



# NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



## Chapter 002, Topeka, Kansas

June 2012



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

**Date and Time**  
June 22, 2012  
12:00 p.m.

### Program

*Topeka Fire Department*  
*Arson Investigations*



**Lunch Menu**  
Cottage Cheese With Peaches  
Cabbage Rolls  
Baked Tilapia with Rice  
Lemon Butter  
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy  
Green Beans With Roasted Red Peppers  
Rolls & Butter  
Coconut Crème Pie  
Beverages  
Cost: \$9.00

*If you Did Not RSVP At Last Meeting, RSVP To*  
*Jim Miller—785-478-0651*

### **Treasurer and Editor Needed.**

Contact: **Dale E. Jirik,**  
**Nominating Chair,**  
**785-266-5492,**  
**[ejjde@doglegs.com](mailto:ejjde@doglegs.com)**

### DID YOU KNOW

**NARFE Has Been Improving and Defending Federal Retirement Benefits Since 1921.**

### From The President's Desk

FIRST the good news ! The Kansas Legislature as a group had such a mixed up agenda, and were so divided politically ( not Democrats vs Republicans....Republicans vs Republicans ! ) they couldn't agree on Redistricting maps and that task finally fell to three judges ! What the KS Legislature couldn't accomplish in four months, judges redrew the maps in less than two weeks. The upshot was, those strident voices calling for federal retirees **ONLY** to lose benefits, couldn't gain an audience or traction. So smile, CSRS retirees ! We made it through another year !

Courtesy of Editor Kathleen Smith, Summer is a great time for a vacation or just relaxing and enjoying air conditioning. So far, we can't enjoy much rain but that may change ? We can't take a vacation from NARFE and our responsibilities ! Keep on top of what is happening in Washington, DC by reading NARFE magazine and publications; visit the NARFE website at [www.NARFE.org](http://www.NARFE.org) ( and sign up for GEMS ! ) and attend chapter meetings ! Call for reservations if you haven't made those, before Wednesday, June 20 ! Then, well prepared, attend town meetings of those running for election and re-election. Let them know how we feel about freezing the pay of federal employees; increasing those employees personal contributions to their retirement for the already solvent retirement fund ( where those funds will be diverted by Congress ! ), and trying to show how they would balance the federal budget by focusing on a very small % of workers, federal workers. We can meet with legislators in their local offices, when they are out of session ( week of July 2 ) so don't let this summer pass without bringing your concerns to the attention of those who represent you in Congress, or those new candidates who want to replace them ! Remember, retired members, after the opposition in Congress has cut EVERYTHING they can out of federal workers benefits, the next target will be those retired. Rep. Paul Ryan ( R-WI ) has proposed taking \$ 350 billion out of federal retiree benefits. Where do you suppose he's going to come up with that amount ? Stay alert, stay involved, and remember, a sitting duck in this economy, is a dead duck !

*Jim Miller, President*

### Legislative and Insurance News

On 6/01/2012 the Kansas Legislature had their Sine and Dye Session. We would like to thank Jim Miller for attending the signing of the Grandparents Bill giving grandparents some rights with their grandchildren. Jim attended the Sine Dye Session and I listened to it over the inter-net. It lasted approximately one hour. June first was the last day local politicians could sign up to run for office. I would like to encourage you to get to know them before you cast your vote this fall. We have no maps yet and it is in the hands of the court. We will need more volunteers when the next session starts January 14, 2013. For potential membership many people working for the Federal Government retired June first of this year. 45,000 mail-handlers for the Post Office have been offered a buy out by the end of August 2012.

*Ronald Richey, Legislative Chair*

### Why Keep Your Membership in NARFE and encourage others to join?

Congress is looking for ways to cut the federal deficit by reducing the number of federal employees and the pay and benefits of federal employees and retirees. NARFE gives us:  
A strong voice on Capitol Hill working to protect your hard earned salary and benefits;  
Access to NARFE's Legislative Action Center, Weekly Legislative Hotlines and a wide variety of information available only to members via the NARFE website, emails, and award winning magazine;  
One-on-one access to a team of retirement benefits experts;  
Information to help you make the best pre- and post-retirement choices;  
Exclusive access to a set of easy-to-use online financial planning tools;  
Membership discounts for travel, financial services, insurance, moving and emergency services;  
Eligibility for college scholarships and disaster relief grants;  
Interesting speakers, good food, and conversation with other federal retirees at local meetings.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Barb Pretzer. Barb was a former KS Federation Alzheimers Chair; then the Region V Chair for Alzheimer's; then National NARFE Chair. She resigned this year when she was hit with a terminal cancer opinion and has been fighting that opinion since. Barb is a member of the Manhattan Chapter.

### KANSAS TRIVIA

Of its thirty different amphibian species, Kansas boasts one that can grow to 132 pounds. What is it?  
**Answer: Alligator Snapping Turtle; record holder was found in Labette County in 1938.**

**Minutes, Chapter 002, May 25, 2012**

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

The invocation was given by **Judy Shetter** followed by the flag salute.

A two entree lunch was served for \$9.00.

**PROGRAM – Safe Streets** – Speaker was Sally Zeller.

**Members Report, Paul Manning** – 49 members, 1 first timer Ron Miller and 1 guest speaker Sally Zeller in attendance.

**Secretary, Gwen Ketter** – Minutes for March printed in newsletter. Changes noted for April minutes Virginia Peters was the speaker at the VA meeting. With changes, minutes for April were approved as printed.

**Legislative, Ron Richey** – Ron spoke of the sacrifices of those we honor on Memorial Day. The Kansas Legislature adjourned after 99 days and they will return on June 1<sup>st</sup> for the sine e die. They passed a tax bill and KPERS bill and the fishing license bill for seniors. They passed 2117 tax bill which does away with the long term care insurance premium deduction and removes the Kansas National Guard from the Health Insurance plan.

**Treasurer/Newsletter Editor, David Smith** – General Fund Balance \$2,432.86, Alzheimer’s Fund - \$241.15, Life Membership account - \$1,199.16, Total \$3,873.17

**First VP, Galen Rapp** – The membership committee goal is 50 new members or renewals this year. Packets were available at the back of the meeting room to mail to prospective members.

**Second VP, Richard Wike** – June meeting will be TFD on arson investigation. August meeting is our annual Ice Cream social. Richard read the word from the song ”TAPS” to honor our Veterans on this Memorial Day Weekend.

**Newsletter Editor, Kathleen Smith** – No comments

**Service Officer, Bill Kastens** – No contacts this month.

**Good Cheer, Helen Louise Price** – Sent a Get Well card to Mrs. Ross Hirst who was in KU Medical Center. Helen sent sympathy card to family of member Geraldine Fast and Elizabeth Simpler. Make sure to let Helen know of any illnesses or deaths as soon as possible.

**Earlene Jirik, Publicity** – Was out of town for the Memorial Day weekend. Dale is conducting a program in Larned KS. Next Executive board meeting will be 9:00 AM on June 14, 2012 (Jim stated that the board meeting would be just a week prior to the General membership meeting and the board would have to decide if they wanted to meet.)

Next NARFE General meeting – Friday June 22, 2012

**New/Old Business:** It was moved by Sherry Potter and seconded by Judy Shetter that we pay \$86.00 to delegates to the State Federation Convention. Motion passed.

**George Spotts Alzheimer** chairperson: Don’t forget your old flags as they will be burning them on flag day Thursday June 14<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion Post 400 and Post 421.

The 50/50 drawing awarded \$10.00 to Paul Manning; \$6.00 to Marsha Rothman; and \$4.00 to Dorothy Maddox.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:40 PM.

**Respectfully submitted: Gwendolyn Ketter, Secretary**

Keep your NARFE records up-to-date:

To change your address call (toll-free): 800-456-8410, email: memberrecords@narfe.org, or go to the website at www.narfe.org.

To add your email address to your record or change your email address (to receive GEMS email messages, the Legislative Hotline and NARFE News Watch) call (toll-free) 800-456-8410 OR email: memberrecrods@narfe.org. Also email the Chapter 002 newsletter editor at Kathleen.smithwsu@sbcglobal.net

<u>Chapter 002 Officers</u>		
President	Jim Miller	478-0651
1st Vice President	Galen Rapp	478-3701
2nd Vice President	Richard Wike	783-8122
Secretary	Gwendolyn Ketter	272-2658
Treasurer	David Smith	478-9163
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	Galen Rapp	478-3701
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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