



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



Chapter 0002, Topeka, Kansas

FEBRUARY 2015



From President Jim Miller's Desk snyderfan89@cox.net 478-0651

E-mail or call your Reservations AND Cancellations NOT LATER THAN Wednesday morning, February 25 to Jim Miller

Feb. 27th
\$9 Noon Buffet
in Wesley Hall

- Fish (for Lent)*
- Meatloaf*
- Mac and cheese*
- Green Vegetable*
- Fruit Salad*
- Rolls*
- Beverage*
- Cake*

The chapter meeting will take place on February 27. Keep your collective fingers crossed because it's 50-50 we will meet in Wesley Hall. That meeting room is receiving a "face lift," February 17-27. Your executive committee met on January 30, and the remodeling projects and possible alternatives discussed. Plan B will be to meet in the parlors. (The parlors are having "face lifts" and those will be completed before the construction crews move on to Wesley Hall.) Two flat no's were (1) don't relocate to another facility /keep the meeting at ALDERSGATE as trying another location would be confusing. (*We have more than enough confusion with the state of Kansas and Washington, DC legislatures.*) (2) do not change the meeting/eating times, as 2:30 in the Dining Room was possible. NO! So, be assured we will meet and eat, if not in Wesley Hall, than close by.

We will be electing delegates for the 2015 NARFE state convention at the February meeting. That was a problem in 2013 due to a real snowstorm and we canceled our meeting! We were fortunate in 2014 and perhaps we will have one of those 55-60 degree sunny days?

Check your calendars and if you have a question about delegate or alternate delegate duties, we will have the materials on hand. As we are hosting the 2015 convention, having a good number of Topeka chapter members attending would be impressive, and helpful. Gwen Ketter and the convention committee have been and will continue to plan for the best possible convention.

Ron Richey is faithfully attending meetings at the State House, and has valuable information in his column. Please read it and if YOU have thought it would be "interesting" to represent NARFE at the State House during legislative sessions, Ron and I encourage you to ask us. It is interesting and I believe our Senators and Representatives appreciate seeing real, live constituents and having an exchange of ideas on bills being considered.

Remember this is YOUR chapter and we welcome your comments, be those for menu ideas, suggestions for programs of interest to our membership, and names/addresses of potential new members. Busy times! I hope to see you on a sunny February 27!

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday 4/26 – Tuesday 4/28

NARFE CONVENTION @ TOPEKA'S DOWNTOWN RAMADA

From Ron Richey, Legislative Chair ronaldgrich@aol.com 234-4172

We would like to thank our Kansas Federation President, Cindy Renee Blythe, for attending our chapter meeting last month. She is an active Federal Employee and she explained how President Barack Obama issued a memorandum to direct federal agencies to advance up to six weeks of paid sick leave for employees upon the birth or adoption of a child to help federal employees. There are bills in the US Congress to provide federal employees with a 3.8 percent pay raise in 2016. The Bills are H.R. 304 and S. 164.

If you go to the NARFE web site at: <http://www.narfe.org/departments/home/index.cfm> and sign in, then go to the Legislative Action Center and enter your zip code, you can e-mail all your representatives in support of these bills.

NARFE President Richard G. Thissen sent a letter to President Barack Obama requesting that the 3.8 percent pay raise for federal employees be included in the President's budget for fiscal year (FY) 2016. The President's FY16 budget was released on Monday, February 2. President Barack Obama has tucked a 1.3 percent pay raise for General Schedule employees and service members in the budget.

The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform unanimously approved H.R. 313, the Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act of 2015. H.R. 313 provides service-disabled veterans employed by the federal government with 104 hours of paid sick time for medical leave at the beginning of their employment. This will make it easier for wounded veterans to schedule medical appointments and keep up with their rehabilitation from service-related injuries. The leave will not carry over into the employee's second year of employment. A companion bill, S. 242, was introduced in the Senate.

I have been monitoring the Kansas State Legislature every day and setting in on the committee meetings. The biggest problem is the budget and the shortfall on funds. In the House tax committee they are reviewing property taxes. With the Federal and State Government cutting back it is going to make the schools, county, and city short on funds in order to make improvements.

If you live in Shawnee County make plans now to vote in the City and School Primary Election on March 3, 2015 and the General Election on April 7, 2015. These elections are non-partisan and look at local issues. There is a bill in the Kansas Legislature to move the local election to the same date and time as the State elections and to have them become party elections.

We are in need of volunteers to monitor the activities of the legislature.

You can listen and read about the Kansas State Legislature at:

<http://www.kslegislature.org/li/>

PROGRAM

Tiffany Hall
Healthwise 55

AND

Carol Frazee
Heart Unit

Let our "new"
SUNSINE/
GOOD CHEER
POINT OF CONTACT

Jo Burenheide
272-8971

know of any
member needing a
ray of sunshine in
their mailbox.

NARFE CHAPTER 0002 MINUTES

JANUARY 23, 2015 - ALDERSGATE VILLAGE

Meeting was called to order by **President Jim Miller** at 12 PM. Welcome and Invocation was given by **Barb McLain** followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A two entree meal was offered for \$9. **Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters President Cindy Renee' Blythe** was in attendance to install chapter officers. She spoke about the Executive order submitted by President Obama that allocates 6 weeks of paid leave to mothers after the birth of a child. Cindy introduced new member **Debbie Farley** who is a current employee at the Coast Guard where Cindy works. She also spoke of the Legislative Training Session that she and **Louis Bornman** (Federation Legislative Chair) will be attending in Washington DC. Cindy swore into office - **President Jim Miller**, **1st Vice-President Barb McLain**, **2nd Vice-President Richard Wike**, **Treasurer Bill Kastens** and **Secretary Gwen Ketter**. Cindy had to leave to get back to work, but we appreciated her taking time to attend our meeting and swear into office our newly elected officials.



Program was Michael Martin, Fire Safety (TFD) – Michael spoke on **SAFE (Special Assistance in Fire Emergency)** which is a program which assists the local fire department. Most people believe that the TPD only puts out fires, but the department is involved in fire prevention. They will install smoke detectors, assist families in making a fire escape plan and speak on fire safety. They recommend that families not only make a plan but implement and proactive the plan of action. They ask citizens to go to www.topeka.org to fill out and register for the SAFE program. This will allow information to be placed into the 911 system that identifies special needs for individual households such as persons with disabilities, children and elderly members within the household should a fire occur. Currently this is limited within the city, but they recommend those in the county contact their local fire departments and ask for the program to be installed as TPD is willing to work with them on the implementation.

Members Report, Earlene Jirik – 52 members and 2 guests (our speaker Michael Martin and KS NARFE President Cindy Renee' Blythe). We also had in attendance one new member **Debbie Farley**.

Earlene Jirik, Publicity - KTWU - nothing is scheduled at this time.

Secretary, Gwen Ketter – The Chapter minutes for the December Social/meeting were printed in the newsletter (Thanks to Jim Miller, president and interim secretary) and were approved as printed. Thanks once again to all the members who have volunteered to work on the 2015 State Convention. The State Executive Committee met with some of the convention chair persons on January 6th at the Ramada Inn downtown to go over the agenda and begin the process of tweaking the program. We toured the facility and designated room for specific meetings/caucuses. A committee meeting was held prior to the general membership meeting and members are in the process of soliciting advertisers for the program as well as sponsors for breaks. Next committee meeting will be at 10:00 AM Friday February 27th. We will be voting on our delegates for the convention and determining the amount of expenditures for delegates/attendees at the next meeting. Please let us know if you want to be a delegate/alternate. We will also need members to assist in setting up and working at the Hospitality Room.

Treasurer, Bill Kastens – General Fund \$994.00, Savings \$1,199.86 and Alzheimer's \$0.00 Total \$2,193.89.

Service Officer, Bill Kastens – No new calls.

Barb McLain, 1st Vice-President and Membership - Requested assistance to work on membership plan

Richard Wike, 2nd Vice-President February will be Health-Wise 55 representative

REPORTS: Ron Richey, Legislative – report is listed in its entirety in the newsletter.

Joanne and Ron Miller, Newsletter Editor – Deadline for February newsletter is Feb 5th.

Next Executive Board Meeting – Friday Jan 30 - 9:30 AM!

Convention Planning Meeting – Friday Feb 27 – 10 AM

Next NARFE General Meeting – Friday Feb 27 – Noon

George Spotts Alzheimer chairperson: Year-to-date Topeka went over the goal of \$5.50/ member. 50/50 drawing 1st \$12.00 - Mary Harms, 2nd \$7.00 - Norma Rice and 3rd \$5.00, Dale Jirik - all donated money back to Alzheimer's.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Gwendolyn Ketter

Chapter 0002 Officers

President	Jim Miller	478-0651
1st V-P/Membership Chair	Barbara McLain	272-3407
2nd Vice President	Richard Wike	783-8122
Secretary	Gwendolyn Ketter	220-7196
Treasurer	Bill Kastens	272-2604
Member-At-Large	Paul Manning	272-6208
Member-At-Large	Mary Harms	862-1176

Other Contacts

Service Officer	Bill Kastens	272-2604
Newsletter Editors	Joanne & Ron Miller	271-8117
Alzheimer Chairs	George & Flora Spotts	233-7108
Publicity	Earlene Jirik	266-5492
Good Cheer	Jo Burenheide	272-8971
Historian	YOUR NAME HERE	
NARFE PAC Chair	YOUR NAME HERE	

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US PAID POSTAGE
TOPEKA, KANSAS
PERMIT NO. 525

National Active & Retired
Federal Employees Association
2632-b SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66614-2497