

**Minutes of the Kansas Federation of NARFE
2026 Annual Conference Minutes
Prairie Band Casino, Mayetta KS
April 27, 2026**

The 7th Kansas Annual Conference was called to order in the St. Lawrence Room by President John Ourada at 11:00 am on Monday, April 27, 2026.

The American Legion Post 410 posted colors.

The invocation was given by Chaplain Elizabeth Bornman, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by First Vice President Harry McDaniel.

Roll call of Federation Board members was made by President Ourada with 16 officers present. There were 70 members registered for the conference.

Past Federation Presidents Carol Ek and Cindy Renee Blythe were introduced as well as current national officers William Shackelford – President, Cindy Renee Blythe – Secretary/Treasurer, Region V Vice President – Linda Sawvell, and Region V Alzheimer’s Chair – Irving Kuo.

Chuck Wahweotten, Casino Director of Security and American Legion Post 410 Commander, welcomed the group.

Introduction of Vendors: President Ourada thanked the following vendors for attending and gave each an opportunity to speak to the attendees: Tracy Raymond – Brookdale Senior Living Communities, Rachel Wilson and Julie Guinty – Blue Cross Blue Shield, Patricia Wright – Aetna, Chris Mabli – United Healthcare Medicare Advantage, and Lindsey Barvick – Neptune Society.

Presentation: President Ourada welcomed Tara Mitchell, Deputy Potawatomie Tribal Historical Officer, who gave an overview of the history of the Potawatomie people including gender roles and responsibilities, diet and lifestyle, migration patterns and survival and resiliency.

Committee Meetings: Registered members requested or were assigned to one of the following committees: Alzheimer’s, Audit, Time and Place, Membership, Service Officer, Legislative and PAC. Meetings were moderated by committee chairs.

Alzheimer’s Update: Irving Kuo, Region V Alzheimer’s Coordinator and Kansas NARFE Federation Second Vice President, presented an Alzheimer’s Update. The Kansas NARFE Federation is the largest contributor to Alzheimer’s research in Region V and the second largest state NARFE Federation in the country. He outlined some key

preventative strategies including diet, exercise, heart health, cognitive challenges and social engagement. He reviewed recent research funded by the NARFE organization.

Area Caucus Meetings: Members attended area caucus meetings moderated by the area vice presidents. Area 3 elected Bill Staab and Area 4 elected Gene Algrim, both for two year terms as Area Vice Presidents. Reports from the area meetings emphasized the need to attract and retain members.

Memorial Service: Chaplain Elizabeth Bornman led the memorial service assisted by the area vice presidents. Members were encouraged to share memories of those who were memorialized.

Closing: The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Banquet, Auction and Special Awards: Following the meal, the following awards were presented:

For Alzheimer's donations (national awards):

Salina Chapter 280 – Highest total contributions: \$2,934.00

Salina Chapter 280 – Highest per member contributions: \$34.12

For recruiting new members:

Colleen Bonar – 5 new members

Louis Bornman – 3 new members

Allyn Elliott – 3 new members (not present).

The annual auction was held with enthusiastic bidding to raise funds for Alzheimer's research.

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5/27/2026