



# NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



## Chapter 002, Topeka, Kansas

March 2011

### NEWS FLASH

*For those who attend our fourth Friday in the month lunch meeting SW 29th is badly torn up from Wanamaker Road to King's Row but still permits rough ( potholes ) travel on two lanes. Second, the long awaited sliding doors have been installed for easier access to Wesley Hall !*



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

**Date and Time**  
March 25, 2011  
12:00 Noon

### From The President's Desk

Ron Richey has been working almost double shifts at the State House. I and Ron Neis help when we can by splitting committee assignments. The House and the Senate have exchanged bills and each body will hold hearings on those they have questions about, or require more information before giving approval. KPERS retirees and still working state employees have been made aware that their retirements, contributions, funding and retirement formula are being questioned and strict changes have been proposed.

We're watching KPERS issues very closely because our state income tax exemption has been brought up for discussion. As said before, the " ENVY FACTOR " is being actively promoted by corporations and groups who don't like public and federal employees or retirees. These groups have been successful at tearing down salaries and benefits for the private sector instead of sharing a little of their obscene profits ( my term ) with the employees who make their businesses prosper. Now they are turning to us. Instead of building their employees wages and benefits to a higher level, their new mission is to tear us down.

I studied Labor Law and Labor-Management Relations at Kansas State University and our Professor stressed the importance of a balance of power. That balance is badly skewed in favor of the very wealthy, who want even more, even if it means the destruction of the middle class.

When you read YOU NEED NARFE, NARFE NEEDS YOU , pay attention. We have never before seen the quantity of advertising and editorials attacking public and federal employees and retirees. A recent news flash reported 51 % of the American people thought salaries and retirements of public / federal employees were " FAR " too generous and far above private sector employees. Old adage, if you tell a lie often enough and convincingly enough, people will accept that as the truth. Our job is to fight lies with the truth, as rare as that may be. The NARFE HQ Legislative group is the best representatives for government employees and retirees on Capitol Hill but they need our help in our states. Legislators know the NARFE HQ employees don't vote in their state or district, but they know that we do. So, stay in NARFE and stay alert to what is being done to what we have historically referred to as Earned Benefits. The weather is moderating, Spring is here, and we have an excellent menu ! I'll see you on March 25th !

*Jim Miller President*



**Lunch Menu**  
Fruit Jell-O Salad  
Talapia With Mango Chutney  
Spaghetti and Meat Balls  
Potato Casserole  
Vegetable Blend  
Apple Pie  
Rolls & Butter  
Beverages

Cost \$9.00

**Program**  
March 25, 2011  
Jo and Lee Newman  
Topic  
Home Fire Safety

### CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Pat Roberts  
109 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-1605  
Phone: 202-224-4774  
Fax: 202-224-3514  
www.roberts.senate.gov

Jerry Moran  
Russell Senate Office Building  
Courtyard 4  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-6521  
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www.moranforkansas.com

Lynn Jenkins  
Washington, DC Office  
1122 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-6601  
Fax: (202) 225-7986  
www.lynnjenkins.house.gov

### Membership

A short meeting between Jim Miller, Betty Born and myself was on the afternoon of March 8th. The purpose being an action plan concerning membership issues. We covered retaining members, signing new members and proactive action when members haven't renewed or paid their dues. There is no magic wand to wave. Betty shared many of her efforts from past years. Some of the points established are: 1. Gwen Ketter coordinate with Ron Neis to stay on top of membership info and trends. 2. Ron Neis and Jim Miller use information from the M112 (chapter activity report) . 3. Use Betty's updated list of area federal agencies and try to put information packets into the hands of possible members. 4. Have NARFE information bundles available at chapter meetings. 5. Schedule NARFE table for Veterans Administration pre-retirement seminar being held April 28, 2011. 6. Visit Federal Building and try to re-establish contacts for pre-retirement seminars for those agencies housed at Federal Building. We are really struggling to maintain our membership numbers. In other words we are slowly losing the battle of attrition.

*Ron Neis First Vice President*

### National Officer Changes

It is with deep regret we announce that National Treasurer Charles Saylor has passed away. The NEB has installed Richard Thissen, Region V RVP, to become the new Treasurer effective April 3, 2011. In the interim, Vice President Carew will be Acting Treasurer. Richard Thissen has done an exceptional job for KS NARFE as our Region Five Vice President. That vacancy will be filled( Region Five VP ) by our own Carol Ek, KS Federation President. Based on her performance as our Federation Secretary, Editor and now Federation President, Carol will be outstanding in that position as well. KS NARFE will have a strong voice on the NARFE National Executive Board !

**CALL YOUR REPRESENTATIVE**

On March 8th, nearly 300 NARFE members visited at the Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. to meet with lawmakers as part of NARFE's biennial Legislative Training Conference. (1) They asked us to call 1-866-220-0044 and ask for both our senators and representative. (2) Once connected to your lawmaker's office, provide your name, address, city, state, and identify yourself as a NARFE member. (3) Say: "Federal workers and retirees have already sacrificed pay and benefits. Don't single us out by making more cuts to the retirement and health benefits we earned through years of serving the public."

*Ron Richey, Legislative Chair*

**Meeting The Congressional Leaders**

Last month I stopped by U.S. Representative Lynn Jenkins open house and U.S. Senator Jerry Moran's office. I visited with the office staff and signed up for his e-mail. Both Representative Lynn Jenkins and Senator Jerry Moran have been having Town House Meetings and open houses. This month I stop by U. S. Senator Pat Roberts Office.

*Ron Richey, Legislative Chair*

**Get Out And Vote**

April 5, 2011, is the City/School General Election. We would like to encourage you to get out and vote.

**Kidney Awareness Day**

The Kansas House and Senate declared March 3rd Kidney Awareness Day because the Month of March is Blood Pressure and Kidney Awareness month. We encourage you to have your Blood Pressure and Kidneys checked if you have not had it done recently.

**Good Cheer**

Since the last newsletter, a sympathy card has been sent to Elizabeth Simpler at the death of her husband, James Patrick Simpler, on February 27<sup>th</sup>.

*Helen Price, Good Cheer Chair*

**Chapter 002 Officers**

President	Jim Miller	478-0651
1st Vice President	Ron Neis	266-5025
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

**Secretary Notes—Topeka NARFE web site**

Since there was no February meeting, there are no minutes to report. I would like to take this opportunity to give out the information about the Topeka NARFE web site. The address is: <http://topekanarfechapter.webs.com>. We try to keep current legislative and NARFE issues posted on the page for your reference. If you have any questions or concerns that you wish your local officers to address, we would be glad to post questions and answers to the page. Please let me know if you have any suggestions to make this site better for your benefit.

*Gwendolyn Ketter, Secretary*

**KANSAS LEGISLATIVE NEWS**

The Kansas Legislature reached the turn-around at the end of February. In the month of March they are working the Bills on both sides in an attempt to make them agree. They probably will not make a decision on the budget until the end of April.

Ron Neis, Jim Miller, and myself will continue to monitor the Legislature and keep you informed of all the important matters.

*Ron Richey, Legislative Chair*

**TASTE OF THE TOWN FOLDERS**

We have TASTE OF THE TOWN " meal deals, and ONLY IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, those will be available at our chapter meeting March 25. The cost is \$20.00. The folder lists the eating places. Most of these are in Topeka, plus Puffy's Steak and Ice House, Maple Hill. Our chapter will receive \$ 6.00 per folder sold, with \$ 14.00 going to the TASTE OF THE TOWN sponsors. We have 60 folders on consignment and if we sell out, our chapter will add \$ 360.00 to our operating fund.

**Kansas Trivia Question**

*What World War II pilot took part in tests of the first atomic bomb and was killed during a test flight in 1948?*

*Daniel H. Forbes, Jr., Forbes Airport in Topeka is named after him.*

**Other Contacts**

Good Cheer	Helen Price	478-9602
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Service Officer	Bill Kastens	272-2604
Editor	Kathy Smith	478-9163