

# NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOC

## Chapter 0002, Topeka, Kansas

February, 2011

### Executive Committee:

President	Jim Miller	478-0651
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Ron Neis	266-5025
2nd Vice President	Richard Wike	783-8122
Secretary	Gwendolyn Ketter	272-2658
Treasurer	Sherry Potter	272-4564
Member-at-Large	Maynard Cox	478-0015
Member-at-Large	Paul Manning	272-6208

### Other Contacts:

Good Cheer	Helen Price	478-9602
Membership Chair	Ron Neis	266-5025
Service Officer	Bill Kastens	272-2604
Editor	Maynard Cox	478-0015

**Where:** Aldersgate Village, 7220 SW Asbury Drive  
**When:** Friday, February 25, 2011; 12:00 Noon **\$9.00**  
**Menu:** Cole Slaw, Lasagna, Chicken Alfredo, Honey Glazed Carrots, Broccoli & Cauliflower, Garlic Bread Stix, Carrot Cake, Beverages  
**Program:** Wilma Booth, PRN/Hospice/ Home Health Care

New automatic sliding doors have been installed at the entrance you come to our Chapter meetings which especially will be handy for anyone carrying something that would be a problem trying to open doors by handle.

I apologize for the big "N" at the beginning of our President's message. I don't know what I did to get it and haven't figured out how to get rid of it before sending to the printer so anyone who might know how, please let me know.

### **Jim Miller - President**

In the Good Old Days " members of Congress passed the buck. Now, it seems, they keep it ! That touches off topic # one, the many members of NARFE who are dismayed and confused about the EXTRA withholding of income tax from their annuity checks. Short explanation from 21 pages of reference and other sources. Congress didn't approve the expiring tax credits in time for IRS to roll in the changes, and the additional income taxes were withheld. Solution, other [www.opm.gov/retire](http://www.opm.gov/retire) or call OPM @ 1-888-767-6738 from 7:30 a.m to 8:00 P.M., Eastern Standard time. I was advised, it may be better to call on Wednesdays or Thursday.

What is required for this newsletter to be in our members' hands every month ? Informative columns written by your elected and appointed Officers and Chairs, then submitted to the Editor. These are edited as necessary. Sherry Potter receives the mail in labels and checks those for accuracy. She deletes one when two are at the same address. She then sends them to the editor who deletes all that are on email. Edited letter is send to the printer. The labels are delivered to Paul and Shirley Manning who pick up the letter from the printer, apply the mailing labels ( purchased from NARFE HQ) and drive the newsletter to the DMU ( Detached Mailing Unit ) North of the Kansas River. Members who have submitted their e-mail address receive the newsletter on line, saving our chapter " a bundle of bucks " every month. It's not as easy as it sounds and everyry

link in that chain deserves our thanks and appreciation !

Special thanks to Maynard Cox who completed 23 years as our Chapter Treasurer, turned that job over to Sherry Potter....then volunteered to be Editor. Sherry has indicated 2011 will be her LAST year as Treasurer, so if you have interest in serving our chapter, ask Sherry about her responsibilities and pass that interest along to Dale Jirik.

**MEMBERSHIP!** The new and revised NARFE membership applications have arrived and a few will be on display at the chapter luncheon, February 25. Gwen Ketter, Ron Nies and I met after the Executive Committee meeting February 10 to work on our chapter's 2011 recruiting and retention plan. Ron Neis will be the Vice President AND MEMBERSHIP Chairman. Ron Richey steps up as our Legislative Chairman. Welcome back Ron.

**NARFE STATE CONVENTION-** April 10-11-12 in Junction City ! We are authorized 19 delegates and anyone in good standing can attend as a delegate ! Delegates are not required to be officers, so check for details at the next chapter meeting. Delegates are required to attend all sessions, as they represent our chapter's best interests and vote accordingly.

**NARFE's INTEGRATED ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN !** No secret ! This Congress will threaten cuts in federal pay, retirements and health benefits . The coordinated campaign will provide us with accurate information and up dates on Congressional cuts. Why is this needed ? Some lawmakers are using misleading " news reports " that federal workers and retirees are overpaid when working and receive overly generous retirement and health benefits when retired. And that leads me to NARFE PAC! Use the form in the NARFE magazine to complete the information required, and give the form with your contribution to me at the chapter meeting. I'll group our contributions and send those to Don Cooper, Federation NARFE PAC Chairman, to ensure the Topeka chapter receives full credit. My mailing address is 7220 SW Asbury Dr. apt. 219-W, Topeka, KS 66614-6508.

As you see, we have a LOT going on ! Please plan on being at our February 25 luncheon / meeting ! I'll see you there.

### **Gwendolyn Ketter - Secretary**

NARFE Chapter 02  
January 28, 2011  
Aldersgate Village

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Miller at 12:00 P.M. The invocation was given by **Flora Spotts** followed by the flag salute. A two entree lunch was served for \$9.00.

**Program, Debra Stufflebeam**, Director of the Sheppard's enter, Topeka <http://www.shepherdscentertopeka.org>  
**Members Report, Paul Manning** – 57 members in attendance. **Secretary, Gwen Ketter** – minutes printed in the January Newsletter. Change - Betty Engle won \$7.88 not Dolores Engel. No other changes were made.

**President, Jim Miller** – next Federation Convention will be in Junction City. Those who wish to be delegates need to let Jim know. April 10-12 will be the convention date. Delegates will be reimbursed for registration only. Alzheimer's auction items will be accepted (please make sure they are worth at least \$5.00).

New forms are backlogged and we have not received them yet. There is a membership form in the NARFE magazine. Taxes were increased on retiree's paychecks – trying to find out reason for increase.

**Treasurer, Sherry Potter** – If you have an email address on file with NARFE – they will notify you about your membership by email.

Chapter beginning balance \$2,581.

**Receipts:** Dues - \$267.84 Meals - \$636.00 Core First Interest - \$.25 Ways and Means - \$26.25

**Disbursements:** Christmas Social - \$100.39, Meals - \$486.00, Aldersgate Employee Fund Donation - \$100.00,

Ways and Means - \$26.25

Ending Balance - \$2,798.79

Life Membership account - \$1,196.64

Alzheimer's - \$12.13

**First VP, Ron Neis** – Setting up a computer program to track membership. If you know of federal retirees, try to recruit and if you need help let the executive committee know.

**Second VP, Richard Wike** – February meeting program will be Wilma Booth, PRN/Hospice/Home Health Care

**Newsletter Editor, Maynard Cox** – The options for replacing the Editor were in the last newsletter which were : (1) Pay from our Treasury an amount to have it done by an outside printer, and perhaps make it a quarterly newsletter rather than a monthly one. This would soon be a strain on our treasury and doubtfully could it be afforded..

(2) Have our President appoint someone as is done on other Chair persons or

(3) Discontinue having a newsletter.

It is a disappointment that with the talents possessed by many of our members, only one has expressed interest in doing the newsletter. We will have a February newsletter and have a member, **Kathleen Smith** who has expressed interest and has agreed to become the Editor.

**Legislative, Ron Richey** - In what year did Kansas women have the right to vote in all elections? – 1912. Make sure you are registered to vote. If you change your residence you will need to register again. Tax season – Your pension is tax exempt from Kansas taxes. We are working to maintain that exemption.

**Service Officer, Bill Kastens** – Not in attendance.

**Good Cheer, Helen Louise Price** - Sent sympathy cards to the families of Edwin Provost who died December 11; Wendell Redding who died December 26; Josephine Griffith who died January 26. Sympathy cards were also sent to Margie Flannagan on the death of her son; Patricia Lundry on the death of her brother; Phillip Sell on the death of his father. A get well card was sent to Anna Mae Wright.

**Publicity, Earlene Jirik** – Had one name tag to hand out for Nancy Southard, not in attendance. If you want a name tag contact Earlene.

**George Spotts, Alzheimer** chairperson:

The 50/50 drawing awarded \$13.25 to Hazel Badger; \$7.95 to Don Baxter; and \$5.30 to Jean Beguelin.

**Alzheimer stats:**

We raised \$4.93 per member (goal \$5.50)  
Rank of Federations Total Donation 1-VA, 2 -NC 3-KS Per Capita 1-MS, 2-KS

488 in Topeka averaged \$1.95 per member  
Best choice labels - please bring to meetings.

Next Executive Committee meeting will be 9:00 AM on February 10, 2011.

Next NARFE Chapter meeting –Friday February 25, 2011  
Meeting Adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gwendolyn Ketter. Secretary

**Ronald Richey - Legislative Chair** -

Kansas Trivia Question - Ten-year-old Wilbur Chapman of White Cloud wanted to raise money for the American Leprosy Mission in 1913, so he made an odd-shaped device that caught everyone's eye. What is Wilbur credited with inventing?  
Answer: The piggy bank

We would like to extend our sympathy to Sen. Vicki Schmidt and Family, on the death of her Dad Victor Ensz, on Jan. 21, 2011. She was a guest speaker at our chapter recently.

On March 1, 2011, is the City/School Primary Election and April 5, 2011, is the City/School General Election. We would like to encourage you to get out and vote.

The Office of Personnel Management announced that open season for the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program will run from April 4 through June 24. Call (800) 582-3337.

In reading the 1040 tax book...“What's new in expired tax benefits” the following tax benefit expired and is not available for 2010. Increased standard deduction for real-estate taxes and/or net disaster loss for a disaster occurring after 2009. This can happen to our benefits.

That is why it is important to be a NARFE member, be active, and encourage other Federal Retirees to attend and join NARFE. This helps us provide staff in Washington D. C. to monitor our legislature.

I would like to thank Jim Miller and Ron Neis for their continued help in monitoring the Kansas Legislature in an effort to retain our benefits. To listen to the Kansas House and/or Senate get information at:  
<http://www.kslegislature.org/li>

**Helen Price - Good Cheer** -Since the last meeting get well cards have been sent to Pauleen Harris who was hospitalized at St Francis Hospital and to Marjorie Roy who was hospitalized at Stormont-Vail Hospital. A sympathy card was sent to Dianna Duclos at the time of her sister's death, Peggy Lee, on January 27 and to the family of Luella Weikal at the time of her death on February 3

**Miscellaneous:**The following message from our national office was provided by our Federation President Carol Ek

““In response to high call volume, the Office of Personnel Management has established a new Tax Hotline that retirees can call to change the federal tax withholding on their monthly annuity payments. The number is 800-307-8298.”

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