



Kansas Federation of NARFE News
"Working For You"



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John Ourada, Message from the Federation President
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Fall is upon us when we usually get going again on our chapter meetings after the summer recess. This year is different. Some chapters are meeting and some not for health reasons. However, I encourage each chapter to meet; maybe not in person. However, officers and members can call each other on the phone, face time, email and texting. Most of our phone contracts allow for 3-way calling for free. You can download Zoom or some other computer applications for free. The free version of Zoom will allow 45 minutes. Your children or grandchildren may be able to help you get started. My point is that we need to interact with other members to keep our organization alive until can feel comfortable to meet in person.

The national elections are competed and the results are posted on the website. Most notably, our current President, Ken Thomas, and our Secretary/Treasurer, Kathryn Hensley, will remain for 2 more years. However, their new term will be November 1, 2020 until December 31, 2022, as the proposal to change the starting date passed. The seven Federation Presidents in Region V chose Cindy Renee` Blythe to remain as our Region V Vice President for the next 2 year term; that was done according to National Bylaws procedure.

Also, our national dues will increase by \$8 per year, effective January 1, 2021. Therefore, annual payers will be billed \$48. Dues withholding (D/W) will increase to \$42 (\$3.50 per month). The 3-year rate will be \$126, which is the same as the D/W rate. However, the 2-year rate will be \$92, which is \$10/year increase. We always encourage members to convert to D/W, as it is an easy way to pay and they usually maintain their membership until death. Members who are renewing should pay their dues promptly upon receiving the notice. Reference: Proposal B-2020.

When a new member joins your chapter, the new member does not pay chapter dues the first year. The person just pays the national dues and indicates the chapter number on the application. Then, National reimburses the chapter a portion of the first year dues. That reimbursement is going to decrease to \$8 (which is 1/6 of \$48). The current rate is \$13.33, which was 1/3 of \$40. Reference: Proposal S-2005.

The Federation will continue to receive 10% of the national dues. The proposal to reduce that to 5% was rejected. Reference B-2021.

Spouses will continue to maintain their own membership, as in the past. The proposal to add spouses married to a voting member as members, at no additional cost, was rejected. Reference B-2018.

The Executive Board will meet in Salina on October 21st at the Hilton Garden Inn to review and approve the final plans for Chapter 280 hosting the next conference in Salina, in April 2021.

Rita Dawson, 2nd Vice President & Membership Chair
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Strange times continue. Hope you are all staying healthy and safe.

The Emporia Chapter was able to meet in September after six months. It was the Thursday after we met in March that things started to be closed! There were 18 members present. Seemed hard to recognize who they were with their mask on as well as harder to hear them when speaking! Social distancing, hand sanitizing and individual catered meals boxed were enjoyed along with temperature check upon entering the Senior Center where we were allowed to meet.

Looking over events that have happened through this time since the last newsletter; the NARFE election has been held resulting in several changes to be implemented in the next few months.

One will be a dues increase which will happen January 1, 2021. Please get your recruiting shoes on to try and recruit new members both active and retired Federal employees to increase our membership. Check the NARFE magazine or website for perks of being a NARFE member. Use them as an incentive for recruitment. Check out upcoming webinars and let your members know the webinars are free to them; and the

past webinars are archived. The webinars are very informative and can be used very effectively as a recruiting tool! Website is www.narfe.org

Our Kansas membership continues to decline along with chapter closings. Members are important to make our voices heard by legislators regarding our earned benefits. As of today, we have total Kansas membership 2493. Chapter members - 1750; and National members - 743.

Enjoy the lovely fall weather. Best of luck to you all as chapters begin to try and meet. If you have any membership material requests let me know.

Peggy Coder, Treasurer
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Hoping for some normal to come everyone's way soon. My local NARFE Chapter has not met since February; maybe we can start back up next month.

Your Kansas NARFE bank account is healthy with a \$14,538.31 balance. We have not had the normal expenses this year with not having the Conference, Chapters not meeting, and multiple events cancelled or not held this year.

Kansas NARFE Federation also has a Shared Certificate which was taken out July 2019 for \$5,000.00. The value of the Shared Certificate is now at \$5,075.63.

Carol R. Ek, Secretary and Immediate Past President
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NARFE voting is done. Many issues were voted on that will have effects to NARFE that will never be undone without another vote which I am certain will never happen. I am certain some who cast their votes were not aware of the repercussions of how that vote would change the face of NARFE. We can only trust that our National Executive Board will govern with caution and responsibility.

I would encourage you to review the results of the election posted on the National NARFE website www.narfe.org. When reviewing those results you will find that Region V and Kansas cast a higher percentage of votes than the National average.

I would also encourage you to use the Kansas website (www.narfe.org/site/ks/) to gather information before your meetings. There is a lot of information there which may encourage and give greater knowledge of Kansas to the members in your own chapter. Seeing what other chapters are doing inspires and influences everyone. Right

now there isn't a lot happening; but, hopefully that will come to pass soon. We never know how truly thankful we are until something the magnitude of COVID hits. Now, we must gather our strength and knowledge to overcome this lapse. Thank all of you for making NARFE better just by being a member.

*Louis Bornman, Area 1 Vice President and Federal Legislative Chair
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I hope this finds all of you well and safe. The biggest thing going on in the near term is the elections in November. I encourage each of you to check your voter registration to ensure that you are registered to vote in your county and that everything is up to date. Contact your county election office to make sure; or you can go to www.voteKS.org. That will take you to the KS Secretary of State website that has voting and election information. If you click on the Voter Information ICON, you can then click on the Check Voter Registration ICON and fill in the requested information to see if you are registered. You can also look at your voting history which will show every election you have voted in back to at least 1989. You can also see if you have requested an Advance Ballot and if your request has been accepted. Advance Ballots should be mailed out about 20 October. Once you receive yours be sure to fill it out right away and get it back in the mail to your county election office as soon as possible. If you don't want to mail it, you can take your ballot, sealed in the return envelope, to your county election office drop box or wait until Election Day and go to your polling location and place it in the ballot bag at that location. OR; your other option is to go vote in person at your polling location. Be aware though: IF you have requested an advance mail-in ballot, you will be required to vote-in on a provisional ballot. That allows your county election office to check to make sure you have not already voted your Advance Ballot and are not trying to vote twice.

I hope all of you have researched all of your potential candidates for the various offices up for election this November and are well aware of the consequences of your choices. I hope you are looking at voting to protect your own self-interests, especially when it comes to your retirement income and your healthcare. Don't forget that the current federal workforce needs our support and your vote influences their lives also.

*Judy Etter, Area 1A Vice President
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The Atchison chapter is going to try to hold a meeting in October. It will be our first since the pandemic started. I think I've heard from about 6 members who said they will come. We really won't be able to conduct any business with so few and we have

lost one member: Priscilla McKinney and her husband have moved to South Carolina to be near family. I know that we will probably just spend the time catching up with what we've been doing all summer.

We will not have a program; but, I have been to several other chapters. I met with the Pony Express chapter in Sabetha.

Lois O. Carlson, Area 2A Vice President
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Although most of us have been doing only limited travel and not holding meetings, some here in Southeast Kansas are giving it the old try.

Since becoming Area 2A VP, I have been to two meetings. One was with the usual June combined meeting for the Pittsburg and Chanute Chapters. We met at the St. Paul Cafe in St. Paul, KS and held our meeting in their back dining room. We had a good meeting and visit at that June meeting. Then here in September my husband Jim and I traveled to Frontenac, Kansas and again met with the Pittsburg Chapter, enjoying a box lunch from Kentucky Fried Chicken. I gave a report on the election results and discussed the dues increase that passed.

The Chanute chapter will meet at Santa Fe Park in Chanute for a noon meeting September 22nd. At least one person from the Ft. Scott chapter is hoping to attend. Meeting in the city park is a good option while the weather is warm enough to do so.

So far the lola chapter has chosen not to meet.

I also want to let you know that Gary Kilgore our immediate past VP for 2A fell this past week and broke his upper left leg in three places. The breaks required extensive surgery but he is doing as well as can be expected and is in Wesley Hospital, Wichita. I don't have a room number for him at this time but he will be immobilized for many weeks as he mends and then goes through physical therapy. Please keep him and his wife Lorraine in your prayers.

(Editor's Note) Gary's home address is 5365 170th Rd, Chanute, KS 66720-5422. I'm certain cards would be appreciated.

Tips for Living Alone with Early-Stage Dementia

If you have been diagnosed with early stage dementia and you live alone these tips are for you.

1. Make everyday tasks easier – organize your days. Make lists
2. Paying bills – set up automated payments to help pay your bills on time.
3. Shopping for meals – many stores offer delivery services and many communities have meals on wheels.
4. Taking medications – You might want to try a weekly pillbox, a pillbox with reminder or a medication dispenser.
5. Getting around – If driven makes you confused think about asking neighbors, family and friends for help. In some communities public transportation is an option.
6. Scan your home for safety- Do you have items you no longer use? Think about donating them to a good cause.
7. Throw rugs – remove these as well as electrical cords and other things you might trip over.
8. Install an automatic shut off switch on the stove. You might want to disable your stove and just use a microwave, or a slow cooker.
9. Set the water heater – To avoid scalding: set the heater at 120 F, add nonskid mats to showers and tubs.
10. Carry Identification
11. Plan for the future- get legal and financial matters in order.

Postal Stamp

The US Postal Service has reinstated sales of the Alzheimer's disease research semi postal stamp effective October 5, 2020. Because it is a semi postal, it will raise awareness and critical research funds. Using the Alzheimer's stamp honors the memory of those whom we've lost and signals our support for those still facing the challenges of the most difficult.

Ronald Richey, State Legislative Chair
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The Kansas Legislature is going to start their 90 days session at 2:00 PM on January 11, 2021. All the bills introduced that year will be new bills. We need to continue to monitor the activities of the House and Senate in case they decide to change how they tax our retirement. Due to COVID-19-mandated shutdowns, there will be a shortfall in the state estimates for the next fiscal year.

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

If something comes up, the Kansas Federation President will send out an E-mail. It is important for 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 would like to encourage you to get out and vote.

Important Dates

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

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

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

November 3 - General Election

Have Questions? Call 1-800-262--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.

Philip Mathews, Political Action Committee Chair
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Ross Apter, National Headquarters Political Associate, advised me recently that NARFE PAC made a \$1,000 donation to U.S. House of Representatives Sharise Davids. The only additional information I was able to learn on my own research is that she is a Cornell law school American attorney who represents the Kansas 3rd District which is the Kansas side of much of the Kansas City metropolitan district. Democrats reportedly consider her to be a rising star among newer members of the House. She is also reportedly skilled in martial arts.

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.

Cindy Renee` Blythe, Region V Vice President
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The election for National Officers is a thing of the past and now we have to deal with the fallout of the decisions we made as voting members. The results are posted on the NARFE website; www.NARFE.org . My bid for National Secretary/Treasurer was unsuccessful; however I have been elected by the Federation Presidents of Region V to serve another term as the Region V Vice-President.

Some good things came about as a result of the election and some bad. For one, the membership voted to continue the 10% funding for the Federations. This means that the Federations will continue to receive funding so they can continue to serve the members in the field. For some Federations, this is the only way they are able to continue to serve their members. On the opposite side of this coin; the members voted to reduce the amount Chapters receive for new members joining their chapter.

Currently chapters receive \$13.33 for each new member they recruit but effective January 1, 2021, that amount will decrease to \$8.00. In reality we aren't recruiting that many new chapter members so the loss of \$5.33 may not be so noticeable.

The one issue that I feel will have a negative effect on our organization was the passing of the reduction in salary of the Region Vice-President. Effective November 1, 2022, the salary of the RVP will be reduced by 50% and there will be no Cost-of-Living for the entire National Executive Board (NEB) members. The salary of an RVP is currently \$27,312.00. The NEB in November 2019 passed a change that RVP's are no longer reimbursed for travel expenses, with the exception of attendance at the NEB meetings, FEDCon/LEGCon, or Federation Conferences. So, after this new two-year term, the next RVP salary will only be \$13,656.00. This amount will definitely not cover the expenses of the office and will probably make it difficult to attract candidates.

The membership voted to increase the membership rates. Effective January 1, 2021, a one-year membership will be \$48.00, a two-year membership will be \$92.00, a three-year membership will be \$126.00, and dues withholding will increase to \$42.00. There is plenty of time to switch from annual pay to dues withholding. Because I feel this is important, I have provided each of the seven Federation Presidents in Region V with a listing of their chapter members that are not in the dues withholding program. I highly recommend they contact any member in the one-two-or three-year dues category and try to get them to consider switching to the dues withholding program.

The operations in Headquarters are up and running again. We all know how the COVID19 pandemic has changed our world and way we look at issues. More and more businesses are operating via teleworking and our Headquarters staff is no different. The staff in Headquarters splits their time in the building to comply with CDC and Virginia pandemic regulations. All staff has access to their e-mail account whether in the office or at their home-office. If you send a request to Headquarters and feel it is taking an exceptional long time to get an answer, please notify me and I will address it with the Executive Director.

Headquarters may be up and running but the National Executive Board has not traveled to Virginia since the November 2019 meeting. Our March board meeting was a three-day ordeal that was conducted virtually. Region V has continued to work through the pandemic utilizing virtual meeting software in every Federation to conduct our board meetings. It may be a long way off, but I'm already looking at the option for a virtual College of NARFE Knowledge in 2021.

The reconciliation of Federation and Chapter payments was completed in June and July. If you have any questions regarding the payment, or non-payment, for your chapter notify me at mrsdocbusyb@yahoo.com and I'll verify the accounting with the Financial Department in Headquarters.

The media speaks of the availability of a COVID vaccine in the new year which means we may be able to return to 'normal operations' within the next six months. Our 'normal' has changed and not all for the worst. However, NARFE now has different tools to utilize, tools that can help the bottom line of the organization. Teleworking means that the need for a permanent home may not be the best use of funds. As you know, the building has been on the market; there were some offers but none that could be considered seriously. The real-estate contract expired in August and the NEB will have to re-evaluate our options. With the pandemic situation, this may be the perfect opportunity to find an organization that would rent the top, or bottom, two floors and put much needed revenue back into the budget.

One final item – I'm sure you all are paying attention to the Social Security situation where President Trump signed the Executive Order to allow employers to stop withholding the 6.2% Social Security portion from the employees' side of their payroll from September 1 to December 31, 2020. Only the military and federal employees are being forced to accept this treatment. Effective January 1, 2021 these individuals will be hit with a double deduction – a deduction of 12.4% - and the total must be collected in full by April 15, 2021 or they will be subject to interest and penalties. I recently spoke to my rural mail carrier and she was not aware that this was going to happen to their pay – it could be that the USPS is not under this demand. If you know a current federal employee, or have the opportunity to visit with your mailman please make them aware of this because there appears to be no information coming from their HR departments. I've recommended to everyone I know to put their 'extra' in savings, don't spend it, because this isn't an interest-free loan and the consequences in January could be staggering.

Please be cautious when going out in public and consider wearing a mask. If not for the safety of those around you who don't wear a mask; at least for your safety. My mailman just delivered my new printer last week and it was wonderful not having to go 100 miles to Topeka to get one!!