

NARFE

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOC

Chapter 0002, Topeka, Kansas

November-December, 2010

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, December 3, 2010; 12:00 Noon **\$12.00**
Menu: Cranberry Jell-O Salad, Turkey & Dressing, Ham, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Green Bean Casserole, Apple Cobbler, Rolls & Butter, Beverages
Program: The Topeka Melodiers

Reminder: 29th Street between Wanamaker and Urish is still under construction. Two ways - 21st Street to Indian Hills, then South to 29th Street or 37th St to Urish Rd to 33rd Street, West to Albright.

Jim Miller - President

After being "saddle sore" from sitting on a hard wooden chair in a Committee to Simplify Kansas Taxes meeting at the State House, on Friday, November 12, I should type this standing up? Sometimes what Ron Richey, Ron Neis and I do for NARFE members isn't as "romantic" as it may sound, especially during the out of session meetings. They are necessary, and sometimes informative. And if Ron Richey and I were paid at minimum wage, and we're not, today would have cost NARFE about \$100.00 plus meals. With that, I'll go to Dues increases.

Our chapter has operated near deficit for several years, and if we hadn't had a great group of Chapter 0002 members pitching in to hold a very successful NARFE state convention last April, frankly, we would have "gone broke". So, for several years, we've waited for national to increase and change the dues structure, before we proposed a CHAPTER dues increase.

A national dues only was approved at the recent national convention. Our executive committee brought a Chapter Dues Increase of about a nickel a week to the last chapter meeting. That dues increase, from \$ 8.40 to \$ 10.80 a year will be voted on at our December 3 luncheon meeting. The increase won't upgrade our operation but will allow our valued Treasurer, Sherry Potter, to pay the bills on time. There will be discussion, and \$10.80 is the bare bones figure. Some members suggested that be raised, to

avoid having to increase dues again in a comparatively short time.

So, call me @ 478-0651 to make your reservation for lunch, \$ 12.00 per person, and voice your opinion.

Two positive voices defending public service employees (city, local, state, federal) and retirees have published reports of their studies in response to the slanted editorials in the Wall Street Journal and USA TODAY. Those editorials were picked up by local newspapers across the nation, including the Topeka daily, and blasted the pay and benefits of active workers as well as retirees.

The new studies show (1) current public service employees are NOT paid far more than private sector employees, and retirees who enjoy higher annuities or pensions paid far more than private sector retirees.

My thoughts, it's about time we fought back, but we have to wonder, why go after us in the first place? I'll see you on December 3!

Gale Devore - First Vice President

I would just like to thank the members for their support. Remember to keep fighting to keep our benefits.

Gwendolyn Ketter, Secretary

NARFE Chapter 02

October 22, 2010

Aldersgate Village

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

The invocation was given by Judy Shetter followed by the flag salute.

A two entree lunch was served for \$9.00.

Pam Maxwell BC/BS – Pam reviewed some of the rules and regulations of the Affordable Car Act recently signed into law and how it will affect FEP effective 1/11/2011. She also reviewed the new service plan brochure that will be mailed to all current members on November 9th. New premiums will be:

Basic Option – Single increase of \$12.61 per month to \$113.27 Family increase of \$29.51 per month to \$265.49

Standard Option - Single increase of \$12.10 per month to \$187.18 Family increase of \$30.63 per month to \$431.60

Note: The government pays 70% of the total premium.

Additional information from Blue Cross was handed out by Pam and is available on their Web site. (I have also posted the rest of Jo's notes on our local chapter website at:

<http://topekanarfechapter.webs.com/apps/blog/>

Paul Manning, Attendance -52 members, 1 new member, Linda and guest speaker, Pam Maxwell were in attendance.

Jo Burenheide, Acting, Secretary –No Correction to the minutes reported in the Newsletter – approved as written.

Sherry Potter, Treasurer Sept 24th – Oct 22nd 2,673.62 in Regular Account, \$1,195.18 in Life Account and \$325.88 in Alzheimer Account.

Dale Jirik, Betty Born and Bill Kastens, Nominating Committee – Nominations for local officers: President – Jim Miller, 1st Vice President – Ron Neis, 2nd Vice President - Richard Wilke, Secretary – Gwendolyn Ketter and Treasurer – Sherry Potter. No nominations from the floor. Bill Kastens moved and it was seconded that the slate of officers be accepted and elected by acclamation. Motion carried unanimously.

Dues Increase – For 2011 the National dues will be \$40.00 per year, with Dues Withholding being \$34.00 per year. The Executive board is recommending the Chapter dues increase to \$10.80 per year. The Chapter dues increase will be voted on at the December meeting.

Gale DeVore, First Vice-President – Encouraged donations to NAFE PAC. No report on membership.

Richard Wike, Second Vice-President – Announced that The Melodeers will be the entertainment at the December

Christmas Party

Maynard Cox, Newsletter Editor – Those members on email server **sbcglobal.net** didn't receive copies of the e-mail newsletter this month. The reason is not yet known.

Ron Neis, Legislative Chair—Apologized for not being able to get any legislative people or anyone running for office as speakers at the October meeting. Ron recommends members read the "Legislative Report Card" printed in the October NARFE magazine. Ron and Ron Richey will be attending a legislative meeting in November.

Bill Kastens, Service Officer – No report

Helen Louise Price, Good Cheer – No cards sent out in October.

Earlene Jirik, Publicity – No report. Possibly working at KTWU in December.

Social Committee – Position is still vacant. Jim Miller is attempting to fill this position to handle the December Christmas Party.

Cost of the Christmas Party on December 3rd will be \$12.00 per person.

George Spotts, Alzheimer Chair: The 50/50 drawing awarded \$12.25 to John Classen, \$7.35 to Marcia Rothmier and \$4.90 to Maynard Cox.

George reported that Kansas ranked 3rd in the Nation for Alzheimer's donations (\$4.92 per member).

Pam Maxwell had five door prizes – won by Marge Roy, Ron Richey, Marcella Tinoco, Jo Burenheide and Anna Mae Wright.

Next Executive board meeting will be November 11th

Next NARFE Chapter meeting – Christmas Party Friday December 3rd.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Burenheide, Acting Secretary.

Ron Neis - Legislative Chair

The mid term elections are over and the repercussions over the results may not be known for awhile. A few house races are still being contested. There has been talk that the new congressional alignment may result in much more gridlock.

Gridlock, however irritating, can have some

benefit because when they are bumping heads and wasting time fussing and fighting they are not advancing or passing bills that are detrimental to us. Findings of the deficit reduction committee are starting to be released. Just remember that it takes a sizable majority of this committee before proposals are considered then implemented.

I find it disturbing that Social Security is up as if it was a taxpayer item causing a drain. Social Security has helped the federal budget for years because congress has continued to borrow from it, leaving behind I.O.U.'s. We and our employers paid into this system exclusive of federal income taxes.

Jim Miller and myself are planning to attend state taxation hearing at the capitol building on Nov 12th. See you at the December 3rd Christmas dinner.

Helen Price - Good Cheer Chair

Since our last meeting sympathy cards have been sent to Loraine Boutwell following the death of her friend/companion, Frank Beal on October 21; to the family of Beryl Elliott following her death on November 7; to the family of Glenn DeGraw following his death November 12; to the family of Barbara Brownell following her death November 13. and to the family of Raymond Gatti following his death November 16. A get well card was sent to Bessie Warner, hospitalized at Stormont Vail.

Doctors' Opinion of the Financial Bail Out Package

The Allergists voted to scratch it and the Dermatologists advised against making any rash moves.

The Gastroenterologists had sort of a gut feeling about it and the Neurologists thought the Administration had a lot of nerve but the Obstetricians felt they were all laboring under a misconception.

The Psychiatrists thought the whole idea was madness, the Radiologists could see right through it and Surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing.

The Internists thought it was a bitter pill to swallow and the Plastic Surgeons said, "This puts a whole new face on the matter"

The Podiatrists thought it was a step forward, but the Urologists felt the scheme wouldn't hold water.

The Anesthesiologists thought the whole idea was a gas and the Cardiologists didn't have the heart to say no.

In the end the Proctologists left the decision up to some assholes in Washington.