



“OLD TROOPER” NEWSLETTER



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

October 2007

Volume 5, Number 06

Chapter 383, 2007
Officers

President: James
Martin, 238-8539

1st Vice President:
Walter Germann, 209-
1938

2nd Vice President:
June Buckles, 238-6776

Secretary, Celina
Vincent, 238-8575

Treasurer: Madelyn
Brown, 238-5623

• Chapter 383, 2007
Committees

Legislative, James
Dodd, 238-8041
Membership, June
Buckles, 238-6776
Public Relations, June
Buckles, 238-6776
Service Officer, Walt
Germann, 209-1938
Alzheimer’s, Opal
Dalton and Virginia
Adam, 922-6551 & 922-
6706
Sunshine, Janet Harrel,
238-7488
NARFE-PAC, Larry Young,
238-3047
Calling, Violet (Vi)
Martin, 238-8539
Decorating, Lillian
Young, 238-3047 and
Carlye Gilmore, 238-
1897, Opal Dalton, 922-
6551 and Virginia Adam,
238-1897
Program - Vacant
Newsletter, Dixie
Thomas, 238-1455
Chaplain, Otis
Scroggins, 238-1342

Special Projects
Appointed as Needed

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL College of NARFE Knowledge (CONK), Sioux City



Richard Thissen, Region V VP - Margaret Baptiste, NARFE National President - John Surritte, KS Federation President

FROM THE NARFE KANSAS STATE PRESIDENT, JOHN SURRITTE: Comments regarding NARFE status (excerpts taken from Federation Oct-Nov newsletter):

“On the Legislative front, not much has changed. Representatives Boyda, Moore, Moran and Senator Roberts continue to support us in passing our priority legislation. Senator Brownback is still in Iowa running for President and Representative Tiaht is still not supportive. My sincere thanks to those Chapters that contacted Mr. Tiaht during National Lobby Month, in August, to try and get him to be more supportive. On another note, Gary Townson, State 1st VP, tells me that NARFE HQ is going to support Representatives Moore, Moran and Senator Roberts with PAC funds in the near future. I personally have asked Representative Boyda to also apply for PAC support. We need to give our support to those which support our Active and retired federal employees.

To continue, I'm very distressed at the proposed increase to our Health Insurance,



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 change.

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 Chapter 383" and write "Alzheimer's Fund" on the memo line.**

FEHBP, proposed by the Bush Administration for 2008. Once again, these proposed increases would absorb a large part of any cost of living increase our Retirees will

receive for next calendar year. I am asking our Board members to contact their Chapters and ask you to send emails and phone calls to our elected representatives voicing our displeasure. It seems these increases are for two reasons, the Administration's support of Health Savings Accounts for younger and wealthier workers/retirees and their refusal to accept the \$1 Billion payment available to OPM, just like other public and private employers, based on the 2003 Medicare Law. These two actions cost our retirees over 2% in 2006 based on a GAO report. The largest plan, BC/BS, increased almost 4% in 2006. Remember, one of our goals is to protect our current benefits. You and I need to speak out."

November 2007 Meeting/Luncheon

The next meeting of NARFE will be November 8, 2007, 11:30 a.m., at the 4H/Senior Citizen Building, Spring Valley Road. Guest speaker will be Pam Maxwell from Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Kansas. Pam will be updating us on open season changes at BC/BS. (If you have any suggestions for programs, it would be appreciated. Just let someone on the Board know.)

October Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Robert Brent, Verleen Byrn, Melba Easley, Clara Belle Endsley, Eva Freeman, Jack Herron, Daisy McTavish, Orval Rodgers, Judy Germann, Larry Young, Carmen Larkin, Vaughan Llewelyn, Max Albin, Jim Nelson, Dixie Thomas, Kathy Triplett, Gerald Vincent, Wanda Willians, Llellwyn McTavish, and Jeane Huey.

October Anniversaries

Happy Anniversary to Sharon and Ken Griffin, Logan and Linda Martin and Carol and Eliodoro Ibarra. Many, Many More!!!

Minutes of the September Meeting

Celina Vincent, Secretary

President Jim Martin called the meeting to order at 1130 hours, 13 September 2007, Senior Citizens Center.

Otis Scroggins led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no new members.

Guests were: Becky Fechner, Laura Tholin, Lois Wood, and John Sissell.

Birthday wishes were extended to those members celebrating September birthdays. Dixie Rahorst's name was added to the September Birthday list.

Anniversary congratulations were extended to those couples celebrating September anniversaries.

The Minutes of the June meeting were approved as read.

The Treasurer's report was approved and filed for audit.

Barb Pretzer, National Alzheimer's Committee Chairman and NARFE Region V Alzheimer's Coordinator, was the speaker for the June meeting and was presented a check in the amount of \$5,850 for the Alzheimer's fund. NARFE and Eagles donated the money.

Acknowledgment was given for thank you cards received from the families of members who have passed away during the summer months. The acknowledgements were from the family of Robert Beam, and the Zion United Church; the family of Merrill Hanson; the family of Herbert Peoples; and from Larry and Lil Young for the Memorial for Amy Roediger. For William Zellner, a thank you from the



OPM Retirement Information Center:

Write to PO Box 45, Boyers, PA 16017-0045 or phone 1-888-767-6738. Remarriage, divorce, death of spouse, change of address or financial institution or amount of life insurance under FEGLI (among many other services).

OPM Annuitant Express:

To start, stop, or change withholdings or get a duplicate 1099-R: Call 1-800-409-6528, or on the web at www.opm.gov/retire (you must apply for a pin # to change your allocations).

NARFE Headquarters:

1-703-838-7760 (7 am to 3:45 pm Central time)

Call to get official forms at this number. See the NARFE magazine for various web addresses. Also, be sure to notify NARFE for address changes, deaths, etc., at 1-800-456-8410.

Zion united church. Joan Martin appreciated those who called on her after the death of her husband Bill Martin.

Members were asked to please contact Janet Harrel, 238-7488, if they know of any one who is sick or has passed away.

October will be Food Bank months. Bring nonperishable items for the food bank.

It is requested that non-diabetics quit eating the sugar free cookies.

The legislative report was presented by Jim Dodd, Congress has not been in session, however, they are back in session now, and have quite a few appropriations bills to pass to keep the government going for the rest of the fiscal year. If the bills are not passed by Sept 30 deadline, another year of using "Continuing Resolutions" to pay the bills will probably happen. The August CPI report indicates that the COLA has increased by 2.3%. The actual COLA will not be computed until the end of the year. NARFE is still working on getting more co-sponsors for the NARFE supported legislation. The Oct NARFE magazine will list the current sponsors and co-sponsors. With national elections happening next year getting any of the bills passed will be unlikely.

Florence Whitebread, County Commissioner, was the guest speaker. She gave an update of all the happenings in the county now, and how they are working together with Fort Riley in various areas of business.

Service Officer, Walt Germann, had nothing to report.

Vi Martin, reported 109 people present for the luncheon.

June Buckles, 2d VP, had nothing to report.

Janet Harrel, Sunshine, had no report.

The collection for the Alzheimer's fund was \$113.10.

President Martin announced the following offices will be vacated and new officers will be needed for the following offices: Secretary; 1st Vice President, and 2d Vice President. Nominations will be taken in October and elections will be in November with swearing in December.

The next meeting will be 11 October 07. Ann Hoover, Geary Rehab Center will be the guest speaker and the subject will be Balance and Fall Prevention.

The menu for the October meeting will be: turkey, mashed potatoes/gravy, roll and peaches.

Door prizes were won by: John Sissell; Vi Martin; Robert Norcross; and Lee Russ.

The meeting was adjourned at 1300 hours.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Jim Dodd

There are currently 52 cosponsors for the S-773 Premium Conversion bill. On September 25, Kansas Senator Brownback did sign on as a cosponsor of the bill.

There will be an increase in your FEHBP health insurance premium for next year. The average increase is 2.1 %, however the Blue Cross/Blue Shield premium's for standard option monthly premium will go up 8.5% \$10.51 for self only and \$23.49 for family policies.

The November NARFE magazine will have articles on the FEHBP open season.



Kansas State Legislators:
 State legislators hot line: 1-800-432-3924

Senators:
 Sam Brownback [email](#)
 Washington: (202)224-6521
 Topeka: (785)233-2503

Pat Roberts [email](#)
 Washington: (202)224-4774
 Dodge City: (316)227-2244

Representatives:
 Jerry Moran, 1st District - [email](#)
 Washington: (202) 225-2715
 Hays: (785)628-6401

Nancy Boyda, 2nd District - [email](#)
 Washington: (202) 225-6601
 Topeka: (785) 234-8111

Dennis Moore, 3rd District - [email](#)
 Washington: (202)225-2865
 Overland Park: (913) 383-2013

Todd Tihrt, 4th District - [email](#)
 Washington: (202)225-6216
 Wichita: (316)262-8992

WORDS:

A husband read an article to his wife about how many words women use a day...

30,000 to a man's
 15,000

The wife replied,
 "The reason has to be because we have to repeat everything to men..."

The husband then turned to his wife and asked, "what?"

Treasurer's Report for September 2007

Madelyn Brown, Secretary/Treasurer

Beginning Balance, September, 2007	\$2,926.33
Receipts	\$588.62
Expenses	\$591.30
Ending Balance, September 30, 2007	\$2,923.65

Madelyn Brown, Treasurer comments: A reminder that there will be a training session in Clay Center at the Methodist Church, the only cost will be their dinner. Registration will begin at 8:45. Anyone interested in learning more how NARFE operates, this is your chance to learn. You don't need to be any officer or become an officer to attend.

Try it you might just like it.

SUNSHINE REPORT:

Janet Harrel, Sunshine Representative

In September a Sympathy card was sent to Joan Martin, a thinking of you sent to Ida Mae Higgins and Ruth Pancake and in October a get well was sent to Mildred Smith who was involved in an auto accident.



Dixie J. Thomas, Editor
 NARFE "Old Trooper" Chapter 383
 801 Sunshine Street
 Junction City, KS 66441

TO: