



NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



Chapter 002, Topeka, Kansas

May 2011



Next Meeting
Aldersgate Village
7220 SW Asbury Drive
Topeka, Kansas 66614

Date and Time
May 27, 2011
12:00 Noon

Program
Mike Flynn
Rebound Physical
Therapy
Healthy Food & Body



Lunch Menu
Apple Salad
Swiss Steak
Chicken Parmesan/
Linguine
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Vegetable Medley
Peach Pie
Rolls & Butter
Beverages
Cost: \$9.00

Good Cheer

Since the April meeting a get-well card has been sent to Gwendolyn Ketter. Sympathy cards have been sent to the family of Margie Erickson on her death April 26 and to Howard Spencer on the death of his wife Celia on May 1.
Helen Price, Good Cheer Chair

From The President's Desk

THE FOOL SAYS I WILL PREPARE TOMORROW. THE WISE SAY I PREPARED YESTERDAY. That sage advice applies to almost everything we do, buckling our seat belts, paying heed to tornado and storm warnings, reading the multitude of warnings issued about food and product recalls and you can add your own personal items. The KANSAS LEGISLATURE is still in session as this is written and while " It ain't over till it's over " (Yogi Berra) the Governor assures everyone the budget approved by the KS House and Senate contains NO tax increases. Your NARFE chapter prepared last year for what proved to be a most difficult and contentious 2011 legislative session. A special salute to Chapter 0002 Legislative Chairman Ron Richey! Ron spent more time at the State House monitoring committee meetings and measuring potential threats to federal and KPERS retirees (both groups are " targets " for some legislators) than did professional, well paid lobbyists. Ron carried his pad and pen for note taking. His well paid counterparts carried laptop computers or notebooks. Ron Richey accurately predicts 2012 will be even more difficult and we will " line up our legislative ducks in a row " during the fall season, to better prepare for the 2012 Legislature. The next salute goes to Ron Neis, our retiring First Vice President, for what I personally hope will be a temporary absence. Ron submitted his resignation due to family responsibilities and obligations and he will be missed. In addition to his duties with Membership, Ron also helped in visiting the State House and helping keep tabs on committee meetings. Both of those are vital to NARFE and our members.

The next salute and tip of the Miller hat goes to Sherry Potter, Chapter Treasurer. Five years ago, Sherry stepped up to work with Maynard Cox, after Maynard had served our chapter as Treasurer for 23 years ! Sherry learned well, and has done well. She also calmly stated she would serve a maximum of five years and 2011 will be her final year. The Treasurer's position has many important responsibilities and if there are any potential Sherry Potters, or Harry Potters in our chapter, I urge you to visit with Sherry. She will provide insights not available from anyone else !

NAPUS PAC- I'm filling in as NARFE PAC Chairman and we have had a good response from chapter members. Topeka is 2nd on the list of contributors, Wichita leads. We will accept whatever amount you can afford; \$20.00 contributors will receive a NARFE PAC pin, and I have those on hand. 2012 is a Presidential election year and I refer to the lead sentence on preparation. With the failure to legislate MEDICARE out of existence, Congress will now turn to a far smaller (fewer votes) and easier target, federal retirees. The savings Congress will achieve will be a "spit in the ocean " but cuts to federal employees / retirees are seen as symbolic, especially in a election year. NARFE PAC is critical in supporting us and our issues !

The College of NARFE Knowledge ! August 29-31, South Sioux City, NE. We will have information on CONK at the chapter meeting May 27, and hotel reservation deadline is August 1. Ron Richey and I are registered, carpools are advised, and room sharing will cut your costs. Carol EK, former KS Federation President accepted the responsibility of National Vice President for Region V, and she will host the event. The theme is LEGISLATION (plus other sessions) and that especially is an issue close to our hearts and interests !

Maynard Cox has selected a choice menu for lunch, the weather should cooperate; Vice President Richard Wike has Mike Flynn of REBOUND as our program, so I'll look forward to seeing YOU on May 27th ! **Jim Miller, President**

ALZHEIMER'S TRIBUTE GIFT FORM

In Loving Memory Of... In Honor Of...
PLEASE PRINT

Name _____
Enclosed is my gift of _____

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Name: _____
Address: _____
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PLEASE SEND ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO:
Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____

USE SEPARATE PAPER FOR ADDITIONAL NAME

ALZHEIMER'S TRIBUTE GIFT FORM

The form is for donations to Alzheimer's Research. Send donations to:
George Spotts Alzheimer's Chair
325 SE Rice Road
Topeka, KS 66607-2334

Legislative News

We are currently in the third week of the Sine and Die Session attempting to concur on the 2012 Budget. Today the Senate passed the final Tax Bill ---there was no mention made about taxing our annuities; and changes were made and passed regarding KPERS Retirement Program. I have grave concerns about next year because all the Bills that were introduced in either chamber are still alive in committee for consideration next year. Regarding the KPERS Bill they are going to appoint a 13-member committee to study the KPERS Retirement Program this summer and fall. The Tax Committee plans to have interim meetings throughout the summer and fall with the intent of looking at the income tax codes and sales taxes.
Ronald Richey, Chapter 2, Legislative Chair

Kansas Trivia

Four men played a game of poker to name this Mitchell County town after the winner. Messrs. Huchell, Ride and Ksinka lost. Who won?
Answer: The post office in Cawker City is probably glad Mr. Cawker won.

Minutes, Chapter 002, April 22, 2011

President, Jim Miller, called the meeting to order. Judy Shetter gave the invocation and led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Richard Wike, 2nd V-P, introduced the speaker, Rep. Lynn Jenkins. Due to a time constraint, she talked while the audience ate their lunch. She discussed what is going on in Congress and what she plans to do -- particularly supporting retired federal employees and protecting Medicare. People 55 and older would not be affected by the proposed new Medicare regulations. She also answered questions from the membership.

Paul Manning announced there were 53 members present, plus 3 guests and the speaker, for a total of 57 in attendance.

The new State Federation President, Cindy Renee Blythe, was introduced. She mentioned the Presidential "Save Award" which solicits suggestions from Federal employees regarding ways to save money. This morning she and some members of Chapter 2 had attended the Governor's signing of a proclamation denoting May 1-5 as "Public Service Recognition Week."

Daryl Ford, a member of the Valley Falls NARFE Chapter, was present and thanked everyone for allowing him to visit our Chapter meeting.

Gwen Ketter, Secretary, was not present, so Jo Burenheide took minutes. There were no corrections or additions to the minutes of the March meeting which were printed in the Newsletter; the minutes were approved as printed.

Sherry Potter, Treasurer, gave the treasurer's report showing a balance of \$1,913.70 as of 4/21/11; of that amount, \$203.88 is designated for the Alzheimer's Research Fund.

Jim Miller announced that Ron Neis, 1st V-P, has submitted his resignation for that office.

Richard Wike, 2nd V-P, announced that the speaker for the May meeting will be from Rebound.

Jim Miller asked for a show of hands of those who had received a mailing from the National Office entitled "Protecting America's Heartbeat." Apparently, the National Office pushed this matter through and is now trying to get the membership to pay for it.

Ron Richey gave the Legislative Report and thanked Jim Miller for visiting with Senators Pat Roberts and Jerry Moran and Rep. Lynn Jenkins. The Kansas State Legislature re-convenes on April 27.

Bill Kastens, Service Officer, had no report. Earlene Jirik, Publicity Chair, had nothing to report.

Helen Price, Good Cheer Chair, reported sympathy cards were sent to the family of James Plumberg, to Maynard Cox on the death of his step-daughter, and to Gail Horsley on the death of her step-father. Helen is depending on members to notify her of any illnesses of members so that get-well cards can be sent.

Jim Miller noted that the next Executive Board meeting will be May 12 at 9:00 AM; the next Chapter meeting will be May 27 at noon; Aug. 29-31 is the CONK (College of NARFE Knowledge) in South Sioux City, IA.

George Spotts, Alzheimer's Chair, gave a report on the State Federal Convention, noting that the Alzheimer's Auction raised a total of \$4,225.50 (Live Auction - \$1,365.50 and Silent Auction - \$2,860.00). The 50/50 Drawing was held; winners were: \$13.25 - Kathy Smith, \$7.95 - Jean Beguelin, and \$5.30 - Shirley Manning.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Jo Burenheide, Acting Secretary

LONG TERM HEALTH INSUR. OPEN SEASON

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has announced the open season for Federal Long Term Care Insurance program is from April 4, 2011 to June 24, 2011.

Call 1-800-582-3337 for more information

ROAD CONSTRUCTION

DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE ROAD CONSTRUCTION ON 29TH STREET. ALLOW A LITTLE MORE TIME.

| <u>Chapter 002 Officers</u> | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|----------|
| President | Jim Miller | 478-0651 |
| 1st 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 |

| <u>Other Contacts</u> | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|----------|
| Good Cheer | Helen Price | 478-9602 |
| Membership Chair | Ron Neis | 266-5025 |
| Service Officer | Bill Kastens | 272-2604 |
| Editor | Kathy Smith | 478-9163 |
| Alzheimer Chair | George Spotts | 233-7108 |