



# NARFE Chapter 0002, Topeka, KS

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



Meetings at Aldersgate Village in Wesley Hall

7220 SW Asbury Drive. Topeka, KS

APRIL 2016

From President Jim Miller's Desk [snyderfan89@cox.net](mailto:snyderfan89@cox.net) 478-0651



**CALL**  
**Earlene Jirik**  
**266-5492**  
**OR**  
**Jim Miller**  
**478-0651**

**With Y-O-U-R**  
**Reservations AND**  
**Cancellations**  
**By**

**Saturday, April 16**  
**as the kitchen needs**  
**totals to place food**  
**order. Thanks for**  
**your cooperation**  
**and understanding.**

**April 22nd**  
**Earth Day**

**Lunch At Noon**  
**Chicken Broccoli**  
**Casserole**  
**Buttered, Seasoned**  
**Carrots**  
**Fruited Jello Salad**  
**Rolls**  
**Beverage**  
**Ice Cream**

**\* Note \***  
**ADDRESS ANY**  
**SPECIAL DIETARY**  
**NEEDS WITH**  
**ERNESTINE & JIM**

**Cost: \$9.00**

**INVOCATION BY**

*Jo Burenheide*



**SPEAKER**  
**Farai Harold**  
**Center for Safety**  
**And**  
**Empowerment**  
**of Women**

Spring has sprung! As of this writing, no tornadoes but our guest speaker for March, Zach Ahrens, publisher/editor of the Topeka Daily Capital/Journal announced the newspaper is assembling articles and first person stories for a 50th anniversary special for that June 6, 1966 horrendous event. Count this as a reminder to BE PREPARED for storm warnings and have your ready kit if at home when the sirens go off. The Red Cross has a list of important items to pack for short time and longer destruction. If you have your own list, good for you! Be sure the list is updated as is the emergency kit!

Thank you to those members who called me on my March column with my reference to NARFE-PAC! I read that again, and some felt it inferred Legislators at the state level were eligible for NARFE-PAC funds. **NO!** FEDERAL members of Congress are eligible for NARFE-PAC funds....STATE members of the KS Legislature are not. Nor are NARFE PAC funds freely offered to anyone campaigning for office. Their campaign office HAS to request the funds, then the NARFE-PAC approval committee scrutinizes their voting records. Legislator friends who support NARFE goals and purposes receive full consideration. Again, if you have questions about NARFE-PAC, contact me. NARFE has brochures with all the information you want. Why NARFE-PAC?

Ron Richey's informational column notes the sad fact that some members of Congress are determined to solve the national debt by piling more burdens on federal employees and federal retirees benefits are also being scrutinized. Remember Jeb Hensarling (R-TX) who proposed CUTTING out annuities by 2% a year for ten years with zero COLAS = a 20 % drop in our incomes. Toss in an increased percentage share of paying our Health Benefits and get out the federal retirees Girl Scout cookies door to door sales to make ends meet! Ron writes that Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (R-WI) may not have the 218 votes required to pass his pet budget, but that won't end the battles as long as opposing representatives hold office. Will the November elections provide a change if legislators and attitudes? We can hope and we can help! NARFE PAC is a proven way.

We welcome Sharon Rosenow to the Chapter Executive Committee. Sharon served very well during our hosting of the state convention and we firmly believe her skills will be valuable additions to our chapters operation.

With that, I look forward to decent weather on April 22! Join us for lunch and learn more about WOMAN EMPOWERMENT!

## ALZHEIMER'S AUCTION AT NARFE CONVENTION IN SALINA

**APRIL MEETING LAST CHANCE!** Even if you can not attend the convention, you are invited to donate an item or two for either the live or silent auction that is of "new" or "antique" quality — it should be something you would use and be able to receive a minimum bid of \$5. Our chapter will receive credit for monies raised on the items we contribute in support of NARFE Alzheimer's Research. *Thanks, Sue Wike, Chapter Alzheimer's Chair*

**Legislative News from Ron Richey, Legislative Chair [ronaldgrich@aol.com](mailto:ronaldgrich@aol.com)**

There are 47,222 active and retired federal and postal employees in Kansas. NARFE has 38 chapters in Kansas and approximately 3,354 members. We will have more information on the tables at the next NARFE meeting on April 22, 2016. You might like to call Barbara McLain (272-3407) for more information on how to sign up new members and how to sign up for your dues with holding.

US Senate return after April 1<sup>st</sup> and the US House return after April 11<sup>th</sup> from recess for the Easter holiday. Last month I met with Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins, and that same day I met with the Staff of Senator Pat Roberts. My wife and I met with a staff person of Senator Jerry Moran in Olathe, KS. I have been monitoring the Kansas State Legislature every day and setting in on the committee meetings. They adjourned March 24 and they go back for the Veto Session on Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. The 90<sup>th</sup> day is May 18<sup>th</sup>.

**April 27th**—Kansas Legislature is having they annual shrimp and auction for Special Olympics. For more information call Senator or Representative.

**April 28th**—Frank Graham, the Son of Billy Graham, is going to be at the Capitol Building at noon for a prayer meeting.

The VA Hospital is going to have their Annual Retirement Meeting and Party at the Coyote Canyon on April 28, 2016, at 11:00 AM.

We are in need of more volunteers to help monitor the activities of the Kansas Legislature. You can listen to the legislature and read about the bills at: <http://www.kslegislature.org/li/>.

**NARFE CHAPTER 0002 MINUTES**

**MARCH 25, 2016 - ALDERSGATE VILLAGE**

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

**Welcome and Invocation was given by Joanne Miller followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.** A meal was offered for \$9.00.

**Program Zach Ahrens, President and Publisher Topeka Capital Journal** - Zach spoke on changes happening at the Capital Journal. He believes in the 5 basic ingredients for a recipe to success. 1. Reach - he wants to reach as many potential readers 2. Frequency - making sure that online subjects are updated to meet the needs of the public. 3. Content - He believes in verifying information to make sure it is accurate and reliable. 4. Audience - he believes that you should know your audience and make sure they receive the information needed to make informed decisions. 5. Brand - He believes that the Brand makes the success and keeping the brand modern as well as functional is important. He also said that the Capital Journal is sponsoring Bill Kurtis' return to the capital on June 4th to present a speech on: "For God sake take cover" to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the June 8th tornadoes. They are making a Bound magazine with stories and pictures from the date.

**Members Report, Earlene Jirik** – 45 and two guests Dan Applehans (retired USPS) and our speaker Zach Ahrens. Door prize was given away - an Easter Basket of goodies - won by Joan Arterburn. Four members assisted at KTWU Sunday, February 28 6-9 PM taking pledge calls and representing our membership — Sue and Richard Wike, Barb McLain, and Earlene Jirik

**Secretary, Gwen Ketter** – The Chapter minutes for the February meeting were printed in the newsletter. Minutes approved as printed. Gwen announced that the following members were elected to represent the Topeka NARFE Chapter - Dale & Earlene Jirik, Richard & Sue Wike, Ron & Joanne Miller, Ron & Navella Richey, Sharon Rosenow and Marcella Tinoco. After attending the convention the delegates will receive a refund of their registration fee. We can still have 4 other delegates if someone is interested.

**Treasurer, Bill Kastens** - We are still solvent - we have \$2,242.00

**Joanne Miller, Federation Alzheimer's Chair/ Newsletter Editor** - Read an article from Topeka Health and Wellness (February issue) about a small Kansas community (**CLAY COUNTY**) that has a 22% population diagnosed with Alzheimer's this shows the importance of Alzheimer's research. Topeka contribution to Alzheimer's during 2015 was \$4,894.00 (\$1,577 was from the auction at convention). Please remember to contribute any items for the convention to Sue by the next meeting.

**Barb McLain** - No response from mailing - no report.

**Richard Wike** - Next meeting speaker will be YWCA - empowerment of women.

**Reports:**

**Jo Burenheide, Good Cheer** - Get Well to George and Flora Spotts, Sherry Potter. Sympathy card was sent to the family of Velma Rice. Remember to let Jo know if you find out any information about members.

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

**Ron & Joanne Miller, Newsletter** - April 1 Deadline.

**New Business** - None.

**Next Executive Board Meeting** - Fri., April 1, 2016.

**Next NARFE General Meeting** - Fri., April 22, 2016.

**Sue Wike, Alzheimer's Chairperson** - Sue will be collecting Best Choice labels and any donations for Alzheimer's Research. Sue also asked that we remember to donate items for the Auction at Federation Convention in April. Make sure they are in good condition and worth at least \$5.00. 50/50 drawing 1st \$9.00 - Dolores Engel 2nd \$7.00 - Shirley Manning 3rd \$6.00, Dorothy Maddox - all donated money back to Alzheimer's.

**Meeting Adjourned @ 1:36 PM**

*Respectfully submitted, Gwendolyn Ketter*

**Definition: va can cy**

an unoccupied position or job.

*Lets fill these positions in National Volunteer Month.*

**Chapter 0002 Officers**

|                    |                  |          |
|--------------------|------------------|----------|
| President          | Jim Miller       | 478-0651 |
| 1st Vice President | Barbara McLain   | 272-3407 |
| 2nd Vice President | Richard Wike     | 783-8122 |
| Secretary          | Gwendolyn Ketter | 220-7196 |
| Treasurer          | Bill Kastens     | 272-2604 |
| Member-At-Large    | Mary Harms       | 249-0511 |
| Member-At-Large    | Sharon Rosenow   | 640-7317 |

**Other Contacts**

|                    |                                 |          |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|----------|
| Service Officer    | Bill Kastens                    | 272-2604 |
| Newsletter Editors | Joanne & Ron Miller             | 271-8117 |
| Alzheimer Chair    | Sue Wike                        | 783-8122 |
| Publicity          | Earlene Jirik                   | 266-5492 |
| Good Cheer         | Jo Burenheide                   | 272-8971 |
| <b>Historian</b>   | <b>THINK—Could this be you?</b> |          |
| <b>PAC Chair</b>   | <b>THINK—Could this be you?</b> |          |

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