



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



Chapter 0002, Topeka, Kansas

SEPTEMBER 2014

September



Reservations
AND
Cancellations by
Wednesday,
September 24
to Jim Miller
478-0651
or e-mail

Sept. 26th

MENU

Fried Catfish
Pot Roast
Mashed Potatoes
And Gravy
Carrots
Coleslaw
Carrot Cake
with "Lite" Frosting

Cost: \$9.00

PROGRAM

by

**CHRIS
HARMON**

Hearing

Instrument

Specialist

HEARING AID

CENTER



Researchers with the
National Institute on
Deafness and Other
Communication
Disorders, part of the
National Institutes of
Health, have found a
strong link between
hearing loss and
depression in adults.

From President Jim Miller's Desk snyderfan89@sbcglobal.net

Whew! For a change, politics in Kansas are NOT as predictable as usual. It's not often that a Democrat candidate drops out of a Senatorial race, possibly helping a Independent candidate and creates so much hand wringing from the GOP. The Kris Kobach, the anti-illegal immigrant Secretary of State counters with not permitting the Democrat to resign? How will any of this affect NARFE members and those guileless active workers and retirees who either are independently wealthy or don't appreciate what NARFE has done and continues to do for them. NOW THROUGH THE END OF THE YEAR (*extended at the Orlando Convention*) is the time to tell them, ask them, inform them! September is the month to attend special events where local and state politicians gather to declare what a wonderful job they have done, and please re-elect me! Wear your NARFE shirts and or badges to let them know we are "out there" and we vote.

Open Season for health benefits is near and our October guest speakers will represent the two major health insurers, Blue Cross/Blue Shield and GEHA. I received a question from a non-member (we hear from a few of those when trouble looms). His wife worked for a corporation and had health benefits plan with them that covered him and was paid for by the corporation. When he retired, he dropped his federal plan. Dumb course of action. He could have enrolled himself on a bare bones plan just to remain eligible, and didn't. Now the corporation has sold out to another, and notified retired employees the new outfit won't honor what the previous management promised. Woops! NO health plan! Hey, NARFE! What are YOU going to do about this? I was as sympathetic as I could be, but told him there was nothing that could be done. No surprise, he hung up. Two lessons there and the first is we have a very good health benefits program, until ten years ago, looked at as a model health benefits plan. Personal note, these Millers have utilized almost every benefit available in the past three months). Second.....too many members of Congress want to kill our FEHBP, stating it is too generous. NARFE has defeated those proposals time and time again, but they are always on the table. So stay active, stay informed, stay cautious, and stay with NARFE!

I hope to see you on September 26!

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

The US Congress has returned September 8th, after being off for a month. They consider this a 12-day working session before they adjourn for the election on November 4th. They are not talking about shutting down the government or furloughing federal employees. They need to finance the government after September 30th. NARFE is pushing for a pay raise for federal employees in 2015. There is a bill for a 3.3% raise. A bill is in the US House for 1.8% for the military. NARFE is trying to obtain a pay increase of the same percentage rate as what the military and federal employees receive. This is what has been done in previous years. The US President has suggested a 1% pay raise in the budget. After the election NARFE will be watching congress in 2015 for the future of postal reform legislation, health insurance, and changes in the CPI. This is why it is good to pay \$40.00 to join. NARFE pays Lobbyist to represent us in Washington DC and to have people testify for you and NARFE. At state and local Chapters the officers are volunteers. At the Kansas State Legislature we have volunteers watching Congress to protect our benefits. The state is short on funds. Last year they were talking about extending the base on the sales tax. This is a good reason to join NARFE or have your dues withheld from your retirement annuity.

FREE ENTRANCE DAYS - September 27th, National Public Lands Day and November 11th, Veterans Day are free entrance days in the 401 National Parks.

OPEN SEASON for Federal and/or postal workers, and retiree health insurance programs (FEHBP), is **November 10th to December 8th** this year. Representatives of Blue Cross and Blue Shield and GEHA will be present at our chapter meeting on October 24th.



A UNIQUE FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY FOR NARFE ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH!!!
SATURDAY/SUNDAY, OCT. 11 & 12

Are you up to a fun day of merriment at the Kansas City Renaissance Festival? We'll step back in time in the **COSTUMES PROVIDED. Perks: You will be given free admission to the festival for working half a day.** Let Gwen know before OR at our September meeting if she can count on you. **MORE DETAILS IN RED IN COLUMN 2**



NARFE CHAPTER 0002 MINUTES

JULY 25, 2014 - ALDERSGATE VILLAGE

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

Welcome and Invocation was given by **Barb McClain** followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A two entree picnic meal including ice cream and fruit cobbler was offered for \$9.00.

Program Erik Wolf, Program & Communications Director of Friends of the KAW. Erik spoke about the organization and what they have to offer. Friends of the Kaw (FOK) is a nonprofit, grassroots environmental organization whose mission is to protect and preserve the Kaw for all generations. For information about FOTK got to: <http://kansasriver.org/about-fok/>

Members Report, Earlene Jirik – 48 members and 2 guests (our speaker Erik Wolf and Janice Whitman)

Earlene Jirik, Publicity - Some of our members worked for KTWU during the past month.

Secretary, Gwen Ketter – Minutes for July meeting were printed in the newsletter and were approved as printed. Thanks 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 where we selected our meal offerings for the convention as well as discussed touring the Ramada Inn on Wednesday September 17th at 1 PM. We will meet in the atrium area and discuss meeting areas. Anyone is welcome to attend. Our next committee meeting will be held Friday September 26 at 10 AM prior to the next General Membership meeting.

We will be working a Turkey Booth at the Kansas City Renaissance Festival over Columbus Day weekend, October 11 and 12, to raise money for Alzheimer's Research. If you are an able body and want to volunteer, please let me know by the next meeting so we can adjust for any extra persons. If you have family or friends who would like to help out let me know. You will be given free admission to the Festival for working half a day. costumes are provided. We can arrange to car pool from the East Topeka Turnpike entrance.

Treasurer, Bill Kastens – General Fund \$2,107.94, Savings \$1,199.56 and Alzheimer's \$32.98 Total \$3,307.50.
Service Officer Bill Kastens - No new calls.

Helen Louise Price, Good Cheer - Has moved back home from Mulvane extra care unit, but was not feeling up to the meeting yet - if you know of a member who is ill or in the hospital please contact Helen Louise Price at (785) 478-9602.

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

Richard Wike, 2nd Vice-President – September Chris Harmon from the Hearing Aid Center (What you say??) October will be our friends from BCBS and GEHA

Reports:

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

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

Jim Miller- NARFE PAC - Jim will take any funds members wish to donate.

* * Looking for anyone interested in holding an office - especially 1st Vice President * *

Next Executive Board meeting - Friday Oct. 3 - 9:30 AM

Convention Committee meeting - Friday Sept. 26 - 10 AM

Next NARFE General meeting - Friday Sept 26 - Noon

George Spotts Alzheimer Chairperson: Year-to-date Topeka is at \$2.49/member - goal is \$5.50/member. 50/50 drawing 1st \$9.00 - Marge Woytek, 2nd \$7.00 - Flora Spotts and 3rd \$4.00 Marge Woytek - all donated money back to Alzheimer's.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Gwendolyn Ketter

Chapter 0002 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
Member-At-Large	Mary Harms	862-1176

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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