal employees continues to decline. So having a week nationally that NARFE and NARFE members have an opportunity to highlight the important work by federal employees is definitely something that can help people gain a better understanding of the value of the federal workforce.

A May 2nd article from Nextgov.com written by Brandi Vincent states that "President Trump issued an executive order that introduces new initiatives and expands existing national efforts aimed to 'grow and strengthen' America's cyber workforce." President stated that "more 300,000 cybersecurity job vacancies exist in the United States today." The article also states that the "administration is also creating a federal rotational program in which feds can expand their expertise through temporary cyber-related assignments within other agencies, in hopes that new exposure will increase skills and encourage interagency knowledge transfer. The program mirrors a bipartisan bill that the Senate passed which enables some cyber professionals to rotate across various agencies."

Finally, I hope you will be able to join us for our May 28th NARFE Chapter meeting. Our program will feature a presentation on "Green Funerals" by Tim Streff from Porter Funeral Homes. Green funerals in general emphasize simplicity and environmental sustainability.

Future Meeting Dates/Activities:

May 28th– 1:30 p.m. Business Meeting, Overland Park Lutheran Church, northeast corner of 79th and Lowell, entrance on north side of church. **Program:** Green Funerals presented by Tim Streff of Porter Funeral Homes, Lenexa, Kansas.

June 25th – 12:30 Potluck Luncheon/Business Meeting, Overland Park Lutheran Church. Program: Erik Wray from Heart of America Alzheimer's chapter will give a presentation about the local Alzheimer's services and Walks.

July - No chapter meeting

September 24th – 26 – College of NARFE Knowledge (CONK) – Hilton Garden Inn, Sioux City Iowa

NARFE-PAC, Edward Acosta, Chairperson

1st Quarter, 2019, NARFE-PAC contribution amounts are as follow: *Kansas*, /\$3097, 66 contributors, 20 sustainers; *Region 5*, \$18341.45, 422 contributors, 133 sustainers; *Shawnee Mission Chapter*, \$762, 10 contributors, 3 sustainers; *Missouri*, \$4370; *Nebraska*, \$1277

NARFE-PAC is an effort to counter the administration's narrative about federal retirees and employees. However, NARFE-PAC can only be as effective as the support it receives from NARFE members. NARFE-PAC relies on your contributions as NARFE dues cannot be used to sustain it. Contributions are made to political candidates for office regardless of party. Candidates must apply to NARFE for consideration.

Please make a donation by sending a check to 14311 W 116th Terrace, Apt 2008, Olathe 66062. Even better, so NARFE would know in advance how much to anticipate in contributions, consider becoming a sustainer. This means that your credit card would be billed a minimum of \$10, more if you want, over a 2 year period. You would receive a lapel pin and an insulated NARFE-PAC water bottle.

Alzheimer's News – Bruce Smith, Chairperson

At the Federation Conference in Manhattan Region V Coordinator, Lois Nowlin gave an update on Alzheimer's Research. There are 78 research trials that have been funded of which 5 have been in Region V mostly in Missouri at Washington University. Lois provided the following data: there are now 5.8 million people with Alzheimer's. It is the 6th leading cause of death in the US. With present trends it is projected that Alzheimer's will rise to 14 million individuals in 2050. The new national research goal for 2019/2020 is \$14 million. This year NARFE and Alzheimer's have agreed to let local walk contributions count toward reaching the National goal. Another change is allowing information tables at local walks for organizations to present information. Anyone interested in setting up and manning a NARFE information/membership table please let me know. The walk is at 9:15 AM; Registration at 8 AM on Sunday October 6th at 9401 Indian Creek Pkwy Building #40 Corporate Woods Overland Park KS. At the Conference the Alzheimer's committee voted to leave the per capita suggested contribution at \$6. In Kansas the top Chapter was \$27.36 Heart of America in McPherson. Chapter 1162 is below \$5.29 per member. Thanks to all who donated to the live and silent auctions which raised \$2619.50 (big seller a handmade quilt of all 50 states for \$550.) and \$1,716.00 respectively. Other income from tomato sales and donations brought the total raised for Alzheimer's Research to \$4,780.50 for the Conference. I won a \$25 Visa gift card drawing from Neighborhood Hearing at the Conference. I in turn donated \$25 to Alzheimer's for Chapter credit. At the June 28th meeting Erik Wray will give a presentation about the local Alzheimer's services and Walks. Best choice labels are now at 25¢, be sure that the UPCs show "Best Choice". We have until December 31 to raise 1,000 labels or lose the 2X bonus. I was in the post office on May 2nd in Lenexa and they had stopped stocking the semi-postal stamps for Alzheimer's. These stamps covered first class postage and the excess cost raised funds for Alzheimer's. You may find some in circulation. The series had also raised funds for endangered species and breast cancer.

Service Officer, Elizabeth Bornman

You probably filed your beneficiary designations many years ago, when you were first hired and for some that may have been 25 to 30 years ago or more. If you can't remember who you named, it's been too long. The good news is that naming a beneficiary or even several beneficiaries is easy. For CSRS employees, for those lump sums available, you will complete the SF 2808. The FERS version of that same form is the SF 3102. For the unpaid compensation, you have the SF 1152. For the TSP, you have the TSP Form 3 and then for FEGLI, you have SF 2823. You can go to our website at WWW.fedimpacr.com/beneficiaries and find all the form you need right away.

If you don't remember who is named as your current beneficiary, there are ways to check; however, these forms are so easy to fill out and will overwrite anything that you already have on file. So instead of waiting 60 days to hear back from HR, it makes sense to just file your new beneficiary and then you know who you want named is actually named. Again, these forms are super easy, and it will probably take you about ten minutes to fill out all for forms, as long as you know who you want to name. These forms can be completed at any time, so there's no open season. In other words, there's not a particular time of year that you must submit these. They can be done at any time.

You can name anybody that you want as your beneficiary. It doesn't even have to be a living person, it can be an entity like a company, a church, a charity, a cause, a trust, etc. You also can name primary beneficiaries as well as contingents. For example, you could name your spouse as the primary beneficiary, but then have your children as contingent beneficiaries. However, what can complicate matters is when a former spouse is named as a beneficiary. If your former spouse is still listed as the beneficiary (no matter how long you have been divorced or even if you have remarried), your former spouse is going to be paid your money when you die. That is an important reason to keep our beneficiaries updated.

Kansas Statistics: In Kansas we have: 25,180 Federal Annuitants; 16,000 Active Federal Employees; and, 6,439 U. S. Postal Service Employees.
KANSAS' FEDERAL ANNUITANTS BY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT* Representative** Congressional District Number of Annuitants Roger Marshall (R) 1 5,281; Steven Watkins (R) 2 8,357; Sharice Davids (D) 3 6,532; Ron Estes (R) 4 4,646 *Data from Office of Personnel Management (OPM), March 2019 **Members of 116th Congress as of January 2019.

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Senator Jerry Moran – jerry_moran@moran.senate.gov; Olathe, KS office: 913-393-0711. D.C. Office: 202-224-6521
Senator Pat Roberts – pat_roberts@roberts.senate.gov; Overland Park Office: 913-451-9343. D.C. Office: 202-224-4774.
Congresswoman Sharice Davids – Overland Park, KS telephone: 913-621-0832, Washington D.C. Office: 202-225 2865 -www.davids.house.gov.

A reminder that retirees can sign up for the Dues Withholding option to obtain a 15% discount (\$6) on your annual NARFE dues. Dues withholding applications are included in each monthly NARFE magazine, and available at www.narfe.org.

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Your May Shawnee Signal

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