



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



Chapter 002, Topeka, Kansas

SEPTEMBER 2013



**Reservations
are due to President
by Wednesday 9/24**

SEPTEMBER 27 MENU

**Fried Catfish
Pot Roast
Mashed Potatoes
Gravy
Carrots
Cole Slaw
Carrot Cake**

Cost: \$9.00

PROGRAM

**Brown
v.
Board of
Education**

Often when people think of the case, they remember a little girl whose parents sued so that she could attend an all-white school in her neighborhood. In reality, the story of Brown v. Board of Education is far more complex.

**OPM Advises
How To 'OPT-IN'
To Receive
Electronic 1099-R**

**Starting in
January 2014,**

the Office of
Personnel
Management is
allowing retirees
to opt-in
to receive their
1099-R
through
their Services
online account.

For more information
look at your July 2013
NARFE Magazine on
page 20.

From The President's Desk

As this is being written, the Kansas Legislature is in Special Session, with several key items to dispose of before adjournment. As Governor Brownback has scheduled a few fund raisers on Thursday evening, September 5th, and by law, he cannot raise funds for re-election while the Legislature is in session, we can hope the Legislature adjourns as he requested. No comment otherwise.

I met with Galen Rapp, Richard Wike, Gwen Ketter and Bill Kastens for a discussion on Membership. We tossed around several ideas and most of those accepted ended up in Gwen Ketter's already overloaded plate. Bottom line, especially with what is taking place in our anti-federal employee/federal retiree Congress, never before has the slogan YOU NEED NARFE, NARFE NEEDS YOU! rang more true. Galen Rapp and I attended a USPS retiree lunch, gave a few remarks, and Galen distributed membership applications. We may attend their next meeting, depending on the results received.

This month we will have a speaker from the Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education, who will provide information on this historical site. The October meeting will feature representatives from BC/BS and GEHA, to discuss important changes in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan. Of special interest to retirees, Congress voted to leave the FEHBP in January, 2014. What happens to federal retirees' health plan? My judgment is nothing good. Stay tuned to NARFE for answers and refer often to the slogan above! **I'll see you September 27!**

Jim Miller, President

snyderfan89@sbcglobal.net

478-0651

Legislative News

Governor Brownback called for a special session of the Kansas Legislature starting September 3, 2013. I attended the two day legislative session. They passed the hard 50" prison bill and they attempted to attach amendments to the bill but they did not pass. The Kansas Senate passed the Governors appointments and Caleb Stegall for Kansas Court of Appeals. I sat in on the Pension and Benefits committee meeting for KPERs. The unfunded liability for KPERs is now \$10.2 billion. There are bills to be introduced but they did not have committee meetings to address these bills.

President Barack Obama called for a 1 percent pay increase for federal employees. While the new fiscal year starts October 1, the pay raises proposed by President Obama wouldn't go into effect until January 1, 2014. Congress has yet to pass a fiscal 2014 budget and could block proposed pay increases with legislation when members return from recess on September 9.

**To protect your COLA,
Y-O-U must contact your Representative and Senators
during NARFE's Call Congress Week - Sept. 16th—20th**

Calling Capitol Hill is easy and only takes a few minutes – and a powerful way to protect your earned benefits. Use the toll-free number and follow these simple instructions:

- (1) **Call the Capitol using NARFE's toll-free number 1-866-220-0044.**
Ask the operator to connect you to your Representative's office.
- (2) Politely greet the staff person who answers the phone. Give your name and address so they know you are a constituent. Then say:
 - a. I am a retired/active federal employee and member of NARFE.
 - b. Senator or Representative [X] represents thousands of federal workers and retirees. As Congress debates the budget, I urge him/her to oppose a switch to the Chained CPI to determine annual COLAs to Social Security benefits, federal civilian and military retirement annuities, veterans' benefits, and disability insurance benefits.
 - c. The Chained CPI does not account for how much seniors spend on medical care and is therefore not a better measure of inflation. Over the next 25 years, I could lose \$ _____ in reduced COLAs. The budget should not be balanced on the backs of seniors.
 - d. Please oppose any effort to move to the Chained CPI. Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoints.
- (3) Call the Capitol using NARFE's toll-free number 1-866-220-0044 again and ask the operator to connect you to one of your Senators' offices and repeat the message. Repeat for your state's second Senator.

I would like to thank all the individuals who signed the Constituent Petition papers at the last two NARFE meetings. I mailed Senator Jerry Moran's to him. They are about our COLA, HR 1780, about the furloughs, Social Security (GPO) and (WEP).

Navella would like to thank all the people who brought coupons to the last two meetings. Ron mailed them and had a total of \$6,984.81.

Ron Richey, Legislative Chair

NARFE Chapter 02 - July 26, 2013 - Aldersgate Village

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

Program - Dr Irving Cohen - Natural Weight Loss and Health. Dr Cohen spoke about learning to use the New Hippocratic Diet® which is now available in an online course @ www.Learn2Diet.com. Natural weight loss means reaching a healthy weight without surgery, dangerous medication or packaged diet foods. Further information is available at www.PreventiveMedicineAssociates.com.

Members Report, Paul Manning – 46 members and one new member - Laurel Johnson were in attendance.

Secretary, Gwen Ketter – Minutes for June meeting were printed in the newsletter. No changes or corrections. Announced that committees would be forming in the near future for the Topeka 2015 NARFE Federation Convention.

Treasurer Bill Kastens – Wanted to thank all members for their support in the passing of Monica. General Fund Balance \$2,812.20; Alzheimer’s Fund - \$144.00; Life Membership account - \$1,199.44; Total \$4,155.64. **Service Officer, Bill Kastens** - Make sure to fill out your **“Be Prepared for Life’s**

Events” (F-100) it is important information for your loved ones when you pass.

Galen Rapp, 1st Vice-President and Membership - we need lots of members putting in effort to recruit new members. August 8th there will be a membership committee meeting at 9:30 in Parlor A to brainstorm ideas for future recruiting.

Richard Wike, 2nd Vice-President - August program is our annual ice cream social and auction for Alzheimer’s. Bring an item to be auctioned off or baked goods for sale. Sept meeting Brown v Board of Education. Oct meeting BCBS and GEHA.

REPORTS:

Jim Miller, NARFE PAC - If you haven't received your PAC pin for your donation, let Jim know and he will get you one.

Ron Richey, Legislative – report is listed in its entirety in the newsletter. Ron had us sign 8 different letters for our congressional delegation - He will deliver to their offices.

Earlene Jirik, Publicity - No report - No KTWU dates at this time. The person who made our badges has passed away and Earlene is looking into other possibilities.

Helen Louise Price, Good Cheer - Helen is in Stormont-Vail with a blood clot on her lung. Sympathy cards were sent to Jo Sue Burenheide, on the passing of George Burenheide, Bill Kastens on the passing of Monica Kastens and to the Maynard Cox family on his passing. Two get well cards were sent around for members to sign for Helen.

Joanne and Ron Miller, Newsletter Editor - There will be no newsletter in August.

Next Executive Board Mtg. was cancelled and instead a membership planning meeting will be 9:30 AM on August 8th
Next NARFE General Mtg. – August 23rd - Aldersgate

George Spotts , Alzheimer Chairperson: Gale DeVore took over for George who had to be at KU med center for a heart test. The **50/50 drawing** awarded \$13.00 to Navella Richey, \$9.00 to Joanne Miller & \$4.00 to Virginia Bohn.

NARFE Chapter 02 - August 23, 2013 - Aldersgate Village

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

Program - Annual Ice Cream Social. Ice cream was provided by Shirley and Paul Manning and Gwen Ketter. Jim insisted that they submit a bill for their supplies, so they each submitted \$10, which was donated to Alzheimer’s.

Members Report, Paul Manning – 42 members and one new member - Sharon Rosenow (from the VA) were in attendance. Welcome Sharon.

Secretary, Gwen Ketter – Minutes for July and August meeting will be printed in the September newsletter.

Announced that committees would be forming in the near future for the Topeka 2015 NARFE Federation Convention.

Treasurer Bill Kastens – General Fund Balance \$2,912.10; Alzheimer’s Fund - \$183.00; Life Membership account - \$1,199.45; Total \$4,294.55. **Service Officer, Bill Kastens** - Assisted one contact upon the death of her father.

Galen Rapp, 1st Vice-President and Membership - Jim and Galen met with the retirees from USPS at Coyote Canyon handed out informational brochures. Need people to attend events and make sure they have information to hand out.

Richard Wike, 2nd Vice-President - Sept meeting Brown v Board of Education. Oct meeting BCBS and GEHA

REPORTS:

Ron Richey, Legislative – report is listed in its entirety in the newsletter. Navella thanked all for their coupon donations, Ron submitted \$4,447.25 coupons from Topeka NARFE to National.

Earlene Jirik, Publicity - No report - No KTWU in August. The person who made our badges has passed away and Earlene is looking into other possibilities.

Helen Louise Price, Good Cheer - Not in attendance.

Joanne and Ron Miller, Newsletter Editor - Deadline for September newsletter is Sept 4th..

Next Executive Board Mtg. - August 29th 9:30 Parlor 206

Next NARFE General Mtg. - September 27th /Aldersgate

Health Fair at VA - November 20, 2013

George Spotts , Alzheimer Chairperson: Live auction was held to raise money for Alzheimer’s - Total Auction sales \$188.00. Additional donations were given - George will have the exact total. The **50/50 drawing** all three winners donated their money back to Alzheimer’s Research for a total of \$61.00 donation in all.

Both Meetings Adjourned at 1:30 PM.
Respectfully submitted, Gwendolyn Ketter

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	220-7196
Treasurer	Bill Kastens	272-2604
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
Editors	Joanne & Ron Miller	271-8117
Alzheimer Chairs	George & Flora Spotts	233-7108
Publicity	Earlene Jirik	266-5492

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