



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

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2016

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

The danger in mentioning names especially with so many NARFE stalwarts in our chapter is, there is not enough space to list all of our officers and committee members. Start with GWEN KETTER who coordinated the Ren Festival volunteers to help raise funds for Alzheimer's Research plus handled orders at one of the most popular stands at the Festival. JOANNE MILLER, SUE AND RICHARD WIKE, BARBARA McLAIN, CHARLOTTE PITTMAN, DOLORES ENGEL, VIRGINIA CRAIG, SHARON ROSENOW and yours truly stood tall among the "Peasants" taking orders and SHARON is our newly elected First Vice President. (Do you see why this is dangerous?) BILL KASTENS has served our chapter admirably in many offices, the past few years as our trusty Treasurer. Bill declined to run again due to a series of medical issues. Stepping up and in is RON MILLER, recently elected Treasurer. Who recruited these outstanding new officers? DALE JIRIK! Our Nominations Chairman with JO SUE BURENHEIDE! I know that is not an easy job, and BILL KASTENS served on that committee while he was able.

We do not have a meeting in November; December 9 is our combined Nov.-Dec. meeting, the Christmas menu is planned and approved and we will NOT conflict with the Village CEO's Christmas Party! We have been assured by the new Chef the menu will be as planned with generous portions of GRAVY! Officers will be installed and we will be loaded for bear to begin 2017! RON RICHEY is still working hard on membership and NARFE's second important service to members, LEGISLATION! If you are concerned about retention of EARNED benefits and would like to get your feet wet by making calls at the state house in 2017, apply to Ron as he knows most of the ropes and shortcuts around the Statehouse! Lastly, RON RICHEY, JOANNE MILLER, and yours truly manned the table at the VA Health Fair on November 18. *I look forward to welcoming you for a well-earned last meeting of the year on Friday, December 9, 2016.*

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

Special thanks to Jim Miller and Barbara McLain for representing NARFE on the WIBW Red Couch on October 25th.

NARFE members doing dues withholding receive a 15% discount off their national dues. If you send dues withholding in to be started now it will start when your dues are up for renewal. Contact me or a chapter officer if you need a form.

If you sign up a new NARFE member for just \$40.00 a year they receive:

- 1) monthly NARFE magazine,
- 2) use of the NARFE web site for information,
- 3) NARFE Lobbyist in Washington DC to represent them and protect their benefits,
- 4) receive NARFE e-mails regarding what is going on in Washington DC

At the NARFE Chapter level they receive:

- 1) Use of a NARFE Service Officer,
- 2) chapter newsletter,
- 3) local NARFE volunteers monitoring the KS legislature,
- 4) fellowship with NARFE federal workers/retirees.

If you need a new NARFE member form call me or any NARFE Chapter officer for one.

Management announced the rate changes ahead of the 2017 open season, which runs November 14 through December 12. Read more in your November NARFE magazine (pages 34-48). It is quick and easy to request health benefit changes and plan information.

- Go to Open Season Online at <https://retireefhb.opm.gov>
- Call Open Season Express at 1-800-332-9798
- Write: FEHB Open Season Processing Ctr., P.O. Box 5000, Lawrence, KS 66046-0500

On November 10, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced that Part B premiums will rise (from \$104.90 to \$109) by an average of \$4 per month for most beneficiaries, but will rise (from \$121.80 per month to \$134.00) by more than \$12 per month - 10% for 30% of beneficiaries, including hundreds of thousands of federal retirees.

Effective January 1, the 2017 cost-of-living will be 0.3 percent to federal civilian and military retirement annuities and Social Security benefits.

The US Senate and the US House started their Lame Duck Session on November 14.

Congress passed a continuing resolution that will fund federal agencies until December 9 and need to fund the government past this date to avoid a government shutdown.

The Kansas State Legislature is scheduled to return on January 10, 2017, at 2:00 PM. You can listen to the legislature and read about the bills at: <http://www.kslegislature.org/li/>. We are in need of more volunteers to help monitor the activities of the Kansas Legislature.

My prayer is that God will bless you and your families at this holiday season.



**BY SAT.,
DEC. 3rd
CALL
EARLENE
JIRIK
266-5492
FOR YOUR
FRIDAY
DEC. 9th
RESERVED
MEAL TICKET**

N-O-T-E-S:

- 1) **THE SAME DATE APPLIES SHOULD YOU NEED TO CANCEL.**
- 2) **NO MEETING IN NOVEMBER**

**COME
EARLY**

11 AM Social

Hour with Holiday

Lunch At Noon

Carved Ham

Turkey & Dressing
with gravy

Sweet Potatoes **OR**
Green Bean Casserole

Rolls

Beverage

Pie Assortment

Cost: \$12.00

INVOCATION BY

Barbara McLain

**Most Pure
Heart of Mary
SCHOLA
CANTORUM**



**NARFE CHAPTER 0002 MINUTES
OCTOBER 28, 2016 - ALDERSGATE VILLAGE**

The noon meeting was called to order by **President Jim Miller**. **Welcome and Invocation** was given by **Judy Hower** followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A meal was offered for \$9. **Program, Kelly Bremer, GEHA and Lindsey Younger BC/BS** - They both spoke on the changes occurring with their respective insurance plans for 2017. **GEHA** – rates will increase some this next year, but not as much as they did last year. Tru Hearing works with them on their Hearing Aids and you can get a new one every 3 years. You can get a discount on Life Alert through their plan. They still have their Health Rewards program which is \$75 per year and can go up to \$150. **BC/BS** – will have increases in 2017. If you have BC/BS and have Medicare, you don't need to worry about a Part D plan per Lindsey. Please check out their web site for further information. They also have a Rewards program to use to pay for Medical Expenses. You can sign up online or call 866-852-6435. If you do call, ask for the application for 2016 and 2017. For info about changes & prices visit <https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/open-season>

Members Report, Earlene Jirik – 44 members and five guests, our speakers – Kelly Bremer and Lindsey Younger, Jim Krailman, Sharon Fordham and Gary Smith, were in attendance. Door prizes were given away – an owl jar full of candies won by Jenny Peters, pumpkin won by Eleanor Miller and kitchen set won by Jim Miller.

Dale Jirik, Nominations Committee Chair – Nominating committee is Dale, Jo Burenheide and Bill Kastens. Nominated for the Offices of the Topeka NARFE chapter were: President – Jim Miller, 1st Vice-President – Sharon Rosenow, 2nd Vice-President – Richard Wike, Secretary – Gwen Ketter and Treasurer – Ron Miller. No nominations were given from the floor. Voice vote approved the slate of officers.

Secretary, Gwen Ketter – The Chapter minutes for the September meeting were printed in the newsletter. Gwen thanked the people who assisted with working the Peasant Pastries Booth at the Kansas City Renaissance Festival. A special thank you to Sharon Rosenow, Joanne Miller and Jim Miller who worked on Columbus Day. We were extremely shorthanded that day and the crowd was larger than some of the other days. Received a Thank You card from Ron Richey for the tickets to the RenFest he won at the September meeting.

Treasurer, Bill Kastens - In Bill's absence our Treasurer Elect Ron Miller gave the report. BOH General Fund - \$3,675.28, Life

Membership Savings Account - \$1,200.94 for a total of \$4,876.22. This figure includes \$101.00 for Alzheimer's donations.

Joanne Miller, Federation Alzheimer's Chair/ Newsletter Editor – Articles for the next newsletter are due on Oct 31, 2016. There was a question issued to the presidential debate regarding Alzheimer's research, but question was not used. Janice Neuschafer who was the Region 5 Alzheimer's Rep has retired. We wish her well and appreciate all she has done for the NARFE organization.

Barb McLain – No Report

Richard Wike – Next meeting December will be our annual Christmas party on Friday December 9, 2016 – the Schola Cantorum Children's Choir will entertain us.

Reports:

Jo Burenheide, Good Cheer – Get Well to Ulyless Wright. Sympathy card was sent to Betty Heath on the death of her husband. A birthday card was sent to Kathleen Schneider on her 100th birthday. Just learned that Virginia Peters' Brother has passed away in October. Remember to let Jo know if you find out any info about members.

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

New Business – None.

Next Executive Board Mtg. – Friday, Nov 4, 9:30 AM

Next NARFE General Mtg. –Friday, Dec 9, our Annual Party with **Reception beginning at 11:00 AM**

Sue Wike, Alzheimer's – Sue is still collecting Best Choice labels. Eight members represented NARFE at KC RenFest on September 24 and three on Columbus Day. 50/50 drawing 1st \$8.00 Joanne Miller, 2nd \$7.00 Ann Look, 3rd \$5.00 Phyllis Zibell - all donated \$ back to Alzheimer's.

Prizes – **Backpacks from BC/BS** – Paul Manning, Earlene Jirik, and Karel Gassen, **Mugs from GEHA** – Wanda Stevens, Barb McLain, Phyllis Zibell, Flora Spotts and Gwen Ketter.

Meeting Adjourned 1:50
Respectfully submitted, Gwendolyn Ketter

G-R-E-A-T NEWS FROM MERV STUCKEY, CHAIR, NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S CTE:
As of October 31, 2016 the NARFE fund-raising total is \$12,000,076.76. New goal is to reach \$13 million by the end of 2018.

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
Historian	Your name is needed here!	
PAC Chair	Your name is needed here!	

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