



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



Chapter 0002, Topeka, Kansas

FEBRUARY 2016

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

If you are fortunate spending time in your doctor's waiting room, you may find fairly new copies of magazines! I obtained a copy of SCIENCE magazine and among many newsworthy articles read these facts, attention Joanne Miller, Federation Alzheimer's Chair! In 2014, the NIA (National Institute on Aging) dedicated 25% of their budget to ALZHEIMERS 2016, 50%! Half of their research budget for one of NARFE's national projects! That is the good news. The bad news is...that leaves 50% for the remaining projects for Aging issues.

I trust you enjoyed the sun and warm temperatures as January ended because Februarys have not been good to NARFE chapter meetings. Cancellations, bad weather, chances of more snow and ice drops temperatures and attendance. No blame game as we understand fully the dangers and consequences of falls. We discussed these issues at our January 29 executive meeting, among many additional agenda items. For those who canceled the January chapter meeting, the Village maintenance had cleared and cleaned the sidewalks and the parking so members experienced no dangers so we can hope that continues.

We will be electing delegates to the NARFE state convention in Salina, KS, April 24-25-26. If you have questions on delegate or alternate delegate duties, we will have information on hand. Gwen Ketter stated we are entitled to fourteen delegates plus Gwen Ketter, Federation Secretary and Jim Miller, Chapter President. We attend as Members-at-Large due to our elected positions. The state convention is a great opportunity to be brought up to date on political issues (the Kansas Legislature has promised a shorter session this year but don't bet on it!) and the national level. Old adage, Nothing of Importance is ever passed in an election year. We rarely attend a state convention without learning valuable information and actions being taken. **Too, if you plan to attend and want to attend specific committee meetings, give your information to Gwen.** Topeka Chapter 0002 is usually well represented at the state conventions.

So, hoping to see a bright sunshiny day on February 26, and your bright, sunshiny faces, see you then!

IMPORTANT NOTE: In column to left we have a new reservation deadline, the Saturday before our meeting!!!

Legislative News from Ron Richey, Legislative Chair ronaldgrich@aol.com

The Office of Personnel Management will hold a "limited enrollment period" from February 1 through February 29 for those employees who missed Open Season this past fall and want to opt into self-plus-one. The February enrollment period is only for self-plus-one changes, and is not an extension of Open Season, which ended in mid-December, OPM said. Their phone # is 202-606-1800. Retirees can decrease their coverage at any time.

In Kansas on March 5, 2016, the Republicans and Democrats are going to have a primary to select delegates to choose a candidate to represent their party in the election of a President for the United States. The General Primary is August 2, 2016, and the General Election is on November 8, 2016.

NARFE Headquarters and the US Congress closed their offices for several days due to snow. The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs held a hearing, "Laying out the Reality of the United States Postal Service," on January 21 to discuss the current state of the United States Postal Service (USPS) and how it can be improved.

One of the witnesses called to testify before the Committee was Postmaster General Megan Brennan, who offered several cost-cutting proposals, including mandatory Medicare integration for all postal retirees. In her written testimony, Brennan stated, "Requiring full participation in Medicare by eligible annuitants is a universal practice among nearly all private-sector and state and local government employers who provide health benefits to retirees."

In a letter sent to committee members in advance of the hearing, NARFE stated its opposition to mandatory Medicare integration, which is included in the Improving Postal Operations, Services and Transparency (iPost) Act (S. 2051), introduced by Sen. Tom Carper, D-DE. NARFE also opposes S. 2051's arbitrary reduction in Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) benefits for postal and federal employees. S. 2051 would cut compensation benefits by 25-35 percent for workers at retirement age and eliminate supplemental benefits for FECA beneficiaries with dependents.

The letter also reaffirmed NARFE's commitment to six-day delivery and to-the-door delivery, and stressed the importance of maintaining rural postal services. With 25 percent of NARFE's membership coming from the U.S. Postal Service, postal reform continues to be a central point of the Association's legislative agenda.

At NARFE's Legislative Action Center there is two letters on the [Legislative Action Center](#), NARFE's grass-roots advocacy hub, have been updated.

I have been monitoring the Kansas State Legislature every day and setting in on the committee meetings. You can listen to the legislature and read about the bills at: <http://www.kslegislature.org/li/>. February 10 is the last day for individuals to introduce bills and February 12 is the last day for committees to introduced bills. February 26 is Turnaround Day and is the last day to consider Bills of Origin in the House and Senate, except by House and Senate Federal and State Affairs, Senate Ways and Means, Senate Assessment and Taxation, House committees on Calendar and Printing, Appropriations, Taxation or select committees of either house when so authorized.

The 2016 NARFE Scholarship Program (open to eligible children, grandchildren & great-grandchildren of NARFE members) will run February 1 through April 29.



HELP! HELP!

**Jim Miller
needs**

**Reservations AND
Cancellations**

By

Saturday,

*** * February 20 * ***

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

Feb. 26th

Lunch At Noon

Tilapia

**Potato Casserole
with cheese**

Asparagus

Rolls

Beverage

**Yellow Sheet Cake
with light frosting**

Cost: \$9.00

INVOCATION BY

Dale Jirik

**Carol
Ronnebaum
Seniors Real
Estate Specialist
on
Downsizing
a Home**

**We would like to
encourage you to
pass out NARFE
Business Cards.
The more cards we
pass out the more
people will know
about the NARFE
Name and the
result is that you
can sign up
NARFE members.**

ALZHEIMER'S AUCTION AT CONVENTION

After hearing the February speaker you might realize you have a treasure or two worth **AT LEAST \$5** that could help raise our chapter's annual contribution to NARFE Alzheimer's Research. Chapter Alzheimer's Chair, Sue Wike will take items at the February, March and April meetings.

NARFE CHAPTER 0002 MINUTES

JANUARY 22, 2016 - ALDERSGATE VILLAGE

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

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

Program was cancelled due to illness in family.

Members Report, Earlene Jirik – 35 and we were to have one guest Will Kastens, but he had an emergency and was unable to attend. Door prize drawing for jar of chocolates was won by Richard Wike.

Secretary, Gwen Ketter – The Chapter minutes for the October meeting were printed in the newsletter no changes or corrections noted. Minutes approved as printed. Gwen announced that we would elect our delegates for the 2016 Federation convention at the February meeting. Gwen also read the proposed Bylaw change that will be voted on by the chapter at the next meeting. Delegates will then vote the chapter's wishes at the Federation convention.

Bill Kastens, Treasurer – We are still solvent - we have \$2,866.00 (some of the money is Alzheimer's).

Joanne Miller, Federation Alzheimer's Chair/Newsletter Editor – Deadline for February newsletter is Jan 29, 2016. Joanne thanked all membership for donations to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research. Joanne also passed around flyers for Operation Backpack's soup luncheon to be held Saturday

February 27th at Our Savior's Lutheran Church 2021 SW 29th Street from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Barb McLain, 1st Vice President and Membership – Mailed out 88 letters to attendees at the VA Health Fair. Thanked members for signing up to do the invocation at the chapter meetings.

Richard Wike, 2nd Vice President – Next meeting speaker will be Carol Ronnenbaum from Caldwell Banker. She will speak on downsizing and selling your home.

Reports:

Jo Burenheide, Good Cheer – Sympathy card was sent to Ethelyn Lambott on the death of her daughter. Get well card was sent to George Spotts. Congratulations card to Mary Harms. A Sympathy card was sent to the family of Robert Strenk. 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.

New Business – None.

Announcements – Mary Harms got married. Congratulations go out to her.

Next Executive Board Meeting – Friday, January 29

Next NARFE General Meeting – Friday, February 26

Sue Wike Alzheimer's Chairperson – Sue will be collecting Best Choice labels and any donations for Alzheimer's Research. 50/50 drawing 1st \$8.00 - Barb McLain, 2nd \$5.00 - Les Beagulin and 3rd \$4.00 - Earlene Jirik - all donated money back to Alzheimer's.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted, Gwendolyn Ketter

POLITICIAN

One who shakes your hand before elections and your confidence later.



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 Who will fill this vacancy?

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

Historian Who will fill this vacancy?

PAC Chair Who will fill this vacancy?