



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



Chapter 002, Topeka, Kansas

October 2011



Next Meeting
Aldersgate Village
7220 SW Asbury Drive
Topeka, Kansas 66614

Date and Time
October 28, 2011
12:00 Noon

Program

**Health Ins
Representatives**
Kelly of GEHA
Pam of BC&BS

From The President's Desk

The good news is, the COLA has been calculated with 3.8 % for federal retirees and Social Security; 2.8 % for FERS retirees.

The bad news is, the Select Committee of Twelve have reached, unofficially, impasse. One group adamantly opposes any more draconian cuts to Medicare and retirement benefits. The other side refuses to consider tax increases in any form, and further cuts for defense contractors, woops ! Department of Defense are also, off the table. How that plays out when the deadline is reached without a consensus on how to achieve the \$ 1.5 TRILLION savings is the question. The choices for the Select Twelve place them in the difficult position of offending their largest contributors by cutting their profits or offending the workers and those wanting to work, plus retirees by cutting, or eliminating their benefits, who pack a large voting bloc. It is not a pretty picture to contemplate.

If you have never written a letter to a member of Congress, please warm up the fingers and write ! Stick with one issue and for most of us that will be retain earned benefits ! Letters should be addressed to the local office, and either mailed or hand delivered. (Hand delivered, no chance for the letter to be " lost in the mail.) You can write your letters and bring them to the October meeting ! I'll be proud to deliver those in person !

The October meeting's program will be Kelly of GEHA and Pam of BC/BS. They will share the knowledge they have in the ever expanding health and insurance fields. Maynard has proposed a good looking menu, so I'll see you on Oct. 28 !

Jim Miller, President



Lunch Menu
Italian Vegetable Salad
Chicken Parmesan/
Linguine
Swiss Steak
Scalloped Potatoes
Peas
Coconut Crème Pie
Rolls & Butter
Beverages

Cost: \$9.00

Legislative and Insurance News

Federal, State, County, and City jobs have been being eliminated. I would like to encourage you to tell people and US Senators and US Representatives what your job was in the Federal Government and how important it is to have Federal Workers.

I continue to check the Committee Meetings at the State Level. There is a KPERS Meeting scheduled for the 26th and 27th of this month. They will start the ninety-day session in January of 2012 and this may include some tax proposals by the governor.

The next cost of living will be posted October 19, 2011, and this will determine if we get a cost of living next year unless it is eliminated by congress. The cost of Medicare will probably be increased.

I would like to encourage you to contact your retired friends that are not NARFE Members and let them know that we are going to have the Representatives from Blue Cross and Blue Shield and GEHA present at our next meeting on Oct. 28th to answer questions.

2011 Open Season for Health Benefits, Dental and Vision Insurance and Flexible Spending Accounts (employees only) will go from Nov. 14 to Dec. 12.

Included in NARFE top 20 Worst Mistakes are failing to have 5 years of FEHBP coverage before retiring. Losing your FEHBP coverage for your spouse when he/she has a non-federal health plan. If you elect to have a self-only FEHBP enrollment, your spouse will not be able to retain that coverage in the event of your death.

Ronald Richey, Legislative Chair

GOOD CHEER

Since the September meeting, the following cards have been sent: Sympathy cards to the family of Arthur E. Hoover at the time of his death on September 28 and to the family of Gerald Robert Larson at his death on September 30; Sympathy card to LaFerne Kayhill on the death of her son in Atlanta on September 28; Sympathy card to Ross Hirst at the time of the death of his mother-in-law on October 4; Get Well card to Jim Miller at the time of his recent hospitalization.

Helen Price, Good Cheer Chair

Kansas Trivia

Celebrating 150 Years Of Kansas History

This person was born in Independence, KS in 1913. Attended the University of Kansas before becoming a playwright. Won a Pulitzer Prize for Picnic. Won an Academy Award for the original screenplay for Splendor in the Grass. Who was this person?

Answer: William Inge

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Minutes, Chapter 002, September 23, 2011

President, **Jim Miller**, called the meeting to order. **Karen North** gave the invocation, followed by the flag salute. Program – **Roger Aeschliman**, CTFA of Core First Bank presented “A day in the life of a trust officer”. He gave us information on different types of trusts available for each of us.

Paul Manning – we had 49 members present at the meeting and our speaker.

Gwen Ketter, Secretary – The minutes from the July meeting were published in the newsletter. The only correction was that the Executive meeting for September was cancelled. With change minutes were approved as printed.

Sherry Potter, Treasurer - gave the treasurer's report showing a balance of \$3,130.02 (of which \$342.78 is for Alzheimer's), as of 9/22/11. The Life Account has a total of \$1,198.04.

Richard Wike, 2nd V-P, announced that our meeting October meeting will be BCBS and GEHA on changes to Health Plan; There is no meeting in November; December meeting is our annual Christmas party and installation of officers.

Kathy Smith, Editor – no report

Ron Richey, Legislative – Ron attended the College of NARFE in Nebraska where they covered NARFE PAC, Protect American Heartbeat and the local and state Secretaries jobs. On the State level – Ron attended committee meetings for KPERS.

Bill Kastens, Service Officer – No recent contacts.

Earlene Jirik, Publicity Chair- Has name tags for several members.

Helen Price, Good Cheer Chair - reported sympathy cards were sent to the family of Lawrence Robins (August 13th) and get-well cards to Virginia Peters, William Nyquist, Oscar Albrecht and George Spotts. Helen is depending on members to notify her of any illnesses of members so that get-well cards can be sent.

Mary Harms/Dolores Engel, Social Committee – December 2nd is our annual Christmas Social.

Dale Jirik – Election Committee has found a full slate of candidates for officers next year. Elections will be held at the October meeting.

Jim Miller - noted that the next Executive Board meeting October 13th; the next Chapter meeting will be October 28th at noon

George Spotts, Alzheimer's Chair – Still collecting Best Choice Labels. A special opportunity to donate to Alzheimer's research will be coming this fall in the form of a gratitude tax.

The 50/50 Drawing was held; winners were: \$12.50 – Maynard Cox, \$7.50 – Bertha Dunn, and \$5.00 – Bill Kastens.

Meeting adjourned at 1:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Gwendolyn Ketter, Secretary

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1st Vice President	Vacant	
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Secretary	Gwendolyn Ketter	272-2658
Treasurer	Sherry Potter	272-4564
Member-At-Large	Maynard Cox	478-0015
Member-At-Large	Paul Manning	272-6208

<u>Other Contacts</u>		
Good Cheer	Helen Price	478-9602
Membership Chair	Vacant	
Service Officer	Bill Kastens	272-2604
Editor	Kathy Smith	478-9163
Alzheimer Chair	George Spotts	233-7108
Publicity	Earlene Jirik	266-5492

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