



# NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



## Chapter 0002, Topeka, Kansas

### NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2014

From President Jim Miller's Desk [snyderfan89@cox.net](mailto:snyderfan89@cox.net) 478-0651



#### REMINDER

**No NARFE Meeting  
In November!!!**

E-mail or call your  
Reservations AND  
Cancellations  
**NOT LATER THAN**  
Wednesday,  
December 3 to  
to Jim Miller



#### Dec. 5th

Come at 11 o'clock  
to party **before** the  
Noon Lunch buffet

- Sliced Ham
- Turkey & Dressing
- Mashed Potatoes  
and Gravy
- Corn
- Broccoli and  
Rice Casserole
- Cranberry Jello Salad
- Rolls
- Beverage
- Dessert

**Cost: \$12.00**



#### PROGRAM

by

**TOPEKA**

**COLLEGIATE**

3<sup>RD</sup>, 4<sup>TH</sup>, 5<sup>TH</sup> Graders



Good news and bad news, loyal members and avid readers. The bad news is the elected members of Congress who don't really like federal employees and federal retirees. The good news is we belong to NARFE! And what possibilities roll out of Washington should increase our numbers, see details on the Membership contest! Examples of bad news. Darrell Issa, (R-CA) wants to increase federal employee contributions to their retirement another 5%. As he doesn't like federal retirees either, how about chopping 5% off of our annuities? Piggy back on Jeb Hensarling, (R-TX) who floated a bill with 124 co-signers to (1) increase our share of health benefits plan (2) CUT annuities by 2% a year for ten years, with no COLAs. Looks like a ham and beans main course, without the ham. So, the solutions are....mobilize all of the NARFE members in Kansas and elsewhere (but especially Kansas!) to contact their Representative and Senator, to provide them information on our continued services to our communities, to NARFE Alzheimer's Research, to the volunteer hours to improve the quality of life for our churches, organizations and neighbors. Ron Richey and I have extended the invitation to join us, after the Kansas Legislature convenes January 12, 2015 for a visit to the State House, and to visit with THEIR state representatives and senators. It has been said, correctly, ALL POLITICS IS LOCAL, and our state house is a good place to start. A sitting duck is a dead duck! So with all that to digest, have a great Thanksgiving, a very Merry CHRISTMAS, and with grateful hearts, look to a happy new year!

*I'll see you December 5 — come and mingle over a glass of punch beginning at 11 AM.*



When you give to The Salvation Army, you change the lives of thousands of children, families, and adults in desperate need. Your generosity & time makes a powerful difference.

#### BELL RINGERS NEEDED FOR SALVATION ARMY

Interested in volunteering a few hours, call Earlene Jirik 266-5492

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

The election is over. U.S. Congress will resume session November 12, 2014, and will be called a Lame Duck Session. Congress needs to fund the government in December and may give the Federal Workers a pay raise of 1% next year. If they get pay raise in the last seven years they gave Federal Workers a 7.95% pay increase and cut the work force. The Social Security/CSRS COLAs total 14.3% over the last 7 years. The 114th US Congress meets in 2015. NARFE will be watching congress in 2015 for the future of postal reform legislation, changes in health insurance, and in the CPI on Social Security/CSRS. This is why it is good to pay \$40.00 to join NARFE. NARFE has paid Lobbyist to represent us in Washington DC and to have our new NARFE President Richard Thissen and others testify for you and NARFE. We thank former NARFE President Joseph A. Beaudoin for a good job. If you are a member, in order to save money, you may wish to have your dues withheld. At the state and local Chapters NARFE Officers are volunteers and NARFE volunteers who monitor the activities of the Kansas Legislature.

The Kansas Legislative Session begins January 12, 2015. The main item of interest will be about the short fall of income for the state in Kansas. They may do more cutting or raise taxes--- maybe both. The Kansas House will get a new Chairman of the Tax Committee. Representative Carson did not run for reelection.

➡ The September Membership Drive has been extended through December 31st.

The cost of living pay raises were announced for January 2015 as being 1.7%. Medicare Plan B will remain the same at \$104.90 for 2015.

Open season for Federal and/or postal workers, and retiree insurance programs (FEHBP), is November 10th through December 8th this year. NARFE will have the information at the web site [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org) and in our November and December magazines.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**NARFE CHAPTER 0002 MINUTES by Gwen Ketter  
OCTOBER 24, 2014 - ALDERSGATE VILLAGE**

Meeting was called to order by **President Jim Miller** at noon. Welcome and Invocation was given by **Mary Harms** followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A two entree meal was offered for \$9.00.

**Program was Kelly Bremer, GEHA and Pam Maxwell BC/BS** - The two representatives from two of the major Federal Government Health Insurance Providers gave updates to changes for 2014 on their respective plans. Here are some highlights:

**BC/BS** - Insurance rates will increase. No change in prescription drug cost. Co-pay rates on urgent care screening will go down Screenings such as Lung screening for persons 55-80 and glucose screening will be covered 1 per year. Breast cancer treatment drug for women at high risk who have not been diagnosed with the disease will be available. Wellness benefits on their website will increase to \$50 giving you additional opportunities to earn money on a pre-paid VISA card. Money on card can be used for co-pays, and other medical benefits. Money carries over into next year. For more information go to: <http://www.fepblue.org> or call -800-432-0379 Pam Maxwell will be retiring in February. we will miss her at our meetings and conventions.

**GEHA** - Insurance rates will increase 2% on Standard and .5% on High option. New pharmacy benefits manager will be CVS.. Hearing program will increase to \$2000 total coverage on high option and \$1000 on standard option. Co-pay will increase on prescription drugs. They will offer a Healthy Rewards program \$50 per person on a gift card that can be used anywhere. Get points for coaching sessions up to \$250 value per member. They are offering a self + 1 plan in 2016. Points expire on December 31st. For more information go to <https://www.geha.com> or call (800) 821-6136

**Members Report, Earlene Jirik** – 61 members and 4 guests (our speakers Pam Maxwell and Kelly Bremer as well as Ruth Kastens and Gary Smith).

**Earlene Jirik, Publicity** - If you are interested in ringing bells at Hobby Lobby (indoors) for the Salvation Army let Earlene know she can set this up online. KTWU-nothing scheduled at this time.

**Secretary, Gwen Ketter** – The Chapter minutes for the Sept meeting were printed in the newsletter and were approved as printed. Thanks go out to Sharon Rosenow, who took over as secretary for Gwen in her emergency situation. Gwen thanked Sue and Richard Wike, Mary Harms and Joanne Miller for assisting with the Turkey Booth at Kansas City Renaissance Festival to raise money for Alzheimer's Research. At this time we do not know how much we made. Thanks once again to all the members who have volunteered to work on the 2015 State Convention. A committee meeting was held prior to the general membership meeting in

September where we were in the process of discussing the budget when Gwen was called away on an emergency. Charlotte Pittman is busy making plans for advertising and printing the convention brochure, Mary Harms and her subcommittee is working on the decorations, Ron and Joanne Miller are contemplating a joyous time to be had by all at our hospitality room and George and Flora Spotts have already locked in two (count them two) auctioneers for the Alzheimer's auction.

**Treasurer Bill Kastens** – General Fund \$2,457.25, Savings \$1,199.56 and Alzheimer's \$334.6 Total \$3,656.81.

**Service Officer Bill Kastens** - No new calls.

**Helen Louise Price, Good Cheer** - was not feeling up to the meeting - if you know of a member who is ill or in the hospital please contact Helen Louise Price at 785/478-9602. Michael Downs passed away as well as Janice Whitman. Gwen Ketter lost her brother.

**Galen Rapp, 1st Vice-President and Membership** - Not in attendance - There is an incentive for recruiting membership of \$10/mbr.

**Richard Wike, 2nd vice-President** December is our annual Christmas Party — we have no meeting in November

**Reports:**

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

**Joanne and Ron Miller, Newsletter Editor** - Deadline Nov. 5th.

**Jim Miller- NARFE PAC** - Jim will take any funds members wish to donate. Jim also expressed the importance of filling out the Life Events program packet to save your loved ones some extra grief.

**Dale Jirik conducted the election of officers - After a knock down, mud slinging campaign - here is the list of officers for 2015: President James Miller, 1st VP Barbara McClain, 2nd VP Richard Wike, Secretary Gwendolyn Ketter, and Treasurer William Kastens. Thanks to the nominating committee: Dale Jirik, chair, Jo Burenheide, Will Kastens.**

**Next Executive board meeting** - Fri. Oct. 31 - 9:30 AM

**Next NARFE General meeting – Fri. Dec. 5 - 11:00AM**

Give away from BC/BS - Maxine Bronough, Earlene Jirik, John Reinecke, Norma Rice and Wayne Wasson. and from GEHA - Gale DeVore, Leah Shaw, Julius Brosa, Gail Horsely, Gene Beckwith, Jenny Peters, Jim Shannon, Jim Miller and Les Beguelin.

**George Spotts Alzheimer** chairperson: Year-to-date Topeka is at \$2.49/member - goal is \$5.50/member. 50/50 drawing 1st \$12.00 - Marge Woytek, 2nd \$7.00 - Marge Roy and 3rd \$5.00, John Claussen - all donated money back to Alzheimer's. **Meeting Adjourned at 1:47 PM.**

**Chapter 0002 Officers**

|                           |                         |                 |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>President</b>          | <b>Jim Miller</b>       | <b>478-0651</b> |
| <b>1st Vice President</b> | <b>Galen Rapp</b>       | <b>478-3701</b> |
| <b>2nd Vice President</b> | <b>Richard Wike</b>     | <b>783-8122</b> |
| <b>Secretary</b>          | <b>Gwendolyn Ketter</b> | <b>220-7196</b> |
| <b>Treasurer</b>          | <b>Bill Kastens</b>     | <b>272-2604</b> |
| <b>Member-At-Large</b>    | <b>Paul Manning</b>     | <b>272-6208</b> |
| <b>Member-At-Large</b>    | <b>Mary Harms</b>       | <b>862-1176</b> |

**Other Contacts**

|                         |                                  |                 |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Good Cheer</b>       | <b>Helen Price</b>               | <b>478-9602</b> |
| <b>Membership Chair</b> | <b>Galen Rapp</b>                | <b>478-3701</b> |
| <b>Service Officer</b>  | <b>Bill Kastens</b>              | <b>272-2604</b> |
| <b>Editors</b>          | <b>Joanne &amp; Ron Miller</b>   | <b>271-8117</b> |
| <b>Alzheimer Chairs</b> | <b>George &amp; Flora Spotts</b> | <b>233-7108</b> |
| <b>Publicity</b>        | <b>Earlene Jirik</b>             | <b>266-5492</b> |

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Federal Employees Association  
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