

MISSOURI FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS
NARFE EXECUTIVE BOARD
MINUTES OF THE FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING
July 28, 2011



Judith Smart, Secretary

The meeting of the Missouri Federation of Chapters Executive Board was held at the Quality Inn in Columbia, Missouri, on July 28, 2011. President Grant “Ron” Peters called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with a moment of reflection provided by 3rd DO Ben Belhumeur, followed by the pledge of allegiance led by 2nd VP Eric Bahl.

Secretary Judith Smart called the roll. Absent: Robert Sterba. Members introduced themselves and told which federal entity they had worked for. A revised Federation policy manual was distributed; approval will be sought at the Board meeting in October.

Secretary’s minutes for the Fourth Quarter 2011 Executive Board meeting. *Linda Kurz moved that the minutes be accepted as written. Seconded. Carried.*

Secretary’s minutes for the Federation Convention, April 2011. *Richard Rosenkoetter moved to accept the Convention report. Seconded. Art Buck moved to remove the sentence on the second page regarding the parliamentarian pro tem. Seconded. Passed. Initial motion passed as amended.*

Treasurer’s report. Richard Rosenkoetter. It will be filed for audit. Rosenkoetter stated that if one needs something included in the budget, the request should be sent to him at least three (3) weeks before the Convention in order for it to be considered by the Convention Budget Committee. The Board recommended a new category be set up to cover various Convention committees’ expenses. Reminder: Mileage is authorized at 40 cents/mile. Second reminder: All chapters must file with the IRS every year. *Linda Kurz moved to put money from a recently matured certificate of deposit into the NARFE Premier Federal Credit Union account. Seconded. Passed. [Rosenkoetter – 1, 2, and 3 - July 2011]***

Region V Field VP Report. Carol Ek. M&R Consulting has been funded through December 2011. She encouraged all DO’s to promote dues withholding among the members in their districts. Each chapter should have a membership committee plus a

retention committee. A service officer's blog is in existence; contact Maxine Rodriguez for further information. [Ek – July 2011]

President's Report. Grant "Ron" Peters. NARFE should set up recruiting booths at various federal meetings; the responsible person should report back to him on the outcome. In his report he suggested a NARFE booth at the Tea Party National Convention in Kansas City KS, but the convention has been cancelled. District Officers need to visit all chapters in their district at least once a year; this is especially important if the DO carried the proxy because the chapter had no

actual delegate at the MO Convention. He attended the Federation Presidents' meeting in Reno in July. Lee's Summit chapter 1457 wants to close; there will be a short meeting after this Board meeting to discuss possibilities. [Peters – July 2011] and [Peters – Reno – July 2011]

1st VP Report. Henry Garcia. He reported on the Federation DO Reorganization Committee of which he is the chair. This reconfiguration must be done because Congressional districts in MO have had to be redrawn after the 2010 census. The committee has had its first meeting. Perhaps there will be at-large DO's for geographically large districts; the Federation would incur extra costs with this proposal. Perhaps NARFE's districts could be redrawn without the gerrymandering which now exists in the political districts. Several states in Region 5 do not make DO assignments based on Congressional districts. [Garcia – July 2011]

2nd VP Report. Eric Bahl. [Bahl – VP – 2011] and [Bahl – Membership – July 2011]

Immediate Past President's Report. Linda Kurz.

1. National legislation. She encouraged all to call Washington regularly about preservation of our benefits. She commented that the recent robo call from NARFE National President Joseph Beaudoin should have said "NARFE" on the caller ID rather than "Toll free" because some members just disregard unnamed callers.
2. 2012 Convention in St. Louis. Kurz recommends you make your reservation early; you will probably get a better room. She asked for money from the Federation to cover early Convention expenses; Pres. Peters said that according to the MO Bylaws the money will be available after January 1, 2012. She presented drafts of letters about the Convention. For this next Convention it will be possible to register online. The starting place will be the MO web site (www.narfe.org/mo). Michele Brown gave a power point presentation on Convention registration which will be available online by November 1. This will be a secure site where you can use your credit card to register; Pay Pal will manage that portion of the registration with a 2.8% service charge.
3. Revised National Bylaws. Kurz and others on that committee have been working diligently to revise the national bylaws to present their report at the 2012 Reno National Convention. A suggestion was made by the Board to leave the e-chapter description out of the bylaws vote and speak to that controversial topic separately. [Kurz – past pres – July 2011]

1st District Officer. Art Buck. Regarding the debt problem, this must be a “shared sacrifice” spread among all Americans. [Buck – July 2011]

2nd DO. Linda Kurz. She recommended that DOs find out who called Washington on the call-in day and who actually got through. [Kurz – DO2 - July 2011]

3rd DO. Ben Belhumeur. We generally do well with our benefits during our retirement years, but we have already given by having had lower actual salaries; therefore we do not see any need for a reduction in our entitlements. [Belhumeur – July 2011]

4th DO. Margaret Huebner. Pres. Peters asked Henry Garcia who lives in District 4 to help visit chapters in District 4 as it is so spread out. Garcia agreed and Huebner said she appreciated the help. [Huebner – July 2011]

5th DO. Ronny Lenzy. [Lenzy – July 2011]

6th DO. Joe Manno. He tried to call Sen. Claire McCaskill but was put through to voice mail only. [Manno – July 2011]

7th DO. John Thomas. [Thomas – July 2011]

8th DO. Morris Ridge. [Ridge – July 2011]

9th DO. Richard Daggett. Daggett’s advice: Become involved in your community. Hannibal chapter 683 has been asked to join the Army Corps of Engineers to cook for a BBQ with MO Gov. Jay Nixon in August. [Daggett – July 2011]

Alzheimer’s. Sherry Fausett. [Fausett – July 2011]

Legislation – State. Ned Diekroeger. Advice to chapter presidents: prepare a hand-out for members with DC phone numbers they should call. NARFE needs to get its name out to the public, not only on the NARFE website but also in publications such as the Federal Times. He asks that summaries of any meetings with state and national legislators be sent to him.

[Diekroeger – July 2011]

NARFE PAC. Robert Anderson. If any chapters need PAC pins, send requests to Anderson.

[Anderson, R – July 2011]

Newspaper Editor. Beatrice Armstrong. The Federation will be able to have the next Convention booklet printed without charge, and it will have a cover in color.

Public Relations. Michele Brown. Since this is an appointed position, Pres. Peters has authorized a job title change for her office to Public Relations/Webmaster.

[Brown – PR – July 2011]

MONARFE Net. Judith Olsen. Since taking office she has studied “yahoo” and “gems” in great detail for getting messages out to all MO NARFE members with email and believes “gems” is the better way to keep members informed. [Olsen – July 2011]

Service Officer. Maxine Rodriguez. She held a training seminar in Hannibal. The one scheduled for the St. Louis Convention will probably be in the morning and therefore a better time of day from an attendance standpoint.

FEEA. Robert Sterba. He is a new appointment by Pres. Peters. He was unable to attend but sent a report. [Sterba – July 2011]

OLD BUSINESS.

Hannibal Convention evaluation. Richard Daggett, chair of the Convention. He has no recommended changes to the Convention Planning Guide following the convention. [Daggett – Convention – July 2011]

NARFE Day at the Ballpark. Margaret Huebner. Attendance was poor; KC ticketing policy was criticized. If there were a move to St. Louis from Kansas City, tickets would be deemed too expensive. Question: Does any chapter wish to sponsor this outing next year? If so, contact either M. Huebner or R. Peters.

NARFE booth at the MO State Fair. Margaret Huebner. *Margaret Huebner moved that the Federation pay Jim Ellis an additional \$230.00 for expenses involved in having the NARFE booth at the State Fair. Seconded. Pres. Peters asked for a show of hands of the elected Board members (4 for, 7 opposed). Motion defeated.*

NEW BUSINESS.

Convention sites after 2013. District Officers. Discussion showed no chapters have volunteered to host conventions after the 2013 Convention in Poplar Bluff. Volunteers are definitely needed; contact your DO or Pres. Peters.

NARFE e-chapter in MO. Michele Brown. Discussion. All who join would likely be in a national e-chapter. Brown believes it is definitely an option for membership in NARFE and needs to be marketed especially to active federal employees. How would MO-specific information get to e-chapter members living in MO if it is run only on a national basis? What about dues? Will e-chapter members have a vote anywhere? This program has not been voted on by the membership; at present it is a two-year “test recruitment” program. [Brown – eNARFE – July 2011]

Our next meeting will be October 27, 2011, at 9 a.m. at the Quality Inn in Columbia.

President Ron Peters adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Ron Peters – Federation President

AN INTERESTING COUPLE MONTHS!



LEE'S SUMMIT CHAPTER 1457: A special meeting on May 27, 2011, was called for the purpose to consider closing. The attendees, about 12, voted to close the Chapter. The Chapter has 190 members on the rolls. I will not close this Chapter. The search for a new group of officers is in progress. Second Vice President Eric Bahl and District Officer Ronny Lenzy also attended this meeting.

BETHANY – GREEN HILLS CHAPTER 1523: On June 1, 2011, Chapter President Phyllis Tuggle, District Officer Joe Manno and I visited federal offices in the area, also made some private house calls. I have a good feeling about the day's activity, but it will take maybe three months to see if there are positive results.

POPLAR BLUFF CHAPTER 0694: On June 8, 2011, Chapter President Ann Barnes hosted a fine picnic in the park. District Officer Morris Ridge and wife Annetta were also in attendance. I overnighted in the Holiday Inn that will be the host hotel for our 2013 State Convention. This is a fine facility that attendees should be well satisfied with.

KANSAS CITY CHAPTER 0020: Monthly meetings in my home Chapter continue to have a good steady attendance at their new meeting location. District Officer Ronny Lenzy is the Chapter President.

POLITICAL CONTACTS:

Continue to make the recommended phone calls to our congressional people in Washington.

FIRST THURSDAY REPUBLICAN CLUB: Continue to pass out my NARFE business card to all office holders and candidates that I meet. Am now on some additional mailing lists.

KC CONSERVATIVE EXCHANGE: What! You have never heard of the "leaderless, no dues, no structure" grass roots organizations that are a foundation for the national Tea Party? I attended my first meeting on June 20, 2011. A FREEDOM JAMBOREE is scheduled for September 28 to October 2, 2011, at the Woodlands in Kansas City, Kansas. This is actually the TEA PARTY National Convention. Every state is expected to be represented with their own state caucus. The state caucus will vote for a national USA president, and endorse candidates for state offices. There will be booths of all kinds, both selling and giving away things. I recommend that a NARFE booth be there. Perhaps our Regional Vice President Carol Ek can co-ordinate this activity.

OTHER:

NARFE National Headquarters hosted a GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY MONTH CONFERENCE CALL in June. I attended the call, but will defer to our excellent legislative leaders Linda Kurz and Ned Diekroeger in presenting this activity.

RENO FEDERATION PRESIDENTS' MEETING July 25 -29, 2011, will be a supplemental report.

NARFE COLLEGE OF KNOWLEDGE coming August 29 – 31, 2011.

Ron Peters – Federation President

RENO/SPARKS, NEVADA

JULY 17 – 22, 2011

This was a large gathering: The National Executive Board (NEB); probably 50 of the 54 Federation Presidents (FP); The NARFE Information Advisory Committee (NIAC); The Bylaws Committee; The Retention Committee; The Recruitment Committee; and some headquarters support staff.

The committees met separately from the FPs, attending to their own committee business, except for briefing the FPs.

July 17 and 22 were my travel days. Monday, July 18, I spent the entire day at the NEB meeting. Our national NARFE budget and e-chapters were two of the topics. The minutes of their meeting will appear in our national magazine, so I will add nothing here, except that it is interesting to know our national officers better.

Tuesday, July 19, started with a legislative briefing by Dan Adcock. This information was most current, but did not add much to what is readily available to all of us in news outlets and our GEMS. Dan was followed by Julie Tegen who updated on the campaign Protect America Heartbeat (PAH). Missouri is one of the ten focus states. Our own Linda Kurz and Ned Diekroeger lead this effort for us in Missouri. The goals of PAH are (1) reframe the debate (from federal employees are lazy and overpaid), (2) influence Congress, and (3) gain allies.

The FPs then broke into three work groups. Prior to our arriving in Reno the FPs had voted on subjects for these work groups. The three selected were (1) membership recruiting, membership retention, and with focus on minorities. (That committee focused on Native Americans.) (2) Public relations to place advertisement for NARFE in Military Installations Base Newspapers, and a national advertising program outside the Washington DC-MD-VA-WV core base area. (3) How to get members motivated for our leadership positions and participating in legislative activity. I was in Group 2. Many great ideas; but they cost money. A great example is our Missouri State Fair Booth in Sedalia. (Exactly what we should be doing, per the work group.) The NARFE name recognition is a universal problem.

Wednesday and Thursday were reporting out by the Committees and by the work groups, with a lot of discussion there on. The NIAC work was very impressive. Also very impressive and clearly involving the greatest amount of work was the Bylaws Committee. They are not done yet. Our Linda Kurz is a member.

E-chapters are encountering some problems. The NEB is not clear on where we are going with e-chapters. Some agreement that 10 per cent of their member dues will be returned to Federations based on the member ZIP code. Also based on ZIP code the

member count will be assigned back in determining delegates to national conventions, either to a chapter or to the federation. The Florida e-chapter 2364 has 19 members. As of July 20 the HQ chapter 2363 has about 1,000 members and growing rapidly. About 45% are active federal employees.

Some “bottom line” observations: EVERY CHAPTER needs a retention co-coordinator. Most non-renewal is in the first three years of membership. Do it by personal contact with everyone who has lapsed or is on the second notice list. Give new members a job. For leadership positions request candidates eye ball to eye ball. Make sure training is available to help people out of their comfort zone. Our Missouri Federation mentoring program is an excellent example, as is the regional NARFE College of Knowledge, and our state convention.

Almost every presentation and discussion seemed to assume that all members have a computer and are skilled in its use. The truth is that only 20% of our membership has provided e-mail addresses.

An interesting side bar: Many chapters have dropped the paper reports, BUT have never established a password. Something like 10 per cent of our membership has no access to the national reports.

My expenses for the trip were \$1,271.88. In accordance with prior Board approval I have submitted my voucher for the \$1,000.00 authorized for the trip. BUDGET

RECOMMENDATION: A two day Federation Presidents’ Meeting is being planned immediately preceding and with next year’s national convention in Reno. I recommend our next budget include \$1,000.00 for this event.

Carol EK – Region V Field VP

Overall we had a very productive four (4) days in Reno. Many ideas were recommended for the good of NARFE – some were controversial but everyone was given the opportunity to express their ideas.

NARFE is solid financially.

The e-NARFE chapter will be a National chapter at this time. The 10% monthly Federation rebate will be paid to the origin of the member’s zip code. Voting power and how votes will be determined is still a matter of discussion.

As you know, whether the e-NARFE chapter will continue will be a matter of approval of the “Revised” new National Bylaws now being compiled by the National Bylaws Committee. Linda Kurz, Missouri, is the Region V representative on this committee. This committee has spent a year working to update the National Bylaws into a document which has been fine tuned into a very workable and easily understood set of National Bylaws. A draft copy was presented for the NEB and Federation Presidents review during the conference.

The question on the table now is how and when this “Revised” set of Bylaws will be presented to the members vote for approval. When we left the Reno conference, the NEB has approved a mail referendum be held only at “NO” cost to NARFE. This was a question to be answered by headquarters after reviewing their files to determine contract referendum status.

Remember, Bylaw resolutions will be accepted only on the “Revised” Bylaws so don’t submit resolutions on the current 2010 Bylaws.

I know many of you have been working toward a Federation e-NARFE chapter. You should not abandon those plans but you may wish to wait for the outcome of the status of the current chapter before finalizing your plans.

The NIAC (NARFE Information Technology Advisory Committee) presented their Final Report which will be carried in the September magazine. One of their recommendations is to completely update the IT equipment at headquarters. This project has been needed for many years and is now in the process of happening. Another of their recommendations is to make the website more user friendly which was well accepted by all present.

M+R Strategic Services contract was extended through December 31, 2011. This was approved by the recommendation of the Legislative Department. This determination was based on the fact that this is not the time to bring these services back in-house because of the severity of the current laws requiring full attention of the Legislative Department personnel.

The Recruitment and Retention Committee presented a very good report on their work during the past year. Mary Burkett, Minnesota, is representing Region V on this committee. The report was very professional and well received.

National Treasurer, Richard Thissen, presented several reports needing careful scrutiny of Federation Officers. Chapters who are not getting reports because they have indicated they do not want written reports but they do not have the Chapter User Name and Password set up to receive on-line reports; chapters not requesting direct deposit of the 10% to their bank account but do not have chapter User Name and Passwords set up; etc. This report has been forwarded to Federation Presidents with follow up action required.

Henry Garcia – 1st Vice President/Membership



Since my last article President Ron Peters has appointed me to be chairman of a new committee to come up with a new District Office Structure to keep in line with the eight newly formed congressional districts, my committee members are 2nd VP Eric Bahl, 1st district officer Art Buck, 8th district officer Morris Ridge, and Ned Diekroger State Legislation, our first meeting was held July 27th at the Quality Inn, Columbia, Mo.

Items discussed were as follows.

1. Keep the current districts as per congressional districts except for the now district 9
2. Have 3 to 4 at large district officers to help with districts 4,6,and 8
3. Have the federation president assign at large district officers to help where needed.

4. Let the current district officers choose their own person to help them as needed to call on chapters.
5. Make sure funding is available for additional personnel.
6. By-Laws will need to be amended with any new changes.

The committee is open to all constructive suggestions. Our next meeting will be October 26th at the Quality Inn, Columbia, Mo at 7:00 PM.

I will be assisting Margaret Huebner 4th district officer in her area.

I participated in the national call in day July 27th, by contacting my 4th district congressional representative, Vicky Hartzler, both U.S. Senators Roy Blunt and Claire McCaskill, and the White House.

On July 19th I attended a town hall Video conference in Hickory County hosted by 4th district congressional representative Vicky Hartzler.

I will also be attending CONK (college of NARFE Knowledge) in South Sioux City, NE August 29th, 30th, and 31st.

I did not attend the last state convention due to sickness in my family, I can now report that my wife Judy is cancer free, thanks for all your prayers and concerns.

Membership is still of a utmost concern to our organization; we must all strive to secure our membership and follow up with those who receive 2nd notices or dropped for non payment of dues.

Eric Bahl – 2nd Vice President



As 2nd VP for the MO Federation of Chapters, I have been tasked with attempting the membership report. I am also serving on the New District Officers committee.

May 19, 2011: Attended meeting of Chapter 1164 (Independence). I had representatives from 2 organizations give a presentation on organ donations and invited all the chapters in the 5th District and the congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

June 16, 2011: Attended meeting of Chapter 1164 (Independence). Two Independence Police Officers gave a presentation on the subject of Elder Safety. All the chapters in the 5th District and the congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church were invited.

July 21, 2011: Attended meeting of Chapter 1164 (Independence). A representative from the Alzheimer's Association gave a presentation on the stages/steps of dementia, the general time lines for the stages, and an explanation of the differences between Alzheimer's and dementia. All the chapters in the 5th District and the congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church were invited.

July 27, 2011: Attended a meeting of the New District Officers committee in Columbia, MO.

July 28, 2011: Attended the FEB meeting in Columbia, MO.

I emailed a copy of the monthly membership reports to all District Officers, together with a summary membership report for the period April through June 2011 to all District Officers and to the FEB Secretary. I'm sure the reports are not entirely correct, but I'm learning.

Richard Rosenkoetter – Treasurer



You will need to view the Treasurers Report in the **Missouri NARFE News** as we cannot publish it on this site.

Linda Kurz – Past President



Protect “America’s Heartbeat “Activities

Our Federation Convention provided an opportunity for asking delegates to sign prepared letters to our Senators that asked them to recognize that federal employees/retirees have already contributed to the budget deficit by the pay freeze/no COLA decided by the President and asking them to push for balancing the sacrifices, not just focusing on federal employees/retirees. We collected over 200 letters which were then taken by District Officers in large metro areas personally to Senators’ offices in their city. When several NARFE members and I visited the Senators offices, on May 24 in the St. Louis area, we already heard that these letters were being received throughout the State. We delivered 102 letters to each Senator’s St. Louis area office. We were assured by the staff of both Senators that

they respected federal employees and would work toward a balanced sacrificial approach. A response received from Senator MC Caskill was sent out over MONARFE in June. The Regional Conference call from headquarters on **June 21** called on all of us to keep up the pressure on our elected officials. All of us should regularly send the letter from the NARFE website or from the "Protect America's Heartbeat" website to our elected officials. It further calls on us to drop off our copy of the July NARFE magazine to our local offices of Congresspersons and Senators. So please feel free to do so, but please e-mail Ned Diekroeger and report your activity. Ned is collecting the coordinated information and will report it to headquarters. Ned's address" ndiekroeger@yahoo.com On **July 14**, Elbert Williams and Bea Armstrong from chapter 112, Delores Ivy and Michele Brown from chapter 1240 and myself from chapter 2071 visited with Brendan Fahey of Senator McCaskill's office and delivered a copy of the July issue of the NARFE Magazine. We again reiterated NARFE concerns and Elbert provided another copy of our talking point papers. Subsequently Delores took a copy of the magazine to deliver to Congressman Clay's office and Elbert took one to deliver to Congressman Russ Carnahan's office. I visited Congressman Akin's office and left a copy with my card with his receptionist.

Preparation for the Federation's 2012 state convention:

The Federation 2012 convention will start on Thursday, April 19 and end Saturday, April 21 with hotel check out on Sunday morning or later, if delegates choose to check out St. Louis tourist venues and perhaps take in a Cardinals game.

Our steering committee is meeting on a regular basis. All activities are engaged. A rough draft of the convention agenda is being presented today for guidance and/or approval.

Also being presented is the draft registration letter, the registration and ad request form. We will offer the opportunity for on-line hotel reservations and an on-line convention registration to those who choose to use it. Michele Brown is demonstrating how the on-line convention registration works.

Approval of convention committee recommendations, officer election and the banquet will occur on Saturday, April 21. We will invite active federal employees from the St. Louis area to attend as guests and perhaps we will succeed in recruiting some.

Convention materials will be sent out in October and again in January, both in the Federation newspaper and by mail to chapters.

Early hotel registration is recommended in order to capture the king size rooms. It is easier to cancel than to obtain a good room reservation late if circumstances arise that does not permit attendance. Reservations can be canceled without penalty until the day the convention starts; i.e. April 19.

The Munny Opera kids will provide our entertainment for fun night. They are terrific and will do a medley of songs from Munny opera presentations. Appearing at venues like ours gives them extra rehearsals.

National Bylaws Revision Committee:

I believe that we have a revised version of the bylaws that should be acceptable to delegates. It represents a simplified version, easy to read and to understand, which does not alter the current intent significantly. We have received many suggestions from individuals who appear not to have patience for the grass roots process and who seem to

want to establish a new and totally different organization. Based on these recommendations a version B of revision was also put together.

The Bylaws Revision Committee will meet in Reno from July 18-22. The committee will put a version together to present to the Federation Presidents and the NEB. Then, I suspect, we will incorporate the recommended changes. I am led to believe that after this meeting the selected version will be published and/ or distributed at some time to the general membership for review prior to its presentation at the National NARFE convention in Reno in 2012.

Recognition of our past Regional Director:

A plaque to recognize Richard Thissen has been obtained and the Federation Executive Board needs to approve it. It is proposed that it be presented to Dick at CONK which runs from August 29-31, 2011.

Art Buck – 1st District Officer



As I write this quarterly report, the shutdown of the Federal government is still possible unless President Obama and Congress can agree on raising the debt ceiling. Regardless of how that issue is resolved, NARFE members can count on our benefits and retirement annuities being continually attacked as an unfair way to balance the budget. With such a serious matter weighing heavily upon us, a committee of St. Louis area NARFE delegates paid visits to the local offices of Missouri's two U. S. Senators this past May 24th. District 1 was represented by Chapter 1240 (Florissant, MO) members Delores Ivy, Michelle Brown and I at these meetings. Special thanks are extended to Past Missouri Federation President, Linda Kurz for spearheading the visits. Our message was pretty straightforward and in line with NARFE's, Protect America's Heartbeat campaign. And that was: to find a way out of this country's miserable financial situation will require shared sacrifice, but it isn't fair to single out federal workers and retirees.

Congrats as well to the aforementioned Michele Brown on becoming the new Federation Public Relations officer.

The following list highlights some of the more recent events within Chapter 1240 and District 1:

- May 17 Jim Kramper of the National Weather Service was the guest Speaker for our monthly meeting. His presentation emphasized severe weather events and how to plan for them. Jim is a federal employee and was given a NARFE membership application.
- May 24 Sen. McCaskill and Sen. Blunt visits (see above)

- June 21 Twenty-nine members attended our annual Chapter 1240 anniversary luncheon. President Delores Ivy presented 30 year membership certificates to Bob and Dorothy Scanlon.
- July 19 A representative from OASIS was the featured speaker and told of the many interesting programs and events that that organization sponsors for those of us that have attained 50 years of age (or more).
- August 16 An Ice Cream Social to be enjoyed at the regular monthly meeting.
- September 20 Ashley Mattingly, an archivist for the National Archives and Records Administration is the guest speaker.
- October 18 Folks from Blue Cross/Blue Shield are scheduled for their annual update on health insurance.

Chapter 1240 meetings are held at noon on the third Tuesday of each month (except December) at the Harmony Methodist Church, 2730 Walton Road, St. Louis, MO. 63114.

Linda Kurz – 2nd District Officer



On April 28 I was elected to step into Jack Anderson's shoes as District #2 Officer. Jack continues to become stronger. He has not been able to attend NARFE chapter meetings lately. District #2 includes Chapter 1229, St. Charles and Chapter 2071, West St. Louis County. Since the shut down of the Home Town Buffet, Chapter 2071 has been meeting at the St. Louis County Public Library. Because we cannot collect for Alzheimer's or have a 50/50 raffle at the library or bring snacks, we continued to look for another venue. **On July 8** we met for the first time at Young's Ice Cream Parlor and Grill in Valley Park. We saw a power point presented by an Orthopedic Surgeon with photos of the latest technology used in joint replacement, compliments of the Stryker Corp. The presentation has the tendency to allay the fears of those who have to contemplate joint replacement. **On May 5** we had a presentation by the Red Cross on preparing for all kinds of disasters. **On June 2** the chapter heard from Charles Amen, attorney from Purcell & Amen, on how one qualifies for Medicaid support for nursing home care.

I was unable to attend the **May 19** meeting of Chapter 1229. The St. Charles Chapter celebrated their Christmas Bingo at their **June 16** meeting. Ice prevented that celebration in December. Lots of prizes were won by members. I reported on my legislative activities and again provided the Congressional switchboard number to members, with the request that they again call regarding the apparently unbalanced sacrifices asked of federal employees/retirees. Because of my activity with the NARFE Bylaws Revision Committee meeting in Reno, I was not able to attend the **July 21** meeting of Chapter 1229.

As a District we plan to combine our chapter recruitment resources and recruit together for NARFE.

Ben Belhumeur – 3rd District Officer



I was again re-elected as Third District Office at the NARFE Missouri State Convention in Hannibal in April. During this past quarter, both Chapters in my District have been heavily involved in the NARFE “Protect America’s Heartbeat” Program. Our annuities, COLA’S and Social Security are all being challenged and all our members need to respond.

Since Missouri is losing one Congressional District in 2012, and district boundary lines are being redrawn, Federation President Ron Peters established a committee to review the geography of new districts and chapters locations, and to make recommendations to the Federal Executive Committee.

Chapter 112 has again moved its meeting place from the Hometown Buffet (which has closed) to Miss Sheri’s Cafeteria located at 9967 Manchester Road in Warson Woods. They continue to have a good group and great speakers.

My Chapter, 1278, also continues to have good attendance and speakers. In our latest Newsletter this month, we included a “Blessings Tax”. It was sent to all of our members and to a few others. We hope to raise lots of money for Alzheimer’s. The initial response has been very good.

As many of you know, Betty & I went on vacation during the past month and while we were gone, my e-mail identity was hacked into. Some members of NARFE, as well as, some family and friends were sent messages requesting money. It said that I was in London, England and needed help to get home. It was a hoax. If you ever received such a message, always check with the person involved first. There is another e-mail message being sent around requesting your e-mail address and password. It says that you must respond or else your e-mail account will be closed. Yahoo and AT&T have both said that it is not from them. DO NOT DO IT.

Margaret Huebner – 4th District Officer



I have not been to any Chapter meeting this quarter besides my own. I have one scheduled for August 5, 2011 at Harrisonville and one for December 7, 2011 with 1980 at Collins.

Chapter 1561 we are planning on attending CONK. There are not as many going to CONK as has been in the past. We have only three people going but we have planned on six people in all. By car-pooling we will end up with 3 people going.

We did not cancel the trip to Branson to see The Legends. We ended

up with 40 people and we made \$566.07 profit. Not bad for the recession we are in and the weather as hot as it has been.

Our Chapter again had 8 people present for the meeting. We are dwindling in our membership but the same 8 people just keep showing up at meetings. We have changed to holding the meeting every two months but it hasn't encouraged people to come.

Have been in contact with Sedalia in regards to the State Fair. They are wanting to do it again but they are short of money. Prices have gone up at the Fair so will be asking the Federation for some additional money otherwise.

Ronny Lenzy – 5th District Officer



A series of articles in the Sunday Kansas City Star paper addressed the challenges of aging in the Kansas City area. This started me thinking about the problem that I and a number of NARFE members will face in the years to come.

Are we prepared for life-changing years once we can no longer drive. We're trapped in homes that are too far from needed services such as grocers and doctors. With new medical breakthroughs this has given us longer life but hasn't yet figured out how to keep us healthy. The Star pointed out that the Fifth District is spread out, meaning driving is a necessity. The thought of me and many NARFE members unable to drive is really frightful. This challenge had created a mindset in which seniors let go of things they've accumulated over a lifetime. This also would require a wholesale rewiring of American materialism.

What is needed in the Fifth District to help our NARFE members to live fully and healthy lives?

(1) A support group that brings together people involved in transportation, health care employment (if needed) and a volunteer programs.

(2) The heavy reliance on the personal automobile may see mysterious, but we must reallocate resources to address those issues, to fit the needs of our members in the future. Action is needed now, not later.

I am still working on solutions to the Lee's Summit dilemma. All the other chapters are doing well.

Joseph Manno, 6th District Officer



On April 21, 2011 I attended Chapter 2130's meeting in Cameron, MO at Nelle's Restaurant. Following a meal there was a business meeting led by Chapter President Bob Hart. This was the chapter's first meeting since winter began and there was a lot of areas to cover. We discussed NARFE's Protect Americas Heartbeat Campaign, and the chapter members were concerned about the recommendations that they have seen in the media such as Medicare cuts, the fact that we have not had a COLA for the past two years and the rising Health Insurance premiums. The chapter is well aware of the fact that NARFE is the only organization looking out for our earned benefits. No one from the chapter will be attending the MO State Convention.

I informed the chapter of the change in the National Treasurer (Dick Thissen) and our new Region V Vice President Carol Ek. I reminded the chapter of the upcoming College of NARFE Knowledge August 29th - 31st 2011 in South Sioux City NE.

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month four times a year.

On April 28th, 2011 at the MO Federation 58th Annual State Convention held in Hannibal, MO, the 6th District chapters held a caucus. It was attended by members from Chapters 307 St Joseph, MO; Chapter 1915 North Central MO; Chapter 1944 Northland/Excelsior Springs MO and Chapter 2256 Kansas City North, MO. At the conclusion of the caucus an election took place for District Officer. I was the only person nominated and reelected. I plan on visiting the chapters in the District throughout the next year as the MO Federation's budget allows.

On May 14th, 2011 I attended my Chapter's (1915) meeting held at the Royal Inn Pizza Restaurant in Chillicothe, MO. There were 9 members and one potential new member present. I gave the results of the MO Federation election of officers and that they were all reelected, and that Donna Ayers had resigned as MO Federation Alzheimer Chairman and was replaced by Sherry Fausett. Also that Charles Gray had resigned as Chairman of Public Relations and was replaced by Michele Brown. Judith Olsen will be the NARFE Net person for the MO Federation. Gifford Boswell gave a legislative report on NARFE issues. I stressed the need to send letters to Congressman Graves and Senators Blunt and McCaskill on NARFE issues and to send the letters to their local offices, not Washington DC. Leon Bryant thanked the chapter for sending him to the convention as the chapter's delegate and he gave a report. Barbara Graves (Membership Chair) was able to

download an address and phone number list of Active Federal Employees in the area and plans on contacting them to invite them to our meetings. The chapter's next meeting will be on July 9th, 2011

On June 1, 2011 I traveled to Bethany, Mo and met with MO NARFE Fed President Ron Peters and Phyllis Tuggle, President of Chapter 1523 Greenhills/Bethany. We met with several Federal Offices in the area on a membership recruitment effort for the Chapter. The MO Federation is putting an extra effort to keep the chapter open with the hope of getting new members and possibly some people who would be willing to take officer positions. The offices we met with were the US Post Office, USDA FSA, Soil Conservation Work unit, Soil Conservation Service Project Office, and FHA. We were able to meet with three managers and several employees and gave membership packages with the employees that were there and left several packages for employees who were away from the offices. Ron Peters gave a briefing on what NARFE is about and gave examples of several items that NARFE has accomplished for active employees and Annuitants. We also were able to meet with two retired Federal employees who live in Bethany and they gave a commitment to join. We signed up one active Federal employee and processed his application. Because we were not able to meet with several Post Office employees Phyllis Tuggle will try and arrange a meeting with the employees in the future which I intend to attend.

On July 9th 2011 I attended my Chapter's (1915) meeting held at the Royal Inn Pizza Restaurant in Chillicothe, MO. A business meeting followed lunch. Most of the meeting was spent discussing our earned benefits and how we need to keep the pressure on our congressman and Senators. Gifford Boswell chapter legislative chairman gave a thorough briefing on the current NARFE issues and provided copies of the July 1, 2011 hotline Message where NARFE President Joe Beaudon is asking NARFE members to contact the White House and our representatives in Congress on July 27th 2011. Copies of the July 8th GEMS msg regarding our leaders in Washington who are considering altering the way cost-of-living adjustments are calculated for Social Security and Federal retirement annuity were also provided. The chapter also voted to provide the registration fee for a member to attend CONK in South Sioux City, NE (8/29-8/31). Next chapter meeting will be on September 10, 2011.

July 14th, 2011, Chapter 1523 Greenhills/Bethany update. On the NARFE web site the June chapter monthly activity report indicates that the two potential members we talked to on our June 1, 2011 recruitment trip (Ron Peters, Phyllis Tuggle, and myself) have joined NARFE and are now Chapter 1523 members. One is an active employee and the other is retired.

John Thomas – 7th District Officer

1. Delivered the signed Letters to the Honorable Roy Blunt and Claire McCaskill. Was able to sit and speak with Mr. David Rauch for over 40 minutes, discussed NARFE's position on the move to decrease Federal employee's benefits.
2. Contacted Paul Mosbaugh's wife, she informed me that things were a mess and they could not find Paul's brother and sister-in-law. Later I talked Ken Benhan about attending a meeting at his chapter and the condition in Joplin. Ken informed that they had found Paul's brother and sister-in-law in a hospital a few days later. Ken also reported that all NARFE members in the Joplin area were fine.
3. Attended a meeting at Carthage, chapter 0525, was a very enjoyable meeting. Spoke about FEEA being available when a disaster has been declared by the appropriate persons.
4. Attended a meeting at Shepherd of the Hills, chapter 1437.
5. Will attend a meeting at Barry-Lawrence_Monett, MO on July 21, 2011.

Morris Ridge – 8th District Officer



On May 18, 2011 we went to Rolla for the regular meeting with Chapter 0722. Two members were present with myself and wife Annetta. We had a very good discussion with Melvin Janson, the current Secretary/Treasurer and member Carl Campbell. We are again faced with so many members who are advanced in age and/or disability that attendance is next to zero. These two members expressed their concerns regarding the activities (or lack thereof) of the chapter and are like many of the other chapters we visit. Getting the "younger" retirees involved seems beyond their abilities and are at a loss on what to do to keep the chapter viable. The policy of the

Rolla Chapter is to stop meeting during June, July and August of each year. We made plans with these two members to try to work toward getting others involved by the September meeting time.

On June 8, 2011 we were privileged to be a part of the annual summer picnic for Chapter 0694, Poplar Bluff. We were very pleased to see a very good attendance at the meeting which included Grant "Ron" Peters, President, of the Federation, who provided an update of several activities along with a report of the Federation meeting in Hannibal.

On July 12, 2011 we met with Chapter 1237, Perryville Chapter for the purpose of making presentation of the Alzheimer's certificates presented by Donna Ayers during the Federation meeting. The chapter had garnered 4th place in the overall contributions and 3rd in per capita. These certificates were presented to the committee responsible for raising the funds, per President Gosche's preference. Attendance seemed to be about average for a very hot day in July and unfortunately the program presenter failed to get there. They had planned for an attorney from the Prosecutor's office to be the speaker and they did not know why he did not show up.

On July 13, 2011 we met with Bootheel Chapter 1275, Sikeston along with acting President, Printis Cartee, his wife, and four other members from that Chapter. On June 8,

2011 the members had decided to discontinue meetings with the idea of closing the Chapter. At this meeting we asked the membership to leave the Chapter in tact for a period of up to 6 months. A motion was made, seconded and passed to this effect. The motion included an authorization that if the chapter does close, the chapter funds and with the physical property is gifted to Chapter 1926. Along with that motioned they authorized me to spend up to \$100 of Chapter funds to "advertise" for possible assistance to take the officer's positions. It was agreed that if I was not successful in getting some help by the end of 2011, the chapter would close, the membership notified and given the opportunity to transfer to other Chapters. Just this evening we have sent a letter to the editor of STANDARD DEMOCRAT, the local paper for Sikeston, in an outreach effort to find anyone as retired or active employee(s) who would be willing to serve as Chapter officers. Obviously, we will see if this brings any results.

We have been able to meet with our home chapter, Chapter 1926, May and June. We do plan to meeting again prior to the Quarterly meeting.

Richard Daggett – 8th District Officer



This is my report of my activities since the convention last April. In this past quarter, I have visited all 5 Chapters in the 9th District. The talk at all of the Chapters was on the budget, the economy, and how the Government is going to screw us and the current Federal Employees. It is because of this more and more of our members are getting more involved in letter writing and phone calls than ever before.

May 10: I attended the Columbia Chapters executive board meeting. We discussed upcoming Chapter events and the Rural Letter Carrier Convention being held in Columbia in June. After the meeting, Chapter members Charlotte Larrick, Joyce Snow, and Pat Carlson, and Debbie and I met our Legislative Officer Ned Diekroeger at Senator Claire McCaskill's Office. We hand delivered the "Protect America's Heartbeat" letters that Narfe members had signed at the State Convention. We talked for about 30 minutes about the letters and what they mean. McCaskill's Staff person Cindy Hall was very supportive of the issues we discussed. We left McCaskill's office and went to Senator Blunts office and repeated the same message to Sara Barfield, Blunt's staff person in Columbia.

May 11: We attended the Washington Chapter meeting. I was the proxy for the Washington Chapter at the State Convention. I reported on the convention and spoke on our visits to the Senator's offices in Columbia. Chapter Treasurer Roger Davis took letters from the Washington Chapter to both Senator's and Congressman Leukemeyer's offices in Washington.

May: Also in May there were 6 Doctors appointments and Deb's last Chemo was May 13th. To celebrate her last Chemo treatment we went to Branson for three days. She is still on hormone treatments and still doing other testing but we think the bad stuff is behind us.

June 8th, 9th, 10th - Set up NARFE booth at Missouri Rural Mail Carriers Convention being held in Booneville MO. Charlotte Larrick and Barney Sword from the Columbia chapter helped man the booth.

June 14: Attended the Columbia Chapter picnic.

July 12: Attended Kirksville Chapter Meeting. I Spoke on the importance of NARFE Gems message titled "Protect your COLA". Chapter Legislative Officer Joanne Paustian distributed copies of the Gems message to all the members.

July 14th: Attended Hannibal Chapter meeting and passed out the phone numbers and messages for the "Protect your COLA" campaign.

July 26th : I attended the Mexico Chapter meeting again talking on "Protect our COLA."

Sherry Fausett – Alzheimer's Coordinator

In June I received a monthly report from Barb Pretzer. She was very excited about an article that had appeared in the publication of "Aspire". It comes out two or three times a year and is filled with stories and testimonies of people around the country who are engaged in this national effort to end Alzheimer's disease. In the latest issue NARFE was recognized with a two page article in a 40 page issue.

As of July 1st NARFE members will be able to make donations to our fund with a credit card at: www.alz.org/narfe. **Try it out! Go to www.narfe.org and sign in as a member. Click on our "Alzheimer's Fund" page and you will see within the article the link: www.alz.org/narfe. Click on it and go from there!** They are exploring ways to incorporate memorial information when a credit card is used, also how non-members could use the NARFE website for credit card donations.

We have had donations of \$1,303.03 since I have taken office. As of June 30th nationwide we raised \$47,460.77, which brings our grand total to now stand at \$9,293,510.16.

If anyone would like me to come and speak at your meetings let me know. Sometimes that personal touch can renew commitment.

Sharon (Sherry) Fausett
MO Alzheimer's Coordinator

431 Elm Point Lane
Kimberling City, MO 65686
417-739-3288

Ned Diekroeger – Legislation Officer



MISSOURI LEGISLATION:

Senate Journal Resolution No. 1 and House Journal Resolution No.8 died when the Missouri General Assembly adjourned last May. These bills proposed replacing the state income tax with a sales and use tax. Federal retirees would have lost exemption of their pensions from state income taxation under these proposals. Since the legislation failed, it's anticipated that passage will be attempted through the petition process for a ballot vote in the November 2012 election.

NARFE members are urged not to sign any petitions supporting a vote on this issue.

Should the petition process succeed and the issue end up on the ballot, NARFE members are urged to vote against it.

PROTECT AMERICA'S HEARTBEAT CAMPAIGN:

Last January the Missouri Federation adopted a systematic means of contacting Missouri's congressional delegation through their staff offices on the state level. Contacts should be made quarterly by NARFE members in their respective Congressional Districts with District Officers seeing that visits/contacts are accomplished and reported on as soon as possible. This reporting should also include any Heartbeat Campaign activities. Following is a report on Campaign contacts made since the end of last April:

May 4, 2011 – Eight members from Chapter 1278 attended a “Kitchen Table Talk” in Arnold, MO. It was conducted by a staff member of Senator McCaskill's St. Louis area office.

May 6, 2011 – E-mails from Chapter 313 were sent to Senators Blunt and McCaskill objecting to HCR34..

May 6, 2011 – E-mails from Chapter 1164 were sent to Senators Blunt and McCaskill objecting to proposed COLA and FEHBP changes.

May 9, 2011 – A meeting was held by District 5 NARFE members with the staff of Senators Blunt and McCaskill to deliver signed letters, NARFE magazines and Heartbeat talking points.

May 10, 2011 – A meeting was held with the staff of Senators Blunt and McCaskill in Columbia to deliver signed letters objecting to proposed federal employee/retiree benefit cuts. The meeting was attended by NARFE members from chapters 312, 313, and 683.

May 11, 2011 – Members of Chapter 991, Washington, MO delivered signed letters to the offices of Senators Blunt and McCaskill and to 9th District Congressman, Blaine Luetkemeyer.

May 12, 2011 – E-mails from Chapter 313 were sent to Senators Blunt and McCaskill opposing HCR 34.

May 14 and July 9, 2011 – Members of Chillicothe Chapter 1915 sent letters to Senators Blunt and McCaskill and 6th District Congressman Sam Graves on NARFE's current concerns including COLA proposals.

May 19, 2011 – E-mails from Chapter 1164 were sent to the President, Senators McCaskill and Blunt and Representative Cleaver opposing increased annuity contributions and changes to the FEHBP.

May 21, 2011 – E-mail to the President, Senators McCaskill and Blunt and Representative Hartzler opposing increased annuity contributions and changes to the FEHBP. Sent by Chapter 313.

May 24, 2011 – NARFE members from Districts 1,2 &3 met with the staff of Senators Blunt and McCaskill in the St. Louis area to discuss NARFE talking points and deliver 120 signed Heartbeat letters each from NARFE members and sent another 30 to them after the visit.

May 24, 2011 – Chapter 313 participated in the National Call-in to the White House, Senators Blunt and McCaskill and Representative Hartzler.

June 7, 2011 – Chapter 313 made a \$100 contribution to NARFE headquarters to help fund radio ads supporting NARFE and opposing proposals to cut benefits.

June 12 & 23, 2011 – E-mails from members of Chapter 313 to the President, Senators Blunt and McCaskill and Representative Hartzler opposing increased annuity contributions by federal employees.

June 16, 2011 – The District 2 Officer attended the meeting of St.Charles chapter 1229 and provided instructions and information to the members for calls to their congressional delegation.

July 1, 2011 – Current NARFE magazines were delivered by Chapter 313 to the offices of Senators Blunt and McCaskill and Representative Luetkemeyer in Columbia, MO and to Representative Hartzler's office in Jefferson City, MO by Chapter 313.

July 11, 2011 – E-mails from Chapter 313 were sent to the President, Senators Blunt and McCaskill and Representative Hartzler opposing proposed COLA and FEHBP changes.

July 12, 2011 – The District 9 Officer attended the meeting of Chapter 787 in Kirksville, MO and discussed the GEMS message on protection our COLAs.

July 14, 2011 – The District 9 Officer attended the meeting of Chapter 683 in Hannibal, MO and provided phone numbers and messages for their congressional delegation on COLA protection.

July 14, 2011 – NARFE members from Districts 1,2 & 3 delivered July issues of NARFE magazine to the St.Louis area offices of Senator McCaskill and Representatives Akin, Clay and Carnahan and repeated concerns about proposed federal employee/retiree sacrifices.

July 21, 2011 – 4th District Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler wrote to a member of Chapter 313, Jefferson City, MO stating that the proposed COLA changes were fractionally small.

July 22, 2011 – Senator Roy Blunt responded to a member of Chapter 313, Jefferson City, MO that our country cannot continue to fund pensions on borrowed money and that he supported a new CPI for seniors. The same response was sent to a NARFE member in District 5 in the Kansas City area on July 25th.

July 25, 2011 – 5th District Congressman Emanuel Cleaver wrote to a NARFE member that he has supported past COLAs for federal employees and retirees and stated they should be able to keep up with inflation.

For the most part congressional responses to our various contacts have been tepid and noncommittal. Contact at the local level is usually with local staffers who listen and advise they will pass on our comments to their respective Senators and Congressman. Making direct contacts with the officials themselves has proven difficult to achieve.

Thanks to the many members who have participated in the Heartbeat campaign to date. There have been a large number of requests to the members by NARFE headquarters for assistance in contacting the President and our Congressional delegation. There is no way of knowing if the foregoing listing of contacts includes all that's been done by our membership. I speculate that more was done than reported since last April. However, much remains to be done through the summer and into the fall. Even if there is resolution of the debt limit, the budget will likely remain a serious issue than can adversely impact federal employees and retirees.

Members are asked to continue reporting on their contacts with the President, our two Senators and their Representative. As a reminder, please include the official contacted, the date, what type of contact (e-mail, meeting, phone call, etc.), what was discussed and

the response made, the chapter number and member(s) name(s). Reports should be made by mail or e-mail to:

Ned Diekroeger at ndiekroeger@yahoo.com or to: 2432 Country Club Dr., Jefferson City, MO 65109.

Robert Anderson – NARFE PAC OFFICER



In this election cycle since January 1, 2011, Missouri had 116 contributors to the fund in the amount of \$3568. The Greater St. Louis Chapter was the highest Missouri contributor with \$475. New Pac pins for 2011-2012 are available for a \$20 donation. We received \$1168 in donations at the Hannibal convention.

The following candidates received funds during this period:

Russ Carnahan - \$1000
Jo Ann Emerson - \$2000

Donations can be made at any time by using the coupon in the Narfe magazine. It should be emphasized that candidates must request funds and they are only given to those who expressed support for Narfe legislation.

Beatrice Armstrong – Newsletter Editor



See minutes for report.

Michele Brown – Public Relations Officer



As the Public Relations Officer for the Missouri Federation of Chapters of NARFE, I look forward to fulfilling the internal and external public relation objectives of the Federation. I want to thank Charles Gray, the previous Federation PR Officer for assisting me with what I believe has been very smooth transition.

Obviously the Missouri NARFE newsletter and the website are our major internal communication among membership, chapters, and NARFE Headquarters. Therefore, my first project was to work with Charlie to bring the members up-to-date on the events and information from the Annual Federation of Chapters convention in Hannibal via the Missouri NARFE website. I was also able to put information on the site about the visits to Senators Blunt and McCaskill's offices by members of the St. Louis chapters. Even though I am finding that the template from Headquarters for the site has some limitations and restrictions, it is my plan to continue to work on making it a site that members will go to frequently for information.

Meeting the external objectives of the office, to get information about NARFE to non-members and the public offers some challenges. I will be looking for opportunities to make NARFE visible. I believe we will have an excellent opportunity next spring before and during the convention in St. Louis to put the organization in the public eye. I want to work toward not only press releases, but also maybe some appearances by key officers on some of the special interest shows.

I look forward to growing in this office and growing the office!

Judith Olsen – MONARFE Net Officer

Kudos to John Scafe for handling this job for so many years. Although John was very diligent in sending out all e-mails to some 1350 e-mail recipients, I will also be sending out e-mails periodically at the direction of the Federation President to handle dissemination of information to all e-mail recipients via GEMS.

I also have set up on my own initiative a Yahoo "test" group site at <http://finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/monarfe>, which essentially has many of the features you might experience if there were a MONARFE eNARFE (yet to be approved). This would assure our active Federal employees were able to contribute their insight to MONARFE, and hopefully, help those who are homebound to find an outlet too. This site is very interactive, providing a place to chat, gain info about

MONARFE at one location, and other features, designed for convenience. You may also select how you want to receive communications through the "Edit Membership" feature, or no communications at all. Since this is being provided through Yahoo, it is important that you establish an "alias" e-mail address (thru Yahoo), so you will be able to fully access all features in this group site. Also, an alias yahoo e-mail address will also assure you that when replying to all the e-mails received on the site, that your identify cannot be revealed. One overall observation is that sending out material via this yahoo group site will be far less restrictive than the GEMS medium for distribution of MONARFE information.

Try out the Yahoo group site, as this site may be eliminated within 30 days, unless someone can voice their opinions to Ron Peters, Federation President, of why we should keep this site as a supplement to the Federation website. When you receive the invitation, select "Join this Group." You will automatically be notified via e-mail when new material is added to the site.

Feel free to offer advice about your experience in this setting in the hopes of applying it to a possible future Missouri eNARFE!

Please do not call/e-mail me if you are not receiving either these reports or GEMS reports. You must go through NARFE.org (Membership records) to check on your e-mail address and see if it is current. These are the contacts for Membership Records, although when you log in as a member with your ID no. to NARFE.ORG., a message automatically comes on the screen to update your membership records; also,

the Membership contacts are shown on the inside front cover of the MONARFE newspaper that you receive periodically. To change your e-mail address, other items about your membership, please contact 800-456-8410, recruitment and retention: 800-627-3394. Someone has been misdirecting you to me. I can access the Missouri e-mail addresses from a GEMS report, but I cannot change your e-mail addresses. FEDERATION BOARD MTG JULY 28, 2011 8/1/2011 Also, please be aware that quite a few e-mail addresses are rejecting, possibly for any of the following reasons listed: Duplicate e-mail addresses (same e-mail for husband and wife). One of you will not be getting an e-mail. . E-mail addresses from your place of employment are likely to reject because of security measures taken by your employer (firewalls, etc.) . Possibly, someone is deceased and it has never been reported to NARFE.org. One message that I received was, "this person is not accepting any more e-mails. "I'm not sure what that means, possibly too many e-mails in their e-mail box.

Maxine Rodriguez – Service Officer



See minutes for report.

Robert Sterba – FEEA Officer

After being nominated as the NARFE – FEEA Coordinator chairperson I've been trying to find out my responsibilities. The article in the July "Missouri NARFE News" page 7 is where my adventure started. I was able to find a contact number on the internet from the article "NARFE's Disaster Fund" I called the contact number for further information at the FEEA home office in Lakewood, CO. I talked to the Scholar Director and Office Manager who transferred me to the Emergency Assistant Director. After a few e-mails and phone calls with the FEEA office, I believe I understand some of my responsibilities. FEEA wanted me to contact MO Emergency Management about NARFE's involvement in the Disaster Fund, this is now in progress.

The FEEA will support our Federation conventions by sending promotional items to be displayed and distributed. Also, at the Health Fairs with no cost to NARFE for the items but, if a table is required at a Health Fair that cost is to be paid by NARFE. I will be sent one set of the promotional items for review; these items will support both active and retired NARFE members.

The information in the "Missouri NARFE News" Disaster Fund requires to be updated to support our members and FEEA.

I called Joplin Chapter 19 to make sure all the NARFE members need any help, everyone seems to be fine.

Also, please be aware that quite a few e-mail addresses are rejecting, possibly for any of the following reasons listed: Duplicate e-mail addresses (same e-mail for husband and wife). One of you will not be getting an e-mail. . E-mail addresses from your place of employment are likely to reject because of security measures taken by your employer (firewalls, etc.) . Possibly, someone is deceased and it has never been reported to NARFE.org. One message that I received was, "this person is not accepting any more e-mails. "I'm not sure what that means, possibly too many e-mails in their e-mail box.

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I wish everyone the best of luck in these trying times and hope everyone remains upbeat as we are faced with new challenges on the horizon and confront them to the best of our abilities.