



"OLD TROOPER" NEWSLETTER



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

NOVEMBER 2012

Chapter 383, 2012 Officers

President: Jim Mitchell, 238-3423,
1st Vice President: Ray Thompson,
762-5249
2nd Vice President: Sharon Strain,
238-1361,
Secretary, Lannie Pender, 238-6503
Treasurer: Madelyn Brown, 238-5623

Committee Chairpersons:

Legislative, James Dodd, 238-8041
Membership, Sharon Strain, 238-1361
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, Maxine Kroeplin
Calling, Vi Martin, 238-8539/Cell 210-6037
Historian, Marie Sawyer



Upcoming Events

- 8 Nov 2012: Fort Riley Health Fair, 9:00 to 3:00, Building 319 (old CPO Bldg.)
- 10 Dec 2012: Board Meeting, 11:00, Bramlage Library
- 13 Dec 2012: NARFE Christmas luncheon, 11:30, 4H/Senior Center, Spring Valley Road
- 19 Jan 2013: 2013 Volunteer Fair, 0800-Noon



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS: Happy Birthday to Auguster Davis, Billie Jo Rivera, Dorothy Osburn, Elton Vaughn, James Dodd, Joseph Gilmore, Madelyn Brown, Marshall Heath, Martha Upshaw, Paul Hood, Vanetta Brumbaugh, and Walter Salonka.



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES: Happy Anniversary to Don and Florence Whitebread and James and Vi Martin. Many, Many more.....

SECRETARY'S REPORT by Lannie Pender President Jim Mitchell, National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE), called the October meeting to order at 11:30 at the 4H/Senior Citizens Center. Chaplin Maxine Kroeplin, led the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Mitchell extended Birthday and Anniversary wishes to those with October birthdays. President Mitchell asked for a motion for the approval or modification of the September 2012 Minutes; a motion was made by Don Campbell and seconded by Ray Thompson, motion passed. Treasurer Madelyn Brown requested that the October Treasurer's report be tabled until the November meeting.

The speaker was Ms. Lidsey from BC/BS in Topeka. There are not a lot of changes in services; most of the changes are improved benefits. There has been a nice change in Hearing Aide benefits. Premiums are going up, but, not greatly. Those members that have BC/BS can go online and take the health profile and get \$35.00 in incentives; those members who do not have internet access can call 1-877-888-3337 for the incentive forms and for BC/BS information. OPM is still going green, they will not be sending out changes in hard copy everything is on line. She also said that members can go on line to find a provider and you may put in comments concerning that physician.

There is a Veterans Day parade in Manhattan. Pres. Mitchell stated we do have a slate for the NARFE November election; however, if you would like to run for an office, please, see Madelyn Brown. We do need an Activities Chair, since Leonetta had to resign due to health reasons. Pres. Mitchell had some fun with a verbal survey. He stated that our future speakers will be geared more toward NARFE issues; he is going to invite the Area III V-P to speak for Nov. He also, urged members to contact their Congressional members and tell them how you feel about the bills up for vote. He said he is concerned about the Defense Budget as it involves the Military and Civilians. He thanked the members for the food donations that were brought for the Food Pantry.



May 2012 – April
2013

Alan Stephen
Richard Anderson



Last year I replaced all the windows in my house with those expensive, double-pane, energy-efficient kind. Today, I got a call from the contractor who installed them. He complained that the work had been completed a year ago, and I still hadn't paid for them! Well, just because I'm blonde doesn't mean I am stupid! So I told him just what his fast-talking sales guy told me last year, that these windows would pay for themselves in a year! Helloooooo??? It's been a year, so they're paid for I told him. There was only silence at the other end of the line, so I finally hung up. He never called back, so I bet he felt like an idiot!



Legislative Report: Jim Dodd advised the members that the Oct 5th Hotline message dealt mainly with the Budget. On Nov 15 there is a Call Congress project. Use the website and send an e-mail, there is a format on the website. He said the new Medicare Book is out, without prices. He mentioned the October NARFE Magazine, on Pg. 25, there is a report of the bills that pertain to NARFE members and how each member of Congress voted. Mr. Heath had a question as to how many Electoral College Votes Kansas has. [Lannie Pender "Googled" this question and the answer is 6.]

No Service Officer Report. Membership Report, Dixie spoke about setting up a table for the Civilian Retirement Open House. Anyone interested in helping out please contact her.

Sunshine Report: Janet Harrel requested that everyone stay healthy, and she was sorry to report that Peg Anderson's husband Richard passed away, and to please send a card if you know the family.

There were 78 reservations and 65 in attendance. Members are requested to call their caller or the Sr. Center if you have made reservations and you cannot make the meeting. The number at the Center is 785-238-4015 (it is in the phone book under Senior Center and Transportation). This courtesy would be very much appreciated. Alzheimer's collected \$58.50. Winners of the Door prizes were Fay Heath, Lannie Pender, Mike Cronin, Dixie Thomas and Venetta Brumbaugh. The next Chapter meeting will be November 8, 2012. Meeting was adjourned at 12:45.



TREASURER'S REPORT by Madelyn Brown:

Beginning Balance September 1	\$1678.51
Receipts	1252.54
Expenses	744.30
Ending Balance September 31	\$ 2186.75



SUNSHINE REPORT by Janet Harrel: Get Well cards were sent to Opal Dalton and Loren Fiest. Hope both are feeling much better and others too that are recovering from falls and illnesses.

Q. If I marry (or remarry) after retirement and elect a survivor annuity at that time, can my new spouse keep the FEHBP coverage upon my death? A. Yes. If a self-and-family enrollment is in effect at the time of death, the two requirements would be met, regardless of the election type made at the time of retirement.

Q. My spouse is also an annuitant. After retirement, we both changed to self-only coverage. Upon my death, would my spouse be able to keep the FEHBP coverage? A. Yes. Since in order to qualify for the change to self-only coverage, your spouse must have had coverage as a family member or in his or her name for five years before an immediate retirement, he/she would be able to keep the FEHBP coverage.

Q. Does the term "self-and-family" mean that I must have a family enrollment, and my spouse must have a self-only enrollment in order to keep FEHBP coverage after my death? A. No. In fact, this would be considered a dual enrollment situation, and it would not be allowed under FEHBP regulations. Self-and-family means the enrollee and all his or her dependents are covered.

Q. Are there any circumstances whereby a survivor annuitant who remarries after age 55 and retains the survivor annuity and FEHBP coverage can cover the new spouse? A. There are no provisions allowing a survivor to elect coverage for a new spouse. The FEHBP coverage conveys from the retired employee (annuitant) to his or her survivor upon the retiree's death. But, the survivor cannot cover a future spouse or that spouse's dependents.

Q. At retirement, I elected a survivor annuity for my spouse, but since she has her own non-federal health plan, I have self-only FEHBP coverage. Can I change to self-and-family coverage at a later date (for example, if my spouse loses her health coverage)? A. You could change to self-and-family coverage at any future Open Season (mid-November to early December of each year). In most cases, if your spouse loses her health coverage, you can change to self-and-family coverage at that time.

Q. I had more than five years of FEHBP coverage when I retired but elected not to continue the coverage because I was covered by my spouse's private employment plan. My spouse's plan provides better coverage at less cost. If my spouse loses her coverage, can I re-enroll in the FEHBP? A. No. If you elect not to carry FEHBP coverage into retirement, you cannot re-enroll as a retiree. This unfortunate situation could have been avoided by changing to a less expensive plan in any Open Season prior to retirement, or by changing to self-only coverage at any time prior to or after retirement, and retaining that coverage. Then a change could have been made upon loss of the spouse's coverage (see the immediately preceding question and answer).

