



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Chapter 0002, Topeka, Kansas (Chartered 9/28/1947)



JULY AND AUGUST 2015

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

RETAIN THIS 2-MONTH ISSUE OF NEWSLETTER (as editors will be on vacation).

Thank you's are in order, beginning with First Vice President Barbara McLain who recruited EIGHT chapter members for the Alzheimer's Walk plus a friend who walked with one member. We might double the number and the pledges for next year?

Thank you to Ron Richey who completed another successful job being Ron on the Spot for the entirety of the KS Legislature record breaking (along with the KS budget) sessions. The huge problem with thank you's are you miss many other worthwhile workers/volunteers but space is limited so...a huge thank you and a tip of the NARFE cap to THE KAW VALLEY SENIOR MONTHLY! Kevin Groenhagen, Editor and Publisher. Kevin publishes our meetings monthly, without charge, plus this is a tip to pick up your free copy! The July 2015 issue is worth perusing for the informative articles and I'll cite just one, page 13, Bob Ramsdell writing about HEALTHCARE DECISION MAKING. Bob Ramsdell provides excellent, free resources to benefit seniors and their families. Pick a copy UP!

We have NARFE polo shirts with Fed. Employee? Retired Fed Employee? ASK ME ABOUT NARFE. Wearing that shirt invites the curious to (we trust) ask us about NARFE! We have membership recruiting NARFE forms on hand or on order, and those are available at the chapter meetings. The polo shirts should be worn for walks, parades, visits to Congressional offices. Ron Richey is in contact with the local office of Lynn Jenkins and it would be impressive to have a strong contingent in her office and waiting room!

Politically and legislatively, NARFE has been very effective...but only to this point. In Kansas, the Governor was left with a gaping \$50 million hole to fill, at his discretion as the Legislature couldn't find enough tax increases to cover that. On the federal level, federal employees have been sliced and diced with more cuts projected, and federal retirees benefits are also "low hanging fruit." Suggestions voiced but not projected into law...yet...include a COLA freeze (2) increase retirees share of health benefits premiums (3) a 10% cut in our annuities. My first thought is NARFE IS OUR FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE! TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES! RECRUIT A MEMBER OR A DOZEN NEW MEMBERS! Second thought to ponder, carefully review our style of living. If any or all of these ideas become law, as I explained in my letters to Congressional leaders, these cuts aren't to faceless unknowns. These are real people, many highly productive volunteers in their communities and helping to improve the quality of life for real people. **TELL PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS YOU NEED NARFE! NARFE NEEDS YOU!**

End of sermon and I will greet you on July 24th! (July is a five Friday month!) Please make your reservation and bear in mind, the number we reserve is the number we must pay for!

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

For the updates on OPM Cybersecurity go to the NARFE web site <http://www.narfe.org/departments/home/index.cfm> or OPM web site <http://www.opm.gov/>

US Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins, and our US Senators Jerry Moran and Pat Roberts were home for the 4th of July. When Congress returns from the 4th of July they have a full agenda before they leave on their month-long August recess. Legislation needs to be passed to provide funding for the Highway Trust Fund and this could include tapping the federal community as a pay-for. Congress is looking at passing budget reconciliation legislation, which might include provisions impacting federal retirees. If you did not get to see your elected officials in July they will be home during the month of August. This is good time to set up an appointment to see them and they will be attending the county fairs. Your Kansas Senators and Representative will be at the fairs too. When you are attending activities don't forget to wear your NARFE T-shirt or hat.

The Kansas Legislature adjourned after 114 days following their longest session. In 2012 they passed an income tax cut and this made the State short on funds. This year they made some of it up by passing a Tax Bill that increases Sales Tax to 6.5%. Income taxes were frozen at last years' level for the next two years. If you fill out the long form you just deduct half of your property taxes and 100% of whatever you give to Charity. Small Businesses are not required to pay state income taxes. You may wish to check with your tax advisor for more details. After all of this the State is still short on funds and the Governor can cut \$50 million off the budget. The schools are in the courts because they are short on funds. This could result in a special session. No tax exemptions were sunset from the no sales tax law this year however this may be changed next year. As a result of this they are going to consider placing taxes on other things such as utilities, haircuts, etc. in an effort to raise more monies. All the bills that were introduced this year are good for consideration again next year.

We are in need of volunteers for a NARFE Chapter #2 PAC Chair Person and to help monitor the activities of the legislature.

The VA Emergency Room here in Topeka was reopened on June 30, 2015.



E-mail or call your Reservations AND Cancellations NOT LATER THAN Wednesday AM, July 22 to Jim Miller July 24th

\$9 Noon Buffet in Wesley Hall

Lasagna
Baked Chicken
CA blend veggies
Cottage Cheese/
pineapple salad
Rolls and Butter
Cookie
Beverages

PROGRAM BY
ADRIAN SERENE
ASSISTANT
ATTORNEY
GENERAL



E-mail or call your Reservations AND Cancellations NOT LATER THAN Wednesday AM, August 26 to Jim Miller ANNUAL INDOOR PICNIC

August 28th \$9 Noon Buffet in Wesley Hall

Hamburgers
Hot Dogs
Baked Beans
Potato Salad
Fruit cobbler
with ice cream
Beverages

NARFE Chapter 02 Minutes June 26, 2015 * Aldersgate Village

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

Welcome and Invocation was given by **Dolores Engel** followed by the **Pledge of Allegiance**. A two entree meal was offered for \$9.00.

Program was Dale Jirik, Patriotism. Dale spoke on the history of our great nation. From the signing of the Declaration of Independence and from the tyranny of England. The Declaration was signed by 56 brave souls willing to announce to the world that our nation was to have people of all walks of life and that we believed in the pursuit of happiness without oppression. He spoke on our first president George Washington - who was called the Commander-in-Chief by the military he led. He was nominated by John Adams and seconded by Samuel Adams. He reluctantly agreed. He helped to fund the army that fought for our rights. Several of our American forefathers gave up a lot for the freedoms we have today. Benjamin Franklin for example lost the respect of his son, who returned to England due to his father's allegiance to America. Dale has a wealth of knowledge about our country that we need to hear in these times when people seem to be reluctant to acknowledge what our Great Nation really stands for - Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

Members Report, Earlene Jirik – 36 members and 1 guest (Alisia guest of Virginia Craig). A Door Prize drawing was held for members paying for a meal - Glen Montgomery won the drawing - a Patriotic Wind Chime. Reminder to call and let Jim know if you are planning to attend

Earlene Jirik, Publicity – Worked at KTWU on May 31st
Secretary, Gwen Ketter – The Chapter minutes for the May meeting did not get printed in the newsletter as Gwen had to leave early from the meeting. Membership voted to not have minutes read at the meeting.

Gwen handed out the remainder of the Certificates of Appreciation for the committee members who assisted in hosting the Federation State Convention.

Joanne Miller, Federation Alzheimer's Chair/ Newsletter Editor - An Alzheimer's Clue Search Puzzle was given because June is Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month. Thanks for contributing to the success of the auctions, hospitality room, and June 13th walk. Deadline for newsletter articles June 6th.

Treasurer Bill Kastens – General Fund \$1,821.00, Savings \$1,199.86 and Alzheimer's \$400.00 Total \$3,020.00. Convention account \$940.37.

Service Officer Bill Kastens – No new calls.

Barb McLain, 1st Vice-President and Membership – New shirts are available through Jim. We need to advertise our organization - so wear your NARFE shirt at as many events as possible. Even though it was not a NARFE event, the Alzheimer's walk raised \$517.00. Have a safe and Happy 4th.

Richard Wike, 2nd Vice-President – Not present
The July Meeting will be Adrian Serene from the Attorney General's office to speak on fraud and scams. August meeting is our annual indoor picnic.

Reports:

Jo Burenheide, Good Cheer – Sympathy cards were sent to the family of Gail Horsely and Ralph Vogue. Get well card was sent to Anna Mae Wright and a thinking of you card was sent to Millie Burns. Remember to contact Jo for any good cheer items.

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

Next Executive Board Meeting – no meeting in July

Next NARFE General Meeting – Friday, July 24th

George Spotts Alzheimer Chairperson – June 14th Flag Day went great burned 500-600 flags. 50/50 drawing 1st \$8.00 - Jim Miller, 2nd \$6.00 - Paul Manning and 3rd \$3.00, Shirley Manning - all donated money back to Alzheimer's
Meeting Adjourned at 1:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Gwendolyn Ketter

***We never think how great a gift it is to
"think" CHERISH YOUR THOUGHTS***



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	Jo Burenheide	272-8971
Historian	YOUR NAME HERE	
NARFE PAC Chair	YOUR NAME HERE	

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