



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



Chapter 002, Topeka, Kansas

September 2012



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

Date and Time
September 28, 2012
12:00 p.m.

Program

Dr Allen Bearman
Director
Washburn Library



Lunch Menu

Fried Catfish
Pot Roast
Cole Slaw
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Vegetable Medley
Carrot Cake
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 family of George Menge; Get well cards were sent to Jean Gooden and George Burenheide

Helen Price, Good Cheer
Chair

KANSAS TRIVIA

What is Helianthus Annus?
Answer: A Sunflower

From The President's Desk

MUSINGS BY MILLER - Hey ! I had response on the information in last month's column on the APPLICATION FOR PERMANENT ADVANCE VOTING STATUS ! Those have been delivered as promised to those who requested them. No, I didn't ask if they were Democrat or Republican. NARFE is political, but not partisan, and we still make our positions felt when we vote. This form makes that much easier for voters and members who may find it difficult to (1) find the voting site (2) may have a handicap.

Voting in November and many are already sick of the negative advertising. Don't permit those to "turn you off" and not vote this time around. The stakes are too high ! IF you are (1) independently wealthy and don't need your earned federal retiree benefits (2) have retired and have a well paying job to supplement benefits (3) content to sit back and rashly believe a grateful Congress will look out for your earned benefits.....you can stop reading here. IF you are the typical federal retiree wondering what "hit" some member of Congress can dream up to erode those benefits, read on !

One of the most effective ways to gain political insight is to volunteer with the candidate you most agree with. Or, volunteer at the political headquarters. Most of the candidates welcome volunteers who will walk with them, and there is ample opportunity to participate, with the confusing redistricting. If you walk, carry a few applications for ADVANCE VOTING STATUS !

Reasons to become involved ? Just look ahead ! In addition to already mentioned threats to benefits, the number one clod in the Congressional churn is SEQUESTRATION . Political parties are both afraid of what may happen when the budget cutting axe falls. Possible bright spot ? Even under the gun, they still may not cooperate with each other, and nothing happens. (2) DEBT CEILING, early in 2013. What will Congress do ? (3) BUSH TAX CUTS, due to expire, again. Will they extend ? (4) FEDERAL EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFITS. IF the US Postal Service is successful in convincing Congress they can take over the health plans of postal employees, actives and retired, problems won't be confined to just postal people. Yanking postal folk out of FEHB will completely change the make up of FEHB, and rising rates for everybody will result. If you are active or retired postal, WRITE your members of Congress ! Let them know you didn't pay a dime into US Postal Service coffers for FEHB, but to the Civil Service Retirement System ! For non-postal, let Congress know you don't want the same wise men who " managed " the USPS into the toilet to mess with ruining FEHB !

That should be a full load for this column ! I'll see you on September 28 ! Jim Miller
P.S. for Aileen ! I'm still writing, just not on the book today !

Jim Miller, President

Legislative and Insurance News

The U.S. Congress will go back in session September 10th for a about two and a half weeks and then adjourn for the November 6th election. They do not plan to accomplish much and may pass a Farm Bill that expires on September 30th.

Now is the time to visit your U.S. Senators, your Representative of the U.S House, and their opponents. If they are talking about cutting Government they are probably thinking of cutting your earned benefits. Visit your Kansas Representatives and their opponents too.

At the State Level, Jim and I keep monitoring the Interim Committee. We need people to help us monitor the Kansas Legislature on the computer. You can go to: <http://www.kslegislature.org/li/> If help is needed call: 1-800-432-3924. At this site you can view some of the activities of the Interim Committee.

This fall is a good time to visit the newly remodeled capitol and take a tour.

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 on their websites a summary document detailing information about health plan benefits and coverage, as required under the Affordable Care Act. NARFE Magazine will provide comprehensive analysis of many FEHB plans in its October, November and December issues.

On the Federal Radio program Mike Causey said OPM may hold down the cost of the price of insurance. We will have more information in our October 26th meeting. OPM says they have had Federal Employees submit nearly 9,000 retirement claims in August. This is more than in any other month besides January. Now is the time to grow our membership.

I hope to see you September 28th and invite a prospective member.

Ronald Richey, Legislative Chair

Treasurer and Editor Needed.

Through the years our Chapter has been blessed with members willing to take responsibility to be an officer. We face a change now in the Treasurer job and Newsletter position as this fine couple will be moving out of State. We need you - don't think some one else will do it - **you** volunteer. These are not difficult positions, but very IMPORTANT to keep our Chapter up and running. **If you would like to discuss your willingness to serve, please contact Dale Jirik at:**

Home Phone - 785-266-5492, Cell Phone - 785-221-0826, E-Mail ejjde@doglegs.com

Minutes, Chapter 002, August 24, 2012

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

The invocation was given by **Judy Shetter followed by the Pledge of Allegiance**. A two entrée cook-out meal was offered for \$9.00.

Members Report, Paul Manning –47 members, 2 guests Louis and Elizabeth Bornman were in attendance.

PROGRAM – Elizabeth Bornman 1st VP and Public Relations State of KS. – PR signs were made for vehicles to advertise NARFE – she loaned them to us for a month. She also spoke on America’s Heartbeat and their PR efforts. There are several form letters to fill out and submit to local newspapers that support our organization. She provided this information for Earlene, our PR officer.

Louis Bornman Area 1 VP/KS National Legislative Chair –Get involved with legislation. Keep pay at same level for five years. Congress wants current employees to pay more for their retirement benefits. All retirement monies go into a pot and when money is needed money is provided. They just keep borrowing from the pool. Under sequestration more money will be taken from Federal employees and military. On state level they are trying to place federal workers on the tax rolls. Go to meeting and advertise that you are a retiree.

Secretary, Gwen Ketter – Minutes for July were printed in the newsletter. No changes or corrections.

Treasurer/Newsletter Editor, David Smith – (read by Kathy in David’s absence)

General Fund Balance \$2,692.85; Alzheimer’s Fund - \$363.40; Life Membership account - \$1,199.25; Total \$4,255.50

Kathy Smith, Editor – David does assist with newsletter. Can be a lot simpler than the version we have. If someone would be willing to take the job next year they will be willing to work with you to learn the job. Same holds true for Treasurer job.

First VP, Galen Rapp – Need to have people to display the signs on their vehicle. Advertising NARFE is important. Membership is still a major concern for the organization. There are Red brochures to include in packets for retired potential member and Blue brochures to include in mailings to active potential members. Take as many as you need to send out, but make sure you do send out what you take. Include your membership number on the application to get credit for the recruit. Special newsletters are on the back table, attractive and presentable for use in advertising.

Second VP, Richard Wike – Sept meeting Dr Allen Bearman Director of Washburn Library will be the speaker.

Legislative, Ron Richey – The cost of living adjustment (COLA) is 1.0 percent as of July. The COLA for August will come out September 14th.

There is talk that President Barack Obama is exercising his authority to give federal civilian employees a pay raise, but they may have to wait until at least next April to receive it. 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 on their websites a summary document detailing information about health plan benefits and coverage, as required under the Affordable Care Act. NARFE magazine will provide comprehensive analysis of many FEHBP plans in its October, November and December issues. At the State Level, Jim and I keep monitoring the Interim Committee. We need people to help us monitor the Kansas Legislature on the computer. We are not lobbyist; we just observe them in an attempt to learn if changes they make apply to us.

Mary Harm, Social Committee – Ice Cream Social - Thanks

Service Officer Bill Kastens – no contacts

Good Cheer – Helen Louise Price – Sympathy cards were sent to the family of Bertha Wempe on her death and Maxine Bronaugh on the death of her brother and Get well to Les Beguelin on Hernia repair.

Earlene Jirik, Publicity – Thanks to Shirley Manning, Dolores Engle and Gwen Ketter for volunteering 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 Sept 13, 2012

Next NARFE General meeting – Friday Sept 28, 2012

Old Business: National Convention Support – Officers (yea), Dues./Fees(yea), Alt Spouse membership (nay); Disenfranchise E-NARFE (nay); Nat’l officer residency (nay); spending limits (nay); NEB restrict board (nay)

George Spotts Alzheimer chairperson:

The 50/50 drawing awarded \$12.00 to Marsha Rothmier; \$7.00 to Dorothy Maddox; and \$5.00 to Mary Harms.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Gwendolyn Ketter, Secretary

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	272-2658
Treasurer	David Smith	478-9163
Member-At-Large	Maynard Cox	478-0015
Member-At-Large	Paul Manning	272-6208

Other Contacts

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

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