



John Ourada, Message from the Federation President
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We held our annual meeting virtually, via GoToMeeting, on May 28th. This was due to the in-person meeting restrictions due to COVID-19. My annual report is posted on the web site. Many of the other officer reports are also posted there.

The Executive Board has begun planning for the next year. The Salina chapter plans to host the next Conference and Annual Meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn, in Salina, in April 2021. The next Executive Board meeting will be virtual meeting on June 18th and the board plans to meet in person in Salina in October.

The most important and valuable thing that you can do for NARFE is to renew your membership and invite other Federal employees and retirees to join with us. The Dues Withholding option is good way to keep your membership current.

Please enjoy the summer and be safe as you resume travels and other activities. Also, pray that our country can govern itself wisely and provide safety guidance, law and order to all our citizens.

Elizabeth Bornman, 1st Vice President & Service Officer
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The past spring months have been interesting and new for all of us. I hope all is well with your families. Legislation to maintain our quality of life has been at a stall.

NARFE's OAM reports have had its ups and downs this year. The NARFE reports (website) have impacted all the chapters by not having current available information to enable chapters to do our jobs. If you have not signed up for the past webinar training sessions offered on using the OAM reports; you can go to the NARFE website and review the past webinars. I 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 information that I sent out to the chapter service officers and/or Presidents being useful for your chapters. I haven't received any negative reports, so I guess you are finding them useful. Please contact me if you need any help. I am providing you with an update of how the future retirement under the FERS retirement system may affect you when you retire and the impact it will have on your future income. The 2021 Budget again proposes to hike FERS Contributions and to axe the supplement.

Rules for those of you who are covered by FERS

FERS-covered employees can retire voluntarily on an immediate annuity if they meet these age and service requirements: 62 year old with 5 years of service, 60 with 20, at their minimum retirement age (MRA) with 30 or at their minimum retirement age (MRA) with 10, but with a 5 percent reduction in their annuity for every year (5/12 percent per month) they are under age 62. MRAs range between 55 and 57, depending on your year of birth, as you'll see below.

If you were born before 1948, your MRA is 55

If you were born in 1948, it's 55 and 2 months

1949, 55 and 4 months

1950, 55 and 6 months

1951, 55 and 8 months

1952, 55 and 10 months

In 1953 through 1964, your MRA is 56

1965, 56 and 2 months

1966, 56 and 4 months

1967, 56 and 6 months

1968, 56 and 8 months

1969, 56 and 10 months

And, in 1970 and later it's 57

The formula used to calculate a FERS annuity is simpler than that for CSRS. It's $0.01 \times$ your high-3 \times years and full months of service. However, if you retire at age 62 with at least 20 years of service, the first multiplier is increased to 0.011.

The rules for special category employees, such as law enforcement officers and firefighters are different. You can retire at age 50 with 20 years of covered service or at any age with 25. Your annuity will be computed using an enhanced formula: $0.17 \times$

your high-3 x 20 years of covered service, plus 0.01 times all additional years and full months of service.

Note: Unlike CSRS, you won't get any credit for active duty service in the armed forces unless you make a deposit for that time.

FERS employees who retire on an immediate annuity are eligible for a special retirement supplement (SRS) that approximates the Social Security benefit they earned while covered by FERS. That benefit is payable until age 62 unless you exceed the annual Social Security earnings limit. If you do, your SRS will be reduced or suspended. The rules are different for special category employees who retire before reaching their MRA. They won't be subject to the Social Security earnings limit until they reach their MRA.

Note: Retirement supplements are never increased by COLAs.

As a rule, FERS retirees don't receive a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) until they reach age 62. On the other hand, special category retirees will be entitled to them regardless of the age at which they retire.

However, it's important to note that FERS COLAs are often less than those received by CSRS employees. Further, they only occur when the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) increases enough to trigger them. There have been years when it hasn't. And, with the slowdown in the economy due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 is looking like one of them.

Note: If you had at least five years of service under CSRS before being covered by FERS, you will have a CSRS component in your annuity. That portion will be computed using the standard CSRS formula. It will also be increased by annual COLAs, regardless of the age at which you retire.

Something to Consider

If you are already eligible to retire, ask yourself a few questions. Am I emotionally ready to retire? Am I financially able? Do I know what I'm going to do with my time after I leave?

Before COVID-19 hit, those questions would have been easy to answer. Now and for the foreseeable future, those answers might be different. A word to the wise: Think before you jump.

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

Greetings from your re-elected 2nd Vice President and appointed membership chair. The last few months have been stressful on all of us. I missed seeing you all at conference the last of April. Let's look forward to next April with conference to be the best yet! I'm sure many chapter meetings have not been held or were held on Zoom. Hopefully in the next few months things will open up and get back to our "new norm"! Several persons have told me they did accomplish closet cleaning, organizing family pictures along with other tasks during our stay at home orders. Mine, I guess, was taking care of my grandkids while parents were essential workers!

By not having chapter meetings or being able to do one on one recruiting face to face other avenues need to be explored like virtually commenting and sharing about NARFE in social media posts or on Facebook along with other digital forms. We need to talk about the NARFE magazine, federal benefits and perks to our federal friends when visiting with possible members on the phone or through online Zoom chats and emails what NARFE has done for the federal employees.

NARFE webinars are great learning perks for both working and retired federal employees. Upcoming webinars:

June 25–1:00 p.m. Financial Planning for Mid-Career Feds

July 16–1:00 p.m. Discover Your Best Retirement Date

Register by going to NARFE.org/Institute. It is free to members with a cost for non-members. I know chapter officers receive this information, but often it is not passed on to members.

During our annual meeting on Go-to-Meeting this year for membership I reported as of April 13, 2020; 1,853 current chapter members, 795 National only members, for total combined 2,648. As of June 1 there are 1,820 chapter members, 785 National only members for combined total of 2,605. This indicates a loss of 43 total members in two months. Let's all challenge ourselves and chapters to gain at least 2 new members this year! If you need any help or membership materials for a booth, please contact me rdawson@ksu.edu or 620-256-6512. I need at least three weeks' notice in case I need to request any materials

Take care, stay healthy and safe. Remember we are all in this together.

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

Hope everyone is doing well and staying safe.

I did get all the 990-N's filed with the IRS before May 15th. The date was extended to July 15th but I didn't feel we needed the extension. Thank you to all the Chapters who did their own filings.

The financial report was given at the Annual meeting. We are in better shape this year ending than we were last year. The balance as of March 31st was \$11,646.04 in the checking account. We also have \$5,056.30 available in a shared certificate. Our expenses were down from last year. The Executive Board has lowered the mileage rate paid from 40 cents a mile to 30 cents a mile. Also, the Executive Board is no longer reimbursed for any meals while traveling or attending any visits to Chapters. If your Area Vice President visits your Chapter, it would be a nice jester to pay for their meal, if your Chapter can afford to do so. The full financial report is available on the Kansas NARFE website.

Carol R. Ek, Secretary and Immediate Past President
(Telephone) 620-241-1131 (E-Mail) ek617@att.net

What a year 2020 has started out to be! I know that I am not the only one who anxiously awaits the day when we return at least to a new normal where getting together to share both joys and sorrows is a way of life; not a struggle. That day will come hopefully sooner than later.

We did hold our Federation Annual Meeting via virtual Go-to-Meeting on May 28th which I am happy to say was a success! We did have 50 members on line enjoying the comraderies as much as possible. For those of you who tried to get on-line and possibly gave up; we hope we have the glitch straightened out for future meetings. The officers gave their annual reports and results of the election and Bylaw changes were reported. All reports are posted on-line at www.narfe.org/ks/

Cindy Renee` Blythe, Region V Vice President, installed the following officers for the 2020-2022 year:

President	John Ourada
2 nd Vice President	Rita Dawson
Treasurer	Peggy Coder
Area 2A Vice President	Lois O. Carlson
Area 5 Vice President	L. Ann Domsch

All other officers remain the same until the 2021 election. Please start thinking about holding an office. In 2021 the offices of 1st Vice President and Secretary will be elected. We do have a mentor program available so if you believe you would like to hold an office, let us know and we will help you learn the job.

Both Bylaw amendments passed and will be submitted to the National office for final approval.

Effective May 15th, 2020, we have dropped one Area of Vice Presidential travel. Gene Algrim will now cover the entire SW corner of Kansas as Area 4 Vice President which covers everything west of Sedgwick County south of Gove County line. This is a very large area which now has only five local chapters serving the entire area. If NARFE is going survive as a chapter organization, we do need to revive this area of Kansas.

Lois O. Carlson has been appointed Area 2A Vice President; and, L. Ann Domsch has been appointed Area 5 Vice President.

Thank you to the two long time members who represented those Areas so admirably over the past several years; Gary Kilgore and Ronald Katt. Also, thank you to Norman Christensen, Area 6 Vice President, for his long time service retiring as this Area has been closed to be included in Area 4. These gentlemen retiring is a huge loss to the Federation; but thankfully three very qualified members have stepped up to stand in those shoes.

Remember, election of National Officers and approval or disapproval of Bylaw Amendments nationally will take place in August. This might be the time to hold your first in person meeting to discuss how you should cast your ballot. Your vote is very important to the survival of NARFE.

Louis Bornman, Area 1 Vice President & Federal Legislative Chair
(Telephone) 913-268-8526 (E-Mail) bornman1@aol.com

Like most of you I have been staying home a lot and only going out to do essential things like going to the grocery store. Then I make sure I wear a mask and try to stay at least six feet away from other people. It's not like anyone is walking around with a sign that says "DANGER! I have the coronavirus and I'm asymptomatic!" I am surprised at the number of people who don't take any precautions at all and don't wear a mask or try to distance themselves from others. Be safe and follow the health expert's guidelines.

You have probably already received the NARFE email system email I sent out to all of you who have an email registered with the federation and are willing to receive emails from us about the upcoming August 4th primary election. I sent out a listing of all candidates registered with the Kansas Secretary of State for U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives offices for Kansas. It's a rather long list. There are 15 candidates in the primary running to fill the Senate seat of the retiring Senator Pat Roberts. I also included seven handouts from the NARFE Advocacy website that you may use when talking to any of the candidates about NARFE issues. If you did not receive that information, it is also available on the Kansas federation website.

AUGUST IS NARFE GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY MONTH!

I encourage you to become familiar with all the candidates you are eligible to vote for so that you may make an informed decision at the polls in August. If you can invite any of them to your chapter meeting please remember that we are a nonpartisan organization and as such we should afford equal opportunity for all candidates to voice their policy positions. We don't have to agree with them, but we do need to afford all sides the opportunity to present their position. It is also a good opportunity to educate many of them about the federal government, what we do, how we support the nation and the citizens of our country and why that matters and makes a difference. One great way to let candidates know what the federal government does is to tell your story of what you do or did for the federal government in your career and why that is important.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me by email at: BornmanL@aol.com, or by phone at: (913) 268-8526.

Judy Etter, Area 1A Vice President
(Telephone) 913-773-8565 (E-Mail) jetter@bbwi.net

The Amelia Earhart Chapter in Atchison has decided not to meet until September. We normally don't meet in July and August, but most of our members are leery of sitting down in the restaurant where we meet. I have also not heard that any of my other chapters are meeting. We are all staying home and wearing masks when we go to the grocery store. I can keep chapters up to date on election results. Ann mailed the Alzheimer's awards. I do know that if I gave money every time a candidate or group asked for money, we'd be broke. I certainly do not agree with not supporting the Post Office. If you have Federal BC/BS you likely get prescriptions in the mail. My newspapers also come in the mail as do magazines (including the NARFE magazine).

Also, how many more people would end up on unemployment if the Post Office is closed? It's unbelievable.

Lois O. Carlson, Area 2A Vice President
(Telephone) 620-244-3622 (E-Mail) jlcarlson14@cox.net

I want to thank those who voted for me to be Area 2A Vice President. I have big **shoes to fill as Gary Kilgore has always done an awesome job. All I can promise is to do my best.**

I first joined the Chanute NARFE sometime before 2000. Don't know exact year but when learning you didn't have to be retired I joined. I retired June 2004 after 40 plus a few months of service with Kansas State University Cooperative Extension Service as a Home Economics/FCS educator and also had 4-H responsibilities in 2-agent Neosho County.

Hobbies...I have continued, since my retirement to plan and escort educational bus tours for the Neosho County FCE Council, which I have done since 1964, until the COVID 19 Virus stopped this summer's trip. I also enjoy music, especially singing and was honored to be in a choir that sang at the Vatican at Pope Frances Epiphany Mass in St. Peter's Dec. 2013/Jan. 2014. My husband Jim and I have traveled, more than once to all 50 states as well as several European countries and Australia. We have 3 sons, 14 grandchildren and 2 great granddaughters that keep us busy.

I also do several hundred hours of volunteer service annually with the many organizations I belong to.

I have served as chapter secretary for at least 16 years and have attended state convention several times which I really missed this year.

Gene Algrim, Area 4 Vice President
(Telephone) 620-669-6840 (E-Mail) galgrim@ksu.edu

With the virus going around, it has been hard to conduct any type of meeting. With all meetings on hold, I did contact the Area IV Chapters, including Garden City, to see when they might be able to meet. With summer here and some of the chapters not meeting in the summer, we did not miss too many.

Most will plan to open again later, but most will also have to determine not only when to meet, but where, as most have a dinner meeting, and most restaurants being closed has not helped any.

One of the activities that I like to do is print off the membership for each chapter including. With the new format at the national office, I was unable to print off their list unless I wanted to print 60 pages. With the help of Cindy, she at least got the number down to 30, which is still twice what it used to take.

I did participate in the Federation meeting over the internet and I actually got my camera to work. I enjoyed at least seeing everyone.

L. Ann Domsch, Area 5 Vice President and Alzheimer's Chair
(Telephone) 785-565-1590 (E-Mail) adomsch@ksu.edu

Beginning May 15, I will be serving in two roles for the next two years. I will be remaining as the Federation Alzheimer's chairman as well as assume the new role of Area Vice President for area 5. I am retired as a K-State Research & Extension Agent. After retiring, I found I needed something to do so I ran the 4-H Horse program for a couple of years, sold real estate and then was employed by Operation Military Kids until the funds ran out. After moving back to God's County, NW Kansas, I have been employed by USD 105. I love to work with kids, read, quilt, do counted cross stitch and garden.

Alzheimer's disease is a global epidemic.

1. World -wide 50 million people are living with Alzheimer's.
2. Annual global cost of Alzheimer's disease 818 billion U.S. dollars.
3. 16.3 million families and friends provide care to people with Alzheimer's and other dementias in the U.S.
4. In 2020 Alzheimer's disease will cost the U.S. \$305 billion. By 2050 these costs could rise as high as \$1.1 trillion.
5. 1 in 3 seniors die with Alzheimer's or other dementia.
6. In 2019 more than 16 million caregivers of people living with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias provided an estimated 18.6 billion hours of unpaid care. A contribution to the nation valued at more than \$244 billion.

The dollars that your chapter donates is used in the following ways:

77 % is used for Alzheimer's care, support, research, awareness and advocacy;
18% is used for fundraising;
5% is administrative.

“The day with the most light is the day we fight”. On June 20, people across the world will fight the darkness of Alzheimer’s through an at home or on line fundraising activity of their choice. Whether it’s creating a putt-putt course in the living room, starting a workout challenge on social media or hosting a trivia night, nearly any activity can be adjusted for physical distancing. This could also be a fun time for your chapter to help in fundraising.

Chapters receiving certificates for contributions of \$6.00 or more per members since the last conference are - Topeka-\$7.07, Freestate-\$16.46, Amelia Earhart-\$18.16, Pony Express- \$26.94, Doniphan CO-\$9.00, Emporia -\$7.69, Osage City-\$15.36, Fort Scott-\$6.10, Chanute-\$22.70, Iola-\$8.00, Salina-\$9.70, Kaw Blue-\$7.61, Salt City-\$11.47, Heart of America’s-\$7.93, Logan Co-\$9.67, Garden City-\$6.49.

The two chapters receiving National awards were: Chapter giving the most contributions -Topeka -\$1,562.51; the chapter giving the most per member -\$26.94 Pony Express.

Ronald Richey, State Legislative Chair
Telephone) 785-234-4172 (E-Mail) ronaldgrich@aol.com)

We have kept volunteering to monitor the Kansas Legislature. We need more volunteers to monitor the Kansas Legislature. After the Kansas Legislature started on January 13, 2020, the Covid-19 Virus arrived. Before recessing they quit shaking hands at the Capitol, and the last weeks 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 had access to the Capitol. They recessed on March 19th and did a two week deep house cleaning of the capitol.

On April 20, 2020, the Kansas Legislative Research Department received a revenue report on the funds and how Covid-19 Virus impacts the budget. The Kansas Legislative Research Department said Kansas is going to be short in an overall estimate for FY 2020 and FY 2021 was decreased by a combined \$1.272 billion. The Kansas Legislature could make adjustments on April 27th. On April 23, 2020, the Senate Ways met and April 24, 2020, the House Appropriations met about the budget. Due to the Covid-19 Virus the Kansas Legislature met May 21, 2020, for one day instead of April 27, 2020, as was originally intended. They left a lot bills on the table. If they don’t work their bills, they will be dead and next year they will have to start over.

On May 21, 2020, the Kansas Legislature met and worked for 24 hours straight. The Kansas Legislature passed some bills in the 24 hours. Governor Laura Kelly vetoed some of the bills. One bill was the Covid-19 Virus bill, due over the Governor and Legislature. The Governor called for a special Kansas Legislature meeting on June 3, 2020, at 8:00 AM. (Governor or 2/3 of Kansas Legislature can call for special Kansas Legislature meeting.) After two weeks of hard negotiations with Governor Staff and Kansas Legislature leadership they worked out a bill and it was passed on June 4, 2020. They did not have all they wanted in the bill that both sides wanted to have. The Special Kansas Legislature recessed after that. The other veto bills died. The Kansas Legislature started next 90 days session at 2:00 PM on January 11, 2021. We have kept volunteering to monitor the Kansas Legislature. Next year Kansas is going to be short on funds for FY 2021. You may go to <http://kslegislature.org/li/> and listen to the proceedings in the House or the Senate.

If something comes up the NARFE 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.

All 125 Kansas House members and 40 Kansas Senators are up for re-election this November 3, 2020. NARFE asks you to get out and vote.

Important Dates

June 1 - Last day to change party affiliation

July - Last day to register to vote for Primary Election

July 15 - Advance voting in person and by mail may begin for Primary Election

July 28 - Last day to apply for advance mail ballots for Primary Election

August 4 - Primary Election

October 13 – Last day to register to vote for General Election

October 14 – Advance voting in person and by mail may begin for General Election

October 27 – Last day to apply for advance ballots for General Election

November 3 - General Election

Election Questions? Call 1-800-262-262-8683

If you have children or grandchildren 7th grade through high school, they can volunteer to be a Page at the Kansas Legislature next year. Experience working as a page looks good on an application to college and/or a job resume and individuals are compensated \$5.00 per day. Contact your Kansas Representative or Kansas Senator for more information.

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

Contributions:

Through the 5th Quarter of the 2019-2020 cycle, 25,040 NARFE members nationally contributed \$1,427,546 to NARFE-PAC. The average contribution was \$57.01.

Compared to the 5th Quarter of the 2017-2018 cycle, all of those numbers have increased: the total contribution is up \$369,522.21 from \$1,058,024.29. The number of contributors rose by 4,101 from 20,939. The average contribution rose by \$6.48 from \$50.53.

Contributions from Kansas Federation members through the 5th Quarter of this cycle are \$16,016.93 from 245 members including 16 sustainers; an average of \$65.38 per contributor. This is an increase from the 2017-2018 5th Quarter contributions which were \$12,974.23 from 233 contributors including 12 sustainers.

Disbursements:

From January 2019 through March 2020, NARFE-PAC disbursed \$916,500. The disbursements include \$454,000 to candidates, \$270,000 to non-candidates, and \$192,500 to Leadership PACS. These numbers show an increase of 414,500 when compared to the 5th Quarter of the 2017-2018 cycle. 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.

The NARFE PAC process for new candidates

I believe we need to wait until after the primaries but the NARFE-PAC process begins when a new candidate completes the NARFE-PAC questionnaire and returns it to the advocacy department. The answers are reviewed and follow-up clarification may be requested based on the responses. All new candidates must fill out the questionnaire

in order to begin the NARFE-PAC process. This process only applies to new candidates; incumbents are rated based on their record.

First, the questionnaire is just the first step and if the answers are found acceptable, NARFE-PAC will take an extensive look at the campaign and race. In particular, the PAC is looking to see if the new candidate has a realistic shot at winning the seat.

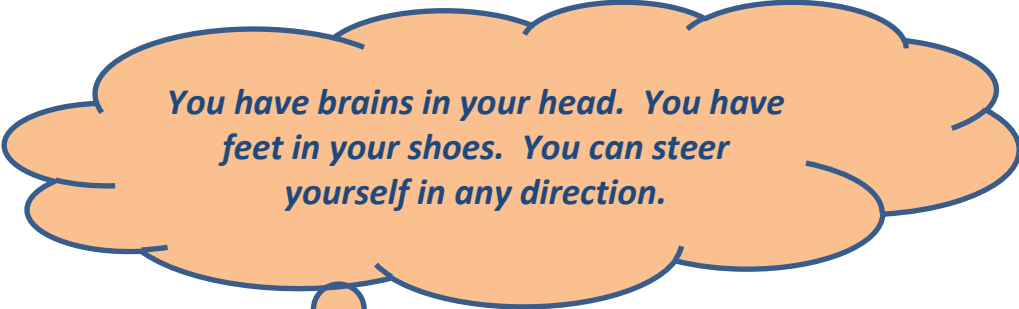
Second, NARFE-PAC will connect the campaign with local NARFE members so they can learn more about the candidate. Prior to any contribution, NARFE-PAC will ask the federation for a candidate recommendation.

Third, NARFE advocacy department staff will meet (in person, virtually or via phone) with the candidate. This meeting allows NARFE-PAC to learn more about the candidate and his or her support of the federal community. It is a good opportunity to grow NARFE's relationship with the candidate and discuss specific NARFE issues.

After these steps have been completed, the NARFE-PAC Board will decide whether the new candidate should receive funds. If the Board approves, the candidate's campaign will receive a disbursement from NARFE-PAC.

Fred Fanning, Network Coordinator
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The Kansas Federation has a website that is packed full of information about the Federation and news you may need to know. The Federation website can be found at <https://www.narfe.org/site/ks/>. We hope you will visit the site soon. If your chapter has a great newsletter the Federation would be happy to put it on the Federation website for other chapters to see. If your chapter has such a newsletter please send it to me at my email. Fred Fanning, Federation Network Coordinator, fredefanning@gmail.com



*You have brains in your head. You have
feet in your shoes. You can steer
yourself in any direction.*

Dr. Seuss