



# NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



## Chapter 002, Topeka, Kansas

### MARCH 2014



**MEETING @ NOON  
ON FRIDAY  
MARCH 28TH**

**Reservations AND  
Cancellations are due  
prior to Wednesday,  
March 26th  
to Jim Miller  
478-0651 or e-mail**

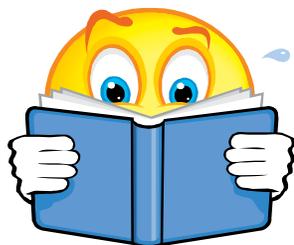
### MENU

**Fried Catfish  
Lasagna  
Potato Casserole  
Vegetable Blend  
Jello/Fruit Salad  
Rolls & Butter  
Beverage  
Assorted Pies**

**Cost: \$9.00  
with**

### PROGRAM

**by  
JOAN MILLER  
(Poet)**



**An uplifting book  
full of practical  
solutions and  
insights titled:**

**Creating  
Moments of Joy  
for the Person  
with Alzheimer's**

**By**

**Jolen Brackey**

**From President Jim Miller's Desk [snyderfan89@sbcglobal.net](mailto:snyderfan89@sbcglobal.net)**

**From the President's Desk ("IF" he can find the top of it!)** The Kansas Legislature under the watchful eyes of Ron Richey are "turning around" this week with each house (Senate and House) exchanging approved bills. Those bills will be evaluated and if they can be agreed upon, voted and approved. Bills that don't meet approval by one body or the other will be consigned to a joint committee of three Senators and three Representatives for further study and perhaps to bring forth a bill that meets more acceptance.

Our February meeting had some improvement over last year, when a snowstorm canceled our meeting. This year we had 43 attend the luncheon, 42 members and our guest speaker. The Dining Room staff set up and prepared for fifty, so we'll see if we can hold at those numbers. IF YOU SIGNED UP FOR THE MARCH MEETING, YOU DON'T HAVE TO CALL TO CONFIRM! If you can't attend for any reason, please call, prior to Wednesday if possible to cancel. Earlene Jirik and I are trying to "smooth out" the reservation kinks. With Bill Kastens in the hospital, Gwen Ketter put on another hat and checked members in for the lunch, side by side with Earlene. Dale Jirik also pitched in until he and I "got in the way" and stepped aside.

Ron Richey has helpful suggestions for legislative actions, and NARFE magazine has a ready letter composed to send to Senators, who may be voting on a really bad bill affecting the US Postal Service. If you have computer access be sure to sign up with NARFE for GEMS, as the information sent out is timely and sometimes critical. March will be a good time to visit with our elected officials or their office staffs. Plus, this is an election year, and they might be more receptive to seeing us. Check with Ron for hot button issues that affect our members and active employees. Keep the visits short; carry position papers if available, and stick to our issues! Don't let the visits turn into a personal grievance session as those only confuse and dilute our message.

We are in the forty days of Lent, and our lunch menu will include one seafood selection. If you have suggestions for the other entree, or for any menu ideas, please give those to any officer. The weather should be greatly improved (but no promises, it is still March!) and I'll see you on March 28!

**Legislative News from Ron Richey, Legislative Chair [ronaldgrich@aol.com](mailto:ronaldgrich@aol.com)**

We would like to encourage you, if you live in school district USD 501, to vote on the USD 501 Bond, April 8, 2014. The County Election Office will mail ballots to you on March 19, stamped return envelopes and ballots must be returned by noon April 8.

We are pleased to learn that President Obama will not in his Fiscal Year 2015 Budget to Congress, include a proposal to use the Chained CPI to calculate annual COLA's. He proposes a 1 percent pay raise for federal employees and members of the military in his budget. The increases are consistent with raises employees and troops received this year. We would like to thank you for the work you did with coupons and letters.

The Postal Reform Act of 2014 was recently approved by the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. S. 1486 now awaits consideration by the full Senate. The bill would severely diminish or authorize the elimination of long-standing employee benefits, including changes to workers' compensation for federal and postal employees disabled by work-related injuries and illnesses. It also eliminates the promise of retirement income security for the next generation of postal employees, and includes changes to the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program for postal employees and retirees. **President Beaudoin urges each NARFE member to use our Legislative Action Center to send a message to both your senators opposing S. 1486.**

**We encourage supporting NARFE PAC. Call Jim Miller for info, (785) 478-0651.** Some US Representatives and US Senators have announced plans to leave Congress. Members of the US Congress are likely to be home March 17-21, 2014, during the week of Saint Patrick's Day.

I continue to monitor the Kansas Legislature. I'm watching Bill HB 2666 from Federal and State Affairs and sent to Pensions and Benefits. According to this bill if you receive any felony you and your family lose your pension. Friday, February 28, 2014, was Turnaround Day. This is the last day to consider bills in the house and senate of origin, except by: House Appropriations, House Calendar and Printing, House Taxation, Senate Assessment and Taxation, House and Senate Federal and State Affairs, the Senate Ways and Means Committee, and when authorized - select committees of the House or Senate. April 4 is consideration of all bills and first adjournment. They start the veto session on April 30.

We would like you to invite Federal and Post Office Employees and Retires to join NARFE. Call Galen Rapp (785) 478-3701 for help and forms. **If you would like to donate to NARFE Alzheimer's, you may give support in their memory or in honor of them. Call George and Flora Spotts (785) 233-7108. They are accepting gifts for auction for the 2014 State NARFE Convention in Manhattan, April 27-29.**

**NARFE Chapter 002 Minutes  
February 28, 2014 - Aldersgate Village**

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

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

Program Bette Allen, Great Overland Station - Betty spoke about the history of the Great Overland Station. She told of volunteer opportunities and talked about the booking of the facility for private parties.

Members Report, Earlene Jirik – 42 members and 1 guest (our speaker) were in attendance.

Secretary, Gwen Ketter – Minutes for January meeting were printed in the newsletter and were approved as printed.

The Kansas NARFE Federation Convention for 2014 will be held in Manhattan KS April 27-29. We are authorized 15 voting delegates. The following people volunteered to support Topeka as delegates: Bill Kastens, George Spotts, Flora Spotts, Ron Richey, Navella Richey, Shirley Manning, Paul Manning, Mary Harms, Dale Jirik, Earlene Jirik, Dolores Engel, Jo Burenheide, Joanne Miller and Ron Miller. It was moved by Gwen and seconded by Galen Rapp that we elect these 14 members as delegates to the 2014 Kansas NARFE Federation Convention. Motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

Jim and Gwen met with Linda at the Topeka Ramada Inn on February 18th to fact check some of the items for the 2015 State Convention to be held in Topeka. Jim will present an invitation at the 2014 convention. We were given an updated menu and were ensured that we could have a room for hospitality through Monday evening which we are allowed to bring in our own food and beverages.

Treasurer Bill Kastens – Is in St. Francis Hospital, room 621, but says we are solvent.

Helen Louise Price, Good Cheer - Sympathy cards were sent to the following member's (who passed away) families: Cleo Noland, William Broughton and Philip Shideler. Get well cards were sent to Connie Johnson, William Nyquist and Bill Kastens. Remember - if you know of a member who is ill or in the hospital please contact Helen Louise Price at (785) 478-9602.

Galen Rapp, 1st Vice-President and Membership - Feels he hasn't been successful and states that we need to change our tactics to gain members. He is going to have a kit for all members to carry with them. Use it whenever you run into potential members. NARFE is gaining importance more and more as our legislature try to peck away at our benefits.

Richard Wike, 2nd Vice-President - March meeting - Joan Miller will speak about her poetry and on writing poetry.

**REPORTS:**

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

Earlene Jirik, Publicity - Looking into KTWU may contact small group if finds a time slot. Still seeking a new place to purchase nametags.

Joanne and Ron Miller, Newsletter Editor - Deadline for March newsletter is March 5th.

Jim Miller - NARFE PAC - Remember PAC supports legislative initiative that favor NARFE members and helps blocks those opposed to our interests.

Jim announced that Jo Burenheide will work with Dale and Bill on the Election Committee; Mary Harms has accepted Maynard Cox's position as Member-at-large on the Executive Committee.

**Next Executive Board Mtg. – 9:30 AM Friday, March 7th**  
**Next NARFE General Mtg. – NOON Friday, March 28th**

George Spotts Alzheimer Chairperson: Remember Best Choice tags, donations for the State Convention Alzheimer's Auction. 50/50 drawing 1st \$11.00 - Flora Spotts, 2nd \$6.00 - Joanne Miller and 3rd \$4.00 Richard Wike - all donated money back to Alzheimer's.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:30 PM.  
*Respectfully submitted, Gwendolyn Ketter*

**Q: Why do basketball players love cookies?**  
**A: Because they can dunk them!**  
**Q: What do basketball players and babies have in common?**  
**A: They both dribble!**



Chapter 002 Officers		
President	Jim Miller	478-0651
1st Vice President	Galen Rapp	478-3701
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		
Good Cheer	Helen Price	478-9602
Membership Chair	Galen Rapp	478-3701
Service Officer	Bill Kastens	272-2604
Editors	Joanne & Ron Miller	271-8117
Alzheimer Chairs	George & Flora Spotts	233-7108
Publicity	Earlene Jirik	266-5492

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