



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



Chapter 0002, Topeka, Kansas

AUGUST 2014

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

August

**Reservations
AND
Cancellations by
Wednesday,
August 20
to Jim Miller
478-0651
or e-mail**

**Indoor Picnic
at noon**

**AUGUST 22
(the 4th Friday)**

**Annually Americans
consume 14 billion
hamburgers!!!**

Cost: \$9.00

with

PROGRAM

by

**Erik Wolf
Communication
and Program
Director for
Friends of
the Kaw**



**Funding for the
program comes
from membership
contributions, special
events and grants to
protect and preserve
the Kansas River.**

Life is convoluted but rarely boring! Being an officer and a laborer in NARFE's vineyards can be, at the same time, one of the most rewarding and one of the most frustrating tasks anyone can take on. Thus, this column begins with an appreciative nod to one of our own, JOANNE MILLER, who accepted the position of NARFE Alzheimers Chair for the Kansas Federation **(but yet to be confirmed)**! Enjoy the recognition, Joanne; Janice, George and Flora Spotts will tell you about the hard work! Those words are also a pitch for consideration when YOU ...yes YOU! are contacted to accept a job in the chapter. GWEN Ketter was pleasantly surprised to see sixteen chapter members show up for a 2015 convention planning meeting! Gwen wears several hats in NARFE, and added that of convention Chair, so the number of chapter members stepping forward was heartening! INSURANCE QUESTIONS! Perhaps it's the hotter weather but several members have asked me about insurance issues. Obtaining answers about insurance companies is almost as difficult as tracking down the anonymous billionaires who are secretly funding elections. Questions from a NARFE member were (1) why would NARFE promote an ad for an insurance company (are you reading this, Carol ?) that would decrease the death benefit as the policy holder aged? Best answer - years ago, NARFE did accept paid ads but didn't endorse the products. Today, my unpaid, unsolicited advice is....read any policy you have. If the death benefit isn't what you paid for all these years, cash it in IF the policy has cash value. I accepted my own advice and cashed in a paid up policy with pitiful death benefits, for a princely \$28.56! Not even a down payment for a funeral! Another question was... why do I pay for years on a policy for my children and when I'm in the hospital and the premium comes due, I miss paying it, and the insurance company cancels the policy? With no reinstatement! Start with the insurance company by writing a letter (old union adage, IF IT AIN'T IN WRITING, IT AIN'T!) with a CC to the Insurance Commissioner of Kansas, asking the company to reinstate the policy because you were in the hospital.

Sandy Praeger is still in office and has been a great Commissioner, in my view. Also contact the Jayhawk Area on Aging, 2910 SW Topeka Blvd., Topeka, KS, phone 235-1367. When I was serving as a member of the Silver Haired Legislature, we were pushing a bill to prevent that Elder Abuse and by now, it may have, should have been passed. BILL Kastens is our chapter Service Officer as well as Chapter Treasurer. I mentioned Elder Abuse, and as we age, it is good to know you have friends in NARFE. Remember if and when anyone asks you "Why do you pay dues to NARFE ?" ask them if they are a federal employee or retiree....why THEY aren't a member. Then point to a hard earned and won court decision saving federal retirees millions of dollars in income tax, and thanks to Topeka Chapter stalwarts like Oscar Albrecht and Ron Richey, have continued to save at least up to 2015 Kansas legislative session opening. Rewarding, frustrating, but never boring! *I'll see you at our August 22 chapter meeting/indoor picnic!*

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

Now that the Primary Election is over the US Senators and US Representatives are home through Labor Day. NARFE members must not let this opportunity to interact with legislators and candidates pass you by. Meet with them and give them your NARFE Business Card. If you need more NARFE Business Cards call Gwendolyn Ketter. The General Election is on November 4th. After the recess, Congress will have about three weeks in September to fund the government for at least part of fiscal year 2015.

The total Active and Retired Federal and Postal Employees in Kansas is about 48,158.

September 2014 NARFE Membership Drive

- Recruiters will receive \$10 for each new member, current OR retired, who joins in September 2014. **(Applications must be postmarked, and calls or website joins must be received, by September 30.)**
- All September recruiters will be entered into a drawing, once for each new member they have recruited. A Kindle Fire tablet will be awarded to a recruiter randomly selected from this pool.
- Mail in the F-135 brochure;
- Go online to narfe.org and click the Join link;
- Call us at 800-627-3394; or
- Use the application that appears in every issue of NARFE magazine. **Be sure to include your recruiter ID number to receive credit for your recruitment effort.**

We look forward to making September a terrific recruitment month – one that will reinvigorate all the would-be recruiters among us!

Elaine Hughes, NARFE National Secretary

REPORT CONTINUED →

OPM ANNOUNCES MORE FLEXIBILITY FOR DENTAL AND VISION COVERAGE

Federal employees, who get married while working, or return to work after a period of leave without pay, soon will be able to enroll for dental and vision coverage outside the Open Season. The annual open season window is in November. The new rule takes effect August 15, 2015, so check with OPM.



VIETNAM TRAVELING WALL

Honor those who served and died for our Freedom at the Vietnam Traveling Wall. It will be at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard at Forbes Field August 28-31. [Admission to both is FREE](#)



**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 **Ron Richey** followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A two entree meal was offered for \$9.00.

Program Bill Roe, representing **Lynn Jenkins** (2nd District Congresswoman) and **Margie Wakefield** (Democrat running for 2nd District Congress), Both spoke of needs and **wants for Federal Employees/Retirees. Both spoke of the necessity to reach across the aisle to work together for one America.**

Members Report, Earlene Jirik – 45 members and 2 guests (John and Linda Surette as well as one of our speakers (Bill) were in attendance for the meal. We had a couple show up for the speaker as well as the other speaker (Margie).

Earlene Jirik, Publicity - May have a time to work at KTWU on Aug 12th keep in touch

Secretary, Gwen Ketter – Minutes for June meeting were printed in the newsletter and were approved as printed. Thanks to the following members who showed up at the 2015 Convention planning meeting: Jim Miller, Marcella Tinoco, Sharon Rosenow, Richard Wike, Paul and Shirley Manning, Ronald and Navella Richey, Charlotte Pittman, Mary Harms, Joanne and Ron Miller, Bill Kastens, Barb McLain, Dolores Engel.

The following people have taken on the responsibilities of chairing

different aspects of the convention: Alzheimer's - George and Flora Spotts, Decorations and Banquet - Mary Harms. Host/Hostess/Information - Dolores Engel, Hospitality - Ron and Joanne Miller, Printing and Advertising - Charlotte Pittman, Sergeant - at- arms - Richard Wike, Financial Officer - Bill Kastens, Credentials Committee - Sharon Rosenow.

Treasurer, Bill Kastens – General Fund \$2,603.94, Savings \$1,199.56 and Alzheimer's \$32.98 Total \$3,803.50. Moved our banking to Capital Federal from Core First.

Service Officer, Bill Kastens - No new calls.

Helen Louise Price, Good Cheer - Was in Mulvane extra care unit, but reported that she had no contacts - 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 - Business Cards for NARFE have been printed and are offered to members. The cards give information about Topeka NARFE and can be passed out to potential members. If you want cards let one of the officers know and we will get you some. National has offered an incentive of \$10 per member recruited in the month of September, so put on your thinking caps and find some members.

Richard Wike, 2nd Vice-President - August Friends of the Kaw - Erik Wolf as well as our Ice Cream social. September Chris Harmon from the Hearing Aid Center.

Reports:

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

Joanne and Ron Miller, Newsletter Editor - Deadline for August newsletter is Aug 1st.

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

Next Executive Board meeting - Friday Aug 1st - 9:30 AM!

Next NARFE General meeting - Friday Aug 22nd

Convention Committee - Friday Aug 22nd at 10:00 AM

George Spotts, Alzheimer Chairperson: Year-to-date Topeka is at \$2.49/member - goal is \$5.50/member. 50/50 drawing 1st \$11.00 - Gail Horsley, 2nd \$9.00 - Dorothy Maddox and 3rd \$6.00 Wanda Stephens - all donated money back to Alzheimer's.

Added notes - Paul Manning's 86th Birthday is July 26th. Leah Shaw had hip surgery in February.

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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US PAID POSTAGE
TOPEKA, KANSAS
PERMIT NO. 525

National Active & Retired
Federal Employees Association
2632-b SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66614-2497