

# NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOC

## Chapter 0002, Topeka, Kansas

January 2011

### Executive Committee:

President	Jim Miller	478-0651
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Ron Neis	
2nd Vice President	Richard Wike	783-8122
Secretary	Gwendolyn Ketter	272-2658
Treasurer	Sherry Potter	272-4564
Member-at-Large	Maynard Cox	478-0015
Member-at-Large	Paul Manning	272-6208

### Other Contacts:

Good Cheer	Helen Price	478-9602
Membership Chair	Ron Neis	
Service Officer	Bill Kastens	272-2604
Editor	Maynard Cox	478-0015

**Where:** Aldersgate Village, 7220 SW Asbury Drive  
**When:** Friday, January 28, 2011; 12:00 Noon **\$9.00**  
**Menu:** Tossed Salad, Ham Steak, Catfish, Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Butter, Beverages, Blueberry Cobbler  
**Program:** Debra Stuffleean,  
Director, Shepherd Center

**Reminder: 29<sup>th</sup> Street between Wanamaker and Urish is still under construction but the road will be open for travel all winter.**

### Maynard Cox - Editor

It is with considerable disappointment that of all our talented members there is no one who is willing to take over the job I have been doing. I cannot continue and two options to consider at our next meeting are:

(1) Pay from our Treasury an amount to have it done by an outside printer, and perhaps make it a quarterly newsletter rather than a monthly one. This would soon be a strain on our treasury and doubtfully could it be afforded..

(2) Have our President appoint someone as is done on other Chair persons

(3) Discontinue having a newsletter.

It is not a difficult job and I am confident there is available talent. I have drafted the pertinent things to be done and will be glad to share with any interested person.

Thanks. Maynard

### Jim Miller - President

Hello Maynard and Betty ! Betty, you're included for being a continuing mentor to Ron Neis. I'm looking at (1) having him, with your guidance, taking on a larger responsibility with Membership as that is or has been the primary responsibility for the First Vice President.(2) bringing Ron Richey back, if he will consider it, as the Chapter Legislative Chair. Today he's at the State House, as the Tax Committee is meeting. Their agenda includes KPERs discussions and he'll report on that next Thursday. Now to the column !

I once authored a monthly column with the heading Musings By Miller. The musings were mainly about national politics and legislation. This month to kick off the new year, I'll try to provide some words of INSPIRATION instead of TREPIDATION before the KS Legislature and the Congress " may " cause CONSTERNATION.Plus a few attempts at humor starting with:

When we were much younger, how we would fight !

To stay awake and welcome the New Year's Night !

Now I'm older and wiser, I think it's just fine... to celebrate by going to bed at....NINE !

Elmer Ketter would be proud of the team who planned and staffed the Christmas meeting Reception on Dec. 3 ! Mary Harms and Dolores Engel Co-Chaired the event with Virginia Bohn, Barbara McLain and Marcia Rothmier providing the enjoyable treats. Plus, dear to the hearts of our finances, they brought it in under budget ! The Mellow-Dears were well received with our own Leah Hefner ( Miss February ) singing with the group.

The vote for a Chapter dues increase was approved, and the elected officers were sworn in by Area Vice President Flo Biehl. With that combination, should the officers prepare to be sworn at?

It's much too early to predict what adverse actions may be taken by Legislators at the state and national levels. However, the fool says I will prepare tomorrow, the wise says I will prepare yesterday.

Ron Richey is keeping a NARFE presence for us, our chapter members and chapter members in the state at the State House, as I write this. He will be joined as often as possible by Ron Neis and me. Positive sign ! Flo Biehl, Area Vice President and Louise Lloyd, Federation Secretary have expressed interest in attending some meetings / hearings this session. When we've had the opportunity to review the Legislative Calendar, we'll provide some possible dates. With the changes in legislators, IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF NARFE MEMBERS IN THE DISTRICTS TO BE IN CONTACT WITH THEIR legislator. Ron, Ron and I can't vote in their district, but you can ! In Washington, DC, NARFE will continue to be the MOST effective legislative staff representing us on Capitol Hill ! They too can't do it alone, so remember to (1) contact your members of Congress (2) send your contributions to NARFE-PAC.

One of the bright spots in the NARFE legislative history is....we haven't lost ANY benefits except no COLAs in 2010 and 2011.

Should we lose any benefits, despite the many years of excellent representation, especially in Kansas, fingers will be pointed at the Topeka chapter and questions such as " How could YOU let this happen ?" Shall we quit ? I close with these wise words from Dr. Karl Menninger:

(1) (1)People will be illogical, unreasonable and self-centered. LOVE THEM ANYWAY.

IF (2) YOU DO GOOD, PEOPLE WILL ACCUSE YOU OF SELFISH, ULTERIOR MOTIVES. do good anyway.

(3) IF YOU ARE SUCCESSFUL, YOU WILL WIN FALSE FRIENDS AND TRUE ENEMIES. SUCCEED ANYWAY.

(4) (4)The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow. DO GOOD ANYWAY.

(5) Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. BE HONEST AND FRANK ANYWAY.

(6) The biggest men and women with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest and women with smallest minds. THINK BIG ANYWAY.

(7) People favor underdogs but follow only top dogs. FIGHT FOR A FEW UNDERDOGS ANYWAY. ( That's NARFE ! )

(8) What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. BUILD ANYWAY.

(9) People really need help but may attack you if you do help them. HELP PEOPLE ANYWAY.

(10) Give the world the best you have and you may get kicked in the teeth. GIVE THE WORLD THE BEST YOU HAVE ANYWAY ! On that bright note,

I look forward to seeing you at our January 28 meeting !

### Gwendolyn Ketter, Secretary

**NARFE Chapter 02**

**November/December – December 3, 2010**

**Aldersgate Village**

**Christmas Social** Started at 11:00 AM

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Miller at 12:00 P.M.

The invocation was given by **Barbara McClain** followed by the flag salute.

A two entree lunch was served for \$12.00.

**Ron Neis, Legislative** – Proposal to cut Federal, Military, Postal Retirement. Top story of the hour received only 11 out of 18 to adopt proposals, thinks this is just a test of the water to see where they are at in cutting our benefits. As news comes out we will let you know

when and who to contact about issues covering us.

**Jim Miller, President** – Jim and Ron Richey sat in on State meeting about same type of issues. Every time they came up with something there was a legislator who said that they had sponsored that and didn't want it to change. Jim recognized **Mary Harms** and **Dolores Engel** – Co-chaired event along with their committee.

**Paul Manning, Member-at-Large** – 51 members in attendance. Special Guest Flo Biehl Area Vice-President.

\*\*\*\*Swearing in of Officers by Flo Biehl, Area Vice-President\*\*\*\*

**Entertainment** – The Melodiers

**Flo Biehl, Area Vice President** – Greetings from the Kansas Federation. Make sure that you use the "Being Prepared for Life's Events". Keep informed on the Alzheimer's research that we support. Keep up on legislative issues. Most of all, be proud of your service. Don't let what they are saying knock you down you dedicated your career to the service of others and you should be proud of that.

**Jim Miller, President** – Dues Increase – Moved and seconded to increase local dues to \$10.80. Motion passed. Increase will take effect in 2011. Dues withholding will be \$34.00 + \$10.80, if you are not on dues withholding your dues will be \$40.00 + \$10.80. If you need information on Dues withholding, let Jim or any officer know and they will assist you in getting the form.

**Bill Kastens, Service Officer** – Make sure that people know that they will need *certified* copies of death certificates.

**Helen Louise Price, Good Cheer** – Sympathy cards were sent to families Beryle Elliott, Glenn DeGraw, Barbara Brownell, Hazel Eastman, and Raymond Gatti. Additionally a Sympathy card was sent to Gloraine Batsell on the death of her companion. A Get Well card was sent to Bessie Warner.

**Earlene Jirik, Publicity** – Need Bell Ringers for Salvation Army and Angel Tree at Westridge Mall. Times are Wednesday December 15<sup>th</sup> at Richmond Gordman 10:00 – 6:00 with 2 hour period. Angel Tree at Westridge Mall Tuesday December 7<sup>th</sup>. Had one name tag to hand out for Nancy Southard, not in attendance.

**Gwen Ketter, Secretary** – No Correction to the minutes reported in the Newsletter – approved as written.

**Sherry Potter, Treasurer** – Year end report will be given

next month.

**Announcements** – Gwen Ketter gave out cards with our Website address as well as officers phone numbers.

Next Executive board meeting will be 9:00 AM on January 13<sup>th</sup>  
Next NARFE Chapter meeting –Friday January 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Gwen Ketter** gave out several door prizes.

**George Spotts, Alzheimer chairperson:** The 50/50 drawing awarded \$13.12 to Dolores Engel; \$7.88 to Anna Mae Wright and \$5.25 to Richard Wike.

George reminded Veterans to make sure their heirs know where their DD2 form is located. Also a reminder to bring in tattered flags for disposal through Post 400.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gwendolyn Ketter, Secretary.

### **Helen Price - Good Cheer Chair**

\_\_\_\_\_ Since the last meeting sympathy cards were sent to the families of Edwin Provost following his death on December 10, and Wendell Redding following his death on December 26. A sympathy card was sent to Marty Flanagan following the death of her son, Ryan, on December 3.

\_\_\_\_\_ The following is taken from NARFE GEMS \_\_\_\_\_

**“Huge Budget Cuts Loom:** Once the pomp and symbolism of the early session is over, NARFE is expecting the most challenging fight in a generation to defend our earned retirement, pay and health benefits during the upcoming congressional budget process. Early indicators of how this year's budget process will play out include the President's state of the union address on January 25<sup>th</sup>, the release of the President's Budget in February and action on the annual congressional budget resolution in March and April. The timing of this year's Budget Resolution coincides at the point in time when the national debt is expected to reach its statutory limit of \$14.3 trillion. The debt limit and Budget Resolution could provide budget hawks with powerful leverage to extract massive spending cuts in exchange for their vote to increase the borrowing cap. NARFE members' earned benefits, as the Fiscal Commission showed, present an attractive target. Proactively defending them NOW is crucial.” (Underscore supplied)

**THIS IS WHY NARFE MEMBERSHIP IS IMPOR TANT! ! !**

