

**MISSOURI FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS
NARFE EXECUTIVE BOARD
MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING
October 27, 2011**



Judith Smart, Secretary

The meeting of the Missouri Federation of Chapters Executive Board was held at the Quality Inn in Columbia, Missouri, on October 27, 2011. President Grant “Ron” Peters called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with a moment of reflection provided by Alzheimers Chair Sherry Fausett, followed by the pledge of allegiance led by 2nd VP Eric Bahl.

Secretary Judith Smart called the roll. Absent: John Thomas and Maxine Rodriguez. Guest: Derril Harms, President of

313 Jefferson City.

Secretary’s minutes for the First Quarter 2012 Executive Board meeting. *Linda Kurz moved that the minutes be accepted as written. Seconded. Carried.* Judith reported on the following correspondence: a thank you note from Penny Slaughter for her CONK scholarship and sympathy cards sent to the families of Laura Findley and Jack Anderson.

Treasurer’s Report. Richard Rosenkoetter. It will be filed for audit. Rosenkoetter stated that receipts are required for reimbursement. [Rosenkoetter – A, B, and C – Oct 2011]

Region V Field VP Report. Carol Ek. She read Dan Adcock’s resignation letter. John Hatton will be Region 5’s field legislative representative. Nov. 2 is a designated call-in day to contact your Congressional people. E-chapters are needed in some form. For MO Fed convention organizers: when considering Skype, ascertain whether the hotel has good Skype reception; otherwise do not plan to use this means of hearing from National officers. For National convention: recommendation that delegates check with chapter members on how to vote on the revised Bylaws which will be presented in Reno. [Ek – Oct 2011]

President’s Report. [Peters – Oct 2011]

1st VP Report. Henry Garcia. [Garcia – Oct 2011]

2nd VP Report and Membership Report. Eric Bahl. Radio ads for the Greater Kansas City area are under study by chapters in that area. The Shawnee Mission KS chapter, the largest in KS, is taking the lead. \$3000 is needed for the project; it is possible to use the Protect America's Heartbeat ads outside the DC area. [Bahl - 2 VP – Oct 2011] and [Bahl – Oct 2011]

Immediate Past President's Report and National Legislation Report. Linda Kurz. Chapters must continue to write letters to senators and representatives and deliver them to the local Congressional offices. She passed out packets of Convention information to Board members (on file with the Secretary's minutes). These will be distributed to all chapters and in the January edition of the MO NARFE newspaper. She will prepare an invitation to active employees to join us on Saturday, April 21, to be passed out at the upcoming health fairs. The Convention in St Louis begins April 19 with checkout on April 22; the banquet is April 21. [Kurz – past pres – Oct 2011]

1st District Officer. Art Buck. He praised chapter 1240 president Delores Ivy for her chapter's drive to increase donations to NARFE PAC. [Buck – Oct 2011]

2nd District Officer. Linda Kurz. She noted that Preferred Blue is for active employees only. She recommended chapters look to their own members for presentations about interesting events in their lives for program ideas at meetings. [Kurz – DO 2 – Oct 2011]

3rd District Officer. Ben Belhumeur. Chapter 1278 has instituted a "Blessings Tax" which he said has been very effective in raising contributions to Alzheimers. [Belhumeur – Oct 2011]

4th District Officer. Margaret Huebner. [Huebner – Oct 2011]

5th District Officer. Ronny Lenzy. [Lenzy – Oct 2011]

6th District Officer. Joe Manno. He recently was the DO in charge of the deactivation of chapter 2318 Weston; he has not yet heard whether the paperwork has cleared at National. Pres. Peters thanked him for his work with Weston. Greenhills/Bethany must search for a new president. He asked Region 5 VP Ek to recommend to National that they send directions for doing direct deposit, password, and user name. [Manno – Oct 2011]

7th District Officer. Morris Ridge. Chapter 1275 Sikeston has no president and wants to close, but Morris is working with them to avoid this end. [Ridge – Oct 2011]

8th District Officer. John Thomas. [Thomas – Oct 2011]

9th District Officer. Richard Daggett. MASCO is having its national convention in St Louis next April at the Sheraton Westport, and Daggett recommended NARFE have a booth there. [Daggett – Oct 2011]

Alzheimers. Sherry Fausett. She plans to have a silent auction again at the MO Fed Convention. See details in her report. *Ben Belhumeur moved to give a \$25 donation to Alzheimers from the MO Fed in memory of Jack Anderson. Seconded. Peters ruled the motion out of order.* In lieu of using Federation funds for a memorial, the “hat” was passed. An amount exceeding \$25 was collected for Alzheimers in memory of Jack Anderson.

[Fausett – Oct 2011]

Legislation – State. Ned Diekroeger. The MO Legislature recently adjourned their special session after accomplishing nothing. There is now a proposed amendment to the MO Constitution which will be presented for a vote in Nov 2012 regarding a mega sales tax in MO; if this passes we and all other MO public employees will lose our 444 tax exemption. A coalition has been set up to fight this, but National has said we should not join this coalition. We cannot use NARFE funds, but a collection may be taken up among NARFE members to support their work. [Diekroeger rev. – 2011]

NARFE PAC. Bob Anderson. This past year Minnesota was first among Region 5 PAC’s and MO was third. During this quarter no PAC funds were given out in MO.

[Anderson – Oct 2011]

NARFE Newsletter. Bea Armstrong. The publisher will now send one newspaper per household. The deadline for submitting articles for the next edition is November 21. No written report submitted.

Public Relations/Webmaster. Michele Brown. She would like to get the NARFE message on St. Louis radio. The present web site is governed by National dictates; Michele sees a need to make the site “smoother” and she has volunteered to research the problem and report back to the Board. *Michele Brown moved we explore the cost of a web site and domain name strictly for MO NARFE. Seconded. Passed.* [Brown – Oct 2011]

MONARFE Coordinator. Judith Olsen. The Yahoo site is used very infrequently and therefore will be closed down. On the “gems” site items may be sent out as “informational” as long as the NARFE logo is not used. [Olsen – Oct 2011]

Service Officer. Maxine Rodriguez. No written report submitted.

FEEA Coordinator. Robert Sterba. Bob gave his regular report and, secondly, he gave the Board a flyer on the workings of FEEA. He asked that the information contained on the flyer be placed in each edition of the quarterly Federation newspaper. [Sterba – 2 – Oct 2011] and [Sterba – Oct 2011]

OLD BUSINESS.

E-chapters. A membership report has come out from National with the individuals in e-chapters. FL was granted a charter for an e-chapter and will keep it until/unless the National Convention decides otherwise. E-chapters are not mentioned in the revised Bylaws; they will be voted on separately in Reno. There must be a vote on them as they were only allowed as an experiment for two years. A number of questions were posed by Michele Brown: How will voting by e-chapter members be done at National and state conventions? Who carries their votes? For voting purposes will they be given to a regular chapter as if they belonged to that chapter? How are they to be listed on membership rosters? Topic to be on the January agenda.

Approval of revised policy manual. Tabled until the January Board meeting.

NARFE booth at the MO State Fair. Margaret Huebner received names of those visiting our booth but has heard from no one so far. Pres. Peters received a post-Fair report from Jim Ellis of chapter 605 Sedalia and has filed a matching funds request with National. (Peters later stated that the matching funds have been received.) Both of these documents are on file with the Federation Secretary.

Reorganizing the Federation's District Officers. Henry Garcia. Members of his committee are M. Ridge, A. Buck, N. Diekroeger, and R. Daggett. They recommend continuing with eight DO's based on the eight newly reorganized Congressional districts which will be established in MO. The exact district lines have not been decided at this time because of pending law suits. They recommend also that the Federation President be able to appoint an additional ad hoc person where/when needed in the large districts. Henry will prepare a report on the committee's recommendations with further discussion at the January Federation meeting.

2014 Convention. President Sol Codillo of chapter 11 Springfield has emailed President Peters offering to host the 2014 Convention. *Ronny Lenzy moved that Springfield be the site of the 2014 Convention. Seconded. Passed.* The Secretary will notify Mr. Codillo that the Federation has accepted his chapter's most welcome offer.

2015 Convention. Pres. Peters asked the DO's to continue searching for a site for that year.

NEW BUSINESS.

2012 Convention Parliamentarian. The National Parliamentarian Paul Lamb said there is no rule in any bylaws requiring a parliamentarian at a Convention. He recommended not having a NARFE member and said the designated person does not have to be certified but should be well versed in Robert's Rules of Order.

Consolidation of chapters. Ronny Lenzy. He asked about the process of combining chapters as that might allow chapters to find officers more easily. Discussion. Basically the process would be similar to closing a chapter with each chapter member being notified and asked to assess his/her position on any merger. More specifics are needed before any move is made.

Ronny Lenzy moved to adjourn at 3:00 p.m. Seconded. Carried.



Ron Peters – Federation President

Weston Chapter 2318 has closed. The formal package was mailed to HQ on October 11, 2011, with a recommended formal closing date of October 31, 2011. Weston Chapter first requested closing about five years ago. The original members were gone or no longer able to serve. At that time there were 30 members on the official roster. All were contacted. A new member offered to serve as chapter president; other offices than filled in. But, no chapter activity followed as to participation in state conventions, CONK, national conventions, political visits or community activity. Thanks to District Officers Muriel Bahl and Joe Manno who spent a lot of time with this chapter. All current officers no longer wish to serve. Working with Joe Manno the chapter correctly followed all closing procedures. Most of the 26 members were transferred to the North Kansas City Chapter 2256; one was transferred to the Saint Joseph Chapter 0307.

Not yet ready to give up on Bethany–Green Hill Chapter 1523. There is a large Post Office there, and the Farm Service Agency people had seemed receptive. Joe Manno and

I discussed and have invited Richard Daggett to come use his skills with the Bethany Post Office.

My visits to chapters this quarter, in addition to my home Greater Kansas City 0020, include the Columbia Chapter 0312, Jefferson City Chapter 0313, and the Cass County Chapter 1012. West Plains Chapter 0695 hosted their annual dinner at the Rockbridge Trout Ranch on October 25, with Ava Chapter 2283 and Houston Chapter 2096 members invited. Also on the calendar for October 25 is the Lake of the Ozarks Chapter 1561 annual fall bus trip to Branson with many invited. I enjoy meeting many of our Federation members at these events.

College of NARFE Knowledge (CONK) was attended by 32 of our Federation members. This was my 5th CONK. It was excellent training and information. Four of the five scholarships offered by the Federation were used. I believe this to be a great use of federation funds and hope that we continue to offer these scholarships.

Political activity included visits to the Kansas City offices of Senators Blunt and McCaskill on September 22, meeting with their staffs. The following week I attended a Senator McCaskill town hall meeting in Belton that she personally conducted. Also continued my contacts with the First Thursday Republican Club, and (unrelated) some Tea Party affiliate meetings.

A radio advertising campaign is being organized in the Greater Kansas City area with the Shawnee Mission Kansas Chapter taking the lead. Estimated cost is \$3,000.00 and matching funds from HQ would be requested. I have asked our Second Vice President Eric Bahl to coordinate this effort on our Missouri side. Our six chapters in the Greater Kansas City area have been invited to participate.

HQ continues to push for chapters to use direct deposit and to access their chapter reports to track membership. I hope you do not mind my making some phone calls direct to some chapters regarding this.

As always, there is joy in serving!

Carol EK – Region V Field VP

It really doesn't seem like the summer has passed and November and Thanksgiving and the Holidays are upon us already. My fall visits to every Federation was filled with the excitement of seeing all of the members, getting to discuss legislative issues with your

representatives, and good travel weather all of the way. I will be attending the NEB meeting in Alexandria from November 14th through the 18th, so any of those questions or matters you would like to ask - let me know and I will try to get answers.

I do know one of the matters of much discussion will be membership recruitment and retention. I believe every Federation expressed "apathy" and we know it's there. None of us have the answer - I wish I did. I know and you know that every one of us is getting older and it is more difficult to get enthused about recruiting members, but we must and we must make our other members realize this. Members are not going to come knocking on our door.

I am going to take a little of your time and paper to recognize recruiters for the month of October, 2011. I know you just received the recruitment paper but recognition never can be overdone. It is so good to see recruiters from every one of the seven states in Region V. Overall Region V gained 106 new members during the month of October through recruiting in the States and with National recruitment. We need to give ourselves a big hand - now if the other 23,776 members would join this band, look what we could do.

From Iowa: Larry Moore (1); Paul Lindquist (1); Joseph A. Dygas (1); and, Bernard G. Gundel (1)

From Kansas: Betty L. McVicker (1); Jack L. Herron (1); Elizabeth M. Bornman (1); Anita L. Frey (1); Elisabeth A. Scribner (1); Rebecca P. Fechner (1); Dianne Throop (1); Keith P. VanSkike (1); and Elaine L. Seeman (1)

From Minnesota: John H. Hurlbert (2); and Mary Burnett (3)

From Missouri: Francis E. Tucker (1); Kenneth P. Luber (1); and Naola Ann McMullen (1)

From Nebraska: Winifred E. French (1); Pamela J. Swanson (1); and Jerry G. Schumacher (1)

From North Dakota: Jane T. Finneeth (1); Arthur J. Lund (2); and Gladys Nelson (1)

From South Dakota: Keith T. McMillian (2); Marvin A. Olson (2); Douglas D. Uthe (1); Roger O. Roth (1); Roger E. Youngman (1); and Kenneth Erlenbusch (1)

You will note from the report that Nebraska and Minnesota changed places in the % of recruitment and retention for the month of October. Wonder what might happen next month???

Have a very good Thanksgiving. I hope you all honored all of the Veterans today in your own way!



Henry Garcia – 1st Vice President/Membership

The committee on redistricting will meet again on October 26th, 2011 at 7:00 PM in the lobby of the Quality Inn, in Columbia, Mo.

We will again be discussing several ideas that we came up with at our last meeting in July. I have e-mailed our 5th district area VP to get some ideas from other states within our area as to what methods or ideas they might have along these lines on redistricting. Hopefully our committee will have something to at the board meeting in October. As I stated in my last article we are open to ideas or suggestion that anyone might have to help our committee.

Since our last board meeting I have attended the Warsaw Chapter number 1988, they met in Warsaw, Mo on July 19th. they had a very informative meeting, there were 15 members in attendance there group is very active.

I also attended CONK August 29th through the 31st in South Sioux City, NE. I also took over the Chapter meeting of Pomme-de-Terre chapter 1980 due to the illness of our president James McCarty on September 7th.

Be sure to contact 2nd notice members and non-renewals or dropped members. Try to find out why they have not renewed and help with their concerns.



Eric Bahl – 2nd Vice President

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

September 15, 2011: Attended meeting of Chapter 1164 (Independence). Briefed the chapter on the events happening at this year's College of NARFE Knowledge.

September 22, 2011: Several NARFE members, including myself, met with Matt Haase, District Office Director for Senator Blunt to express our concerns with matters that could impact active and retired federal employees. We also met with Corey Dillon, Regional Director for Senator Claire McCaskill. Prepared 2 packages of the current NARFE "Talking Points" and presented one at each Senator's Office.

September 30, 2011: Attended meeting of Chapter 1457 (Lee's Summit) for swearing in of officers.

October 18, 2011: Manned NARFE exhibit table, together with Ernie Crews, President: Rick Fullerton, Treasurer: Dixie Altman, Secretary; and Sharon Bahl, at the Palmer Center Senior Day. I believe that over 200 people attended.

October 20, 2011: Attended NARFE Chapter 1164 (Independence) chapter meeting. Representatives of Blue Cross/Blue Shield and GEHA gave a presentation on the FEHB program for 2012. Members of all chapters in the 5th District were invited to attend. 20 NARFE members and 12 “Guests” attended.

I emailed a copy of the monthly membership reports to all District Officers, together with a summary membership report for the period July through September 2011 to all District Officers and to the FEB Secretary.



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

We are informed by Headquarters’ Legislative Department that M&R, who developed the Heartbeat campaign, are only being retained in the future on a consultative basis. The Legislative Department accepted our advice to hire an additional employee to co-ordinate field efforts on this. Our representative, plus 2 other regions, is John Hatton. A first regional conference call was held on October 20 and will be held

bi-weekly on Thursday.

During this conference call we were informed that all House and Senate Committees were asked to provide the debt and deficit reduction super committee with recommendations by October 14. They have done so. Many of the committees recommended Federal Employee changes from both the majority (Republican) and the minority (Democratic) members. A number of committees also made the recommendation to spare federal employees in order to attract well qualified people for government jobs. Several committees also recommended that the cuts also be applied to the legislative and judicial branches of government.

One needs to speculate that the more committees making federal employee pay and benefit reduction recommendations, the more likely it is that the super committee will repeat them in theirs. Similarly, since the Congress has to vote the super committee recommendations up or down before Christmas, and a proportion of their committees sent these recommendations to the committee, the more likely is an up vote of the entire Congress. That's bad for us. Here are some of the surviving recommendations and some new ones; all of them affecting active employees:

- adopt the high 5 earning years to determine the annuity
- increase the percent contribution FERS employees pay to their federal annuity account – the percentages vary from committee to committee- but could be as high 7% compared to the 0.80% they now pay.
- CSRS employees may see their contributions increased from 7% to 10%.
- repeal the FERS sick leave contribution to their annuity passed a couple of years ago.
- Repeal not affecting the annuities of rehired annuitants also passed a couple of years ago.
- Cut the workforce by 10% through attrition.
- Switch new FERS hires to a “defined contribution” plan with reliance on Social Security and TSP.
- Eliminate step increases
- Extend the pay freeze. The number varies from committee to committee but the worst is “until 2015”
- Reduce civilian agencies’ travel budget by 75%
- “streamline” FEHP prescription drug contracting by having OPM contract directly with pharmaceutical companies.
- Move the federal government to biennial budgeting (my comment: maybe this will have better acceptance since the Congress has eliminated earmarks. Earmarks were the main reason this perennial proposal has never been accepted).
- Eliminate the “rest of US” locality pay

And the usual:

- reduce the vehicle fleets
- sell excess government property

Perhaps for the first time by at least one committee:

- reduce the federal contract workforce by 15%
- end use of noncompetitive, sole-source contracts

One recommendation by the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee (Senator McCaskill serves on this committee) was to not further cut federal employees pay and benefits.

Note that the only attack on retirees may be a late blooming recommendation to exclude us from the COLA just scheduled for all retirees at 3.5-3.6%

Perhaps our letters including the recent one signed by and collected from chapter members and delivered to local offices by our District Officers had some impact on this. I know the unions have done something similar. They were vigorously pushing reduction of contract employment.

The Congressional vote on the debt/deficit reduction proposals is due by Christmas and has to be signed by the President in January. Therefore our campaign must be intense until that time. I propose we deliver, statewide, another letter after Thanksgiving to make another impression on Congress before their vote is final.

Now you may catch yourself thinking that we, the retired feds, came away little affected (no COLA for 2 years). I don't think we can definitely count on the 3.5-3.6% COLA just scheduled. The Congress can still exempt us from this COLA as they have done before. I doubt that they will do it to Social Security recipients because of the upcoming election and because the MEDICARE B premium is going up and may wipe out or exceed the COLA. We need to keep up the campaign since our MEDICARE B premiums are also going up and, without a COLA, could cut our spendable annuity.

Other activities were overshadowed by the above. On September 27, Elbert Williams, president of chapter 112- St. Louis, and I attended a fundraising cocktail and hors d'ouvres party for Congressman Russ Carnahan (D-Dist #3). He is waiting for the results of his challenge to the Missouri congressional redistricting plan. He expects to be running for the new District #2 (Akin's seat- Akin (R) is running against Senator Claire McCaskill (D)). He said that he will continue to support federal employee/retiree issues if he succeeds.

On October 17, I attended a fundraising luncheon for Congresswomen Emerson (R-Dist#8). WOW, the elite of the elite of the St. Louis Republicans were there. I suspect it was a \$1000/plate luncheon, judging by the 40 folks in attendance at this intimate access to Joanne Emerson. The event was sponsored by the Danforths who also introduced Congresswoman Emerson. In our private conversation, Mrs. Emerson promised to continue to protect federal employees and admitted that her own employees are also

somewhat demoralized by the constant attacks on federal employees. She is a refreshing individual. She tells it like she sees it, recognizing that not everyone in the audience might agree with her. She should be respected for her courage and supported for her support of federals. If the proposed re-districting plan is finally accepted, Joann Emerson will represent the eastern half of Jefferson County in addition to her current District #8. The visits were precipitated by NARFE-PAC contributions to the incumbent's re-election campaign in the St. Louis area.

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 April 22 or later, if delegates choose to check out St. Louis tourist venues and perhaps take in a Cardinals game.

All the convention forms have been published in the October edition of the Federation newspaper. The registration form unfortunately is printed smaller than we requested and could be misinterpreted. We expect to change that in the January edition. Most folks will find the chances on a NARFE member created quilt and the 50/50 jackpot as just right for participation. In fact we have already received one mailing to compete for the quilt.

Packages of all the forms and information are being handed out to all attendees of the Executive Board at the meeting on October 27. Packages have already been mailed to chapter presidents. We expect to mail out another package in January just in case some can't find their information. I would like to encourage early, early hotel reservations to get the "better" rooms. King bed rooms are limited and made available on a first come-first served basis. The same applies to the 12 handicapped rooms that have recently been upgraded to reflect current standards. Please reserve your handicapped room early. Remember that you can cancel your reservation up to 24 hours prior to scheduled arrival without any penalty in case something happens that prevents your attendance.

We are hoping to have active employees attend the Saturday sessions of the convention and hopefully recruit some. I wouldn't be surprised if a similar strategy in Poplar Bluff actually results in a higher membership increase than we can get out of St. Louis (there is a VA Medical Center there).

Because we may have some exhibitors who would actually like to make a longer presentation to the general assembly, we are leaving the 3:15pm- 5p.m. slots on Saturday open for such presentations to the general assembly of delegates on an optional basis. One of these may be a presentation by the coalition on the Missouri State income tax challenge being replaced by a proposed "fair tax"; i.e. an all encompassing State sales tax which would wipe out our income exemption from Missouri income tax won under Dick Thissen's success to pass HB444.

National Bylaws Revision Committee: I am pleased to report that our recent committee e-mail discussions have resulted in taking OUT all reference to e-chapters from the bylaws revision. Headquarters is not very pleased with this action on the committee's part but we generally felt that referencing e-chapters and authorizing them in the revised bylaws would exceed what the committee felt was the convention introduced charge to us to streamline the bylaws. It does not prevent chapters from introducing bylaws amendments to authorize e-mail chapters. Personally I think that what we ought to submit in terms of an amendment to the "revised" (unadulterated) bylaws revision is an amendment that simply adds the e-member as a type of membership. This would mean that a member of a chapter could be an e-member or a regular member. We know that many of our regular members don't or can't attend our chapter meetings. This idea comes from Elbert Williams, president of chapter 112, and I think it is the way to go. I am in support of our Executive Board submitting such a "bylaws amendment", obviously waiting for the passage of the revised bylaws.

Art Buck – 1st District Officer



In support of NARFE's "**Protect America's Heartbeat**" initiative, all twenty-nine members at the September meeting of Chapter 1240 (Florissant, MO.) submitted signed letters addressed to Congressman Lacy Clay (MO-1) and Senators Claire McCaskill and Roy Blunt. Our message was pretty simple. We as current and retired federal workers should not be unfairly singled out during this country's serious fiscal situation. The letters were delivered to the appropriate local St. Louis offices where yours truly reemphasized to the staffers just how important federal workers are to this country.

The fifty-nine NARFE members and guests at our October monthly meeting were pleased to learn that there will be a 3.6% cost of living increase for CSRS retirees in 2012. After two years of no COLA and the continual rise in FEHBP and Medicare Part B premiums, along with the historic knowledge that COLAs have been delayed before, Chapter 1240 members have become very skeptical in anticipating COLA increases. In addition, Chapter President Delores Ivy, asked those at the meeting to donate to NARFE-PAC to help insure that our issues would be heard in Washington D.C. President Ivy wants the Florissant Chapter to lead the Missouri Federation in NARFE-PAC contributors and has instituted a challenging campaign.

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

- September 20 Ms. Ashley Mattingly of the National Archives and Records Administration presented an update on NARA's new home in north St. Louis County.
- October 18 Representatives from Blue Cross made their annual visit and informed us of upcoming changes to BC/BS Standard and Basic plans. The best news is that most plans in the FEHBP will not be going up too much and some rates are actually going down.
- November 15 Election of Officers for Chapter 1240 was held and once again President Ivy's slate was swept into office. Chili was served in lieu of champagne.
- December 6 Annual Holiday Party and Installation of Officers at Lombardo's Restaurant starting at noon and excellently orchestrated by Chapter Treasurer Richard Rosenkoetter.
- January 17 Regular monthly meeting with lively discussions on COLA and Medicare.
- February 18 A tax advisor from H & R Block is scheduled along with updates on the upcoming NARFE State Convention to be held in St. Louis at the Sheraton Westport Hotel, April 19-22, 2012. **SEE YOU THERE !**

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



Chapter 1229- St. Charles and chapter 2071- West St. Louis County comprise current congressional district # 2.

I attended Chapter 1229 meetings on August 18, September 15 and October 20, 2011.

We signed letters to Congressional Officials in September. Blue Cross/Blue Shield updated employees in October to changes in benefits and premiums for 2012. Mainly the premiums are less by a bit from 2011. I thought it interesting that the BASIC option looks so much like the HMO product of previous years. There was no explanation why this was so.

In my head I was reflecting on the affordable care act and thought it “interesting” that the Blue Preferred was not offered to retired feds. The Preferred Blue is a new HMO-like

product and looks just like the prior HMO's with addition of "preventive services" which will capture our data for government files to be used for "analysis" of government entitlements. I'm still trying, as a former healthcare executive with the Dept. of Veterans Affairs, to reconcile the Preferred Blue with the "Affordable Care Act" as it is being changed under our very eyes. The affordable care act has just "ditched" the "long term home care" portion because they don't think it can be implemented" (that means "funded" in our language). That was a portion that I really thought would be good for us. Keep tuned as I try to figure out what it means for us.

In chapter 2071, we signed letters at the October 6 meeting, like in chapter 1229 meetings, to try to shape the influence of our elected officials. We had a presentation by a survivor of Nazi concentration camps in September and by one of our own members on his 9 lives in the battle of Iwo Jima. The bottom line is that the younger we are the less we realize the risk of our involvement in war and government in our young lives.

On October 21, Elbert Williams and I, on very short notice, delivered the 44 signed letters from District # 2 and 22 letters from District #3 to Senator Mc Caskill and Senator Blunt's Office and separately, to our district Congressional Representative's office. Senator Blunt is moving his office and we ended up pushing our letters under the door of the old place. I had been told to come anytime, but I didn't check the address or know about the new address.

I also delivered, without appointment, 44 letters from the members of chapter 1229 - St. Charles and from chapter 2071- West St. Louis County to Congressman Akin's office in Manchester, MO. I couldn't wait for Kerry DeGregorio to conclude her national conference call, but she was willing to meet with me after the call, in spite of not having an appointment. Please consider these accommodations for us in your considerations regarding votes.

Ben Belhumeur – 3rd District Officer



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. We have contacted both Senator Roy Blunt and Senator Claire McCaskill, as well as, Representative Russ Carnahan and although we have received bland responses, they know how we stand on these issues.

I attended Chapter 112 meeting this month at their new location at 9967 Manchester Road in Warson Woods. They had a representative from Blue Cross/ Blue Shield and there were over 40 members in attendance. There were a lot of questions

from newly retired members. The death of Jack Anderson was announced and he was remembered for his past contributions to NARFE and to the Missouri Federation.

My Chapter, 1278, also continues to have good attendance and speakers. We had a representative from Blue Cross/Blue Shield. We had over 35 members and guests at our meeting. We did raise \$467.25 from the Blessings Tax that we mailed to our Members for Alzheimer Research. This was more than our donation in 2009.

During the past quarter, we had our annual picnic and a good time was had by all. Our Program Director has speakers already lined up through next June, so things are looking good with that. We are looking forward to some new members assuming a greater role in our Chapter with the elections coming up in the next couple of months.

Margaret Huebner – 4th District Officer



On August 5, I visited Chapter 1012 in Raymore. There were about 25 members present. The president, Steve Morrison, said the ticket sales for the Royals/Cardinals ball game did not sell as they did in the past. He lost money on the sales. He would have to be reimbursed if they wanted him to sell them again next year. I think we need to rethink whether we will continue selling these tickets again next year.

I had Henry Garcia fill in for me in Warsaw Chapter 1988. He did a good job and I wanted to thank him for that.

Dave & I traveled to South Sioux City, NE to attend CONK. It was a very good meeting. I got a lot out of it.

Chapter 1561, Lake of the Ozarks, held their annual picnic in October 13, 2011 at HA HA Tonka State Park. We had about 12 people present for this meeting and picnic. Not as many people as we have had in the past. We had a representative from GEHA there who gave us the scoop in the new insurance rates for the coming year.

I furnished handouts to David Craig and Jim Ellis for the Sedalia State Fair. I received the list of names and addresses from Jim for prospective members. Have not had any response from any of them. Had enclosed a listing of Chapters for them where they could call.

I am looking for someone to take the 4th District Officers' job. I no longer can do this job because of health reasons. So if anyone in the 4th district wants this job look me up. My email address is davehuebner@att.net . My phone number is 573-873-3062.



Ronny Lenzy – 5th District Officer

What is CPI and how does it relate to COLA?

My finding from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics that retirees, surviving spouses and Social Security recipients have reason to be wary of the call by debt-reduction negotiators(both Republican and Democrats) to set future cost-of-living adjustment (COLAs) using a "chain-weighted" consumer price index (CPI).

Many economists say the chain-weighted CPI, which the Bureau of Labor Statistics established in 2002, provides a more accurate measure of inflation for adjusting entitlement -roughly 2.5 billion in the first decade.

The average annual COLAs are about three percent a year. The CPI would show an average inflation rate of two .seven percent a year. To judge the impact on entitlement, consider a retiree drawing \$2000 a month. A annual COLA of 3 percent would raise that to \$2,060 next year. In contrast, annual CPI of 2.7 percent would raise that retiree's pay to \$2,054 a month, or \$6 less, next year. In ten years, annual raises of 2.7 percent would bring the monthly to \$2,610.56 versus \$2,687.83 over a decade. In this case, the CPI will have dampened monthly payment by \$77.27 over a decade. When the effect is spread over millions, the saving are significant.

The index now used to set retirees COLAs is the CPI for Urban Wage Earner and Clerical Worker, or CPI-W. It tracks prices for a market basket of goods and service from month to month. Items are weighted based on spending patterns of mostly blue collar workers. Every two years, Bureau of Labor Statistics conducts a new survey, and then readjusts the weightings.

What CPI-W doesn't do is change the mix of goods and services surveyed to reflect change in spending behavior by consumers. For example, as the price of apples goes up, a consumer might buy fewer apples, but buy more oranges. The CPI-W doesn't account for the shift. The chain weighted CPI ignores the fact that the consumer might prefer an apple over orange, if not for the rising cost. CPI-W is designed to reflect not only price changes, but spending behavior changes too, as consumers turn away from more expensive items to buy cheaper alternatives.

Lee's Summit chapter has a new president, Ms Maxine Rodriguez. Ms Rodriguez with our help will work to get chapter up and running.

Blue Springs and Independence chapters are doing well.



Joseph Manno, 6th District Officer

On August 22, 2011, I attended a Chapter 2318 (Weston, MO) special meeting held in Platte City MO at the Pizza Shoppe. All of the chapter officers and two other members were present at the meeting. I reviewed the procedures that are outlined in the current Chapter and Federation Officers Manual regarding the closing of a chapter. The members at the meeting decided to contact all of the members eligible to vote and notify them of a special meeting to be held on September 26th, 2011 to vote on the closing of the chapter. They divided up the names on the roster for contacting members. I informed the chapter that I would be at the meeting and let them know that this will be the first step in the closing of the chapter. The present officers let me know that they are unwilling to continue on as officers.

On August 29th through August 31st 2011 I attended the College of NARFE Knowledge (CONK) in South Sioux City, Nebraska. There were 179 persons in attendance from Region V including training instructors from NARFE Headquarters. The MO Federation of Chapters was well represented. This was my second CONK attendance and it was well worth the trip. The training sessions were excellent with very good training instructors at each session. I highly recommend a Chapter to send any potential or current chapter officer to the next CONK session.

On September 8th 2011, my wife Mary and I attended the Hannibal NARFE Chapter's annual picnic at Mark Twain Lake's John F. Spalding Recreation Area. It was very enjoyable day and there was great fellowship with the members we met at the picnic. After a short business meeting there was a catered buffet meal. After the meal there was a bingo session with prizes and a horseshoe tournament. Afterwards Richard Daggett gave us a tour of the new visitor center at the Clarence Cannon Dam. There is a volunteer list on a computer screen in the visitor center; the Hannibal NARFE Chapter does a lot of volunteer work in the Mark Twain Lake area and are recognized on the list of contributing volunteers.

On September 10th 2011, I attended my Chapter's (1915 North Central MO) meeting in Chillicothe, MO at the Royal Inn. There were nine regular chapter members and two guests. One of the guests was Phyllis Tuggle, long time President of the Greenhills/Bethany, MO chapter 1523, and the other guest was a prospective new member. After a meal the business meeting was held. Nominations were sought for the 2012 chapter officers. Elections will be held at the next meeting November 12th, 2011, with nominations being accepted until the elections are held. I gave the chapter a briefing from the College of NARFE Knowledge, which I had attended last month. Letters to Senators McCaskill and Blunt and Congressman Graves were provided to the chapter members with addresses of the local offices on the letters.

On September 26th 2011, I attended a Special meeting of the Weston Chapter 2318 held at the Pizza Shoppe in Platte City, MO. The purpose of the meeting was for the chapter

members to vote on whether to close the chapter or keep it open. There were nine chapter members in attendance including the chapter President Sue Gifford and the Vice-President Carey Rolofson. Sue Gifford gave each member an opportunity to speak regarding the chapter's future. There was no one in the chapter who was willing to serve as an officer. After the "pros and cons" of closing the chapter were explained a vote was taken. The results of the vote were 9 votes to close the chapter and 0 to keep it open. I told them as outlined in the NARFE Chapter and Federation Officers Manual the next step was for the MO Federation to decide whether to close the chapter.

On October 20th 2011, I attended Cameron Chapter 2130's meeting at Nelle's Restaurant in Cameron. Following the meal, a business meeting was held. Bob Hart Chapter President led the meeting with 6 chapter members in attendance. I verified with the chapter that they now have a NARFE on-line user name and password and have the ability to download membership reports and financial reports. The chapter has direct deposit set up for their checks from NARFE Headquarters. I also briefed the chapter on some of the issues discussed at CONK in August. We also discussed the recent announcement of COLA's for Civil Service Retirees and Social Security.

On October 20th 2011 following the Cameron Chapter meeting I traveled to Bethany, MO to join up with 9th District Officer Richard Daggett who had traveled from Monroe City, on a recruitment exercise. The purpose of our trip was to meet with several current federal employees to see if we could get some employees to join the NARFE Chapter in Bethany (1523). Richard is a former Post Office employee and he was a great addition to recruiting in Bethany. We met with the Post Master at the Post Office and explained the benefits of joining NARFE for a current Federal employee. Richard informed the postmaster that there were many postal employees already members of NARFE. We left several applications and magazines and it seemed that she was very interested in joining NARFE.

John Thomas – 7th District Officer

Bob Sterba and I met at Joplin in August, 2011. Very good information from Bob. I reported on the July Board meeting and some excellent questions were asked. Carthage was also represented at this meeting.



Morris Ridge – 8th District Officer

We have attempted to revive the Sikeston Chapter by sending e-mails to different individuals regarding the current status of the chapter activity. Each response has been less than encouraging and it seems the chapter may be doomed to burial, as our last interim put it. "Sometimes" it just doesn't seem to work. Finding anyone that will even express "any" interest, through newspaper articles, and as mentioned above, has proven thus far to be futile.

We did have an interesting meeting with Bob Sterba, FEEA Coordinator, regarding assistance through FEMA when a disaster occurs. This meeting was held at Poplar Bluff with Chapter 0694 being the host. Attending with us (my wife and I) was President Johnny and Stella Liles from Chapter 1926. Bob provided us some written documentation regarding the availability of funds under a designated disaster as well as the scholarships available through NARFE. We did not know that any funds were available for the disaster area victims and certainly did not know that the scholarship funding was included in the FEEA part of NARFE. We thank Ann Barnes, Chapter 0694 President, for allowing us to meet with them on October 14, 2011 and for Bob Sterba for making the long trip and taking the time to come to Poplar Bluff. For the active chapters that was not able to attend, we copied the data Bob Sterba provided and mailed them.

We have attended our home chapter's meetings throughout the quarter. We had our annual Bar-be-que on September 20, 2011. We had attempted to attract the CFE's to meeting and had several promises. However, the meeting was not as successful as last year's. We did recruit one new member, a CFE from the postal service, Jerris Waddell's son.

We now have the luxury of being able to communicate with all but two of our chapters via e-mail. While we have been a little "slow" in getting the communications level up-to-par, this will be very good toward keeping the chapters up to date on things I am receiving from State, Region and National sources.

We plan to go to Rock Bridge next week and are planning to go from there to Rolla to try to get the reinstatement completed for the not-for-profit status with IRS. And, this is one chapter I do not have e-mail access to. Obviously from there we will attend the quarterly meeting in Columbia.



Richard Daggett – 8th District Officer

This is my report of my activities since the last board meeting in July. August 11: Attended the regular meeting of the Hannibal Chapter. 37 members attended, guest speaker was Billy White Mountain, a full

blooded

Lakoda Sioux, 3rd generation medicine man.

August 13: Hannibal Chapter members Bruce Hull, George Jacobs, Jack Jones, Debbie and I cooked a BBQ dinner for several local State and county officials at Groundbreaking ceremonies for a new facility at Mark Twain Lake. We had been invited by the Corps of Engineers to cook for the Governor, but he couldn't make it.

August 18: Went to Macon Mo. for a "KitchenTable Talk" with Senator McCaskill's aide Allison Skare. She remembered me from our delivering letters in July. We had a good talk about several NARFE issues.

August 22: Debbie and I visited National Headquarters, in Washington. Dick Thissen escorted us around and explained the functions of all the offices. I presented a NARFE apron from the Hannibal Chapter to National President Beaudoin and to National Treasurer Dick Thissen. The next day Debbie and I were visiting West Point, when the earthquake hit. It was our first experience with one. Two days after that the Hurricane was hitting the East Coast. It was time to leave.

August 28 to 31: Attended the College of Narfe Knowledge in South Sioux City NE.

Sept. 8th: Hannibal Chapter picnic at Mark Twain Lake. Guest included members from the Columbia and Mexico Chapters and 6th District Officer Joe "Horseshoe King" Manno

Sept. 22-23: I was invited to speak at the Missouri Association of State & County Office Employees (MASCO) convention being held in Columbia. We also set up a small booth and passed out NARFE literature. We recruited three new members. Barney Sword from the local Chapter helped.

Oct. 11: I attended the Columbia Chapter meeting. Answered questions on super committee and other proposed cuts to retirees. Main reason was to explain to members the importance of being a Chapter Officer. They are having trouble finding new Officers.

Oct. 13: Hannibal Chapter held their meeting in Bowling Green Mo. There were 30 members present. It was good to see Charles and Bernice Shuckenbrock attend. Charles is a former District Officer. The Hannibal Chapter covers such a wide area that they spread their meetings around so that those that can't drive a long ways can attend a meeting close to where they live. Through the year they hold meetings in Hannibal, Palmyra, Bowling Green, Shelbina, and Monroe City.

Oct. 20th : I will go to Bethany Mo. at the request of the Federation President, to try to help save that Chapter.

Oct. 26th : I will meet with Ned Diekroeger in Columbia to deliver letters collected from the Hannibal, Columbia, and Mexico Chapters to both Senators and Congressman Luetkemeyers offices, located in Columbia. Similar letters will also be delivered to the offices in Washington Mo. by Lavern Weber of the Washington Chapter.

Sherry Fausett – Alzheimer’s Coordinator

NARFE selected four more grants to fund, making a total of 53 grants funded since this program was started.

The Alzheimer’s Association Fiscal year is July 1 to June 30. In this year just finished Region V gave a total of \$87,899, which is great, but is \$10,250 less than the year before. Nationally our Region V ranked 2nd. Hip! Hip!! Hurray!!! **Now a Challenge to Missouri NARFE**, though we ranked 8th nationally, Kansas ranked 6th. Surely this next year we can beat Kansas. COME ON MISSOURI! Let’s **show them we can do this!**

I received a letter from one of our chapters asking about **memorials** given at the passing of a member. Most assuredly this is a great way to remember a member with a gift to a cause they already support. **I do send cards to the next of kin and need a name and address to send the memorial card.** Thank-you all for all the memorials I have received.

Region V has **banners for Alzheimer’s** to be used for fund raising events. If your Area or Chapter would like one let me know.

All of you Alzheimer’s chairpersons—would you look through your stuff and see if you have a Manual for your position. I have copies of these and can send by e-mail or US Post office. Just let me know—my address is in the front of the NARFE newspaper. This newspaper is a great resource for our group, letting us get the message out to all the members.

Well, believe it or not it is time to start planning for the **Alzheimer’s Fund raiser** for the **State Convention in April of 2012.** **Remember the Challenge!** I would like **each chapter to send one item or no more than three for a silent auction.** I would also like to have a 50/50 pot of gold. If no one is coming from your chapter please have your proxy or your District officer bring it for you. **Be sure to send a tag with each item telling what Chapter # it came from.**

Thank-you for all those checks and notes in my mailbox, it makes my day. Remember this is a new year and the Blue and Purple are looming in the West—GO MISSOURI!! The football teams are not all we as NARFE members are cheering for—**GO FOR THE CURE-- ALZHEIMER’S!**

Sharon (Sherry) Fausett
MO Alzheimer’s Coordinator
431 Elm Point Lane
Kimberling City, MO 65686
417-739-3288

Ned Diekroeger – Legislation Officer



MISSOURI LEGISLATION:

PROTECT AMERICA'S HEARTBEAT AND GRASS-ROOTS ADVOCACY

Following is a combined report on the subject activities beginning at the end of July 2011. Because the activities in the reporting period were ongoing and over-lapped each other, it was difficult to determine where one activity ended and another began.

August 3, 2011 – M+R Strategic Services distributed a guest commentary opinion piece for NARFE members to submit to major newspapers in Missouri. However, there were no reported successes in securing publication. In an alternate effort, the piece was converted to a letter to each of Missouri's U.S. Senators for signing by individual NARFE members and submission en-masse to the local Senate offices by the chapters. Information to this effect was distributed by e-mail on September 5th to the District Officers for further distribution to their chapters.

August 15, 2011 – Chapter 312, Columbia attempted participation in a tele-town hall meeting with 9th District Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer. However, they didn't get "in" to discuss or ask any questions.

August 15, 2011 – The Kansas City area chapters were asked to set up meetings with the staffs of Senators Blunt and McCaskill to discuss NARFE's current talking points. Meetings were subsequently held on September 22nd with staff leadership from each Senator's Kansas City office. NARFE members attending were: Federation President Ron Peters, 2nd Federation VP Eric Bahl and Cass County chapter 1012 members Margaret Dixon and Jack Walker. Topics covered were health insurance, COLA's, retirement funding and reduction in federal employment.

August 18, 2011 – District 2 Officer Linda Kurz attended Chapter 1229's (St. Charles) meeting and had members sign prepared letters to their congressional delegation (Senators Blunt and McCaskill and Representative Akin).

August 18, 2011 – District 6 Officer Joe Manno attended a "Kitchen Table Talk" session in Richmond, MO hosted by Greg Razer from Senator McCaskill's Kansas City office. Mr. Manno was able to voice concerns about beating up on federal employees and how they are misrepresented. Other concerns voiced were no COLA's for two years, rising

costs of health care insurance, proposals to eliminate the retirement system for future employees, salary freezes, and the problem of future recruiting with reduced benefits.

August 18, 2011 – District 9 Officer Richard Dagget and his wife and two others from Monroe City went to Macon, MO and attended a “Kitchen Table Talk” session hosted by Senator McCaskill’s staff from Columbia, MO. Approximately 40 people attended. Mr. Dagget spoke about federal employee/retiree sacrifices of pay freezes, no COLA’s for two years, cutting of postal service personnel, postal office closures and unwarranted attacks on federal employees.

August 21, 2011 – Margaret Dixon, Legislative Officer for Chapter 1012, Cass County reported on attending a “Kitchen Table Talk” session on July 13, 2011 with Greg Razer from Senator McCaskill’s Kansas City office. Responses to her on NARFE issues were typically non-committal and generic in nature.

August 28, 2011 – Federation Legislative Officer Linda Kurz reported on a written response from Senator Roy Blunt regarding federal employees and the national budget. The essence was that cutting expenses was the answer to our national debt problem, not more tax revenue. While he recognizes the importance of federal employees, funding of their pension programs cannot be continued with borrowed money. (This same letter was received earlier on July 22nd and again on September 12th)

September 6, 2011 – Chapter 313, Jefferson City held their annual picnic/meeting. Vicky Hartzler, Representative for the 4th Congressional District was invited to attend and speak to NARFE’s legislative priorities. She did not attend but was represented by Chris Janssen from her local Jefferson City office. He spoke and took questions for at least 30 minutes. As usual, the answers were noncommittal but there was a cordial exchange of information. He did say that Representative Hartzler favors leaving the existing retiree benefits untouched but that current and future employees will likely have to adapt to changing programs.

September 10, 2011 – At Chapter 1915’s (N. Central Missouri) meeting, District 6 Officer Joe Manno provided prepared letters to Senators Blunt and McCaskill for members to sign and send to the Senators.

September 13, 2011 – The Kansas City Star newspaper published a letter to the editor which recommended putting all federal workers under social security, using federal health insurance for everyone, putting federal employees on 20 hour weeks to eliminate benefits and putting federal jobs up for bid. The letter was obviously full of misinformation. Federation President Ron Peters answered the letter on September 14th but it hasn’t been printed in the newspaper to date.

September 15, 2011 – More letter signings. (See District 2 Officer Linda Kurz’s August 18th report.)

September 19, 2011 – Chapter 313 members (number unknown) called Senator McCaskill’s Washington office at the request of NARFE Headquarters on September 15th. The call voiced opposition to any Supercommittee proposal that would unfairly impact the pay and benefits of active and retired federal employees. Senator McCaskill was the focus due to her membership on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. A similar message was sent by e-mail by 2nd VP Eric Bahl of the Missouri Federation.

September 22, 2011 – Federation 2nd VP Eric Bahl and several members met with Matt Haase, District Officer for Senator Blunt to express NARFE concerns that could adversely impact federal employees and retirees. The group also met with Corey Dillon, Regional Director for Senator McCaskill to discuss the same concerns. Also, packages of current NARFE “Talking Points” were presented to the Senators’ staffs.

September 25, 2011 – Chapter 1240, Florissant, MO reported the signing of 26 letters for U.S. Representative Lacy Clay (District 1) and 29 letters for Senators Blunt and McCaskill. The letters were delivered the last week in September.

September 29, 2011 – Senator McCaskill held a town hall meeting in Belton, MO. Federation President Ron Peters and Margaret Dixon, Legislative Officer for Chapter 1012, Cass County attended. They were able to discuss the worth of federal employees, the excessive costs of contracting out for federal work, the need for COLA’s and keeping promises made during working careers.

October 4, 2011 – Chapter 313, Jefferson City had a letter signing for Senators Blunt and McCaskill and Representative Hartzler (4th District). This was the letter converted from a proposed op ed article furnished by John Firehammer of M+R Strategic Services. Approximately 20 letters for each official were signed. They will be delivered en-masse with similar letters received from other NARFE chapters.

October 6, 2011 – Chapter 2017 (West St.Louis County) signed prepared letters to Senators Blunt and McCaskill and 2nd District Congressman Akin.

October 10, 2011 – Chapter 313, Jefferson City sent e-mail responses prepared by NARFE Headquarters to Senators Blunt and McCaskill and Representative Hartzler. The message expressed concern that federal workers and retirees will be unfairly singled out by the Super Committee as part of the debt ceiling deal.

October 16, 2011 – District 2 Officer and Federation National Legislative Officer Linda Kurz attended a fundraising luncheon for 8th District Congresswoman, Joanne Emerson.

Representative Emerson indicated the 2012 House budget will not require reductions-in-force for the government but the appropriations bill still needs to be passed by the Senate. Representative Emerson stated she is working hard to support federal employees and retirees.

October 20, 2011 – More letter signings (see District 2 Officer Kurz’s August 18th report).

October 21, 2011 – District 2 Officer Linda Kurz and Chapter 112 President Elbert Williams delivered 44 signed letters from District 2 and 22 letters from District 3 to the offices of Senators Blunt and McCaskill and to Representative Akin. 44 letters from members of Chapter 1229, St.Charles and Chapter 2071, West St. Louis County were also delivered to 2nd District Congressman Akin’s office in Manchester, MO.

October 26, 2011 – District 3 Officer Richard Daggett and Chapter 313 Legislative Officer N. Diekroeger delivered 41 signed letters to the offices of Senators Blunt and McCaskill in Columbia, MO. They also delivered 26 signed letters to 9th District Congressman Luetkemeyer’s office in Columbia, MO.

Thanks to everyone who has helped with the Heartbeat Campaign and the Grass-Roots Advocacy. It’s been a long journey but a lot of the same challenges remain until there is resolution of the budget issues facing our government. In the meantime, please continue reporting on your contacts with your congressional delegation. This should include, the official(s) contacted, the date, type of contact, items discussed, response received, chapter number and member(s) involved. Send by e-mail or mail to:

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

MISSOURI LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

The past two years have seen the introduction of several bills to replace Missouri’s individual income tax with an expanded sales tax that would tax a large variety of things not currently taxed. NARFE opposed these measures mainly because federal retirees would have lost the tax exempt status of their pensions.

Seeing diminished support in the legislature, the sales tax proponents have turned to the initiative petition process to place the issue before the voters as a constitutional amendment in November 2012. The proponents have filed a total of thirteen petitions with the Secretary of State. Although nine have been withdrawn by the proponents, two

have been approved for circulation. As before, the proposals would cause public pensioners to lose their pension tax exemption.

Responding to this new threat, a coalition was formed to oppose these petitions when they are circulated for signing by the public. Circulation is anticipated to begin in the near future. Should the proponents succeed in getting the required number of signatures within the prescribed time limits the coalition will then conduct a campaign to defeat the measure at the ballot box.

Formation of this non-partisan coalition began last summer by several state-wide teacher organizations whose members and their educational objectives would be severely impacted by the sales tax proposition. Since then approximately twenty-five other groups have joined the coalition and more are being asked to join, including NARFE. The finalization of organizational endorsements committing to the coalition is planned by November 1st.

The coalition name is the Coalition for Missouri's Future or the CMF. Several planning meetings have been held in Jefferson City and future meetings are planned monthly in Jefferson City. Husch Blackwell, LLC of Kansas City, MO has been hired by the CMF to develop and direct the coalition's opposition campaign. CMF participants can contribute as they choose, ranging from grass-roots support to substantial financial contributions or any combination in this range of assistance. A website named missourifuture.org is available to provide information on the proposed sales tax which the CMF has aptly named, "The Everything Tax". The website contains information on budget impacts, making contributions, volunteering and committed coalition members. Additional information on the tax proposal is also available on a continuing basis from the Missouri Budget Project organization on their web site: www.mobudget.org.

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 123 contributors to the fund in the amount of \$3893. The Greater St. Louis Chapter 0112 was the highest Missouri contributor with \$515. New Pac pins for 2011-2012 are available for a \$20 donation. We received \$1168 in donations at the Hannibal convention. Missouri was the third highest contributor in Region 5.

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

I am continuing to plan for a public relations blast in the spring to highlight the Federation Convention in 2012 in St. Louis. Over the next few months, I will explore the use of some radio stations to promote the “Protecting America’s Heartbeat” and the convention at the same time.

I have continued to keep the website as up to date as possible.

However, over the past couple of months I have been comparing it to other NARFE State Federation websites. The Missouri site lacks design and flexibility. During the next few months I will be trying to find ways to add design to our site, making it more appealing and easier to navigate. It will be a challenge, but one that I welcome.

Judith Olsen – MONARFE Net Officer

As all of you are aware of by now, the new/existing method of sending out MONARFE material can be facilitated through the MONARFE/Gems pathway. One of the problems I am experiencing is that no one sending me material for distribution is following the guidelines (which delays sending of the material). This requires me to contact the sender and get basically information pertaining to the 1st two areas of Guidelines (as listed below). GEMS is an effective means of communication to our members; therefore, retaining members in the GEMS database for the purpose of receiving time-sensitive NARFE-related material must be a priority. GEMS authorized users must use common sense when planning to release a GEMS message. Those guidelines are as follows (as taken from the GEMS website). These are not my guidelines, but must be followed, if we are to continue this avenue for sending out MONARFE material, as there is always that possibility that we could be banned from using this mode of communication, if guidelines are not followed. There are three categories under which messages fall:

- Legislative/Benefit News
- Federation/Local News
- Both to include previous two categories

Other guidelines to be followed:

The following guidelines should help GEMS users when planning messages: 1. NARFE Regional and Federation related topics (see three breakdowns previously mentioned above). 2. Include sender information for all to reply back, as well as Federation Officer approving the message, if different from sender) 3. IF at all possible send messages after 5:00 P.M. Eastern time or weekends 4. Attachments: • One attachment per email (PDF/Word Doc) • No pictures (JPEG. BMP. GIF.) • Limit the attachment size to 1MB GEMS is designed to send modest sized attachments along with the message to NARFE members. However, sending messages with large attachments will delay or result in unsuccessful delivery due to limitations set for inboxes by the Internet Service Providers (ISP). To share large files, utilize the federation website by posting the file on the website and provide a link within the body of the message through GEMS.

The Yahoo group site at <http://finance.yahoo.com/group/monarfe> is a site that goes beyond the scope of MONARFE, in that you can cover topics affecting Federal employees, both political and non-political. You can post items to the website, comment on what someone has said (if not highly negative). Although the membership following is small at present, perhaps it would grow in time. There is evidence from a very recent MONARFE Federation Board Meeting, 10/27/2011 October 17, 2011 Page 2 of 2 report, that membership in NARFE/MONARFE is on the decline. Let us stop this trend by being more in tune with NARFE membership and their concerns. Perhaps one of the areas of concern for current and retired Federal Employees (even if as a private citizen to

assure anonymity and protect your Federal benefit status) is to explore all the propaganda being perpetuated by Federal lawmakers attacking Federal employees, via the media, using inaccurate information that is being published about Federal employees and their benefits. We, as Federal employees (former and present) need to find an outlet where it can be pointed out that inflammatory remarks being made by lawmakers to the press, using inaccurate information about Federal Employee benefits, and diverting attention away from lawmakers and their benefits and/or legislative action/inaction, is no longer acceptable, either from the past, present and future, in solving the current budget crisis. If you are interested in joining this Yahoo group site, e-mail me at monarfe.jolsen@att.net, for further information. As a reminder, if you join this group, I cannot change any of your membership information, including dropping your membership from this group, although I may have done this in the past for a few people. To change your e-mail address, other items about your membership, please contact 800-456-8410, recruitment and retention: 800-627-3394.

Maxine Rodriguez – Service Officer



See minutes for report.

Robert Sterba – FEEA Officer

Since my last report I had my questions answered and I understand my position and the benefits provided by the FEEA Office to all NARFE members. I did contact FEMA as requested by the FEEA Office to let them know I was the contact person for FEEA-NARFE Coordinator for the state of MO. The people I talked to at FEMA thought I wanted to be part of FEMA and requested I take some courses and/or seminars. After more discussions with FEMA my responsibilities are only to NARFE-FEEA.

In August I visited Joplin Chapter 19; District 7 Officer invited the chapters in that district for a briefing on the NARFE-FEEA Scholarship and Disaster Funds, Chapter 525 responded. In September I visited Poplar Bluff Chapter 694, District 8 Officer invited the chapters in that district, one chapter president responded. It's sad for the low turn-out, especially when many did not know the Disaster Fund ever existed.

District 7 meeting had a question about the Scholarship Fund. "After high school, how long can you wait before applying for the Fund?" Answer: Must apply when a senior in high school to receive the scholarship for the next college year. District 8 meeting had a question about the Disaster Fund Grant, "After a disaster, how long do you have to apply for a grant?" Answer: One year after the date FEMA declared the disaster. These two questions I did not know, called FEEA Office, then contacted the people who had the questions and gave them the answers.

I am writing a NARFE News article to replace the existing one which had a few errors. The article will be part of the October business meeting.

Reviewed the Policy Manual.

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.

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.