



# 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

## JANUARY 2017

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

As this is written we have been made well aware of the rigors of Kansas winter! Children and active younger folk greet snowfall with eagerness. We more elderly view the possibly slick sidewalks/streets as danger zones. Conditions and our attitudes should be viewed from at least several angles! Preferably from an erect position!

**New Years!** Time for new beginnings! Resolutions! Change of attitudes! Forecasts and predictions! Many "experts" dismiss those possibilities as useless (I will also) and point out, in the January 2016 column I wrote about the shaky financial condition of Kansas and some potential dangers to federal retirees and benefits. Nothing has changed except the makeup of the KS Legislature and that could be good news/bad news. The Brownback infamous tax cuts will be hashed and rehashed and if repealed, the 330,000, federal retirees will be swept up in that tide. Ron Richey (depending on his and Navella's health) will be a constant presence in the State House. I wrote about the travesty of our \$12 Christmas dinner and promised to meet the ALDERSGATE dining staff. Mission accomplished. We enjoyed a great 2016 Christmas dinner according to my feedback, and passed those compliments on to Dan Jones, new Head Chef. "YOUR" Chapter Executive Committee met January 6 and planned menus through August. Editors Joanne and Ron print those in the monthly newsletter for your information and committee members and officers are always open for your suggestions and ideas. Interested in serving on a small committee to help with membership — give me a jingle.

**2017!** Uncertainties, confusion and certainly challenging! I look forward to greeting you at our chapter meeting on January 27. Hope for a good weather day!

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

On January 20, 2017, at 12:00 noon Eastern Standard Time we will have a new U.S. President. The U.S. State of the Union will be given the end of January or First of February.

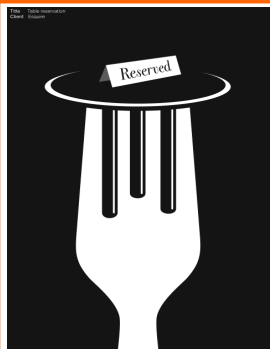
U.S. President Obama gave the federal employees and the military a 2.1% pay raise starting January 1, 2017. This is a good time to look at your Thrift Savings Plan to make changes or increase the amount of your withholding. One of the mistakes a federal employee makes is failure to take advantage of matching the percentage of money the Federal Government offers.

The 114<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress ended and the 115<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress started on January 3, 2017. In December the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress funded the government until April 30, 2017. The 115<sup>th</sup> Congress will spend a lot time filling the cabinet jobs and other positions for the new U.S. President.

The Kansas Legislature started its 90-Day Session on January 9, 2017. The Legislature opens with a Day of Prayer, starting in the morning, in the Kansas Capital and the Legislature starts at 2:00 PM. The Governor will give his State of the State Address on January 10, 2017, to the Kansas Legislature and it will be on Public TV at 5:00 PM. Jim Miller and I will be volunteering to monitor the Kansas Legislature. You can listen to the legislature and read about the bills at: <http://www.kslegislature.org/li/>. We are in need of more volunteers to help monitor the activities of the Kansas Legislature. They are going to have services at the Kansas Capital for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday. On January 16, 2017, you will be able get into the Federal Parks for free. January 29<sup>th</sup> is Kansas' birthday and a birthday cake will be served at the Kansas Capital for the occasion.

If you have children or grandchildren 7<sup>th</sup> grade through high school, they can volunteer to be a Page at the Kansas Legislature. Experience working as a page looks good on an application to college and/or a job resume and individuals are compensated \$5.00 per day. Contact your Kansas Representative or Kansas Senator for more information.

The Cost of Living stands at 0.06 percent. The Consumer Price Index for December 2016 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, January 18, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. (EDT). I will have information about taxes and the 114<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress at our next NARFE meeting on January 27, 2017.



**BY SAT.,  
JAN. 21st  
CALL  
EARLENE  
JIRIK  
266-5492  
FOR YOUR  
FRIDAY  
JAN. 27th  
RESERVED  
MEAL TICKET**

**N-O-T-E:  
1) THE SAME  
DATE APPLIES  
SHOULD  
YOU NEED TO  
CANCEL.**

### Lunch At Noon

**Meat Loaf  
Mashed Potatoes  
Mixed Vegetables  
Rolls  
Beverage  
Apple Crisp  
Cost: \$9.00**

**INVOCATION BY  
Barbara McLain**



by

**Denise  
Groene**

**Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right.**

**—Oprah Winfrey**

**NARFE CHAPTER 0002 MINUTES  
DECEMBER 9, 2016 - ALDERSGATE VILLAGE**

A Social Hour was held prior to the meeting to get acquainted with our fellow members. Great reception thanks to Dolores Engel and Charlotte Pittman. The musical group Schola Cantorum from Most Pure Heart of Mary was excellent.

The 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 meal was offered for \$12.00, which had two entrees.

**No Federation Officers were in attendance from outside of the Topeka chapter.**

**Members Report, Earlene Jirik** – 32 members and 3 guests and choir members were in attendance. One new member Sam Gonzales was in attendance. One guest Will Kastens was in attendance. Door Prize drawings were held for members paying for a meal. Door Prizes went to Ed Shaw and Ron Richey.

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

**Treasurer Elect, Ron Miller** – We have \$3,725.67 in our regular account and \$1,200.94 in our Life Savings Account. Total \$4,926.61.

**Richard Wike, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP** – No report

**Barbara McLain 1<sup>st</sup> VP** – No report

**Joanne Miller, Federation Alzheimer's Chair/Newsletter Editor** - Deadline for January newsletter is

January 6th. Joanne thanked all membership for donations to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research.

**Reports:**

**Jo Burenheide, Good Cheer** – Sympathy cards were sent to families of Shirley Biller, Roger Perry and Eleanor Rapp. Please remember to contact Jo if you know of anyone needing Good Cheer from the Topeka Chapter.

**Ron Richey, Legislative** – No report except to state that Kansas Legislature resumes January 9th.

**Dale Jirik, Installation of Officers for 2017** – Officers for 2017: President - Jim Miller, 1st VP – Sharon Rosenow, 2nd VP - Richard Wike, Secretary - Gwen Ketter and Treasurer – Ron Miller were installed by Dale Jirik, Chairman Election Committee.

**New Business** - None.

**Next Executive Board Mtg.** – Fri., Jan. 6, 9:30

**Next NARFE General Mtg.** – Fri., Jan. 27, noon

**Sue Wike, Alzheimer** – No report.

50/50 drawing 1st \$6.00 – Sharon Rosenow, 2nd \$5.00 – Barbara Decker and 3rd \$3.00 – Bill Kastens - all donated money back to Alzheimer's.

Meeting Adjourned

*Respectfully submitted, Gwendolyn Ketter*



**FOR OUR TWO WORK DAYS AT THE RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL**

**WE EARNED \$300 FOR NARFE ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH**

**Chapter 0002 Officers**

|                    |                  |          |
|--------------------|------------------|----------|
| President          | Jim Miller       | 478-0651 |
| 1st Vice President | Sharon Rosenow   | 640-7317 |
| 2nd Vice President | Richard Wike     | 783-8122 |
| Secretary          | Gwendolyn Ketter | 220-7196 |
| Treasurer          | Ron Miller       | 554-5313 |
| Member-At-Large    | Mary Harms       | 249-0511 |
| Member-At-Large    | Barbara McLain   | 272-3407 |

**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><i>Your name is needed here!</i></b> |          |
| <b>PAC Chair</b>   | <b><i>Your name is needed here!</i></b> |          |

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