



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



Chapter 002, Topeka, Kansas

JANUARY 2014

**FIRST NARFE
MEETING
OF 2014
NOON ON
FRIDAY
JANUARY 24TH**
**Remember!
We meet the
fourth Friday**



**Reservations
~ AND ~
cancellations
are due NLT
Monday,
January 20th
to Jim Miller
478-0651**

MENU

**Fried Catfish
Pot Roast
Mashed Potatoes
and Gravy
Cole Slaw
Vegetable Medley
Rolls & Butter
Beverage
Carrot Cake**

Cost: \$9.00

PROGRAM

**CHRIS
MERRIWEATHER**

**Jayhawk
Area Agency
on Aging**



**for
BETTY BORN**

**South Woods @
Brandon Woods**

**4720 Brandon
Woods Terrace
Lawrence, KS
66047**

From The President's Desk

HAPPY NEW YEAR - With a question mark? The Kansas Legislature rolls into Topeka with an already full agenda, and a looming \$300 million deficit to cope with. Toss in the dismal fact that many of the elected will hand carry already written legislation from their * ALEC convention, and it will be a long 90 days! * ALEC is the acronym for AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL and if you haven't heard of the inherent dangers of that organization, I'll be ready to cuss and discuss with you at the January 24 chapter luncheon meeting.

Your chapter executive committee met to close out 2013 and make preliminary plans for 2014. Concerns of committee members: (1) some e-mail messages from NARFE HQ are garbled, refer to Regional Vice President Carol Ek, (2) NEVER schedule an executive committee meeting during the 1st week of the year! (3) from chapter Treasurer Bill Kastens, check to federation for Alzheimers Research, pay the annual USPS mailing permit for the newsletter sent by mail, pay the per capita tax to federation, and (4) vacancies to be filled.

Paul Manning has been welcoming luncheon attendees and guests for years, and starting with the January 24 lunch/meeting, we will try to fill that post. It's a great opportunity to meet, welcome, and check in members. Galen Rapp, Vice President and Membership Chairman strongly suggested our chapter take a new direction in working to attract and retain members. He will assist and work 2014, but this will be his last year as Chairman. Our ideal Membership Committee makeup is yet to be decided; suggestions included at least six members with two Co-Chairs.

Richard Wike, Vice President and Program Chairman has lined up programs/speakers for January, February and March. Richard was thanked and congratulated for his appearance as Santa Claus at our Christmas luncheon. January program will be Chris Merriweather from the Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging.

As my friends in Louisiana say (it's cold-d-d-d there also!) let the good times roll! I'll see you January 24.

Jim Miller, President

snyderfan89@sbcglobal.net

478-0651

Legislative News

Thank you Kansas Federation National Legislative Chair Louis Bornman and Kansas Congresswoman Melanie Meier, for the KS Department of Revenue report about the Tax liability regarding distributions federal retirees receive from their Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). I passed out copies addressing this topic at our Chapter 2 NARFE December meeting and I will repeat it at our next meeting on January 24, 2014.

On January 2, 2014, they cut the ribbon at the Kansas Capitol Building for the new welcome center and on Kansas Day, January 29th they will dedicate the newly remodeled Capitol.

The Kansas Legislature starts its Ninety Day Session on January 13, 2014. The Legislature opens with a Day of Prayer in the Capital and the Legislature starts at 2 PM. The Governor will give his State of the State Address on January 15, 2014, and it will be on Public TV. All bills that were introduced or were partially worked last year can be brought back and revisited this year.

NARFE President Joseph A. Beaudoin reports that the budget deal was agreed to be bitter-sweet for the federal community. NARFE and our coalition partners were able to fend off any cuts affecting current federal employees and retirees. For a group that has already sacrificed \$113 billion in deficit reduction, the 'enough is enough' message resonated with members of the budget committee. Unfortunately, once again, future federal employees will pay for sequestration offset and deficit reduction. Beginning in 2014, new hires in federal service will pay 1.3 percent more of their salary towards retirement, creating a third tier of contributions for Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) employees, depending on the date of hire. Pre-2013 FERS-covered employees pay 0.8 percent; 2013 hires are paying 3.1 percent; and 2014 and beyond hires will pay 4.4 percent for their FERS pensions. The 10-year savings for this provision is \$6 billion.

NARFE members have long called for a 'self plus one' option in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, and we are pleased to see this provision in the budget agreement.

Ron Richey, Legislative Chair

NARFE Chapter 002 - December 6, 2013 - Aldersgate Village

Hospitality room opened at 11:00 AM with Mary Harms, Dolores Engel and committee members setting up the room and serving.

Registration staffed by Bill Kastens, Treasurer, Paul Manning, board member at Large, George and Flora Spotts - 70-75 registrants expected on a cold day.

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

Welcome and Invocation was given by Dale Jirik followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A Christmas meal was offered for \$12.00.

Members Report, Paul Manning – Actual attendance was 59 members and 3 guests: Elizabeth (1st VP KS Federation NARFE Chapters) and Louis Bornman (Area 1 VP) and Connie Bahner.

Program - 3rd graders from Mater Dei Catholic School, arranged by Mary Harms performed for the crowd - Special visitor Santa (Richard Wike - Good Job!!!) welcomed all.

Special Guests - Elizabeth Bornman gave a pitch for voting. Louis Bornman spoke about the 2% increase, chained CPI and TSP.

Secretary, Gwen Ketter – Absent—working volunteer job at Festival of Trees.

Treasurer, Bill Kastens – General Fund Balance \$9,969.

Reports:

Distinguished Members in attendance were given award certificates - Congratulations to all.

Next Executive Board Meeting – Thursday January 2, 2014 at 9:30 AM .

Next NARFE General Meeting – Friday January 24, 2014 at 12:00 PM - (Remember there are five Fridays in January).

George Spotts, Alzheimer Chairperson: The 50/50 drawing: all three winners donated their money back to Alzheimer's Research.

Meeting Adjourned

Interim Secretary, Jim Miller

(not to be confused with our esteemed President)

Resolve To Be a Better Member in 2014!

This message urges ALL Chapter 002 members to make—and to keep—resolutions pertaining to our organization. These resolutions are easier to keep than many others you'll make, and they'll make you a better NARFE chapter member and make our chapter better and stronger too.

- I will become a more active Chapter 002 member.
- I will regularly attend chapter membership meetings and participate in other chapter activities and events.
- I will bring others (especially prospective members) to our meetings and events.
- I will volunteer to work with our chapter, and serve on either a standing committee or one formed for a special event or purpose.
- I will give serious thought to running for office.
- I will become a NARFE recruiter, and actively help to increase our chapter's membership.
- I will carry NARFE membership applications with me at all times (in my purse or car).
- I will read my NARFE national and chapter publications faithfully, and/or our on-line ones.
- I will not let my dues lapse; to make paying my dues easy and convenient, I will sign up for dues withholding (for retirees only) or pay via a multi-year dues plan (and save \$\$ paying either way).

In return, NARFE, and particularly Chapter 002, resolves to continue to be the best organization for retired and active federal workers—especially since it's our nation's only organization that exclusively devotes its attention to our special interests and concerns.

Above message was authored by Dorothy Campbell for publication in the Maryland Greater Bowie-Crofton Area Chapter 1747 Newsletter (JANUARY 2013).

Chapter 002 Officers

President	Jim Miller	478-0651
1st Vice President	Galen Rapp	478-3701
2nd Vice President	Richard Wike	783-8122
Secretary	Gwendolyn Ketter	220-7196
Treasurer	Bill Kastens	272-2604
Member-At-Large	Paul Manning	272-6208

Other Contacts

Good Cheer	Helen Price	478-9602
Membership Chair	Galen Rapp	478-3701
Service Officer	Bill Kastens	272-2604
Editors	Joanne & Ron Miller	271-8117
Alzheimer Chairs	George & Flora Spotts	233-7108
Publicity	Earlene Jirik	266-5492