



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 2018

From President Sharon Rosenow's Desk srosenow @sbglobal.net 640-7317

Happy New Year from your "new" president. Unfortunately Jim Miller has decided to step down from this position after many years of wonderful leadership. It will be very hard to fill his shoes but with the help of all the other fine officers and also all the members of Topeka 0002, we will go forward!

So let me introduce myself to those who may not know me. My name is Sharon Rosenow. I retired from the Eastern Kansas Health Care System (also known as the VA Medical Center) in 2011 after 35 + years in the Federal work place. Now I volunteer at a SE Topeka Food Pantry (I Care, Inc.), at my church (St. John's Lutheran) and am an avid babysitter to my son and daughter-in law's three children (Annalise, Avery and Archer) 2 grand dogs (Bob and Solstice) and 6 chickens (unnamed). I am a fairly new member to NARFE but I believe in the work that NARFE does for my retirement benefits, plus those of current Federal employees.

Lots of good things will be happening in 2018 and I hope you will be a part of those good things. Besides the information handed down to us from National, we hope to make more use of computer web sites, emails (we don't want to put the USPS out of business just yet!) and other tools that may make our life much more pleasant and fun. I know one thing I will need is all members who have emails to make sure we have their correct one.

So here's to NARFE and all its members! 2018 – Here We Come!

From Legislative & Membership Chair, Ron Richey ronaldgrich@aol.com 234-4172

NARFE Members attended the Heath Fair at the VA Hospital and the Federal Building where we passed out information from NARFE about Health Insurance. After that we followed up with prospective members on how to join NARFE for \$40.00/year. At these events NARFE Members talked with interested active and retired NARFE members about information in the NARFE magazines and explained how they can use the NARFE Federal Benefits Institute at: <https://www.narfe.org/FederalBenefitsInstitute/> to access free classes available to NARFE members or sign up for a class for \$39.95 and receive a free NARFE membership for a year. 2018 Upcoming Webinars (All webinars start at 2 p.m. ET)

- January 25 -- Map Your Path to a Smooth Retirement.
- February 22 -- What's YOUR Best Retirement Date?
- March 22 -- Social Security and Feds: What You Need to Know
- April 26 -- TSP: Maximizing Your Retirement Savings.
- May 24 -- How Much Do YOU Need for a Secure Retirement?
- June 21 -- Steps to a Speedy Federal Retirement.
- July 26 -- Survivor Benefits: Ensure Your Peace of Mind.

*** VIEW NOW! Previously recorded Webinars ***

We explained how NARFE members that renew their membership may sign up for dues withholding if they were retired and save 15%. If they were active employees we encouraged them to renew their membership with NARFE and the CHAPTER. Our chapter has volunteers to help monitor the activities of the Kansas Legislature to help keep your FEDERAL RETIREMENT INCOME TAX FREE IN KANSAS. You may listen to the legislature and read about the bills at: <http://www.kslegislature.org/li/> The Kansas Legislature started on January 8, 2018, with prayer on the hill at 10:00 AM, in the prayer room on the 2nd floor across from the Governors' office. The Ninety Day Session started at 2:00 PM. The Governor gave his State of the State Address on January 9, 2018, to the Kansas Legislature. Jim Miller and I will be volunteering to monitor the Kansas Legislature. They are going to have services at the Kansas Capital for Dr. Martin Luther King JR. Birthday on January 11, 2018. On January 15t 2018, you will be able get into the Federal Parks for free. January 29 is Kansas Birthday and a birthday cake will be served at the Kansas Capital for the occasion.

If you have children or grandchildren 7th 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 115th U.S. Congress started on January 3, 2018. In December the 115th Congress funded the government until January 19, 2018. They passed a tax cut starting in 2018 and it has slowed inflation adjustments in the tax code: The bill would use "chained CPI" to measure inflation, which is a slower measure than is used today. **I will have information available on the 115th Congress (2017-2018) at our January meeting.**

Setting the Record Straight: The Chained CPI & Tax Reform December 21, 2017

The recently approved tax reform bill, H.R. 1, indexes the newly formed tax brackets using the Chained CPI. This is causing some understandable confusion for NARFE members. However, the tax bill does not change the current index (CPI-W) used to determine annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs). NARFE strongly opposes using the Chained CPI for determining COLAs to federal and military retirement annuities and Social Security because it would decrease benefits and under-mine the true costs facing senior citizens.

The tax bill ties the tax brackets to the Chained CPI. Using the lower rate of inflation to calculate future tax rates means that taxpayers will more quickly fall into higher tax brackets. However, this does not impact the COLA experienced by seniors. NARFE will continue to oppose any effort to index cost-of-living adjustments to the Chained CPI.

The cost of living stands at 0.42%. The Consumer Price Index for December 2017 is scheduled to be released on Friday, January 12, 2018, at 8:30 a.m. (EDT).

IT IS IMPORTANT



THAT YOU CALL EARLENE JIRIK 266-5492 BY SATURDAY, JAN. 20TH WITH YOUR RESERVATION AND/OR CANCELLATION

PLEASE NOTE: The number of meals given to the Chef is the number the chapter must pay for. ALSO when people show up without making a reservation we may be short on food. LETS RESOLVE TO DO BETTER ON THIS IN THE NEW YEAR. THANK YOU!

January 26th

(arrive by 11:50 for NOON meal)

- Baked Chicken
- Shredded Potato Casserole
- Mixed Vegetables
- Rolls
- Beverage
- Pie Variety

Cost: \$9.00

INVOCATION BY

Barbara McLain

MIDLAND HOSPICE

Planned Health Care

WITH WARM APPRECIATION

*For our certificate, dinners, cookies and not one but two door prizes - what a nice organization to belong to.
Thanks, Paul & Shirley Manning*

**NARFE CHAPTER 0002 MINUTES
DECEMBER 8, 2017 - ALDERSGATE VILLAGE**

The annual Christmas Party and meeting was called to order by President Jim Miller at 12:00 P.M.

Welcome and Invocation was given by Ron Miller followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A \$12 buffet meal was served and we were honored to have in attendance Carol Ek, Region Five National Vice President.

We were entertained by the 2nd graders from Cair Paravel Latin School. They were charming and quite talented. Thank you Dolores Engel for planning the event. We missed you Charlotte Pittman, hope you are now well.

Members Report, Earlene Jirik – 37 members were in attendance. Door prizes were won by Shirley Manning, Sharon Rosenow, Paul Manning, Ron Richey and Jo Burenheide. Please contact Earlene to make or cancel any reservations for attending the monthly luncheons.

(We had made reservations for 48 people, but this ONE TIME Chef Joseph will only charge us for the 37 in attendance – Merry Christmas)

A Special Award was given to Paul and Shirley Manning for their 15 years of dedicated service with putting out the newsletter for our chapter. Stepping up to fill their shoes will be Judy Hower. Thank you Judy.

Secretary, Gwen Ketter – No report

Treasurer, Ron Miller – We are solvent.

Carol Ek, Region Five Vice President spoke for a couple of minutes on the importance of keeping up with what is happening in Washington DC. Make sure your views and needs are being stated. Let your voice be heard.

Second Vice-President, Richard Wike – January meeting will have a representative from Midland Care speak about

Planned Health Care.

National Region Five Vice President, Carol Ek installed the 2018 slate of officers. Since Jim Miller retired as long term President we were absent a President Elect. We are blessed with a First Vice President Sharon Rosenow who graciously stepped up to fill the vacancy.

Reports:

Dale Jirik, Chairman Nominating Committee – Gave a huge thank you to the newly installed Board: **President** – Sharon Rosenow, **2nd V-P** – Richard Wike, **Secretary** – Gwen Ketter and **Treasurer** – Ron Miller. Jim Miller is stepping down after holding the office of Topeka President for 11 years. Thank you Jim for all your hard work and dedication.

Joanne Miller, Federation Alzheimer's Co-Chair/ Newsletter Editor – Newsletter articles are due January 5th. On November 30th a Postal Stamp was released to benefit Alzheimer Research. The cost of each stamp will be \$.60 with the extra funds going to this important cause. There is also a drug trial being run in the KC area.

Jo Burenheide, Good Cheer – will give report in January

Ron Richey, Legislative/Membership – Legislative report listed in the newsletter.

Old Business – None **New Business** – None.

Next Executive Board Mtg. – Fri., Jan. 5th, 9:30 AM

Next NARFE General Mtg. – Fri., Jan. 26th, Noon.

Meeting Adjourned 1:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Gwendolyn Ketter

NARFE-PAC

Rumor is “I won’t give to PAC because I won’t bribe a member of Congress.” **Our contributions are not a bribe!** NARFE pools our monies and supports those members of Congress who support NARFE issues and priorities. **Then, the member must ask for PAC Funds.**

Jim Miller, NARFE-PAC Chairman

Chapter 0002 Officers

President	Sharon Rosenow	640-7317
1st Vice President	Vacant	
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	Acting Jim Miller	478-0651
Newsletter Editors	Joanne & Ron Miller	271-8117
Alzheimer Chair	Sue Wike	783-8122
Publicity	Earlene Jirik	266-5492
Good Cheer	Jo Burenheide	272-8971
Legislative/Membership	Ron Richey	234-4172
PAC Chair	Jim Miller	478-0651

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