



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



Chapter 002, Topeka, Kansas

July 2011



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

Date and Time
July 22, 2011
12:00 Noon

Program

Vickie Schmidt
Kansas State Senator



Lunch Menu
Tossed Salad
Baked Chicken & Dressing
Ham Steak
Sweet Potatoes
Corn O'brien
Rolls & Butter
Beverages
Peach Cobbler

Cost: \$9.00



ICE CREAM
Just a reminder next
month is the ice
cream social.
August 26

From The President's Desk

If you have not made a reservation for the July 22 lunch, phone 478-0651 before Wed., July 22. If you made a reservation and now cannot attend, call to cancel. The Dining Room staff requires an accurate number.

Our luncheon guest speaker will be Vickie Schmidt, State Senator for KS. Vickie has been a good ally and a very good Senator. She survived probably the most heated legislative session in KS history. Come and see if she can still smile!

For those of us concerned about what certainly seems to be a recession, and what the potential government shutdown could mean to our nation, and how it will / may affect us personally, bear in mind not everyone will share our concerns. Latest report from Sir Rupert Murdoch's USA Today newspaper reported JOHN HAMMERGRAN, McKesson Corp, a HealthCare CEO pulled in a pay raise of 190 % from his 2010 salary of \$ 51.8 million. John is age 52 and I doubt if a few million people missing retirement checks will disturb his sleep. It could disturb ours!

College of NARFE Knowledge, Aug. 29-31, South Sioux City, Nebraska. I have the applications and the agenda information. The main theme will be the always critical LEGISLATIVE issues, with MEMBERSHIP close behind. Hotel reservation deadline is Aug. 1, and to date, Maynard Cox, Ron Richey and I have signed on. Ron is still looking for a MALE roommate; I plan to drive, and my faithful old van can carry six passengers and luggage. We'll leave Topeka Monday morning Aug. 29, and return by early evening on Aug. 31.

READ AND HEED RON RICHEY'S COLUMN! Ron specifies the phone numbers to call and the date to call our Representative, our two Senators, and the President, to raise our voices to defend our earned benefits! With the untold calls coming in to cut our benefits, if we aren't heard loud and clear about this issue, we all will be the losers in the " game of Chicken " going on in Washington, D.C. If you are reading this and are not a member of NARFE, or a current member of NARFE who wonders if your membership dues are worth it.....in past years, retired federal / postal employees proudly stated I PAID FOR MY RETIREMENT AND MY MEDICARE AND MY HEALTH BENEFITS. NO ONE IS GOING TO TAKE THOSE AWAY FROM ME ! Those who made that statement in good faith, never met THIS Congress. Their attitude is That was then, this is now ! Right now, NARFE is standing firm and right now, we need a strong, not a weakened NARFE to work for us, because we have a budding Tsunami building down the road. The road may end by or around August 2.

Our lunch is planned and corrections have been noted, so expect a good one. I hope to see you on July 22 !

Jim Miller, President

Legislative News

This year, during the month of July, we celebrate 235 years of independence of our nation, and 150 years as the state of Kansas. We give Thanks to God for our service people who are serving and have served our country, those who have given their lives, and for our Government Workers who enable us to have the freedoms we have (i.e. worship, NARFE and representatives who can protect our benefits).

National Call Congress, President Obama Day
Circle this date on your calendar! On Wednesday, July 27th, President Beaudoin is asking each member to call their two senators, their representative, and President Obama and let your views be known. Your representatives in Washington are making decisions that will affect your benefits and retirement even as you read this.

Toll Free Phone Numbers: The toll free number for the White House is 1-888-225-8418. The toll free number to reach the Capitol switchboard is 1-866-220-0044. You will need to ask for your legislators by name or provide your ZIP Code.

Message: Once connected to your lawmaker's office, NARFE members should say:

- "My name is _____, and I live in (name city/town). I am a federal retiree (or worker).
- Don't single us out by making more cuts to the retirement and health benefits we earned through years of serving the public.
- Federal workers and retirees have already sacrificed pay and benefits."

Whether you speak to a staff person or leave a recorded message, request that your lawmaker respond in writing to your phone call. For that reason, be sure to leave your mailing address. Contact only your own representative and two senators. Lawmakers will disregard your message if you are not a voting constituent.

Ronald Richey, Legislative Chair

Officers Needed

Officers needed for 1st Vice-President and Treasurer. Let Betty Born, Bill Kastens and/or Dale Jirik know if you are interested in one of the offices.

Dale E. Jirik, Nominations Committee

Minutes, Chapter 002, June 24, 2011

President, Jim Miller, called the meeting to order. Gwen Ketter gave the invocation and led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Richard Wike, 2nd V-P - introduced the speaker, Jeff Imparato from the Topeka Public Library. Jeff gave us an overview of resources available to Topeka residents through the library.

Paul Manning – we had 47 members and the speaker present at the meeting.

Jim Miller placed a hand out on the tables that addressed NARFE’s Legislative Program for the 112th Congress.

Gwen Ketter, Secretary – The minutes from the May meeting were published in the newsletter and approved as printed.

Sherry Potter, Treasurer - gave the treasurer's report showing a balance of \$ 2,505.29, as of 5/23/11; of that amount, \$226.18 is designated for the Alzheimer's Research Fund. The Life Account has a total of \$1,196.64.

Jim Miller, 1st V-P report – We currently have 450 members, we have one new member Beth Moore, 8 second notices were sent to members and we have 3 non-renewals.

Richard Wike, 2nd V-P, announced that the speaker for the July meeting will be Vickie Schmidt. August meeting is our annual social event (with homemade ice-cream).

Kathy Smith, Editor – No report

Ron Richey, Legislative - gave us some information regarding health insurance. If you have not already done so, he encouraged everyone to contact their legislators about issues affecting our future. The cost of living stands at 3.5%. The Kansas legislature is forming a committee to have meetings regarding KPERS. They are also having meetings to cut benefits for the Medicare Program.

Bill Kastens, Service Officer - received one call to assist in estate information for a member’s family.

Earlene Jirik, Publicity Chair– anyone needing name tags, needs to contact Earlene. She thanked all who worked with the phone bank at KTWU June 6th.

Helen Price, Good Cheer Chair - reported sympathy cards were sent to the family of Roger Swank (June 2nd) and Ernest Alexander (June 9th) and Thinking of You cards to Mary Shannon and Barbara Decker. Helen is depending on members to notify her of any illnesses of members so that get-well cards can be sent.

Jim Miller - noted that the next Executive Board meeting will be July 14th; the next Chapter meeting will be July 22nd at noon; Aug. 29-31 is the CONK (College of NARFE Knowledge) in South Sioux City, IA.

George Spotts, Alzheimer's Chair – still collecting Best Choice Labels. Flag Disposal began with a ceremony at 6:00 AM on Flag Day. It took two days to burn all the tattered and torn flags this year.

Mary Harms/Dolores Engel, Social Committee – August is our annual Social with homemade ice cream.

The 50/50 Drawing was held; winners were: \$12.75 – Leah Hefner, \$7.65 – Maynard Cox, and \$5.10 – Flora Spotts.

Meeting adjourned at 1:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Gwendolyn Ketter, Secretary

ROAD CONSTRUCTION

DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE ROAD CONSTRUCTION ON 29TH STREET. ALLOW A LITTLE MORE TIME.

Kansas Trivia

* The song “Home on the Range” was adopted by the Kan- *
* sas Legislature as the Official Kansas Song in what year? *
* **Answer: 1947** *

Get you newsletter quicker, in living color, plus save Chapter funds!

If you are receiving the newsletter by mail and would like to receive it by e-mail, please e-mail your request to Kathy Smith, Newsletter Editor, at kathleen.smithwsu@sbcglobal.net

Chapter 002 Officers

President	Jim Miller	478-0651
1st Vice President	Vacant	
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	Vacant	
Service Officer	Bill Kastens	272-2604
Editor	Kathy Smith	478-9163
Alzheimer Chair	George Spotts	233-7108