



“OLD TROOPER” NEWSLETTER



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

April 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, 2008 Committees

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, Larry Young, 238-3047

Calling, Vi Martin, 238-8539/Cell 210-6037

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

Historian Special Projects, Appointed as needed.



2009 NARFE STATE CONVENTION

Clarion Hotel and Convention Center

520 Richards Drive

Manhattan Kansas 66502

April 26, 27 & 28, 2009

**WE NEED
DELEGATES!!
SEE LANNIE
TODAY!!!!**

April 3, 2009

This NARFE Legislative Hotline, number 667, was released Friday, April 3rd. Floor consideration of the House and Senate Budget Resolution is our lead. Due to the Easter/Passover recess, the next scheduled Hotline, is set for Friday, April 24th.

On Thursday, April 2nd, before passing their fiscal 2010 budget resolution the House of Representatives defeated a substitute amendment offered by Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) which would have cut entitlements – like Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid – by \$1.3 trillion over ten years and would have included a reduction of \$10.263 billion in federal civil service retirement and health benefits.

In a letter sent to all 435 members of the House prior to the vote, NARFE President Margaret Baptiste urged lawmakers to oppose the amendment because it would have compelled the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to consider proposals such as cutting or canceling federal annuity cost of living adjustments (COLAs), basing future retiree annuities on the highest five years of salary, shifting a growing share of Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) premium costs to workers and retirees and/or requiring workers to double their Thrift Savings Plan contribution to receive the full government share.

The Ryan substitute was defeated 137 to 293. As we have in the past, the NARFE Legislative Action Center shows how each Representative voted on the Ryan substitute. (The gateway to the Legislative Action Center is <http://capwiz.com/narfe/dbq/officials/> A display of the vote on the Clerk of the House web site is found at: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2009/roll191.xml>)

The Senate adopted a similar but not identical budget resolution (S. Con. Res. 13) setting the stage for a House-Senate Conference Committee after the Easter/Passover recess (April 5-18). The House resolution, in contrast to President Obama’s budget proposal, assumes pay parity for federal civilian and military employees. The Senate resolution is silent on this issue.

On April 1st, the House approved H.R. 1804, legislation which would allow Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) employees to credit their unused sick leave toward their retirement and would make certain improvements to the federal Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). The Legislative Program adopted by delegates to NARFE’s biennial national convention held September 2008 in Louisville, Kentucky includes support for legislation to ensure that all federal civilian retirement programs credit unused sick leave toward retirement. NARFE played a key role, along with other federal and postal organizations, in the passage of H.R. 1804.



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.

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!!**



Beyond FERS sick leave, the bill would automatically enroll newly-hired federal employees in the TSP and make them eligible to receive an immediate matching contribution from their employing agency. Moreover, the measure would widen TSP's offered plans to include a "Roth" option like many private employers do in 401(k) plans. Under a "Roth" option, contributions are after taxes have been paid. Roth plan principal and earnings can be withdrawn tax free. House passage of this legislation is a victory for federal workers, but it still must be approved by the Senate where the NARFE Legislative Department is already promoting it.

Most Members of Congress especially those planning to seek re-election, leave Washington whenever there is a recess. The Easter/Passover recess has begun. The Senate returns Monday, April 20th, the House on Tuesday, April 21st. These two weeks are an excellent time to meet with Members of your Congressional delegation and their staff. Face-to-face meetings, either individually or as a group, distinguish NARFE from other organizations.

April chapter meetings and especially April and May federation conventions are the times and places to begin the planning for NARFE Grass-Roots Advocacy Month – formerly known as "Lobby Month." The goal of Advocacy Month is to use the summer recess, August through Labor Day, September 7, to conduct visits with every Member of Congress. In the near future, more information about the August Grass-Roots Advocacy Month will be sent to federation and chapter presidents and legislative officers.

The new feature of the NARFE web site, listing **Lapsed Cosponsors** of NARFE supported Premium Conversion and Repeal of GPO/WEP, has been updated to reflect the "recovery" of several past cosponsors. This feature appears under **NARFE LEGISLATIVE ACTIVISTS** on the Legislative Department Home Page.

Contact any of your Board Officers to make a contribution to PAC! With the current economy, we need to protect our retirements!!!



Program Chair, Leonetta Chaves-Bibby: The next luncheon/meeting will be 11:30 a.m., 14 May 2009, at the 4H/Senior Citizen Building, Spring Valley Road. **Guest Barbara Hartley will entertain the attendees with music.**



10 Worst Mistakes Federal Employees and Retirees Make

Call June Wood – 785 922-6776 - TODAY to explain how NARFE keeps you protected by providing UTD information!

1. Waiving a survivor benefit for a spouse with an income or retirement plan.
2. Migrating before calculating.
3. Forgetting to consider your significant other or your own interests.
4. Ignoring your change in insurance needs upon retirement.
5. Expecting to receive a full Social Security retirement.
6. Neglecting to elect a survivor benefit when you retire.
7. Failing to have 5 years of FEHB coverage before retiring.
8. Losing your FEHB coverage for your spouse when he/she has a non-federal health plan.
9. Choosing the wrong health care options for a two-person, federally-employed family.
10. The biggest mistake current and retired federal employees make:
 - Failing to join an organization that represents your interests.





Calling Chair: Vi Martin

- 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 Kroepin, 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)



April Birthdays: Happy Birthday to Joann Hoover, Roberta Obrecht, Otis Scroggins, Michelene Fields, Stephany Walker, Bert Thomas, Paul Keck, Gary Miles, Edna Snyder, and William Miller. MANY Happier, happy birthdays!



April Anniversaries: Happy anniversary to Mr. & Mrs. Vaughn Llewelyn, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Beckman, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Baresel, Mr. and Mrs. Max Albin and celebrating their 1st Anniversary, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Shell. CONGRATULATIONS to all of you.



SUNSHINE CHAIR Report, Janet Harrel: Get well wishes were sent to Carl Wright, Madelyn Brown, Carlos Buckles, Joyce Peoples and Vena Rowbotham.



Minutes of the March 2009 Meeting: Lannie Pender, Secretary, provided the following report:

Opening: President Jim Martin, the National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE), called the March 12, 2009, Chapter #383 meeting to order at 11:30 at the 4H/Senior Citizens Center.

Invocation: Larry Young led the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Martin extended birthday and anniversary wishes to those members celebrating in the month March. Wally Mitchell and Laura Shell were added to the March birthday list. He also introduced guest William Rahorst .

President Martin called for the reading of the minutes and the Treasurers report. He then asked for a motion and second from the floor to approve or modify the minutes. A motion was made by Ray Thompson and seconded by June Wood, the motion was approved as written and filed for audit.

LEGISLATIVE: Jim Dodd had copies of the NARFE Legislative Update Impacting Congress report. He urged all members to call our Legislators to co-sponsor H.R. 1203 Premium Conversion and H.R. 235 Repeal of the Social Security Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). There is a toll free number for the Capitol Switchboard 1-866-220-0044. Members can download this information at gems@narfe.org . There is more information on our web site under both Public Relation and Legislation (to go directly use <http://www.narfe.org/publicrelations/>).

There was no report from Service Officer Judith Germann.

MEMBERSHIP: June Wood urged everyone to carry an application with them, and talk to the friends and acquaintances who are active or retired federal Employees about the mission of NARFE in making sure Federal Employees retain our amenities.

There was no Sunshine Report.

The entertainment was Tricia Mayes from Installation Tour and Recreation (ITR), Fort Riley Bldg 6918. She informed the members of the good deals and discounts for holders of Retired Federal I.D. cards. She mentioned that right now there are really good packages for Disney Land and Disney World and other destinations. She brought brochures and pamphlets, however she did not have enough for everyone but people can stop by her office and get information. There is also information at web site www.offdutytravel.com. President Martin presented her with certificate of appreciation.

Sharon Strain announced the annual Senior Center/4-H fund Raiser, which will be Saturday March 28, 2009, and tickets are \$10.00 per person and the menu will be Brisket, Cheese Potatoes, Vegetable and Dessert.





There were 119 reservations and 110 in attendance. The Alzheimer's raised \$157.81 and \$35.00 was raised on the Baby Afghan.

Next month's meeting will be April 9, 2009 and the menu will be Spaghetti and Tossed Salad.

Door Prizes were won by Wally Mitchell, Ginette Cortez, Carole Blixt and Dorothy Knox, the Baby

Afghan was won by Pat (Margaret) Fisher.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.



TREASURER, Madelyn Brown:

Beginning Balance \$1,308.61

Receipts \$805.59

Expenses \$705.85

Ending Balance \$1,408.35

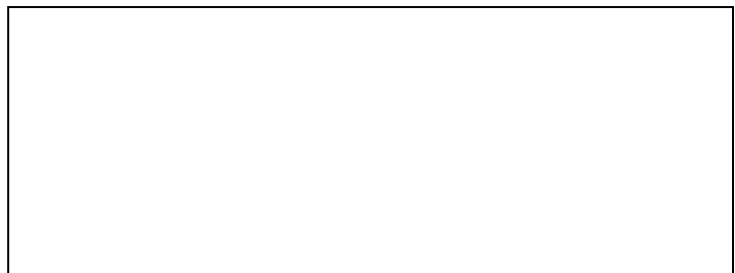


IN MEMORIAM: This column is dedicated to those who have passed away over the year. Please remember our friends and members of our organization.

- May 2008: Ingeborg Barton
- July 2008: Charles Bickerstaff
- August 2008: George W. Campbell
- September 2008: Mrs. Orval Rodgers
- September 2008: Hermina Marston
- September 2008: Rachel Erickson
- October 2008: Ralph Wiehl, husband of June Wiehl, Member
- November 2008: Ron Gabbert
- December 2008: Velma Poulin
- January 2009: Ronald Shandy
- December 2008: John Brumbaugh
- January 2009: Rex Pierson
- January 2009: Beverly Huffman
- January 2009: Hughes Edgerton



Dixie J. Thomas, Editor
801 Sunshine Street
Junction City, KS 66441



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