



# 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

JULY 2016

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



**CALL**  
**Earlene Jirik**  
**266-5492**  
**OR**  
**Jim Miller**  
**478-0651**

**With Y-O-U-R**  
**Reservations AND**  
**Cancellations**  
**By**

**Saturday, July 16**  
**as the kitchen needs**  
**totals to place food**  
**order. Thanks for**  
**your cooperation**  
**and understanding.**

**July 22nd**  
**(4th Friday)**

**Lunch At Noon**  
**Meat Loaf**  
**Mashed Potatoes**  
**and Gravy**  
**California Blend**  
**Rolls**  
**Beverage**  
**Peach Cobbler**

**\* Note \***  
**ADDRESS ANY**  
**SPECIAL DIETARY**  
**NEEDS WITH**  
**EARLENE & JIM**

**Cost: \$9.00**

**INVOCATION BY**

*Ann Look*

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**Police - Fire - Ambulance**

**Dispatch Supv.**  
**Dawn Frey**

Chapter Legislative Chairman Ron Richey stayed with the Kansas Legislature until the end, and it was NOT the "bitter end." Our benefits were left untouched but the bad news is, the Americans For Prosperity started the movement to take that away, and carefully placed letters to the editor are making into print. These haven't singled us out as before. Those I have read group federal and state retirees, military, firefighters, law enforcement...anyone who is exempt from paying the Kansas State income tax. With the scramble on to ferret out any available dollars, and the Governor running on empty for more funds to "transfer", 2017 session looks to be challenging.

If that benefit goes, also will be one of the selling points to sign up new members. You know the national picture as well or better than most federal retirees and NARFE is more than just skin deep. Our representation in Washington, D.C. has saved us from many attempts to chop earned benefits. I won't say that some politicians have actually lied about our benefits but will say that some have been elastic with the truth?

At this halfway point into 2016, our membership continues to drop. That is to be expected with being the first chapter in the nation to organize, as we have older members. That is the bad news. The worse news is...we haven't been able to recruit in numbers to replace them. Individually, we have some fine quality newer members who have stepped in to fill needed positions, and I commend those who recruited them as well as the newer members. As Ron Richey points out, elected officials ask "HOW MANY MEMBERS DO YOU HAVE?" The answer is...not a very good percentage of eligible retirees or still employed federal workers. If you have workable solutions to that major problem, please pass them on to Barbara McLain, Vice President and Membership Chair.

It has been a hot start to summer! The air conditioning works well in Wesley Hall for our chapter meetings and the meals have been greatly improved. I look forward to greeting you on July 22. Remember that July is a five Friday month and we meet on the fourth!



Some NARFE members have received multiple calls about a non-narcotic pain relief that can be laid on the affected area. Their pitch is that it is covered 100% by Blue Cross and Blue Shield. While BC/BS has been notified and the insurance commission is investigating, remember, there is no such thing as a free lunch.

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

On June 8<sup>th</sup> Kansas Governor Sam Brownback called for a special session of the Kansas Legislature to start on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Kansas Supreme Court ruled that the Kansas Schools were not funded correctly.

On June 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> they had committee meetings with minimal results.

On June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8 AM the Kansas Legislature was called to order. The joint meeting of the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means met in the morning, and individual committee meetings met in the afternoon. They passed out a school bill and the Judiciary Committee passed out **SCR 1602**, A PROPOSITION to amend Article 6 of the Constitution of the State of Kansas.

On June 24<sup>th</sup> they started in the House at 9 AM and the Senate started at 10 AM. The Senate worked the bill SCR 1602. The constitutional amendment needed a two thirds majority (27 votes) to pass. It failed 26-13.

The House started working the school bill. The bill would cut the school budget a half of a percent. The modern republicans and the democrats were not on board to pass the bill. They sent the bill back to the joint meeting of the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, and had committee meetings in the afternoon. They passed the bill out with the total funds. They voted on these bills late in the evening. Substitute for HB 2001 passed the House 116-6 and the Senate 38-1. They adjourned at 9 PM. At the Federal level they are preparing for the Democratic and Republican Conventions that will be held in July.

We would like to encourage all NARFE members to get out and vote at the 2016 General Primary on August 2 and the General Election on November 8. If you have not registered to vote or if you have moved you need to register by July 12 for the August Primary.

In the July issue of the NARFE magazine on page 41 there is a report that at the end of 2015 the Kansas federal family totaled 47,410 (annuitants and employees). If you need business cards to pass out, contact a board member and use them to invite a friend to our meetings.

**NARFE CHAPTER 0002 MINUTES**

**JUNE 24, 2016 - ALDERSGATE VILLAGE**

President Jim Miller called the meeting to order at noon. Welcome and Invocation was given by Laurel Johnson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A meal was offered for \$9.00.

Program, New Beginnings Choir directed by Shirley Atteberry entertained us with many old favorites and patriotic tunes. The choir began in 1981 and is composed of men and women 50 and older, including our Earlene Jirik. They are sponsored by the Senior Adult Program of the Shawnee County Parks and Recreation Department.



**Interested?** There are no auditions and no need to read music! If you just love to sing or play an instrument, they would welcome you at their 9:30 AM practices each Friday at Central Park Community Center.

**Members Report, Earlene Jirik** - 32 members plus 2 (and choir) were in attendance. The door prize, a hot/cold travel container, was won by Anna Mae Wright.  
**Secretary, Gwen Ketter** – Excused. The May chapter

minutes as printed in the newsletter were approved with no corrections.

**Treasurer, Bill Kastens** – reported that we have \$2,500 in the bank.

**Joanne Miller, Federation Alzheimer's Co-Chair/ Newsletter Editor** – Nothing to report. Newsletter articles are due July 1.

**Barb McLain, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Membership** - Excused.

**Richard Wike, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President** - Next meeting we will learn about the County's 911 system from Dawn Frey, Supervisor.

**Reports:**  
**Jo Burenheide, Good Cheer** – Excused.

**Ron Richey, Legislative Chair** – Excused. Jim advised to stay tuned to newspaper/TV and hopefully they will adjourn.

**New Business** – In the absence of George Spotts, Jim presented Flora with the two Alzheimer's certificates awarded to the Chapter at the Federation Convention.

**Next Exec. Board Meeting - Friday July 1 - 9:30 AM**  
**Next NARFE General Mtg. - Friday July 22 - Noon**

**Sue Wike, Chapter Alzheimer's Chair** – Thanked everyone for participating/supporting the local Walk to End Alzheimer's and to those who put signs in their yards. 50/50 drawing - 1st \$5.00 Flora Spotts, 2nd \$4.00 Joanne Miller and 3rd \$3.00 Norma Rice - all donated money back to Alzheimer's.

**Meeting Adjourned @ 1:18 PM**  
*Respectfully submitted,*  
**Joanne Miller, Recording Secretary Protempore**

**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	Mary Harms	249-0511
Member-At-Large	Sharon Rosenow	640-7317

**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>THINK—Could this be you?</b>	
<b>PAC Chair</b>	<b>THINK—Could this be you?</b>	

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