



Ann Domsch, Alzheimer's Chair; Ronald Katt, Area 5, VP; Elizabeth Bornman, 1st Vice President; Louis Bornman, Area 1 VP & Federal Legislative Chair; Norman Christensen, Area 6 VP; John Ourada, Federation President; Peggy Coder, Treasurer; Rita Dawson, 2nd Vice President; Martin Fadden, PAC Chairman; Carol Ek, Secretary; Sylvia Riepen, Area 2 VP; Judy Etter, Area 1A VP; Mary Reed, Area 3 VP; and Cindy Renee Blythe, Region V Vice President. (Not pictured: Gary Kilgore, Area 2A VP; Gene Algrim, Area 4 VP; Ron Richey, State Legislative Chair; James Dodd, Historian; and, Fred Fanning, Network Coordinator)

2020 Kansas Federation Conference Cancelled Kansas Executive Board March 19, 2020

Fred Fanning and Linda Ourada, Co-Chairmen

The Kansas Federation canceled the 2020 NARFE Federation Conference for April 27 and 28 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Salina. The current guidelines from local, state, and Federal governments is to cancel meetings of this size to reduce the chances of people attending to contract the COVID 19. Moving the date to later this year was not workable. The conference is **rescheduled** for April 26 and 27 April 2021 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Salina and will be hosted by Chapter 280.

There are several things that Chapter 280, Salina, needs to do to finalize the cancellation. Several members registered for the conference which included paying for meals. The chapter will return the money to the members. Several companies and one chapter paid for advertising. Each of those companies' will be contacted and ask if they want the money returned or if they would like to have the Kansas Federation keep the money for advertisement in the agenda booklet for the 2021 NARFE Conference. There is one company that has requested advertisements through the national office. The chapter will return the money to the company.

Several members have reserved hotel rooms for the 2020 NARFE Conference. These members will have to contact the Hilton Garden Inn in Salina and cancel those reservations themselves. The phone number is 866-238-4218. Fred Fanning or Linda Ourada will follow up with the hotel to ensure that members cancel reservations.

If you have any questions, contact one of the 2020 NARFE Conference Co-Chairpersons: Linda Ourada, 452-963 (email) ljourada@cox.net, or Fred Fanning, 404-1005 (e-mail) fredefanning@gmail.com.

John Ourada, Message from the Federation President
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The Kansas Federation Executive Board met on Thursday, March 19, 2020, via GoToMeeting. Approval was made to cancel the Kansas Federation Conference for this year due to COVID-19 outbreak, travel restrictions and uncertainties as to when the restrictions will end. The Conference is re-scheduled for next year at the same location; the Hilton Garden Inn in Salina. The new dates are: April 26-27, 2021, with registration and check in beginning on Sunday afternoon, April 25th. More details will follow. Please read the conference chairs' message concerning refunds for registration and meals and advertising ads.

The Federation plans to hold our annual meeting via GoToMeeting on Thursday, May 7th at 7:00 pm. More information will follow and every member is invited to join on your computer or telephone. I will post the invitation to join the meeting in an NES message to all members who have their e-mail addresses on the NARFE headquarters register. **The date of the annual meeting may be postponed if preparation is not completed due to the COVID-19 restrictions.**

The Audit committee plans to conduct the annual audit of the Treasurer's records and present their report at the annual meeting. Officer reports should be available on the web site.

Voting for officers and bylaw amendments is proceeding as normal. The results will be reported at the May annual meeting.

It is unfortunate that our country and parts of the world have this epidemic and many events and travel must be cancelled to help control the virus from spreading more and making the situation worse. We pray that this will pass soon. I wish everyone a healthy and safe environment for the next several months or however long it takes to get back to normal living.

Elizabeth Bornman, 1st Vice President & Service Officer
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The winter months have had their ups and downs this year.

The NARFE reports (website) have impacted a little by not having current available information to enable chapters to do our jobs. I hope many of you signed up for the webinar training headquarters has offered on how to access the OMA reports. I have found both training offered for chapters and federations beneficial. We are still waiting for the updated use of the M112 and M114 reports.

I hope the reports that I have sent out to the chapter service officers and or Presidents is useful for your chapters. I haven't received any negative reports, so I guess you are finding them useful. Continue to contact me if you need any help. I will be presenting a session on the responsibilities of a Service officer in a chapter at the federation conference. I am providing you with an update of how the 2021 fiscal budget may affect you currently or in the future concerning FERS retirees. The Budget again proposes to hike FERS Contributions, and axe the supplement

The administration's fiscal 2021 budget proposal includes a set of oft-repeated proposals regarding employee contributions toward retirement, retirement benefits, premium sharing in the FEHB and the TSP's government securities G fund. In terms of dollar impact, the most significant would be to require employees under FERS, although not under CSRS, to pay more toward retirement while the government share is reduced, until the two withholdings equalized. The shift would be made in 1 percent of salary increments per year until that point is reached, resulting in about a 6 percent of salary additional contribution toward retirement required for most of those under FERS (lesser in the case of those hired in 2013 and after who already pay more than those hired previously). That would shift \$23.6 billion over five years and \$87.4 billion over 10 years from the government onto employees.

The next largest dollar impact, \$12.6 billion over five years and \$53.6 billion over 10 years, would come from shaving a half-percentage point off COLAs for CSRS retirees while eliminating the COLA on the civil service portion of FERS annuities. COLAs on their Social Security benefits would not be affected.

Eliminating the FERS “special retirement supplement” paid up to age 62 when Social Security can begin for those retiring before that age would amount to a \$5.7 billion loss over five years and \$19.9 billion over 10 years. The budget does not specify it, but presumably that would apply only to new retirees and would have exceptions for those under mandatory retirement systems requiring them to retire earlier, since the budgetary projections are comparable to past proposals specifying those provisions.

Changing from a high-3 salary base for new annuities would reduce those annuities by \$3 billion over five years and by \$8.1 billion over 10 years, while reducing the G fund interest rate would lower its payout to TSP investors by an estimated \$5.7 billion over five years and \$10.5 billion over 10 years. Also proposed once again is setting the government contribution for FEHB premiums at a “base rate” while paying more toward premiums of plans with high quality ratings and less toward those with lower ratings—presumably, as in the past, the top third and the bottom third. That would reduce the government’s cost of premiums by \$1 billion over five years and \$3.2 billion over 10 years by incentivizing plans to hold down costs and incentivizing enrollees to join such plans.

Trump Offers 1 Percent Raise and Seeks Benefit Cuts

Rita Dawson, 2nd Vice President & Membership
(Telephone) 620-256-6512 (E-Mail) rdawson@ksu.edu

What a challenge our world is facing at this time. I can’t believe how many shelves are empty in our stores! I hope you are all able to stay well.

Hopefully soon, I will have updated information on Kansas membership. I have been having trouble obtaining up to date information. We have been assured that the membership reports will all be available online soon. How this will be affected by the following disclosure is difficult to say. Watch your NARFE news releases and try to attend one of the officer training sessions when reestablished. They will be very important to learn how the new software will affect tools available for our use. Anyone who has access to the information on the officer portal may attend the sessions.

This is a clip that was received from NARFE headquarters:

NARFE closed its headquarters effective March 17 through March 31 because of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). This closure will affect the remaining scheduled AMS training webinars for March 2020. We will reschedule the last two webinars, one for the federations and one for the chapters, for a yet-to-be-determined date. We apologize for any inconvenience this cancellation may cause.

Enjoy the beginning of spring and the Easter Season!

Carol R. Ek, Secretary & Newsletter Editor
(Telephone) 620-241-1131 (E-Mail) ek617@att.net

"Be hopeful for tomorrow has never happened before." This is one of my favorite readings by Robert Schuller because how true life is especially in today's world. We must keep hope to maintain sanity and keep moving forward!

President Ourada has announced our next Annual Meeting to be held May 7, 2020, via Go-to-Meeting. Holding an Annual Meeting is mandatory to hold our Federation Charter. To have the mandatory quorum for a valid Annual Meeting; we must have a majority of Federation Officers (7) plus 1% of the Federation members present (27). Federation member's count as of March 22, 2020, is 2,671 members which could change by the date of the May 7th meeting.

This means it is up to you as members to make certain when you get that notice with instructions on how to sign up in to the meeting; take an hour or so out of your day and learn what is happening in Kansas NARFE today.

At this meeting the results of the election will be announced which includes election of the 2020-2022 offices of President, 2nd Vice President, and Treasurer; results of the approval or disapproval of the Bylaw Amendments; to transact the business of Federation; and to discuss matters of interest to the members.

All of this is necessary to be done by Go-to-Meeting because of the cancellation of the Annual Conference due to the Covid-19 virus cancellations.

Please put this date and time on your calendar.

Minutes of all meetings, newsletters from chapters, and other pertinent information is also posted on our website www.NARFE.org/ks/ Please refer to that website at least monthly to find out what is happening in your Kansas NARFE. Use this information to conduct your chapter meetings; or to work with your members on communications or needs.

Peggy Coder, Treasurer
(Telephone) 913-833-4925 (E-Mail) pcoder@yahoo.com

Reminder: Tax forms 990-N need to be filed by May 15, 2020. The 990-N can only be filed online. I have filed the Federation's 990-N plus three Chapter filings. I have heard from three Chapters saying they have filed their 990-N. Please file for your Chapter report and report to me that it is filed or contact me. I will file the 990-N for your Chapter. Email pcoder@yahoo.com or call me at 913-833-4925 (land line) or 913-370-1307 (cell) or by regular mail at 4902 Decatur Road, Effingham, Ks. 66023.

All Chapters but one has paid their annual per capita dues. I am working with this Chapter to get this paid.

The Federation Executive Board has determined that there will be NO 50/50 drawing this year due to the cancellation of the conference. Distribution of any collections will be left to members who may have collected tickets to mail, or carry, to the conference.

Area 1 chapters had been working together to organize for the 2021 Kansas Federation Conference which we planned on hosting at the Double Tree by Hilton in Lawrence, KS next year.

This would be the 100th Anniversary of NARFE so we were looking forward to a larger turnout for this event.

Since the cancellation of the 2020 Conference in Salina; and, the decision to have Salina host the 2021 Federation Conference since they are already prepared for the conference for this year Area 1 Chapters have stopped our planning. I would like to thank the leaders and members of Chapters 0002, Topeka, 0378 Lawrence Freestate, 1160 Sunflower – Kansas City, KS, and 1162 Shawnee Mission for their efforts to work together with me to organize for a great event. I would also like to thank Mr. David Ranallo of the Double Tree in Lawrence for his help in our conference planning efforts.

I hope you will make plans now to attend and participate in celebrating 100 years of NARFE in Salina in 2021 and continue to work to preserve and expand our earned pay and benefits.

Area 1 will look at trying to plan for a future Federation Conference in years to come.

Federal Legislative Report

The political campaign season is getting in full swing and there are a lot of new candidates campaigning throughout the state for various state and national political positions. In January I attended a reception for Congresswoman Sharice Davids (D-KS03) in Spring Hill, KS. On March 4, I attended a political fundraiser for Dr. Barbara Bollier, a Democrat Kansas State Senator from Overland Park who is running for the vacant Senate seat of Pat Roberts. On Saturday March 7, I attended Washington Days which is a large Democrat Party gathering in Topeka. There I managed to briefly engage with some of the Democrat candidates or their campaign representatives for the federal congressional and senatorial positions from Kansas. As can be seen below there are women running for each of the national Congressional and Senatorial positions for Kansas from the Democrat Party. Listed below are the campaigns with which I engaged at Washington Days:

For the U.S. Senate:

Dr. Barbara Bollier, Anesthesiologist, Democrat Kansas State Senator from Overland Park
Mayor Usha Reddi, current mayor of Manhattan, KS

For U.S. House of Representatives:

1st District:

Kali Barnett, elementary school teacher from Garden City
Christy Cauble Davis, from Cottonwood Falls, involved in multiple historic restoration and preservation organizations

2nd District:

Major Michelle De La Isla, current Mayor of Topeka, KS

3rd District:

Congresswoman Sharice Davids, incumbent Congresswoman

4th District:

Laura Lombard, a business development consultant, a Democrat Candidate for Congress in 2018

I have encouraged these candidates to reach out to the chapters in their districts to see if any of you might be interested in hearing what they have to say. If you would like to hear from them or any of the other

candidates, then by all means invite them to address one of your meetings as a guest speaker. You might want to consider inviting the current Congressman or a member of his staff to attend one of your meetings also.

To find a list of all candidates running for these national level positions go to this link:
<https://uselections.com/ks/ks.htm>

Judy Etter, Area 1A Vice President
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It seems everything is revolving around Covid-19 these days. I was planning on visiting the Valley Falls Chapter (they meet at the same time and day as my own chapter meets,) so I find it difficult to go) but they have several members with lung problems and cancelled their meeting. Roger Mumm (our vice president) said he thought he would not have to preside at meetings, just attend. Because of dental appointments, eye surgery (but I can now see without my glasses and Dale says he doesn't recognize me without my glasses after seeing me with them for 49 years, and church services (I'm the organist) I haven't been to some meetings I said I would attend and I apologize. Hopefully I will now be able to come so keep me informed when you have your next meeting. I did attend Doniphan County's meeting. They have a new treasurer. It has taken awhile to get everything taken care of, but the account has finally been opened in the new bank. Be careful and stay well. Don't forget to let your area vice president know of those who have passed away since April of 2019 so that I can compile the list and service.

Sylvia Riepen, Area 2 Vice President
(Telephone) 452-528-3278 (E-Mail) CameoFarms1@outlook.com

Visits have not been made to chapters other than Chapter #2099 Osage City. I plan to attend Tri-River Chapter #2098, and Emporia Chapter #0384, following the Kansas Federation Conference.

Tri-River does have a newsy monthly newsletter which keeps members up-to-date. I am not aware if Emporia has a monthly newsletter.

As an update on Jean Nickell's grandson, who was struck by lightning on August 8, 2019; he is making progress slowly with relearning and exercises.

Just a reminder; pay close attention to your March issue of the NARFE magazine. There are a lot of important issues being put before the membership for consideration. Specifically, the issue of a dues increase. It seems to me that an increase of \$0.67 a month would not be difficult for most of us to afford. The actual voting ballot will be included in the August issue.

Gary Kilgore, Area 2A Vice President
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It seems that we go from one concern to another, with no time to recover between events. We all must realize that these are "very trying times" and we must pay close attention to what might happen to our retirement and health care benefits. We can assume the "Feds" will continue to look at our benefits as they spend additional money on unplanned problems (virus), for example.

I am so pleased that our National NARFE Board is so proactive and keeps us informed on possible threats. When we are alerted; we need to contact our own Congresspersons. Do you do this? Please do.

The Chapters in Area 2A respond as needed, when needed, to support the NARFE position. As I visit chapters I hear the concern of falling membership numbers. That is the result of very few new members and the loss of current members.

It just becomes so very important that we let our opinions be known on all NARFE issues in Congress. IF YOU DON'T WHO WILL?

Martin Fadden, Political Action Committee Chair
(Telephone) 703-477-0616 (E-Mail) martinfadden@gmail.com

Contributions:

Through the 4th Quarter of the 2019-2020 cycle, 20,853 NARFE members nationally including 798 sustainers, contributed \$ 1,043,182.13 to NARFE-PAC. The average contribution was \$ 50.03. Compared to the 4th Quarter of the 2017-2018 cycle, all of those numbers have increased. The total contributions at that point was \$ 874,417.44, with the number of contributors was 19,515. There were 704 sustainers at that point.

Congratulations and thanks are due to Kansas NARFE members. Contributions from Kansas Federation members through the 4th Quarter of this cycle are \$ 12,969.93 from 218 members including 20 sustainers. This is an average of \$ 59.50 per contributor. This is an increase from the 2017-2018 4th Quarter contributions which were \$ 11,503.73 from 219 contributors including 12 sustainers.

Disbursements:

From January 2019 through December 2019, NARFE-PAC disbursed \$ 616,000. The disbursements include \$336,000 to candidates, \$120,000 to non-candidates, and \$160,000 to Leadership PACS. These disbursements include \$2,000 to Sharice Davids and \$5,000 to the Free State PAC which is Sen. Jerry Moran's leadership political action committee.

Ronald Richey, State Legislative Chair
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This was the Kansas Legislatures schedule:

The Kansas Legislature had Turn around February 28, 2020, to March 3, 2020. March 25, 2020, is the second Kansas Legislature consideration. There is no session March 26-29. April 3, 2020, is a consideration of all the bills (Drop Dead Day) First Adjournment. April 27, 2020, is the veto session.

The Covid-19 Virus came and the Kansas Legislature adjourned on March 19, 2020. They recessed until April 27th. According to the Law they had to provide a budget before they could recess. Two weeks before recessing they quit shaking hands at the Capitol; and, the last week they stopped letting people enter the Capitol in an attempt to ensure the safety of all citizens. Access to the Statehouse was limited to individuals conducting official business. Staff, legislators, and individuals conducting legislative business have access to the Capitol. After the recess of March 19th; they are going to do a two week deep house cleaning at the capitol.

On April 20, 2020, they will receive a revenue report on the funds and how Covid-19 Virus should affect the budget. The Kansas Legislature can make adjustments on April 27th. They left a lot bills on the table. If they don't work their bills, those bills will be dead and next year the Legislature will have to start over. We need to continue to monitor the activities of the House and Senate.

You may go to <http://kslegislature.org/li/> and listen to the proceedings in the House or the Senate, read the bills, and you can listen to the live proceedings in the House and Senate. You may watch it live or listen to committee meetings using audio.

If you have children and/or grandchildren, and since school is out, now is a good time to teach them about the Kansas Legislature. How many House and Senate members we have; who their representatives are; what areas they represent; the name of the streets; and how important it is to complete your 2020 census.

Ann Domsch, Alzheimer's Coordinator
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2019 Final Alzheimer's Report

Area	Chapter	Chapter Name	# Members	Total Monthly Contribution	Total Contribution At Auction	Yearly Contribution	Average Contribution
1	0002	Topeka	221	\$ 1,079.51	\$ 483.00	\$ 1,562.51	\$ 7.07
	0378	Freestate	83	1,302.00	65.00	1,367.00	16.46
	1160	Sunflower	69	335.11	25.00	360.11	5.21
	1162	Shawnee	253	480.00	226.50	706.50	2.79
	Totals		626	\$ 3,196.62	\$ 799.50	\$ 3,996.12	\$ 6.38
1A	0027	Buffalo Bill	174	\$ 909.17	\$ 43.00	\$ 952.17	\$ 5.47
	0621	Amelia Earhart	29	237.80	289.00	526.80	18.16
	1948	Pony Express	18	485.00	00	485.00	26.94
	2136	Doniphan CO	10	90.00	00	90.00	9.00
	2231	Jefferson CO	45	260.00	104.00	364.00	8.09
	Totals		276	\$ 1,981.97	\$ 436.00	\$ 2,417.97	\$ 8.76
2	0384	Emporia	59	\$ 361.22	\$ 93.00	\$ 454.22	\$ 7.69
	2098	Tri-Rivers	65	272.00	00	272.00	4.18
	2099	Osage City	22	115.00	223.00	338.00	15.36
	Totals		146	\$ 748.22	\$ 316.00	\$ 1,064.22	\$ 7.29
2A	0550	Pittsburg	19	\$ 38.00	\$ 00	\$ 38.00	\$ 2.00
	0792	Bourbon CO	18	111.00	00	111.00	6.16
	0799	Chanute	30	460.00	221.00	681.00	22.70
	1763	Independence	11	.00	.00	.00	.00
	2077	Iola	25	200.00	00	200.00	8.00
	Totals		103	\$ 809.00	\$ 221.00	\$ 1,030.00	\$ 10.00
3	0280	Salina	131	\$ 1,140.00	\$ 140.00	\$ 1,280.00	\$ 9.70
	0366	Kaw-Blue	165	383.25	873.00	1,256.25	7.61
	0383	Old Trooper	141	757.45	00	757.45	5.37
	1998	Clay Center	13	.00	.00	.00	.00
	2137	Chisholm Trail	21	00	20.00	20.00	.95
	Totals		471	\$ 2,280.70	\$ 1,033.00	\$ 3,313.70	\$ 7.04
4	0138	Wichita	203	\$ 214.03	\$.00	\$ 214.03	\$ 1.05
	0537	Salt City	61	700.00	00	700.00	11.47
	0757	Cowley CO	21	125.00	00	125.00	5.95
	1794	Heart of America	35	232.85	45.00	277.85	7.93
	Totals		320	\$ 1,271.88	\$ 45.00	\$ 1,316.88	\$ 4.12
5	1191	Goodland	7	\$.00	\$.00	\$.00	\$.00
	2032	Logan CO	21	.00	203.00	203.00	9.67
	2291	Colby	11	.00	.00	.00	.00
	Totals		39	\$.00	\$ 203.00	\$ 203.00	\$ 9.67
6	1995	Garden City	39	\$ 150.40	\$ 103.00	\$ 253.40	\$ 6.49
	Totals		39	\$ 150.40	\$ 103.00	\$ 253.40	\$ 6.49
	Grand Totals		2,020	\$ 10,438.79	\$ 3,156.50	\$ 13,595.29	\$ 6.73

I am sharing the 2019 Annual Report here because there will be no 2020 Annual Conference. When you look at this report you will see a column called Total Contribution at Auction. This column includes the amount that items you brought to the Annual 2019 Conference sold for. This is usually a big amount which helps your chapter meet the goal of \$6.00 per member.

Because there will be no 2020 Annual Conference; there will no federation auction to help us meet our goals. What can we do to keep that donation going? Think about what your chapter can do to make up that usual donation? Think about these ideas? Hold an auction at your chapter or some community event or a membership meeting; donate the amount that your chapter would have sent to conference; donate pennies for how old you are or your weight (or really make it fun and donate pennies for the total age or weight of your chapter members); have a fake bake sale and let people buy from questions ask on a sample sale bill; give a donation for the years your chapter has been chartered. These are just a few ideas. I am sure you can come up with others.

Donations nationwide are smaller this year than last year. We need to keep our donations flowing

ALZHEIMER’S ASSOCIATION 2020 ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE FACTS AND FIGURES

1. More than 5 million Americans age 65 and older are living with Alzheimer’s dementia in 2020. Eighty percent are age 75 or older.
2. Two-thirds of Americans over age 65 with Alzheimer’s dementia are women.
3. Alzheimer’s is the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S. and the fifth leading cause of death for those ages 65 and older.
4. As the population of the U.S. ages, Alzheimer’s is becoming a more common cause of death.
5. In 2020, Alzheimer’s will cost the nation \$305 billion. Medicare and Medicaid are expected to cover \$206 billion or 67% of the total health care and long term care payments. Out of pocket spending is expected to be \$66 billion.
6. Total payments for health care, long term care, and hospice care for people with Alzheimer’s and other dementias are projected to increase to more than \$1.1 trillion in 2050.
7. The total lifetime cost of care for someone with dementia was estimated at \$357,297.
8. In 2019 caregivers of people with Alzheimer’s or other dementias provided an estimated 18.6 billion hours of unpaid care, a contribution to the nation valued at \$244 billion.
9. Nearly half of all caregivers (48%) who provide help to older adults do so for someone with Alzheimer’s or another dementia.
10. Approximately two-thirds of caregivers are women, and one-third of dementia caregivers are daughters.
11. Forty-one percent of caregivers have a house income of \$50,000 or less.

Fred E. Fanning, Network Coordinator
(Telephone),785- 404-1005 (e-mail) fredefanning@gmail.com

The Federation President appointed me near the end of 2019. My role is to update and maintain the Federation Webpage (www.narfe.org/ks/)

I completed a review of the webpage and made some changes.

I included a page for the Kansas Federation 2019 Conference and placed meeting notes there. The purpose was to give members access to pre-conference meeting minutes, conference meeting minutes, and post-conference meeting minutes.

I updated the Kansas website to include the Kansas Federation 2020 Conference to give members access to the welcome letter, list of conference meals, registration form, directions to the hotel, essential information for the Federation 50/50 drawing, request to serve on a committee, awards listing, and the memorial listing.

I included a page for the 2020 Elections that provided access to the ballot instructions, the ballot, and candidate statements for Ourada, Dawson, Coder, and two bylaw amendments.

On a different note, if you would like your chapter newsletter placed on the Kansas Federation Website to share with others, please send them to Fred Fanning at fredefanning@gmail.com. The file should be saved as a PDF file before sending it. If you have any issues, you can contact Fred Fanning at 404-1005.

I am also currently working on a page to identify the Federation Chapters meeting dates and contact information.

Cindy Renee` Blythe, Region V Vice President
(Telephone) 785-589-2266 (E-Mail) mrsdocbusyb@yahoo.com

This situation with the Coronavirus has really made us rethink our daily routine and lives. You start asking yourself if you really need to go to the store or should you start ordering all your sundry items on the computer and have them shipped directly to your doorstep. I understand that some isles at Wal-Mart and Sam's are completely bare of essential products. You notice I said "I understand" because I'm staying out of Topeka unless absolutely necessary!!

Putting all joking aside, the health and safety of our members is the most important thing right now. Keeping that in mind, the National Executive Board (NEB) meeting that was scheduled to be held in San Diego has been changed from a face-to-face meeting to a virtual meeting. San Diego is a hard-hit area with Coronavirus and as much as I hate to admit it, all of the NEB officers are considered in the "prime" group. President Thomas will conduct the meeting March 17-19 via go-to-meeting from headquarters.

I hope you all have had ample opportunity to read your March issue of the NARFE magazine. The issue included a brief explanation of the proposed dues increase. Detailed information on this proposal and other bylaw amendments and resolutions will follow in the June/July issue. The August issue will include the actual ballot.

March is NARFE PAC month and the perfect time to contact your Congressman and ask them to support the newly introduced WEP Reform Legislation introduced by Senators Ted Cruz and Bill Cassidy. The Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act, S. 3401 would provide much needed relief to those members affected by the WEP. An important note for this bill calls for replacing the current WEP formula with one that would equalize benefits for certain individuals with non-covered employment. It also calls for a rebate to current WEP affected members. Most of the WEP affected members are widows and sure do deserve this consideration. The Legislative Action Center has more information and letters for you to use to notify your members of Congress.

You still have time to consider submitting a photo for the NARFE Photo Contest. Photo submissions will be accepted through April 7, 2020. The theme is "Home Sweet Home." Winning photographs will be featured in the 2021 NARFE Calendar. Visit www.narfe.org/photocontest for complete rules and particulars.

Stay safe during this trying time.

"If the English language made any sense,
lackadaisical would have something to do with
a shortage of flowers."