



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



Chapter 002, Topeka, Kansas

MAY 2014



This is a five Friday month



Reservations AND Cancellations by Wednesday, May 21 to Jim Miller 478-0651 or e-mail

MAY 23

MENU

Lasagna
Fried Chicken
Potatoes and Gravy
Peas or Green Beans
Jello/Fruit Salad
Rolls & Butter
Fruit Cobbler

Cost: \$9.00 with

PROGRAM by

Karen Ridder
"Bucket List & Looking Back"

BRING TATTERED FLAGS TO GEORGE SPOTTS FOR JUNE FLAG BURNING CEREMONY



FROM CONVENTION DELEGATES

Paul, Shirley, Ron, Joanne, Dale, Earlene, George, Flora, Ron, Navella, and Mary

From President Jim Miller's Desk snyderfan89@sbcglobal.net

Whew! The state NARFE convention (April 27-28-29) with KS state legislators as guests and a most interesting Q&A. Plus the challenging changes to the national NARFE makeup, for federations and chapters...if approved at the national convention. Back to the apartment with a van load of state convention 2015, and try to find storage for that to empty the old van for the next state convention! NAPUS (postmasters) in Wichita, May 2-3-4. The "mood" there was more somber, and my talk for NARFE was as positive as I could make it, considering we're not sure what NARFE will look like by 2015. I distributed the info packets and introduced NARFE magazine, pointing out the Q&A dedicated to questions submitted by active employees and retired. There was enough interest to make me believe we/NARFE will pick up a member or more. Bad news, none of those will belong to 002.

The Kansas Legislature has left Topeka but their dubious votes, especially those early in the mornings left a bad taste in many mouths. Bad enough that my first year Representative will not repeat. He has had it and won't run again. His likely replacement is NOT a friend of state or federal employees and retirees so the education process begins again.

State tax collections fell \$92 million short of projections last month, but never fear. The Governor promptly blamed President Obama and it is a election year so look for (1) the most negative political ads in history, (2) finger pointing by both sides, and (3) next month's tax collections figures. If collections continue to drop to a possible \$300 million by July, there will be legislators returning with a definite mission, and that will be to balance the Kansas budget. We'll see if that translates to Open Season on our hard won court decision on Kansas income tax. Your Executive Cte. met May 9 to discuss the recent state convention and what may lie ahead. The most important items will be passed on at the **May 23 chapter meeting - I'll see you then!**

Legislative News from Ron Richey, Legislative Chair ronaldgrich@aol.com

We, (my wife Navella and I), would like to thank you for sending us to the state convention as delegates. Our thanks go to our National Legislative Chair Louis Bornman for inviting Senator Tom Hawk, and Representatives Sydney Carlin and Tom Phillips to be our guest speakers. They spoke about how Kansas would like to take over Medicare, the school finance bill, water rights in Kansas, and other subjects. I set in on the following committee meetings at convention: Rules and Regulations, Membership, and Alzheimer's. Navella sat in on a meeting for Time and Place. In 2015 the State Convention will be here in Topeka and in 2016 it will be in Salina. It has been determined that there is a link between good oral hygiene, strokes and heart disease. Research is being done to determine if there is a link between periodontal disease and Alzheimer's since one's gums and teeth are in close proximity to their brain. Blue Cross, GEHA, and United Health Care were present at the convention promoting insurance for dental hygiene and along with Hearing Aid Center on hearing. Open season for insurance is in November.

The Kansas Legislature returned on Wednesday, April 30th for the veto session. They adjourned on May 3, 2014 at 2:20 AM. They come back May 30, 2014 for sine die at 10:00 AM.

At the Federal level the President has suggested a 1% raise. There is a bill being considered for a 3% raise for the Federal employees. Nine states would like to run Medicare instead of having the Federal Government do this and Kansas is included as one of the nine states. They want to make changes to the US Post Office and about eighteen bills have been proposed as a way to make reforms to the federal program. These bills are explained on pages 10-12 in the May issue of NARFE Magazine. Since this is an election year it is very important for constituents to be informed on the views of their Senators, Representatives, and their opponents. Some people think Federal workers and retirees do not deserve any benefits and that all benefits should be cut. They are considering changing the COLA again to cut the Cost of Living for Federal Retirees, Military Retirees, and Social Security recipients after the election.

ALZHEIMER'S

We want to thank you for sending us to the convention in Manhattan as delegates. We had a good convention and BOTH the silent and live auctions went well. We have raised so far for Alzheimer's \$5,863.84. **Chapter 002 received a certificate for going over our goal of \$5.50 per member.** This is due to having an auction. We hope to have another auction some time this year so we can get another certificate. *Thanks again, George & Flora Spotts*



NARFE CHAPTER 002 MINUTES

APRIL 25, 2014 - ALDERSGATE VILLAGE

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

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

Program Julie Feldpausch, Kansas Pork Producers - Julie spoke to us about the changes that have occurred over the past few years in producing a more sustainable pork industry. By 2020 70% of additional food needs to come from improved farming conditions. In 1960 only 25 people were fed per farmer - now 155 people are fed per farmer Modern Pork Producers have 41% less water usage, 78% less land usage and 35% less carbon footprint.

Members Report, Earlene Jirik - 44 members and 1 guest (our speaker were in attendance).

Earlene Jirik, Publicity - Spoke to Kathy at KTWU could not find an appropriate date and time. Estimate for name tags is \$7 to \$7.50 each.

Secretary, Gwen Ketter - Minutes for March 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 persons are going to support Topeka as delegates: George Spotts, Flora Spotts, Ron Richey, Navella Richey, Shirley Manning, Paul Manning, Mary Harms, Dale Jirik, Earlene Jirik, Joanne Miller and Ron Miller.

Treasurer Bill Kastens - Not in attendance. Having surgery

- We are solvent.

Service Officer Bill Kastens - not in attendance.

Helen Louise Price, Good Cheer - Sympathy cards were sent to the following member's: Inez Hamilton on the death of her husband. Get Well/Thinking of You card was sent to Virginia Bohn who had back surgery. Remember - if you know of a member who is ill or in the hospital contact Helen Price at (785) 478-9602.

Galen Rapp, 1st Vice-President and Membership - Ron Richey and Leah Hefner went to the VA reunion at Coyote Canyon. They gave out membership information. There were 50 people at the meeting. Galen urged members to look into the FON information and voice their opinions.

Richard Wike, 2nd Vice-President - May speaker will be Karen Ridder with the Kansas Humanities Assoc. She will speak on Bucket List and Looking Back. June - Midland Care/Hospice.

Reports:

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

Dale Jirik, Nominations - Gave a pitch about running for a local office - The nomination committee is Dale, Bill Kastens and Jo Burenheide.

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

Jim Miller- NARFE PAC - Jim will take any funds collected to Convention.

Next Executive Board Meeting - Changed to Friday May 9, 9:30 AM

Next NARFE General Meeting - Friday May 23rd

George Spotts Alzheimer chairperson: KS Final Tally for 2013 - \$25,718.94 total \$6.55/member Topeka had achieved \$6.25/member. Remember Best Choice tags, tattered flags (burned in June), donations for the State Convention Alzheimer's Auction. **50/50 drawing** 1st \$11.00 - Helen Louise Price, 2nd \$6.00 - Wanda Stephens and 3rd \$4.00 Navella Richey - all donated money back to Alzheimer's

Meeting Adjourned at 1:30 PM

Respectfully submitted, Gwendolyn Ketter

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

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