



# NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



## Chapter 0002, Topeka, Kansas

### JANUARY 2015



E-mail or call your Reservations AND Cancellations NOT LATER THAN Wednesday, January 21 to Jim Miller

**Jan. 23rd**  
**\$9 Noon Buffet**  
**In Wesley Hall**

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

### PROGRAM

**Special Assistance in Fire Emergencies**  
by  
Fire Marshal  
Michael Martin

### 2015 CALENDAR NOTATIONS

1/23 Monthly Mtg. (4th Friday)  
2/27 Monthly Mtg.  
3/27 Monthly Mtg.  
4/24 Monthly Mtg.

Sunday 4/26 –  
Tuesday 4/28  
**NARFE CONVENTION**  
**@ TOPEKA'S**  
**DOWNTOWN**  
**RAMADA**

5/22 Monthly Mtg. (4th Friday)  
6/26 Monthly Mtg.

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

**PRESIDENT'S NEW YEARS MUTTERINGS - 2015** and we bid First Vice President Galen Rapp and Correspondence Chair Helen Louise Price a heartfelt Thank You as they retire from those duties, but not from NARFE! We welcome new First Vice President Barbara McLain who has already made her first pitch to and for our membership efforts. She knows too well and reinforced by Galen....with legislators, numbers mean strength.

Headline in the Kansas City Star December 29, 2014 - **KANSAS LEADERS MUST FACE REALITY IN 2015.** Several years ago, BEFORE the 2015 fiscal crisis, Governor Brownback targeted the federal retirees state income tax exemption. That still seems odd, as he also wants to eliminate ALL income tax for ALL Kansans. In a nutshell, that will explain the 2015 KS Legislature, and what will transpire. There will be much debate and proposed laws from those debates. It promises to be a "interesting" year and an ancient Chinese curse is said to be "May you live in interesting times." To ALL NARFE members and those federal retirees who should be, 2015 is the best year yet to introduce yourself to your legislators. Educate ourselves and write! A hand written letter or note is far more valuable than signing a petition. I was told by a staffer the thinking in the office is....if a citizen is too lazy to write and thinks a petition will get the job done....they are probably too lazy to vote. Sad indictment because many people, especially senior citizens have difficulty writing or even holding a pen or pencil. If that is a problem for any of our members, let me know (478-0651) or a relative or friend who can and will write your message for you. The critical issue is communication! I hope to see you on January 23! GO CATS

From Ron Richey, Legislative Chair [ronaldgrich@aol.com](mailto:ronaldgrich@aol.com) 234-4172

In the Lame Duck Session the U S Congress passed a tax bill that is good through December 31, 2014. This is going to make the Income Tax Books come out late. One of the items included in the bill will retroactively increase the mass transit benefit for federal employees and other workers for 2014. I have information on taxes about TSP funds from the Kansas Department of Revenue. I will have this information at the next NARFE meeting on January 23, 2015, or you can call me. President Barack Obama signed Congress' \$1.1 trillion spending bill. In the bill the Blue-Collar and General Scheduled Employees receive a 1 percent pay raise. So does the military. Congress has passed a bill that will automatically enroll new federal employees in the Thrift Savings Plan's Lifecycle Funds, rather than the Government Securities Investment Fund.

NARFE President Richard G. Thissen testified before the House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce about the progress the OPM is making in decreasing its backlog of retirement annuity claims.

The new US Congress started on January 6, 2015, and President Barack Obama will present the State of the Union Address on January 20, 2015.

The Kansas Congress started for ninety days on Monday, January 12, 2015 at 2 PM. The day opened with worship and prayer in the Meditation Room, 2nd floor across from the Governor's office. Prayer walks were conducted throughout the Kansas Capitol. Governor Sam Brownback's Inauguration was at 11 AM on the south steps. On Thursday, January 15, 2015, Kansas Governor Brownback presented the Kansas State of the Union address to the Kansas Congress. Some changes occurred in both the Kansas House and Senate Committees. Marvin Kleeb, R-Overland Park, will lead the House Taxation Committee, replacing Rep. Richard Carlson, R-St. Mary's, who left the Legislature. The 154th Birthday of Kansas is January 29, 2015, at the Capitol. Listen and read about the Kansas Legislature at <http://www.kslegislature.org/li/>.

The cost of living stands at a decrease of -1.15%. The December 2014 CPI data is scheduled to be released on January 16, 2015, at 8:30 A.M. Eastern Time.

Go to <https://www.servicesonline.opm.gov/> to View/Print your 1099-R Tax Forms.

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.

It is a new year (2015) and this is a good time to fill out a D-100 form (Be Prepared for Life's Events) in pencil for your family, and a dues withholding for you, if you have not already done so. Forms are available at the NARFE meeting or you can call us to receive forms.

**NARFE CHAPTER 0002 MINUTES**

**DECEMBER 5, 2014 - ALDERSGATE VILLAGE**

Due to the construction ongoing in Wesley Hall changes were necessary in order to hold our Christmas luncheon.....at 2:30 P.M., not noon, and in the Dining Room, not Wesley Hall. Chapter officers did a very good job in notifying members of the time and location change but! My apologies to the five members who didn't receive that notice. I stationed myself at the doors, greeted each member as they entered, and gave them options (1) return home and come back at 2:30; (2) go to the Dining Room, eat, and then wait until 2:30. My profound thank you to the Faithful Five, and to the 39 who rearranged their schedules and meal times. Because of the changes, the program Mary Harms had planned could not perform. Because of the missing Santa Suit, Vice President Richard Wike was relieved of that duty. Those who attended enjoyed a traditional Christmas dinner and reports were at a minimum. We had no federation officers present, so your "new" officers have not been sworn in. *(Sworn at is more likely.)*

**Chapter Treasurer Bill Kastens** kept his report short.... We aren't broke! Minutes accepted; **new First Vice President Barbara McLain** was introduced and jumped onto the membership challenges we face in 2015. **George Spotts, Alzheimer Chairperson**, drew the ticket numbers for 50-50 and all three winners gave their winnings to NARFE Alzheimers Research. Bill Kastens has the name of those members, who were truly caught up in the Christmas Spirit. The shortest chapter meeting in my memory concluded before 3:15.

—*Reconstructed by Jim Miller, Chapter President*

**CHAPTER ALZHEIMER 2014 TOTAL**

We exceeded the goal of \$5.50 per member thanks to your contributions, memorials, monthly 50/50, return on Best Choice labels and a "huge thank you to Gwen and four members" who worked one day at the Renaissance Festival concessions that paid us \$525! *Let's do it again in the fall.*

**ATTENTION PHOTOGRAPHERS**



Due date for your best shots for the 2016 NARFE Photo Contest Calendar is **2/15/15**.

Contest open to all NARFE members (except those who work as professional photographers), whether or not they already have had a photo appear in past calendars. To view contest guidelines and entry rules on the NARFE website, go to [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org), log in as a member, then click on Special Programs at left.

**SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS**

Aside from "Ho, Ho, Ho!" and holiday music, perhaps no other sound says Christmas more than the ring of a Salvation Army bell. The Salvation Army red kettle is one of the most timeless and successful Christmas fundraising tools of all time. Bell ringers raise an average of \$30/hour. Thanks to Earlene and all who did an "indoor" shift at Hobby Lobby on December 8th.

**THREE CHAPTER JOB VACANCIES**

**(Open until filled by YOU)**

- ◆ **Good Cheer Correspondent**
- ◆ **Historian**
- ◆ **NARFE PAC Chair**

Questions about duties and willingness to step up to the plate should be directed to Jim Miller.

**"UPCOMING" STATE CONVENTION**

All hands are needed for this endeavor — wondering how you can help (see below).

- ◆ Solicit door prizes from businesses you frequent
- ◆ Secure advertising for program book
- ◆ Donate quality items for Alzheimer Auctions
- ◆ Donate item for a "Theme" basket
- ◆ Help with intake of Alzheimer Auction items (4/26)
- ◆ Donate food for Hospitality Room
- ◆ Work a one or two-hour shift in Hospitality Room
- ◆ **ATTEND NEXT CONVENTION PLANNING MTG. 1/23/15 - 10 AM (morning of our monthly mtg.)**

**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	<b>Vacant</b>	
Historian	<b>Vacant</b>	
NARFE PAC Chair	<b>Vacant</b>	

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