



"OLD TROOPER" NEWSLETTER



Active and Retired Federal Employees "Old Trooper" Chapter No. 383, Junction City, Kansas

SEPTEMBER 2009

Chapter 383, 2009 Officers

President: Jim Martin, 238-8539
 1st Vice President: Jim Mitchell, 238-3423
 2nd Vice President: June Wood, 922-6776
 Secretary, Lannie Pender, 238-6503 garfieldgal@embarqmail.com
 Treasurer: Madelyn Brown, 238-5623 madelyn11@cox.net
 Chapter 383, 2009 Committee Chairpersons:
 Legislative, James Dodd, 238-8041
 Membership, June Wood, 922-6776
 Public Relations, Dixie Thomas, 238-1455
 Service Officer, Walt Germann, 209-1938
 Parliamentarian, Ray Thompson, 762-5249
 Alzheimer's, Opal Dalton, 922-6551 and Virginia Adam, 922-6706
 Sunshine, Janet Harrel, 238-7488
 NARFE-PAC, Carole Blixt, 922-6413
 Decorating, Opal Dalton, 922-6551 and Virginia Adam, 922-6706
 Program, Leonetta Chaves-Bibby, 238-6642
 Editor, Dixie Thomas, 238-1455
 Chaplain, Otis Scroggins, 238-1342
 Calling, Vi Martin, 238-8539/Cell 210-6037

List # 1 Faye Heath, 238-1412
 List # 2 Sharon Griffin, 238-5382
 List # 3 Verleen Byrn, 238-1659
 List # 4 Pat Fisher, 762-5249
 List # 5 Leonetta Chaves-Bibby, 238-6642
 List # 6 Maxine Kroepflin, 238-2990
 List # 7 Dee Campbell, 238-6082
 List # 8 Dorothy Luttmann, 461-5577
 List # 9 Evelyn Lacey, 762-5061
 List # 10 Janet Harrel, 238-7488
 List # 11 Joan Martin, 210-0211
 List # 12 Joyce Peoples, 238-3005
 List # 13 Ramona Norcross, 762-2218
 List # 14 Dorothy Gallaway, 482-3297
 (Dwight area)
 List # 15 Jonetta Rector, 922-6605
 (Chapman area)

Schedule of Upcoming Events (as of 6 September 2009)

11:00, 5 October 2009: Executive Board Meeting, Library

11:30, 8 October 2009: Chapter 383 Luncheon/Meeting, Sr. Citizens Center/Pam Maxwell: Blue Cross/Blue Shield

- Food Pantry Drive, Please bring non-perishables
- Discussion/Decision on nominees for 2010 Chapter Officers
- Discussion on obtaining MATCHING funds for newspaper ad – GOAL: MEMBERSHIP

29 October 2009: Meeting/Topeka Chapter, Finalize 2010 NARFE Convention

11:00, 9 November 2009: Executive Board Meeting, Library

11:30, 12 November 2009: Chapter 383 Luncheon/Meeting, Sr. Citizens Center/Dr. Keating: Update on Chapman

- Vote: 2010 Chapter Officers
- Vote: Referendum on dues (if received from National)

11:00, 7 December 2009: Executive Board Meeting, Library

11:30, 10 December 2009: Chapter 383 Luncheon/Meeting, Sr. Citizens Center

- Swearing in of 2010 Chapter Officers

Chapter Officer comments/Information

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Minutes of June Meeting:

No new members. Guests: Janet Williams, Elizabeth and Caleb Helmon, Denise Harrel, Dan Rickman. Barbara sang America the Beautiful and then sang some great favorites from Patsy Cline, Doris Day, In the Garden and many more. The May minutes and treasurer's reports were approved for filing.

President Jim reported receipt of a thank you card from Janice Neuschafer, Kansas Alzheimer's Chair for the invite to our June luncheon meeting and receipt of the \$8200 Eagle's Alzheimer's check.

Jim Mitchell announced that we have the 2011 Federation Convention; work has already begun; will build from our 2007 convention and we need to get ready to help.

No unfinished business. No New business.

10 Sep will be the next meeting. Tammy Ray from Westar will be the speaker regarding energy conservation.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Beginning Balance June 1, 2009 \$1579.68

Receipts \$279.36

Expenses \$134.24

Ending Balance August 31, 2009 \$1724.80

Chapter News

College of NARFE Knowledge (CONK), So. Sioux City, Nebraska: Madelyn Brown, Lannie Pender, Carole Blixt and Dixie Thomas attended the Region V 9th Biennial CONK 24-26 August 2009. NARFE President Margaret Baptiste was in attendance and provided up-to-date information on current events. Richard Thissen, Region 5 Vice President provided the following information and

NARFE's position regarding Health Care issues.

"NARFE as yet has taken no position on the overall health care reform legislation receiving serious consideration in the House and the Senate. That is because the status of the leading bills is extremely fluid and is subject to change, particularly after lawmakers talk to their constituents about this issue during the August recess.

The NARFE Legislative Program for the 111th Congress (2009-2010) states that "NARFE supports access to comprehensive health care for all Americans." However, the legislative program is silent on how universal access should be achieved. This position has been reaffirmed by NARFE officers and members who attended the last several national biennial conventions. The legislative program can be found online at <http://www.narfe.org/pdf/1-2.pdf>."

Also, Richard Thissen, Region 5 VP, provided "Grass-Roots Advocacy Month Talking Points" to be used for discussions and/or letters to our representatives – just write a hand-written letter with your opinion regarding the below information. (A hand-written letter is more impressive than all the e-mails sent)."

- **"Premium Conversion:** NARFE supports adding a proposal to health care reform legislation which would permit federal civilian annuitants as well as active duty military personnel and retirees to join their active duty civilian colleagues in paying their share of employer-sponsored health insurance with pretax compensation. Should Congress consider taxing employees and retirees for part of the value of their employer-provided health insurance, NARFE would reevaluate its position on premium conversion.
- **Opening the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program to Non-Federal Civilians:** Although NARFE supports access to comprehensive health care for all Americans, the Association would oppose legislation which would open the FEHBP to non-federal enrollees without calculating their premiums separately in their own insurance risk pool.
- **Taxing Workers and Retirees for the Value of Employer-Sponsored Health Insurance:** NARFE opposes.
- **Coverage for Temporary and Seasonal Federal Workers:** NARFE supports the concept in the "Employer Mandate" which would encourage the federal government, as an employer, to make its temporary and seasonal workers eligible for FEHBP.
- **Providing "Affordability Credits" to Lower Income Workers and Retirees:** Some lower income workers and retirees cannot afford to pay their share of employer-sponsored health premiums. NARFE supports a provision in the House bill which would provide such individuals with income-based credits to help them pay for private or public plan premiums offered by the Health Insurance Exchanges.
- **Coverage for dependent children up to age 26:** NARFE supports a provision in the Senate HELP Committee bill which would provide dependent coverage for children up to age 26 for all individual and group policies, including FEHBP plans.
- **Expanding Medicaid Eligibility:** The House and Senate bills would expand eligibility in Medicaid to cover millions of low-income people who do not qualify under current law. NARFE believes individuals made eligible under this expansion should include childless adults and that Medicaid long-term care benefits be available to them.
- **Effect of Health Care Reform on Employers and Carriers:** NARFE is concerned that the combination of the public plan option, taxation of health insurance, and mandated benefit packages could affect the ability of employers and carriers to ensure competition and offer the same health plan choices in group health plans like the FEHBP.



IF you would like to receive your newsletter via email, please send your request to Dixie Thomas at bthomas56@cox.net

Of course, those attending the luncheon will receive a newsletter at the luncheon - no charge.

ALZHEIMER'S FUND: If any member who doesn't attend meetings wishes to contribute to the Alzheimer's Fund, you can send a check to: Madelyn Brown, Treasurer, 1141 St. Mary's Road, Junction City, KS 66441.

Please make checks out to "NARFE Alzheimer's Research" and write "Alzheimer's Fund" on the memo line.

**ALREADY
RESERVED
YOUR LUNCH
AND
SOMETHING
CAME UP???
– PLEASE CALL
AND CANCEL
YOUR MEAL
RESERVATION
– 238-4015 –
THANK YOU!!**



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Carlos Buckles
Pauline Dutton
Patricia Hartung
Jack Murrison
Virginia Adam
Naida Sanders
Donna Schmutz
Darlene Topping
Mildred Smith
Arthur Baresel
Karen Harris
Dixie Rahorst
Florence Whitebread

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Clowe
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Gates
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Vincent

"THINKING OF YOU" CARDS SENT

Dixie Thomas
Brunhilde Mukai

"GET WELL" CARDS SENT

Jack Murrison
Clarice Longhofer
Therisha Hudson
Larry Young

"SYMPATHY" CARDS SENT TO FAMILY OF

Larry Young

- **Enhance "CLASS Act" Long-Term Care Insurance Program:** NARFE supports financing a more generous long-term care benefit and establishing a more robust disability evaluation and benefit claims process than proposed in the "Community Living Assistance Services and Supports" (CLASS) Act, as included in the House bill and Senate HELP Committee legislation.
- **End the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Cost-Sharing "Donut Hole":** NARFE supports.
- **Slowing the Growth of Medicare and Medicaid Provider Reimbursements:** NARFE is concerned that provider payment reform could encourage some doctors and hospitals to stop accepting Medicare and Medicaid."

Another hot subject that we will vote on in the November timeframe will be NARFE DUES REFERENDUM. Most attendees were in favor of the reform. Here are some questions and answers that may assist you in making your decision. Chapters will receive 1 vote per 50 members. We have 274 members therefore; we will have at least 5 votes. The following was extracted from NARFE.org:

NARFE Dues Referendum (REMEMBER! We will be voting on this as a chapter in Nov)

1. Why do we need single NARFE dues?

A. For years, we have been discussing the disadvantages of having national dues and chapter dues. If we create single NARFE dues, there will be no national dues and chapter dues. There would be just ONE dues; the NARFE dues. Note: at the last two NARFE national convention, resolutions recommending this change have come very close to passing and NARFE members could choose to participate in chapter activities or not and both ways they would have one simple and easy dues. This would certainly help our retention efforts.

2. Would this impact our recruitment efforts?

A. Yes! It would simplify our recruiting efforts, and we would have one dues; \$40.00 for new members. There would no longer be a first year membership fee of \$33.00 followed in the second year by dues of \$29.00 plus whatever the chapter dues are. We would no longer have to answer what happens after the first year membership fee expires – we presently have to tell potential members that NARFE's dues depend on the chapter of assignment and that is a large road block.

3. If approved, would this result in the loss of current NARFE members?

A. It is possible. Under NARFE dues some members will see an increase in their dues while others will see a reduction. However, this isn't a dues increase. It is a reduction in the number of dues categories that NARFE presently offers.

4. What is the major barrier to passing NARFE dues?

A. Historically, NARFE chapters have established their own dues (anywhere from no dues to \$20.00 (+). If the NARFE dues concept passes, every chapter will receive \$9.00. The only way this would increase is for NARFE members to approve an increase in the NARFE dues of \$40.00.

5. How did NARFE determine the NARFE dues of \$40.00?

A. NARFE annual dues are \$29.00. The average annual chapter dues are over \$8.00 and the Federations get \$2.90 (10% of \$29.00). That gives a total of \$39.90.

6. What can chapters do if they presently have dues of \$10.00 or more?

A. They can do fundraising, silent auctions, etc. However, the chapters will collect those assessments.

7. What does a chapter do with \$9.00 if their present dues are under that amount?

A. They will be encouraged to increase their services to their members using the additional monies. They could establish chapter newsletters or award gift cards (i.e. luncheon cards from local restaurants, etc.) in drawings among chapter members during the chapter meetings. Both of these tools could be used to strengthen chapter attendance.

8. Active Federal Employees, if they joined under our canceled special initiative dues, what will be their



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612 S. Kansas Avenue
Topeka, KS 66603
785 233-2503

Sen. Pat Roberts
11900 College Blvd,
Suite 203
Overland Park, KS 66210
913 451-9343

Rep. Jerry Moran (1st Dist)
1 North Main, Suite 525
Hutchinson, KS 67504
620 665-6138



IN MEMORIAM:

This column is dedicated to those who have passed away over the year. Please remember our friends and members of our organization.

April 2009: Robert Brent

May 2009: Alice McClain

May 2009: Carl Wright

August 2009: Larry Young



dues?

A. As long as they are Active Federal Employees, they may renew at the special incentives (1 year, \$25.00, 2 years, \$45.00, and 3 years, \$60.00). Upon retirement, they will renew at the NARFE dues of \$40.00.

9. What happened to the multi-year renewal options?

A. Once the NARFE dues referendum is approved, the multi-year renewal options will go away. We will emphasize our dues withholding program which will provide a savings of 10% over the yearly NARFE dues. (Annual cost: \$36.00)

10. What happens to Members-at-Large members?

A. National Only members will continue to pay annual dues of \$29.00 until their membership is terminated. If they choose to rejoin the Association, they shall meet all requirements for membership by paying NARFE Dues.

11. What happens to life members?

A. Once the referendum passes, the life member actuarial table will have to be revised to reflect the new rates for new life members. The old life members will be charged \$9.00 to cover chapter expenses. National will collect that and distribute to the chapters.

12. What happens to honorary members?

A. Once the referendum passes, honorary members will be charged \$9.00 to cover chapter expenses unless this fee has been waived by the chapter. National will collect that and distribute to the chapters."

NARFE Alzheimer's Fund HOPES TO REACH GOAL OF \$9 MILLION BY NARFE'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

IN 2011: In collaboration with the Alzheimer's Association, *NARFE members have donated more than \$8 million to the NARFE Alzheimer's Fund* (as of Oct. 2008). 100 percent of NARFE donations to the Fund are allocated to research. NARFE is a member of the Alzheimer's Association's Zenith Society, a group of about 50 donors representing the highest level of giving. NARFE is one of only four organizations belonging to the Zenith Society; and, of the four organizations, NARFE is the "number one" contributor. Many NARFE members not only contribute their dollars to the NARFE Alzheimer's Fund but also plan and participate in fundraisers, and volunteer at local day-care centers and other respite-care facilities. *At the 2008 National Convention, delegates voted to extend our current goal to \$9 million by NARFE's 90th birthday in 2011.*



Dixie J. Thomas, Editor
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Junction City, KS 66441**



Address Service Requested



