



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



Chapter 002, Topeka, Kansas

October 2012



Next Meeting
Aldersgate Village
7220 SW Asbury Drive
Topeka, Kansas 66614

Date and Time
October 26, 2012
12:00 p.m.

Program

Pam Maxwell, BC/BS and
Kelly Bremer, GEHA health
insurance representatives



Lunch Menu

Italian Vegetable Salad
Chicken Parmesan/
Linguine
Swiss Steak
Scalloped Potatoes, Peas
Coconut Crème Pie
Rolls & Butter
Beverages
Cost: \$9.00

*If you Did Not RSVP At
Last Meeting,
RSVP To
Jim Miller—785-478-0651*

Good Cheer

Since the last newsletter, a sympathy card has been sent to Bill Irwin on the death of his brother and to Leah Hefner on the death of her nephew.
Helen Price, Good Cheer Chair

KANSAS TRIVIA

What school did Kansas architect Thomas Williamson design?
Answer: Topeka High

From The President's Desk

No need to remind NARFE members to get out the voters, as there is much at stake in this election. Same goes for supporting NARFE PAC ! Friends in Congress (yes, we still have a few stalwarts there) can promote favorable legislation and just as critical, help stop harmful legislation. Flu and Pneumonia shots are available, and the season is already here ! If you haven't had those immunizations, this is the year to strongly consider it.

Dale Jirik is our Nominations Chairman, ably assisted by Betty Born and Bill Kastens. We truly need one or more candidates for Chapter Treasurer, BEFORE the October chapter meeting. We also NEED a volunteer to take over the Editor position. In prior years, we have considered paying a outside person to handle those jobs, and rejected that. First, we can't afford to pay everyone to help the chapter operate (2) we can't afford to pay anyone, period ! The need is real and time is growing short. Call Dale, Betty or Bill and ask about the responsibilities !

Last item ! When contributing to NARFE ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH in honor of a person, please include the name and address of family members, so acknowledgement can be sent to the family. That's all folks ! I'll look forward to seeing you on October 26 !

Jim Miller, President

Legislative and Insurance News

We would like to encourage you to get out and vote at the National Elections on November 6th, 2012. You can contact your County Election Office to request an advance ballot and one will be mailed to you. There will be a constitutional amendment included on the ballot for you to vote on. **There will be a "Call Congress Day"!** Thursday, November 15, will be NARFE's National Call Congress Day. The post-election session of Congress will meet in the face of the "fiscal cliff" and could take up much-delayed issues, including the postal overhaul, expiring tax provisions, Medicare reimbursements to providers and sequestration (across-the-board cuts to Pentagon and non-defense budgets). More information, including a detailed script, will be provided via email through the Legislative Hotline and GEMS. The Hotline is also available on a toll free number, 877-217-8234. The toll free number for the Capitol switchboard is 866-220-0044. The COLA for September will come out October 16th. NARFE, Military Retirees, Social Security Recipients, and persons with disabilities may get a cost of living raise on January 1, 2013. Government workers who are currently employed will not receive a pay raise until after March 27, 2013. Currently their wages have been frozen for over two years. This fall is a good time to visit the newly remodeled Kansas Capitol Building and take a tour. The Kansas Legislature starts January 14, 2013, for ninety days. Will have more information at the meeting on insurance cost, "Call Congress Day" and a constitutional amendment. *Ronald Richey, Chapter 2 Legislative Chair*

Minutes, Chapter 002, September 28, 2012

The meeting was called to order by **President Jim Miller** at 12:07 P.M. The invocation was given by **Mary Harms followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.** A two entrée cook-out meal was offered for \$9.00. **Members Report, Paul Manning** –49 members & guest speaker . One first timer Judy Howard – Welcome Judy..

PROGRAM – Dr. Alan Bearman, Director of Washburn Library spoke on the importance of Topeka Kansas' role in Modern American Religious History and the influence of Charles Sheldon and Charles Parham.

Secretary, Gwen Ketter – No changes or corrections to August minutes. National Convention Report taken from Carol Ek's report (since I have a broken wrist): Kansas was 5th in the Nation with collecting donations for Alzheimer's. We didn't make our 10 million dollars by August 26th but we did make \$9,897,488 with a new goal of 11 million by 2014. Bylaws and Standing Rules Revised 8/29/2012 The revised Bylaws and Standing Rules worked on by 10 members (one from each region) for the past two years was passed with a 79% approval. These revised Bylaws and Standing Rules are in effect immediately so throw away the 2010 Bylaw book. The new books will be available soon. E-NARFE Chapters endorsed 8/30/2012 - The E-NARFE Chapters were endorsed when delegates overwhelmingly defeated a resolution asking for disenfranchising these chapters. The members do the same good work for retired and active federal employees as the traditional chapters – the only difference is they do it using electronic communication. Membership - We had four (4) lunch and learn sessions which were directed to recruitment and retention of membership. Legislative - The Legislative Program for the 113th Congress was adopted by the delegation. Resolutions adopted are: (1) No adverse changes to FEHB; (2) No Unjustified Cost Increase to FEHB; (3) Amendment to the Non-Foreign Area Retirement Equity/Assurance Act, Locality Pay; (4) Amendment to Locality Pay Legislation; (5) NARFE to support legislation to roll back the increase in pension contributions of new Federal employees; (5) Maintain six delivery days at U. S. Postal Service; (6) Do not close small Post Offices; (6) Relief from the U. S. postal Service pre-funding FEHB from 75 years to 10 years; (7) Improving NARFE's image with Congress; and (8) Modernization of NARFE policy. The full wording of each resolution is included in the resolution book delegates received prior to the convention. All current National Officers were re-elected by acclamation as no opposition was nominated from the floor. Steve Bauer, executive director of the Federal Employee Education & Assistance Fund - *Continued On Page 2*

explained NARFE's long standing relationship with the FEEA began with the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City when NARFE members asked what they could do to help those families. Since then, Bauer said, \$1,117,373 has been distributed in disaster relief grants and scholarships throughout the country. **John Berry, Director of OPM**, gave a progress report on several of his agency's initiatives, including reducing the backlog of retirement cases, and asked how the agency can better meet the needs of federal retirees. OPM started the year with a backlog of 61,000 retirement cases and has whittled that down to less than 40,000 thanks to the efforts of OPM and NARFE who gave OPM a number of "brilliant ideas" that OPM immediately implemented. His goal is to process claims within 60 days by next July. **Harry Johns, president and CEO of the Alzheimer's Association**, spoke before the convention during the Sunday opening session. Johns told delegates, "Since 1985, you have raised just short of \$10 million and are extending that. In the world of Alzheimer's research, you are the leaders of what has occurred in research over that time period." Following a very detailed plan on the latest research and results of some of that research, Johns closed by saying that it is not a question of "if" but a question of "when" the Alzheimer's Association's goal of a world without Alzheimer's will be achieved. In remarks both humorous and touching, Manny Najera, who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2010 at age 75, told delegates about his symptoms of Alzheimer's and described what it is like to have the disease. Manny is a member of Chapter 1473 in El Paso and worked for the U. S. Customs Service for 38 years and was elected to the Texas State House of Representative in 1999. He is currently a member of the Alzheimer's Association's Early Stage Advisory Group. This was truly a moving testament to renew our dedication to this worthy cause. Jane Rodgers, National Alzheimer's Committee Chair, reports that a total of \$5,703.16 was donated to research through donations during the convention this year.

Treasurer/Newsletter Editor, David Smith – (read by Kathy in David's absence) General Fund Balance \$2,358.00; Alzheimer's Fund - \$414.40; Life Membership account - \$1,199.27; Total \$3,971.67.

Kathy Smith, Editor – If you wish to have the newsletter emailed to you make sure Kathy gets your address.

First VP, Galen Rapp – Unable to attend.

Second VP, Richard Wike – Unable to attend. Oct meeting BCBS/GEHA or candidates running for office.

Legislative, Ron Richey – Presidential Debates will be coming up. NARFE, Military Retirees, SS recipients and persons with disabilities may get a cost of living increase in January, 2013. The Office of Personnel Management has announced that this year's Federal Benefits Open Season will run Nov. 12-Dec.10. New for this year, all Federal Employees Health Benefits Program plans will provide a summary document on their websites.

Mary Harm, Social Committee – Christmas Social will be Friday December 7, 2012

Service Officer Bill Kastens – not in attendance

Good Cheer – Helen Louise Price – Sympathy cards were sent to the family of George Menge and Thomas Martin. Get Well wishes were sent to Jean Gooden who was hospitalized, George Burenheide who is now in Rolling Hills Nursing Home and Irene Miller who was hospitalized.

Earlene Jirik, Publicity – If you want a name tag let Earlene know. She has nametags for Shirley Biller, Sue Wike. Thank you to those who worked at KTWU.

Dale Jirik, Election Committee – Looking for a Newsletter Editor and Treasurer to run for office next term. Contact Betty, Bill or Dale if interested.

Next Executive board meeting will be 9:00 AM on Oct 11, 2012

Next NARFE General meeting – Friday Oct 26, 2012

George Spotts Alzheimer chairperson: Still collecting Best Choice Labels.

The 50/50 drawing awarded \$11.00 to Charlotte Pittman, \$6.00 to Wanda Stephens and \$4.00 to Sherry Potter.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Gwendolyn Ketter.

Please Vote And Express Your Voice

<u>Chapter 002 Officers</u>		
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	David Smith	478-9163
Member-At-Large	Maynard Cox	478-0015
Member-At-Large	Paul Manning	272-6208

<u>Other Contacts</u>		
Good Cheer	Helen Price	478-9602
Membership Chair	Galen Rapp	478-3701
Service Officer	Bill Kastens	272-2604
Editor	Kathy Smith	478-9163
Alzheimer Chair	George Spotts	233-7108
Publicity	Earlene Jirik	266-5492
Nominations Chair	Dale Jirik	266-5492

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US PAID POSTAGE
TOPEKA, KANSAS
PERMIT NO. 525

National Active & Retired
Federal Employees Association
2824 SW ROMAR ROAD
Topeka, KS 66614