



National Active and Retired  
Federal Employees Association

## *Kansas Federation of NARFE News* *“Working For You”*

*Issue 3, June 10, 2019*

### *John Ourada, Message from Federation President*

Greetings!

I thank all of you who attended the Conference in Manhattan. It was a success with 85 people registered to attend. We had several companies displaying their products and services of interest to many attendees. The Manhattan chapter did an excellent job of organizing the local arrangements with the hotel and arranging for the educational speakers. They worked hard and made a profit by doing it. The Alzheimer's auctions were a great success.



I thank those who completed the evaluation questionnaire at the end of the conference. About half of the attendees completed the evaluation. Most were very satisfied with the proceedings and many commented on the good value of the educational presentations on the second day. The Salina chapter is using those evaluations and has already begun working on the detailed arrangements and selecting committee chairs for the next conference in Salina on April 27-28. We expect that the schedule will be much the same as this year's conference.

The Executive Board has begun our work for the next year. We have a new Secretary, Carol Ek, and a new Area 3 Vice President, Mary Reed. The Board will meet in Salina on June 19 and October 11 to govern the Federation and prepare for the next conference at the new Hilton Garden Inn in Salina with beautiful rooms and a modern conference area. The board also plans to propose some changes or amendments to our bylaws. If so, the membership will be voting on these in February - March 2020. Members will be voting on three Federation officer positions to serve for 2020-2022: President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, and Treasurer. These positions are open to any member in the Kansas Federation. Please consider volunteering to serve the Federation.

Thanks again for a successful conference!

### *Elizabeth Bornman, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Service Officer*

I bet you all are tired of the rain and hope for a pleasant summer. I sure am looking forward to my trip to the Outer Banks of NC in July.

I have been sending articles to your chapter Service Officers and or Presidents to share concerning your benefits. I hope they have been sharing them with you. If you are a National Only member I would gladly forward you copies if you email me at [bornmane@aol.com](mailto:bornmane@aol.com).

The current administration doesn't seem to get tired on hitting at the current work force and wanting to make cuts to the benefits of retirees that affect the quality of life we planned for prior to retirement. The general government appropriations bill cleared by a House subcommittee would bar the administration from spending money to carry out the proposed OPM reorganization in which the agency's operation

of the retirement and insurance programs would move to a new office in GSA and its policy-making function to a new office in OMB. The bill would ban both direct transfers of functions and contract-type agreements that could achieve the same goal without actually breaking up OPM.

Also included is language barring agencies from imposing contract terms on a union unless the terms had been agreed to in bargaining or ordered by an arbitrator; and, that any contracts that have expired are to remain in full effect until a new one has been negotiated or awarded by an arbitrator. That could affect the moves by several agencies to change policies that had been in previous contract in areas such as telework, official time, alternative work schedules and more without either an agreement or an arbitration award; moves that have triggered numerous legal complaints from unions.

The Trump administration likely will oppose the bill—and possibly threaten a veto—once it reaches readiness for a House floor vote. That likely won't be for several weeks, since the measure has to go through the full Appropriations Committee first. The bill also continues several provisions in similar measures for many years including clauses to: bar agencies from conducting "Circular A-76" studies that can lead to contracting-out of federal jobs; generally requiring FEHB plans to cover prescription contraceptives but not cover abortion with certain exceptions in both cases; bar agencies from conducting "lifestyle" related and other training not directly related to official job duties; and, require reporting on spending on conferences and similar gatherings that exceed certain thresholds.

I hope to see many of you at CONK this year which will be held September 25-27 in Sioux City, Iowa, at the Hilton Garden Inn. Cost of the registration and hotel prices will be announced later.

Remember if you need a program, I am available to visit your chapter.

---



**Rita Dawson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Membership**

The 65th Kansas NARFE conference is completed. We missed you if you didn't attend. It was a very informative conference with great sessions along with having our National NARFE President in attendance. The educational sessions that were added this year was a real highlight and educational.

We had a super membership committee meeting the first morning with nine members attending. There was lots of discussion about ways to get new members. (Membership displays at senior fairs, County fairs, or other community events along with picnics, special meetings, or one-on-one contacts. A formula shared by Phil Matthews, Salt City Chapter, Hutchinson, when recruiting a new member think of the word "FORM". F for family, O for occupation, R for retirement or retired from, M to present our message about NARFE! Thanks for sharing this with us, Phil. Remember, when a chapter gains a new member; that chapter receives \$13.33 (1/3 of \$40) refund that first year in lieu of chapter dues.

Salina, Chapter 280 and Emporia, Chapter 384 were recognized at the conference with Certificate of Merit Awards for increasing membership by at least five (5) new members during the past conference year.

I want to thank Eugene Harter, Dick McChesney and others from Manhattan Chapter along with Carol Ek for manning the membership booth for NARFE and talking to the group attending the KASCOE Convention in Manhattan, May 24. Ten persons signed up to receive a free one year membership to NARFE. The Federation grants one free membership when this type of recruiting event is held from the drawing.

A reminder to the chapter membership chairs and chapter presidents; you can go online at [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org) under membership materials and use the F18 fillable form to order any supplies. You must do this at least two weeks prior to event in order to receive them. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any help with membership recruitment call me 620-256-6512 or email [rdawson@ksu.edu](mailto:rdawson@ksu.edu)

**Continue to recruit those members for 2019!**

---

**Peggy Coder, Treasurer**



Thank you Kaw Blue Chapter of Manhattan for hosting the 2019 Conference. It was great and the speakers were wonderful. We were blessed to have National President, Ken Thomas in attendance.

The 50/50 drawing brought in \$564.00. The winner Larry Kuder from the Salina Chapter was awarded \$282.00. The other half stays in the Federation's account.

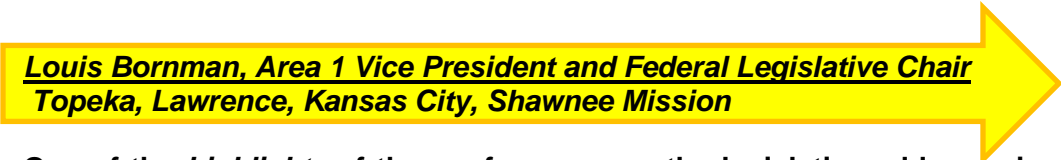
All 990-N's have been filed. I filed for several Chapters and thank you officers that filed them for your Chapters. I have been asked by many, why the IRS system doesn't update and the status remains pending. If you go back into the IRS website and click on update status, it should change from pending to accepted.

Our Federation bank balance was \$13,697.45 as of March 31, 2019.

Hope everyone is able to enjoy their summer.

---

**Louis Bornman, Area 1 Vice President and Federal Legislative Chair**  
**Topeka, Lawrence, Kansas City, Shawnee Mission**



One of the *highlights* of the conference was the legislative address given by Christine Little, Aide to Senator Jerry Moran, from his Manhattan office. Christine highlighted Senator Moran's work on Senate Bill 149 regarding stopping senior scams; his continued commitment to see that the Post Office is not privatized; his bold commitment to the Alzheimer's program; and the Cancer Drive Parity Act. Thank you to Christine for taking time out of her busy schedule to meet with the members; and, that you to Senator Moran for asking Christine to attend.

Now is the time to begin thinking about the August Congressional recess and what you plan to do to get our message out to your members of Congress during their time at home. Below are some good ideas for having conversations with your Congressman/Senators and their staff. I am not making this stuff up as it comes right out of the NARFE Magazine. Take the June issue with you when you meet with them and or their staff and let them know that we are not their piggy bank they can rob every time they think they need to make budget cuts.

The President's FY 2020 budget request to Congress contains over \$177 Billion in proposed cuts to federal employee and retiree pay and benefits. (The Senate Budget Resolution proposes a \$15 Billion cut over 5 years.) Among the cuts are some familiar targets: elimination and reduction of cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs); increased FERS employee contributions to retirement without any corresponding increases in benefits, amounting to a sizeable 6 percent cut in take-home pay; elimination of the fully funded FERS Annuity Supplement for new retirees; reduction of the Thrift Savings Plan G Fund rate of return; calculation of federal annuities using the average of the highest 5 years' salary instead of three; reduction of paid leave by combining sick and annual leave; and freezing federal pay.

Notably, these cuts are listed in the budget as under the authority of the General Service Administration instead of the Office of Personnel Management, which is telling, as it relates to the proposed "reorganization" of OPM and GSA. Writing OPM out of the budget prior to proper

congressional oversight of the administration's reorganization proposals is a presumptive and premature move and indicates that the president has every intention of disbanding OPM and outsourcing its vital functions to various other governmental entities despite NARFE and members of Congress calling for circumspection.

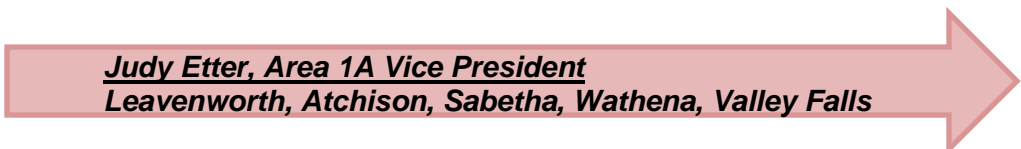
In a time of very low unemployment and higher private-sector wages it would seem prudent for the government to take actions necessary for ensure recruitment and retention of a skilled federal workforce. Yet, the administration is taking an entirely opposite course of action: gutting federal compensation at a time when the workforce is still recovering from a record 35-day government shutdown.

Please go to the NARFE Advocacy WEBSITE and send the NARFE federal campaign letters available there that support eight issues relevant to active and retired federal employees. Those include:

- Support the Equal COLA Act of 2019 (makes FERS COLAs equal to CSRS Colas)
- Support the FAIR Act of 2019 (3.6% federal pay raise for 2020)
- Support a Modest Pay Increase for Federal Employees in 2020 (the President's budget calls for a pay freeze)
- Oppose the President's Fiscal Year 2020 Budget (includes multiple major cuts to federal employee and retiree pay and benefits)
- Oppose the President's Reorganization Plan (eliminates OPM and moves functions to GSA and personnel policy to the Executive Office of the President)
- Support the Social Security Fairness Act of 2019 (GPO and WEP repeal)
- Support the Federal Employees Paid Leave Act of 2019 (paid family leave for birth/adoption)
- Support the Fair COLA for Seniors Act of 2019 (change from the CPI-W to the CPI-E for elderly to better reflect senior citizen expenses)

Because of a lack of a quorum to vote on petitions for review since 7 January 2017 the Merit Systems Protection Board has been unable to process and issue decisions on cases that require a vote, causing a backlog of roughly 2000 unresolved cases. This is yet another indication that the current administration has no interest in supporting the merit-based personnel system. It is time for the Senate to act to correct this situation and support our current personnel system.

---



***Judy Etter, Area 1A Vice President**  
Leavenworth, Atchison, Sabetha, Wathena, Valley Falls*

This year's conference was a gamble because it was something new—no elections, only information. However, it was a success. Ken Thomas, National President said, among other things, that the logo needs to be updated. Senator Jerry Moran sent an aid to speak. I was disappointed because I was interested in what he had to say to a room full of present and former Federal employees. Cindy Blythe, Region V Vice-President said that NARFE now has less than 200,000 members. It's difficult to get Congress to listen when AARP has so many more members and sometimes has opposing views to NARFE. The new AMS system, which replaces the OAM, is now being used on the website. You may get the same information which was on the old OAM.

The memorial service reported 113 deaths this past year. The time and place committee received no offers to host the 2021 conference (the 2020 conference is in Salina). It may be time for us to think about the way we hold these conferences. Most hotels these days are not being built to accommodate large gatherings. Maybe we should consider holding a conference in a town where we all drive to the location of the meetings—we've all driven to get to the town where the meeting is being held to begin with.

In the last 9 years, Federal employees have lost nothing in benefits. However, the President's budget for 2020 wants to eliminate COLAs for FERS retirees and reduce COLAs to .05% for CSRS retirees. It also wants to increase FERS retirement contributions by 6%, eliminate FERS annuity supplements, change high 3 to high 5 for future retirees, reduce the rate of return on the G fund, reduce total paid time off, combine sick and annual leaves into one pool, and freeze pay. NARFE has its work cut out for it.

You can monitor the Kansas legislature by going to this website: <http://kslegislature.org/li/> We do not pay state income tax on our retirements and the legislature has not brought up any changes to that.

There were several educational presentations. One was on Medicare and Federal Health Insurance. Another was on long-term care insurance. A third was on library assistance in electronics.

---



*Martin Fadden. PAC (Political Action Committee) Chair*

NARFE-PAC had a strong first quarter of the 2019-2020 cycle. As of 31 March 2019, 6,438 NARFE members contributed \$264,978.66 to NARFE-PAC. The average contribution was \$41.16. This is an increase of \$38,150.54 from the first quarter of the 2017-2018 cycle, at which time NARFE-PAC raised \$226,828.12.

NARFE members in Kansas did a little better than the national average for the first quarter. The Kansas Federation had 66 members contributing \$3,097 or an average of \$46.92. This is an increase from the first quarter of the 2017-2018 cycle in which 53 Kansas members contributed \$2,165 for an average of \$40.85. We also went from 18 to 20 sustainers.

The second quarter information is not available yet, but I did collect NARFE PAC contributions at our April conference. During the conference 11 members contributed \$550. Some of the eleven may already be included in the 53 who contributed during the 1st quarter. We also had one new sustainer at the conference so our sustainer number will increase to 21. I did not include the sustainer contribution dollar amount in the \$550 because it was a monthly donation by credit card and I'm not sure how it should be counted.

As of 31 March 2019, NARFE-PAC had disbursed \$196,000. \$61,000 was disbursed to candidates. Most of that was disbursed to candidates at a DC fundraiser attended by Advocacy Department staff but in a few cases funds were disbursed at local fundraisers attended by NARFE members. As of the end of the quarter no funds had been disbursed to Kansas candidates.

Another \$120,000 was disbursed to various groups such as the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, the National Republican Congressional Committee, the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, the National Republican Senatorial Committee and other similar groups. Contributions to these groups provide the Advocacy staff access to Senators and Congressmen at many events throughout the year. The contributions also provide valuable information regarding legislative agendas and campaigns.

---



*"If you stop learning; you stop living!"*



As I reported at the NARFE Kansas State Convention; Jim Miller has said the Kansas Legislature isn't over until sound of the gavel says it's over. On May 29<sup>th</sup> they adjourned until January 13, 2020. We will keep volunteering to monitor the Kansas Legislature. This summer and fall they have interim meetings.

You may go to <http://kslegislature.org/li/> and listen to the proceedings in the House or Senate.

If something comes up the Kansas Federation President will send out an E-mail. It is important you keep your E-mail address current, and that you provide a valid phone number, to enable us to contact you in case something changes.

In my report at the NARFE Kansas State Convention the Kansas Legislature was going have the veto session on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 and it ended when the Kansas Legislature adjourned about 2:30 AM on May 5, 2019. On May 5 at 1:00 AM in the morning the Tax Committee met. It did not apply to us and it was good that we monitored them. In that time period the Kansas Senate looked at approximately 50 bills and the Kansas House reviewed over 75 bills.

The Kansas Senate met May 14<sup>th</sup> due to the court over the Judges. They declined a Judge that was nominated and a new Judge was nominated by the Kansas Governor and on May 28<sup>th</sup> they had a hearing.

On May 29<sup>th</sup> the Kansas Legislature met for Sine and Die. They voted on bills that the Kansas Governor vetoed and the Kansas Senate passed the new Judge that was nominated.

The Kansas Senate Pastor Cecil T. Washington is giving up his job and you might like go review his prayers that are archived in the Journal of the Senate.

---



***Ann Domsch***  
***Kansas Federation Alzheimer's Chair***

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who donated items, bought items or helped to keep the auctions moving along during the conference in Manhattan. It was a great collection of people who helped to keep the day of auctions moving. Thank you also to the money handlers and the auctioneer's helpers. Totals donated during the conference are: Silent Auction - \$1,716.00; Live Auction - \$2,619.50; Tomato Plants from Chuck Marr - \$110.00; Miscellaneous Donations - \$345.00. I was able to send to Alzheimer's a total of \$4,780.50. Please be thinking about what you might donate next year for the conference or how you might volunteer.

A *highlight* was the attendance of Lois Nowlin, Region V Alzheimer's Coordinator. Lois attended all Alzheimer's meetings and gave suggestions for programs throughout the Region. She also gave a presentation to the entire convention which was well received. Lois reported that Kansas is first in standings for total collections in Region V with \$9,672 donated. Region V holds second place in the Nation with \$41,431.80 in donations. When you participate in the Walk for Alzheimer's no matter where it is held, those monies collected will be donated directly to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Program if you make certain your participation is noted to be a NARFE member. During the past year, Kansas had \$1080 collected during the Walk to Alzheimer's Program. Our total \$13,000,000 goal has been met with \$13,760,000 donated.

McPherson, Heart of America, Chapter 1794, received the National award for per capita donations during the year of \$27.36 per member; and Leavenworth, Buffalo Bill, Chapter 0027, earned the award for total dollars contributed during the year of \$3,253.72.

Award certificates were given to the following chapters who exceeded the \$6.00 per capita donations for the past year. The committee did determine that the per capita donation award will remain the same for the coming year.

Chapter	Amount	Chapter	Amount
Chapter 384, Emporia	\$6.32	Chapter 1984, Pony Express	\$16.00
Chapter 2136, Doniphan County	7.00	Chapter 1995, Garden City	17.33
Chapter 2231, Jefferson County	8.11	Chapter 0621, Amelia Earhart	17.60
Chapter 0378, Free State	10.21	Chapter 0027, Buffalo Bill	17.78
Chapter 0002, Topeka	10.52	Chapter 0280, Salina	19.56
Chapter 2099, Osage City	10.77	Chapter 2032, Logan County	20.50
Chapter 0799, Chanute	15.84	Chapter 1794, Heart of America	27.36
Chapter 0792, Bourbon County	15.90		

## EMOTIONS ALZHEIMER'S PATIENTS EXPERIENCE

1. Anger. Your life is taking a different course than the one you and your family had planned. You cannot control the course of the disease.
2. Relief. The changes you were experiencing were cause for concern. A diagnosis validated these concerns by assigning a name to your symptoms.
3. Denial. The diagnosis seems impossible to believe. You may feel overwhelmed by how your life will change as a result of Alzheimer's.
4. Depression. You may feel sad or hopeless about the way your life is changing.
5. Resentment. You may be asking yourself what you did to deserve your diagnosis or why this is happening to you and not someone else.
6. Fear. You may be fearful of the future and how your family will be affected.
7. Isolation. You may feel as if no one understands what you're going through or lose interest in maintaining relationships with others.
8. Sense of loss. It may be difficult to accept changes in your abilities.

You are the only person who can change how you feel about your diagnosis. So it's important to find healthy ways to deal with your emotions. This can be difficult at the beginning. But once you make the commitment to take care of your emotional needs, you may find that you can rise to the challenge and face your diagnosis. This is a new phase of your life, and you can choose to experience it with sense of connection to your emotional health.

*Carol R. Ek, Secretary & Immediate Past President,*

To those of you who missed the conference in Manhattan in April, you missed to new relaxed atmosphere of members just enjoying the friendship of other members; hearing great speakers present programs with information you need to know; and, the great work we do to promote the programs we care about.

To those of you who did attend the conference, I am certain from the exit comments that you really appreciated new conference format. Thank you to the members of Chapter 366, Kaw-Blue, Manhattan led by Chuck Marr and Clifford Spaeth for making this experience meet all expectations.

Thank you to Al Schmaderer and Donald Cooper of the Manhattan Chapter for serving on the Teller Committee for receiving and tabulating the returned ballots. The final report was approved by the Executive Board at their meeting of April 29<sup>th</sup>. 244 ballots were received with only two (2) not being accepted because they ballot was not identified by sender. Elizabeth Bornman was elected to serve as

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Carol Ruth Ek, as Secretary; and, the Bylaws change was approved for the 2019-2021 term.

A big “Thank You” needs to go out to Gwendolyn Ketter who has served as the Federation Secretary for many years. Gwen decided to step down this year due to the medical issues and other commitments that make her life very busy. Thanks Gwen, you will be missed.

We do have a new Area 3 Vice President due to illness of Judy Grossnickle who stepped down. “Thank You” to Judy for your never ending commitment to NARFE. Mary Reed, Chapter 383, Old Trooper, Junction City, was elected to serve as the Area Vice President. Her appointment was approved by the Executive Board at the April 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Educational speakers were: Medicare Benefits for Federal Employees, presented by Mary Lou Odle, Salina; First Command Financial on Long Term Care Insurance (LTC) presented by Dan Seeman, Manhattan; and, Library Assistance in Electronics presented by Wandean Rivers, Manhattan Public Library. All of these were very good from high quality presenters. There certainly was great interest shown by the members.

During the conference many of you ask me to post the e-mail addresses of directors at headquarters to contact when asking specific questions. The names I gave you were: asking for membership data ask [SLawing@narfe.org](mailto:SLawing@narfe.org) (Sandra Lawing); asking for human resources information ask [AReeves@narfe.org](mailto:AReeves@narfe.org) (Al Reeves) or [JMarshall@narfe.org](mailto:JMarshall@narfe.org) (James Marshall).

**The New AMS (Association Management System)** is now active on the National NARFE website. In order to sign in to the system; you will now have to use your protected *Password*. This is not your membership number as used in the past. The *User ID* is the email address that you have on the NARFE system. Here is the link. Please to watch the Webinar Presentation for Officer Portal. The you tube link is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXql9JlcWUE&feature=youtu.be> You may copy and paste this in your browser to see the full presentation. The presentation for the AMS system does not begin until 2:02 of the webinar. You can either move forward to that position or listen to the preliminary address and wait for the AMS presentation to begin. I hope the Area Vice Presidents will have training available during their visits to your chapters.

### **2019 Special Referendum**

Statement from Barb Sido, National Executive Director, as taken from the NARFE Insider; “This spring NARFE’s Bylaws and Resolutions Committee reviewed the 2018 election process and determined that a membership referendum vote is needed to improve the organization’s bylaws and election process. Proposals seek to reformat the 2018 bylaws and standing rules so that they are easier to understand, update certain terminology to better reflect NARFE’s current membership and voting structure, and create provisions for national and regional officer elections when there are three or more candidates for a position. The full text of all proposed amendments will be available online, and information on accessing this information will appear in the July and August issue of the *NARFE Magazine*.” *Watch for this referendum as it is important to you as a member of NARFE and is vital to the governance of NARFE moving forward.*

TEAM – Together everyone achieves more!