



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



Chapter 0002, Topeka, Kansas

JANUARY 2016

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

JANUARY



PLEASE NOTE

Jim Miller
needs
Y-O-U-R
Reservations
AND/OR
Cancellations
By
Wednesday,
* * January 20 * *
for an
accurate count
to the kitchen!

Jan. 22nd

Lunch At Noon

Pot Roast w/carrots,
onions & tomatoes
Halved Yukon Gold
Potatoes
California Blend
Rolls
Beverage
Pie (variety)

Cost: \$9.00

INVOCATION BY
Barb McLain

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

Vivian Mosier

Center for Safety
and Empowerment
of Women



Heading into 2016, Barbara McLain, First Vice President and Membership Chair have been very busy! We have the envelopes prepared and will mail 88 letters to VA employees who cared enough about our information to provide their names and addresses. Postage expenses are covered by my rapidly dwindling vintage stamp collection. Many of you saw some of those when George and Flora Spotts used a few hundred to mail their NARFE Alzheimers Fund request. So we enter the new year running!

For those of us who have enjoyed the state income tax free benefit, thanks to NARFE legislative members including our own Oscar Albrecht, 2016 looms as a year not to relax our vigilance. The State of Kansas treasury is not on life support yet, but it seems every day brings another blow to state finances. Tradition shows when financial tough times threaten, the tough (legislators) get going...in the direction of the easiest targets. Those include federal employees and retirees. Our organization and members are usually mentioned in testimony by the Americans For Prosperity as fair game.

Meals at ALDERSGATE Village! For those members who have asked why eat here, the answers have been simple. Good food, plenty of it, reasonable prices, no charge for meeting room and sound or other equipment, all on one level, and parking. To say I was disappointed in our Christmas luncheon, cost \$12.00 is a understatement. I am meeting with the Dining Room Manager and Head Chef, early in January for a frank discussion, including the possibility of special meal orders for those observing Lent. (Some members like fish and I am one of those!) Back to the second sentence, your Executive Committee had heard several suggestions and possibilities, then decided it would be best if we can work out improvements with ALDERSGATE. IF you as a member or members have another viable possibility, please let me or any members of the Executive Committee know!

I hope you had a very enjoyable Christmas and assure you NARFE will be striving, here in Topeka and in Washington, DC to help you, me and all of us a happy and prosperous new year! **I look forward to greeting you on Friday, January 22nd! (FIVE Friday month!)**

Membership Report from First V-P, Barbara McLain

The VA Medical Center invited us to participate in their Health Fair on 18 November. There was a good turnout and we were able to pass out a lot of information about NARFE. Two lucky individuals won a free one year NARFE membership from our drawing. They are currently still working but hopefully will take the time to attend at least one of our meetings during the year. Thank you, Richard, Ron, Charlotte, Joanne and Jim for your time and effort.

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

The Office of Personnel Management will hold a "limited enrollment period" from February 1st through February 29th 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. Their phone # is 202-606-1800. Retirees can decrease their coverage at any time. The effective date of the change will be the first of the month following the month OPM receives your request.

We would like you to get out and register to vote if you have not already done so and if you have moved to a different location you may need to re-register at your new location. On March 5, 2016, the Kansas 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 November 8, 2016.

The US Congress returns to work during the first part of January. President Barack Obama will deliver his US State of the Union Address on January 12, 2016, at 8:00 PM and it is on Kansas Public TV.

We are in need of 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/>.

A Prayer and Worship Service begins at 8:00 AM at the Kansas Capitol on January 11, 2016, before the Kansas Legislature starts its session at 2:00 PM. Kansas Governor Sam Brownback will give his State Of The State Address to the Kansas Congress at 5:30 PM on January 12, 2016, and it will be on Kansas Public TV. He will release his Budget sometime that week. **Kansas Day is January 29, 2016.** More info will be available at our January 22nd meeting.

NARFE CHAPTER 0002 MINUTES

DECEMBER 11, 2015 - ALDERSGATE VILLAGE

A Social Hour was held prior to the meeting to get acquainted with our fellow members.

The meeting was called to order by **President Jim Miller** at 12:00 P.M. **Welcome and Invocation was given by Jo Sue Burenheide** followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A meal was offered for \$12.00.

Guest Speakers were:

Carol Ek, Region Five Vice President – who spoke on the Strategic Plan which is listed in it's entirety on the NARFE web site at NARFE.org. It is important for you to peruse the plan and offer you opinion to Topeka Chapter officers so they may pass on the information to Carol. She informed us that Region 5 is #5 in the National and Kansas is #2 in their support of Alzheimer's Research. Region 5 is #2 in the national and Kansas is #1 in PAC donations.

Elizabeth Bornman, 2nd VP for the Kansas Federation of NARFE – who spoke on the need to recruit new members into the organization

Louis Bornman, Area One VP – who spoke on ongoing legislative issues. Louis spoke about the need to become an informed voter with the National Elections coming up in 2016. **You can access all of these issues at NARFE.org.**

Members Report, Earlene Jirik – 38 members and 3 guests, our speakers were in attendance. A Door Prize drawing was held for members paying for a meal. Reminder to call and let Jim know if you are planning to attend. We are obligated to pay for all meal reservations that we make and they only prepare for the number of reservations we make. Members have had to wait for food the last two months, so please let Jim know by Wednesday prior to meeting if you are planning to attend.

Secretary, Gwen Ketter – The Chapter minutes for the October meeting were printed in the newsletter no changes or corrections noted. Minutes approved as printed.

Appointments – **Sue Wike** was appointed as our new Alzheimer's Chairperson.

Joanne Miller, Federation Alzheimer's Chair/Newsletter Editor – Deadline for Jan. newsletter is Jan. 4, 2016.

Joanne thanked all membership for donations to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research. Further research is needed and NARFE support is greatly appreciated. George Spotts was in the hospital (St. Francis Rm 629) and unable to be with us at the meeting. Joanne reported that our 2014 total was \$6.17/member and our 2015 year-to-date totals were \$12.81/member with letter campaign. This figure does not yet reflect the \$500.00 income from 50/50 raffles in 2015 and \$37.00 in tips for the bartender at the pre-meeting reception.

Reports:

Jo Burenheide, Good Cheer – Sympathy Cards were sent to family of Millie Burns, Alice Cartwright, Virginia Augustine and Robert Straub. Sympathy cards were sent to Darla Bowers on the death of her husband, Frank Mauer on the death of his brother and Steven Burrell on the death of his mother. Get well card was sent to Ethelyn Lambott.

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

Carol Ek, Installation of Officers for 2016 – Officers for 2016 - President - Jim Miller, 1st VP - Barbara McLain, 2nd VP - Richard Wike, Secretary - Gwen Ketter and Treasurer - Bill Kastens were installed by Carol Ek, Region 5 Vice President.

New Business – None.

Next Executive Board Meeting – TBD

Next NARFE General Meeting – Friday, January 22

Flora Spotts Alzheimer acting for George Spotts as chairperson was given a bouquet of flowers and a showboard of achievements as a thank you for both hers and George's service as Alzheimer's Chairman.

50/50 drawing 1st \$10.00 – Dolores Engel, 2nd \$8.00 - Ron Miller and 3rd \$6.00, Jim Miller – all donated money back to Alzheimer's.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted, Gwendolyn Ketter

Take time to view Aldersgate's Wall of Honor and see if you can find a picture of our illustrious leader.

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	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 Chair	Sue Wike	783-8122
Publicity	Earlene Jirik	266-5492
Good Cheer	Jo Burenheide	272-8971
Historian	Please consider volunteering	
PAC Chair	Please consider volunteering	

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