

# NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOC

## Chapter 0002, Topeka, Kansas

### October Newsletter

#### Executive Committee:

President	Jim Miller	478-0651
1st Vice President	Gale Devore	273-0526
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	Gale Devore	273-0526
Service Officer	Bill Kastens	272-2604
Editor	Maynard Cox	478-0015

**Where:** Aldersgate Village, 7220 SW Asbury Drive

**When:** Friday, October 22, 2010; 12:00 Noon **\$9.00**

**Menu** Italian Vegetable Salad, Chicken Parmesan/Linguine,  
Swiss Steak, Scalloped Potatoes, Peas & Pearl  
Onions, Peach Pie, Rolls & Butter, Beverages

**Program:** Pam Maxwell, Blue Cross/Blue Shield

#### **Reminder: Road Problems on 29<sup>th</sup> Street still exist.**

#### **Jim Miller - President**

The falling leaves remind us that yes, winter is coming, accompanied by the usual problems. There are too many of those preparations to list, so I'll morph into problems ( and solutions ) for NARFE members. These days I'm feeling like the past his prime boxer, trying to fend off the punches coming at him at all angles from a younger, faster opponent. You can bob, weave, dodge, but ASAP....you'd better hit back !

NARFE delegates at the recently concluded national convention voted for a dues increase. Those details are complicated( problems ) but the solutions are (1) Dues withholding ! We have the forms and you can find those at our Oct. 22 meeting. Dues are deducted monthly( 2) LIFE membership ! The current rate holds until January and Maynard Cox has details on chapter dues amount. Life dues means exactly that. Pay once and forget it.

Problem, some members and potential members will believe any dues increase is too much, and drop out of NARFE. BAD choice, because as Jimmy Durante' used to say " You ain't seen nuttin' yet ! " With present concerted efforts to paint ALL federal employees and retirees as over compensated leeches ( their words, not mine ) and drastically reduce our EARNED benefits, NARFE needs a strong, unified membership.

When we shop, we compare prices and I strongly suggest we do that when balancing our budget scales. What are NARFE dues worth when compared with the benefits ? What are the costs if our benefits are lost ? We'll be like that poor old boxer, trying to duck those flurries of punches alone ! When those punches come, consider how comforting it will be to have NARFE in YOUR corner !

Our Oct. 22 program will be Pam Maxwell, Blue Cross/ Blue Shield. To the

dismay of some and the delight of others, we don't plan on hearing from or visiting with political candidates. Apparently there will be sufficient Town Hall meetings and forums between now and Nov. 2 to fill that gap.

The only "politicos " will be those nominated and elected to lead our chapter in 2011.

We elect in October and install in December. Dale Jirik, Betty Born and Bill Kastens are accepting candidates until Oct. 22, and nominations from the floor are ALWAYS encouraged. Old adage...IF NOT YOU THEN WHO ? AND IF NOT NOW, THEN WHEN ? Please attend Oct. 22 ( remember to call for a reservation if you didn't sign on during the September pre-meeting ) and take part in our chapter elections ! I'll see you then, perhaps a little " punch drunk " but I hope to still be on my feet and ready to answer the bell for the next round !

#### **Gale DeVore - First Vice President**

As federal workers and retirees this November is a very important month.. Whether you are to the right or the left please get out and vote. This is a very important election; we must protect our benefits. I am sure Congressmen would squeak if they thought their retirement benefits were threatened.

Also be sure to support your NARFE PAC. Remember they fight for YOU.

#### **Gwendolyn Ketter - Secretary**

NARFE Chapter 02  
September 24, 2010  
Aldersgate Village

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

The invocation was given by Jo Burenheide followed by the flag salute.

A two entree lunch was served for \$9.00.

**Bill and Monica Kastens speakers**-- Monica spoke on election results from National Convention. Bill reported that conventions will be held in 2014 in Reno and the 2016 will be held in Orlando. Bill reported on recent legislative accomplishments by NARFE - Equity in Stimulus gave \$250 tax credit to those retirees who do not receive social security, Protection of Federal Benefits - defeated bill that would have cut federal civilian retirement and or health benefits over 10 years was defeated. Re-employment of retirees on limited part time basis was enacted. FERS retirees are now allowed to use sick leave in their retirement. FERS re-deposit is allowed for persons returning to work. CSRS can now phase down to part time without losing benefits. TSP accounts were address as well. Health benefits were shielded from health exchanges. NARFE helped defeat three attempts in Senate and one in House to freeze current federal workers increase in salary. Alzheimer's - Kansas ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in dollars collected and 2<sup>nd</sup> in per capita- 8.8 Million dollar total donations given to research overall. Bill spoke on amendments voted on at National Convention. Dues referendum passed increasing national dues - One year National Dues - \$40.00, Two years National Dues - \$72.00, Three years National Dues - \$102.00. Local chapters will need to address their own changes.

**Paul Manning, Attendance** - 52 members in attendance - 1 new member Nancy Southard.

**Gwen Ketter, Secretary** -No Correction to the minutes reported in the Newsletter - approved as written.

**Sherry Potter, Treasurer** Aug 27<sup>th</sup> - Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> - \$2,477.28 in Regular Account, \$1,195.18 in Life Account and \$199.63 in Alzheimer Account.

#### **General Fund** -

Income received - Dues \$184.80, Lunch \$ 450.00, Core First Int \$ .26, Ways and Means Tickets \$ 27.00 - Total Income \$662.06

Expenses paid - Newsletter printing \$76.05 (August \$46.05/Labels \$30.00), 50/50 prizes \$ 27.00, Dues paid to Life Account - \$108.00, Aldersgate food service \$ 450.00, Delegate expenses for National Convention \$800.00 - Total \$1,367.45

#### **Alzheimer Account** -

Income -- 50/50 \$ 32.40 - Total \$199.63

Life Account -

Income - \$108.00 - Total \$1,195.18

**Gale DeVore, First Vice-President** - One more plug for automatic dues withholding. Commented on NARFE magazine statement under legislative 'if you think the last two years have been fun - wait till you see the next two years, it's going to get really interesting'. Another plug for NARFE PAC.

**Richard Wike, Second Vice-President** - Next meeting in October will be either a Legislative Forum if we can get any of our Candidates to attend, if not, we will have Blue Cross and GEHA representative report on Federal Insurance changes for 2011.

There is no November meeting and December Christmas Social will be on Friday December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Maynard Cox, Newsletter** - There has been some problem with people getting their emailed copies of the newsletter. Received a notice that persons who have sbcglobal did not go through on email. There are extra ones available at the meeting. Please make sure you let us know of any email address changes, so we can make sure you receive your information.

**Ron Neis, Legislative** - Congress came back for a couple of weeks and then will recess for elections. Lame duck session will occur after that until newly elected members take effect after first of year. If you want to see how COLA is figured go to NARFE.org and click on COLA countdown link to see how it is calculated. Reminder that open season for Federal Benefits November 8<sup>th</sup> through December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Bill Kastens, Service Officer** - No report

**Helen Louise Price, Good Cheer** - Sent a sympathy card to the family of NARFE member Robert W Morrissey. Sympathy cards were also sent to Marjorie Roy on the death of her brother-in-law Roy Beneka and to Edger McCoy on the death of his wife Matha. She also wanted to request that anyone who knows of illnesses in our membership to please let her know. Her number is 785-478-9602

**Earene Jirik, Publicity** - No report  
**Social Committee** - We are still looking for someone to take over this committee

chairman.

**Dale Jirik, Nominations Committee** - Have a full slate of Candidates for next year's officers. We may have a volunteer to do the newsletter. As always there will be nominations from the floor.

**George Spotts, Alzheimer chairperson:**

The 50/50 drawing awarded \$13.75 to Mary Harms; \$8.25 to Les Beguelin and \$5.50 to Anna Mae Wright.

Next Executive meeting - October 14, 2010.  
Next NARFE General meeting - October 22, 2010.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gwendolyn Ketter, Secretary

### Ron Neis - Legislative

We were unsuccessful in our invitations to candidates running for both federal and state offices. Jim is scrambling to invite someone to speak on the new health benefit changes that will be in effect in 2011.

Hope to see you at the October meeting.

### Helen Price - Good Cheer

It has been a long time since we have been fortunate not to have any deaths nor any reported illnesses, but that was the case this month.

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