



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



Chapter 0002, Topeka, Kansas

OCTOBER 2014



PLEASE NOTE NEW DEADLINE DATES

Reservations AND Cancellations due Friday, October 17 to Jim Miller 478-0651 or e-mail

Meeting On 4th Friday

Oct. 24th MENU

Jan's Meat Loaf Mashed Potatoes and Gravy Macaroni & Cheese with Ham bites Vegetable Jell-O-Fruit Salad Pie Assortment Cost: \$9.00

PROGRAM ON 2015

HEALTH BENEFIT CHANGES



By Pam Maxwell Blue Cross & Blue Shield

and

Kelly Bremer GEHA

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

First! I learned prior to the last chapter meeting that more than several members had missed the obituary of my wife Irene. The obituary was scheduled to run three days and one day didn't "get the job done." My grateful thanks and appreciation to chapter members and NARFE family for your many expressions of sympathy. My response for most were "Be sorry for me...be glad for Irene. She had suffered too many illnesses for too long a time. "As it is written "the spirit was willing, but the body is weak." She was dismissed from the hospital with total kidney failure; declined life extending kidney dialysis and Midland Hospice stepped in. She had our family at her bedside on her last day, held hands and had a prayer. She died about one hour later.

One of Irene's fondest wishes came true. She didn't want me to "go" before she did. Considering the responsibilities the surviving spouse inherits, she was wise. The OPM (Office of Personnel Management) is not the simplest website to navigate, but thanks to Bill Kastens, I have had previous experience with that. Patience is required!

By the time this newsletter arrives, we will be in the home stretch for the November 4 elections and most of us will be, like the man who was fired, he told his wife, because of illness and fatigue. His wife asked "What does that mean?" He replied "The boss said he was sick and tired of me!" Even if we're sick and tired of political ads, don't let those turn you off for voting! Plus check page 34 of the Oct. issue of NARFE magazine. The voting record of every Representative and every Senator is recorded. Page 29 starts with explanation of what each numbered bill contained, and how our elected officials voted. NARFE IS POLITICAL BUT NON-PARTISAN! So read the article, determine if the issues are/were important to you, and determine how favorable our congressional delegation views federal employees. Then attend a Meet the Member meeting (check with their KS office for a schedule) and ask questions. There should be some "interesting" answers.

The Membership Drive with incentives continues until January 1, 2015. Your chapter will be represented (we hope!) at a pre-retirement seminar for CSRS and FERS employees with the Veterans Administration. That will be another opportunity to help make the title of NARFE known to a wider audience! I hope to meet and greet you during the October 24th chapter meeting!

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

In the October issue of NARFE Magazine they have an article on how the 113th Congress voted on NARFE issues. The US Congress is in recess. November 4th is election day. We encourage you to get out and vote. The US Congress will resume session November 12 and this will be called a Lame Duck Session.

During September the funding for the US Government was extended until the first of December. Then they will have to decide if they will extend the funding or shut the government down. During September they did not discuss offering federal employees a pay raise or denying them a pay increase for 2015.

The Kansas Legislature goes in session on January 12, 2015. The big discussion will be about the short fall of income for the state in Kansas.

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

On October 14, 2014, there is a Retirement Seminar scheduled to be held in Topeka, Kansas, at the VA Hospital, in Building #5. Civil Service will be from 8 AM - 11 AM, FERS is from 1 PM - 4 PM. For reservations e-mail KCHCSRetirement-KWCP@va.gov

The next cost of living will come out on Wednesday, October 22nd at 8:30 AM EDT. The cost of living pay raises will be announced for January of 2015 after that. The current cost of living stands at 1.61%.

Open season for federal and/or postal workers, and retiree insurance programs (FEHBP), is November 10th through December 8th this year. Blue Cross and Blue Shield and GEHA will have representatives present at our chapter meeting on October 24th. NARFE will have the information in our November and December magazines.

**NARFE CONVENTION & CHAPTER MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 26, 2014 - ALDERSGATE VILLAGE**

NARFE Chapter 0002 2015 State Convention Planning Meeting was called to order by Gwen Ketter, Convention Coordinator/Chapter Secretary and Federation Secretary with ten members present. SHARON ROSENOW, RON RICHEY, NAVELLA RICHEY, MARY HARMS, FLORA SPOTTS, GEORGE SPOTTS, BILL KASTENS (TREASURER) CHARLOTTE PITTMAN. Discussion on menus and focused on potential ads for the program book. That stopped when Gwen received a phone call from Omaha. Her brother was in the hospital in critical condition and she left immediately. Gwen's brother, **Richard Lee Ketter**, did not survive his hospital crisis and a note of sympathy and empathy for Gwen's loss was sent. Copies were made of advertising prices, distributed and the fact that all advertising dollars stays with the sponsoring chapter was emphasized. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. to prepare for the chapter meeting and sign-in.

CHAPTER MINUTES! Welcome and open the mtg. by JIM MILLER, President. The invocation and salute to the American Flag was given by GALE DEVORE. The buffet lunch was enjoyed by only 34 members and guests. The program was provided by Chris Harmon, Hearing Aid Center. Chris provided the addresses for his various locations and his program gave an interesting history of hearing aids and devices. He also provided purse sized hearing test cards for individuals to check their hearing.

GWEN KETTER, Secretary - excused absence, Minutes accepted as printed.

JOANNE MILLER, Federation Alzheimer's Chair - excused absence, on vacation.

BILL KASTENS, Treasurer \$ 2,265.00 in checking, \$ 2,000.00 in savings. Total on hand \$ 4,265.00.

GALEN RAPP, Vice President and Membership - excused absence.

RICHARD WIKE, Vice President and Programs - program for October will be Pam Maxwell, Blue Cross & Blue

Shield; Kelly Bremer, GEHA, Government Employees Health Association. We anticipate a much larger lunch crowd, so be sure to call for reservations!

HELEN LOUISE PRICE, Correspondence and Sunshine - excused absence.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

RON RICHEY, Legislation - written report submitted.

DALE JIRIK, Nominations - Dale was pleased to report a full slate of candidates for office, and there were no nominations from the floor! Nominees are Gwen Ketter, Secretary; Bill Kastens, Treasurer; Richard Wike, Vice President and Programs; Barbara McClain, First Vice President and Membership; Jim Miller, President. Election will be during the October 24 chapter meeting.

GEORGE SPOTTS - Alzheimer's Chairman and 50-50 drawing: First - Earlene Jirik, \$13.00; Second - Bill Kastens, \$8.00; Third - Richard Wike, \$5.00. Every winner donated their winnings to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research!

Next Executive Cte. mtg. (change) Oct. 10, 9:30 a.m.

Next Chapter mtg. Oct. 24 (5 Fridays in October!)

Respectfully submitted,

SHARON ROSENOW, Chapter Secretary "Pro tem."

NOVEMBER IS ALZHEIMER'S MONTH

100% of any donation given to NARFE ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH goes to and only to research! None of the funds are used for administrative costs. Alzheimer's is not just "minor memory loss," it is a disease that is ultimately fatal. It kills nerve cells and tissue in the brain, causing it to shrink dramatically. It affects a person's ability to communicate, to think and, eventually, to breathe. At least 44 million people worldwide are now living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. As our population ages, those numbers will swell to 76 million by 2030. Currently there is no way to prevent, stop or even to slow the progression of Alzheimer's disease and its cause is not "yet" understood.

If you are considering a year end donation to NARFE ALZHEIMER'S RESEACH, contact George Spotts.

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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