



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



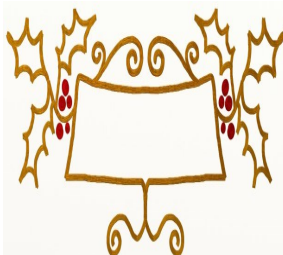
Chapter 0002, Topeka, Kansas

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2015



REMINDER
NARFE does not meet in November!

E-mail or call your Reservations AND Cancellations NOT LATER THAN Monday, December 7 to to Jim Miller for an accurate count!



Dec. 11th
11 AM Social Hour with Holiday Lunch At Noon
Sliced Ham
Turkey & Dressing
Sweet Potatoes
California Blend
Cranberries
Rolls
Beverage
Pumpkin Pie

Cost: \$12.00

INVOCATION

BY

Jo Sue Burenheide



Sounds of the Season

by the

MELODEERS

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

It is always good to start off with good news and NARFE Headquarters sent out that thanks to solid efforts by their Legislative Staff and support in letters from NARFE members, the huge hit/increase for MEDICARE premiums for 2016 was "modified." There will still be an increase but not as extreme as first proposed.

Yes, we are fast approaching Thanksgiving and then the combined November and **December Christmas luncheon**. **Note the date, December 11!** Dolores Engel and Charlotte Pittman are planning a different **pre-luncheon reception at 11 AM** and the menu will be both traditional and special. We have been promised Del's sweet potato creation and if you missed that at the October luncheon, call with your reservation so you won't miss it this time!

November 18 at the VA! Our chapter has been invited to staff a table at the VA Health Fair and supplies have been received to have available for any and all federal employees and retirees who stop by. Unlike other opportunities to put NARFE before the public, all those attending are eligible to join NARFE. Our job will be to convince them why joining us is a wise investment in their future!

The Kansas Federation of NARFE has a vacancy ... State Legislative Chairman. For those members concerned about being singled out as "cash cows" by a "Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered" KS Legislature, looking desperately for any available dollars, federal retirees will garner more than our share of attention in 2016. But that possibility is in the future!

For now, I wish you a great and memorable Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas! The Happy New Year? An ancient Chinese curse is said to be **MAY YOU LIVE IN INTERESTING TIMES**. 2016 will be interesting!



Thank you to all the contributors to the **NARFE Alzheimer's Research Program**. Jim Miller and I sent letters to you and you responded very well. We exceeded our goal of \$5.50/person, so far we have collected \$1,885.

You can still mail or bring checks to our December meeting.
GEORGE SPOTTS, 325 SE Rice Road, Topeka, KS 66607

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



We are in need of volunteers to help monitor the activities of the Kansas Legislature.

The public is invited to sing Christmas Carols at the Kansas Capitol on Saturday, December 12 from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

A Prayer and Worship Service begins at 8:00 AM at the Kansas Capitol on Monday, January 11, 2016 before the Kansas Legislature starts its session at 2:00 PM.

Kansas Governor Sam Brownback will give his State Of The State Address to the Kansas Congress that week and it will be on Kansas Public TV. He will release his Budget sometime that week. The Kansas budget continues to be short on funds and all the bills that were introduced during 2015 in the Kansas House and Senate are still eligible to be considered in 2016. The Kansas House and Senate tax committees each received over 50 tax bills in 2015.

I visited the Staff of Senator Pat Roberts and Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins twice in October. I had a visit with the Staff of Senator Jerry Moran at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library. I sent E-mails to them. I discussed with them about Medicare Part B, a pay raise for federal employees, and opposed Bill S. 2051, which is The Post Office Reform Bill. The good news is that the US Congress on Medicare Part B was put in a two year budget (*this was passed and signed by President Obama*) and it will stop them from shutting the government down. Senator Pat Roberts was the only one who voted yes for this bill. You can read on the NARFE web site on 2016 Medicare Part B premium increase and its effect on federal retirees. The US Congress needs to pass a Highway Bill this year. The US Congress tried to make changes to the G fund in the Thrift Savings Retirement Plan by including it in the Highway Bill which NARFE opposes so we need to monitor them.

INSURANCE OPEN SEASON runs from Monday November 9, through Monday, December 14. In the November NARFE Magazine you can find on: Page 40 information about Open Season for insurance. See the December NARFE Magazine when it is released for more information. They have changed the insurance so a person has to select either self, or self plus one, or self and family. **I wish you a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.**

NARFE CHAPTER 0002 MINUTES

OCTOBER 23, 2015 - ALDERSGATE VILLAGE

The meeting was called to order by **President Jim Miller** at 12:00 P.M. **Welcome and Invocation** was given by **Mary Harms** followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A meal was offered for \$9.00.

Program was Kelly Bremer from GEHA and Lindsey Younger from BlueCross/BlueShield. Both representatives spoke of changes in Federal Health Benefits for 2016. Open enrollment is currently going on. **To change to Self plus one you must call OPM at 800-332-9798.** Comparison of benefits is available in your NARFE Magazine or online at NARFE.org. You can also visit the websites for both plans via OPM.gov or www.opm.gov/FEHBcompare. The open season information is located at <https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/open-season>. Contact phone number for BCBS is 800-411-BLUE and GEHA is 877-434-2336.

Members Report, Earlene Jirik – 41 members and our 2 guests speakers were in attendance. A Door Prize drawing was held for members paying for a meal - Ron Miller won the drawing - Pumpkin dish and Halloween candies. Reminder to call and let Jim know if you are planning to attend. We are obligated to pay for all meal reservations that we make and they only prepare for the number of reservations we make. **Sadly, members have had to wait for food the last two months, so please let Jim know by Wednesday prior to meeting if you are planning to attend or need to cancel.**

Earlene Jirik, Publicity - working with KTWU for upcoming events

Secretary, Gwen Ketter – The Chapter minutes for the September meeting were printed in the newsletter no changes or corrections noted. Minutes approved as printed. Thank you to Ron Miller, Joanne Miller and Jim Miller who worked at RenFest on Sunday Sept. 27th and to Richard Wike, Sue Wike, Mary Harms, Jim Krallman and Jim Miller who worked on Monday Oct. 12th. Thanks for the support in helping to raise money for NARFE Alzheimer's Research.
Joanne Miller, Federation Alzheimer's Chair/Newsletter

Editor - Deadline for next newsletter is Nov. 6, 2015. Joanne thanked all membership for donations to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research. Further research is needed and NARFE support is greatly appreciated.

Treasurer Bill Kastens – General Fund \$2,014.00, (of which Alzheimer's has \$550.00) and Savings \$1,199.86 and Total \$3,763.86.

Service Officer Bill Kastens - No new calls.

Barb McLain, 1st Vice-President and Membership – not in attendance - VA Health Fair is Wednesday, November 18.

Richard Wike, 2nd Vice-President - December meeting is annual Christmas Party on Friday, December 11.

Reports:

Jo Burenheide, Good Cheer - Sympathy Cards were sent to Virginia Bohn on the death of her sister and to the family of Jim Shannon member who passed away on 10/18. Remember to contact Jo for any good cheer items. Please let Jo know if you read about a member passing away in an online obituary.

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

Dale Jirik, Election Chairman - Election of Officers - Moved by Mary Harms and seconded by Delores Engel to elect the slate of officers. Motion passed. Officers for 2016 are - President - Jim Miller, 1st VP - Barbara McLain, 2nd VP - Richard Wike, Secretary - Gwen Ketter and Treasurer - Bill Kastens.

New Business -

Next Executive Board Meeting - Friday, October 30th

Next NARFE General Meeting –Friday, December 11th - See you at the Christmas Party

George Spotts, Alzheimer's Chairperson: Sent out Alzheimer's donation mailing to all members. Letter has thus far raised \$1,885.00.

50/50 drawing 1st \$11.00 - Karel Gassen, 2nd \$7.00 - Judy Reddicker and 3rd \$5.00, Bill Kastens - all donated money back to Alzheimer's.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Gwendolyn Ketter

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	Paul Manning	272-6208
Member-At-Large	Mary Harms	862-1176

Other Contacts

Service Officer	Bill Kastens	272-2604
Newsletter Editors	Joanne & Ron Miller	271-8117
Alzheimer Chairs	George & Flora Spotts	233-7108
Publicity	Earlene Jirik	266-5492
Good Cheer	Jo Burenheide	272-8971
Historian	Please consider volunteering	
PAC Chair	Please consider volunteering	

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