



# "OLD TROOPER" NEWSLETTER



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

OCTOBER 2 0 1 0

## Chapter 383, 2010 Officers

President: Jim Martin, 238-8539  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Jim Mitchell, 238-3423  
 2nd Vice President: June Wood, 922-6776  
 Secretary, Lannie Pender, 238-6503 [garfieldgal@embarqmail.com](mailto:garfieldgal@embarqmail.com)  
 Treasurer: Madelyn Brown, 238-5623  
[madelyn11@cox.net](mailto: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 Kroepelin, 238-2990  
 List # 7 Dee Campbell, 238-6082  
 List # 8 Dorothy Luttman, 461-5577  
 List # 9 Wally Mitchell, 238-3423  
 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)



## HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

### Upcoming Events

- \*\*15 Oct – 11:00 – 2:00: NARFE Membership Booth at the Fort Riley Annual Retiree Appreciation Day, Fort Riley Conference Center
- 19 Oct – 9:30-3:00: NARFE State Federation Executive Board Meeting – Old Trooper Chapter 383 will host at the Marriott Convention Center
- 8 Nov – 11:00: Executive Board Meeting, Dorothy Bramlage Library
- 11 Nov – Veteran's Day
- 12 Nov – 11:30: Old Trooper Luncheon / Meeting, Senior Center, 1025 S. Spring Valley Rd
- 6 Dec – 11:00: Executive Board Meeting, Dorothy Bramlage Library
- 9 Dec – 11:30: Old Trooper Luncheon / Meeting, Senior Center, 1025 S. Spring Valley Rd

**CASINO TRIP CANCELLED:** Dixie Thomas checked on the casino trip for October and was told that a local sorority had scheduled one for 2 October. Dixie discussed with the bus lines scheduler and it was her opinion that NARFE could not fill another bus and would end up cancelling again. So, we will plan on a spring trip in February or March. P.S. I think we could have filled another one!

**\*\* FORT RILEY ANNUAL RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY (SEE ABOVE):** At last month's meeting, we voted to have a table at the Retiree Day at Fort Riley. So far, only two members have volunteered to help for these three hours. WE NEED MORE. Let Dixie Thomas know if you can help even for an hour this coming Friday from 11:00 to 2:00.

**CONVENTION UPDATE!** Nancy Wiehl and Dixie Thomas completed the proposed budget, registration, menu, committee members list and welcome letter and provided these documents to Jim Mitchell for review and forwarding on to Carol Ek, NARFE State President. On 19 October, Jim Mitchell, Jim Dodd, Dixie Thomas and Nancy Wiehl will meet with the State Executive board members to go over the proposed budget and program book. In January, a meeting will be held at the Convention Center where the State representatives will meet with the local Chapter committee members. More to follow on the January meeting.

### **COMMITTEES AND MEMBERS: WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS!**

- Convention Chairperson: Jim Mitchell
- Convention Co-Chair: Dixie Thomas
- Banquet & Decorations: Still pending
- Financial: Nancy Wiehl
- Host and Hostess: Wally Mitchell, Jim & Vi Martin, Don & Marilyn Bielefeld (?),
- Information Chair: Joan Martin, Donna Schmutz
- Memorial Service: Still pending



IF you would like to receive your newsletter via email, please send your request to Dixie Thomas at [btthomas56@cox.net](mailto:btthomas56@cox.net)

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

**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!!

Publicity Chair: Madelyn Brown  
 Printing Chair: Jim Dodd  
 Registration Chair: Barbara Thibodeau with/ Madelyn Brown, June and Carlos Buckles, Joan Martin, Dixie Thomas, Nancy Wiehl, Celina Vincent ( Hospitality Chair: Maxine Kroeplin, Karen Baldwin, Sharon Griffin  
 Credential Chair: Lanny Pender  
 Sergeants of Arms: Ray Thompson with / Bert Thomas, Jim Nelson, Don Campbell, Bob Norcross, Clarence Lehner  
 Chaplain: Otis Scroggins  
 Convention Time Keeper: Carole Blixt  
 Alzheimer's Committee: Opal Dalton with / Virginia Adam, Dee Campbell, Joyce Peoples (?), Marie Sawyer (Sunday), Billie Jo Rivera (Sunday)

**NOTE FROM DIXIE THOMAS, NEWSLETTER EDITOR: WE STILL NEED A NEWSLETTER EDITOR FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR. OR, WITH THE RISING COSTS, A MORE ECONOMIC WAY TO GET INFORMATION TO OUR MEMBERS NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED. JIM MARTIN WILL DISCUSS THIS ISSUE DURING THE MEETING.**

**CHAPTER NEWS**



**HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAY TO:** Carmen Larkin, Daisy McTavish, Dixie Thomas, Eva Freeman, Gerald Vincent, Jack Herron, James Nelson, Jeane Huey, Jim Mitchell, Judy Germann, Kathy Triplett, Llewlyn McTavish, Marilyn Stephens, Max Albin, Melba Easley, Orval Rodgers, Vaughan Llewelyn, Verleen Byrn, and Wanda Williams



**HAPPY OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY TO:** Ken and Sharon Griffin, Jim and Jean King, Jim and Wally Mitchell, and Robert and Carol Bondurant. Many, Many more to all of you!

(Remember – the only way your name(s) get on the list is if you tell the Editor – no where is there any birthday or anniversary in the NARFE files. Dixie Thomas)

**SECRETARY'S REPORT** by **Lannie Pender:** President Jim Martin, of the National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) called the September 10, 2010, Chapter #383 meeting to order at 11:30 at the 4H/Senior Citizens Center.

Invocation: Otis Scroggins led the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. President Martin extended birthday and anniversary wishes to those members celebrating in the month of August and September; Becky Fleck was added to the September Birthday list. He extended a welcome to Dan Rickman and to Denise Harrel.

President Martin called for the reading of the minutes and the Treasurers report. President Martin asked for a motion and second from the floor to approve the minutes. The Treasurers report was corrected from \$781.19 to \$751.19, Dixie Rahorst made a motion to accept the corrected Treasurers report the motion was seconded and motion passed. The Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

**New Business:** Debbie Engel from the SR/4-H Center explained the necessity of filling out the assessment forms. Reference the November Meeting; we are unable to use the Center on November 11th, so the November meeting will be on November 12th. Elections will be held in November, with nominations being presented at the October meeting. The nominating committee consists of Dixie Thomas, Joan Martin and Lannie Pender. President Jim Martin declined accepting nomination for any office.



## **AND THEY ASK WHY I LIKE RETIREMENT!!!**

**Question:** How many days in a week?

**Answer:** 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday

**Question:** When is a retiree's bedtime?

**Answer:** Three hours after he falls asleep on the couch.

**Question:** How many retirees to change a light bulb?

**Answer:** Only one, but it might take all day.

**Question:** What's the biggest gripe of retirees?

**Answer:** There is not enough time to get everything done.

**Question:** Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?

**Answer:** The term comes with a 10% discount.

**Question:** Among retirees what is considered formal attire?

**Answer:** Tied shoes.

**Question:** Why do retirees count pennies?

**Answer:** They are the only ones who have the time.

Jim Martin again asked for an Entertainment Chair. Jim Mitchell is very excited about the State Convention next year hosted by our Chapter; he then read a list of committees' still needing people. Jim Martin reminded everyone that October is our Food Pantry Month.

Legislative Report by Jim Dodd: No hot Lime messages for September, but there are copies from July and August. Info for the Chapter, National Dues are going up to \$40.00.

There were no reports from the Service Officer or from Janet Harrel the Sunshine Chair.

Public Relations: We are trying to get a Casino Trip together for October, anyone interested please call Janet Harrel.

Mary Austin from the Geary Community Hospital spoke about the Alpha Care Clinic; she gave a brief history of the creation of the new Clinic. The Alpha Care Clinic, was created as an afterhours clinic, it opened in April to alleviate some of the burden on the Emergency Room. There has been a slight drop in the ER. This Clinic is not meant to replace your Primary Care Physician. The hours for the Clinic are Wednesday thru Friday 3 – 10 p.m., Saturday 12 – 6 p.m., and Sunday 12 – 5 p.m.

There were 101 reservations and 76 in attendance, \$177.75 The Alzheimer's fund collected \$177.75, this high amount was due to a \$100.00 donation from Clarence Lehner.

Door Prizes were won by Dorothy Luttmann, Bill Miller, Don Bielefeld and Melba Easley.



## **TREASURER'S REPORT by Madelyn Brown:**

Beginning Balance Sep 1, 2010 \$751.19

Receipts \$447.77

Expenses \$455.28

Ending Balance \$743.68



## **SUNSHINE REPORT by Janet Harrel**

Good News! Everyone remained able to go / do! Please, if you hear of someone needing a pick-me-up, contact Janet so that she can send them a card. Thank you.

## **STATE NEWS**

**ALZHEIMER'S UPDATE (CAROL EK, NARFE STATE PRESIDENT):** "Region V was second in the Nation for donations to Alzheimer's for the sixth year; Kansas was second in the Nation for per capita; and third in the Nation for total donations. The highest total for the year was awarded to Virginia with \$66,270.00. The highest per capita for the year was awarded to Mississippi with \$6.49 per member."

**MEMBERSHIP UPDATE (CAROL EK, NARFE STATE PRESIDENT):** "In July and August, Kansas lost 263 members. Many of these members could have been retained if the chapter had just contacted them and asked them to renew that membership. When asked why members have not renewed, many times the reply was, "I've never been contacted for meetings or to renew my membership." This is sad! We are a member "grassroots" organization but chapters do not "welcome" new members and ask them to attend their meetings. We cannot keep members if we do not offer anything in return."

**NARFE STATE LEGISLATIVE CHAIR (JAMES MILLER, CHAPTER 0002, TOPEKA, KS):** "Recently while speaking at a Kansas chapter, a member asked a question that led me to give a State Legislative 101 explanation. For decades, the mission and purpose for



**IN MEMORIAM: THIS COLUMN IS DEDICATED TO THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY OVER THE YEAR. PLEASE REMEMBER FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF OUR ORGANIZATION. MAY 2010, JUNE 2010, JULY 2010, AUGUST 2010, SEPTEMBER 2010**

Sen. Sam Brownback  
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 (1<sup>st</sup> Dist)  
1 North Main, Suite 525  
Hutchinson, KS 67504,  
620 665-6138

**Question: What is the common term for someone who enjoys work and refuses to retire?**

**Answer: NUTS!**

**Question: Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage?**

**Answer: They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there.**

members of Chapter 0002, Topeka, has been to attend committee meetings, hearings and sessions of the Kansas Legislature. Ron Richey, Ron Neis and I (Jim Miller) currently represent NARFE members at the State House and TRY to ensure federal retirees receive fair treatment on the state income tax exemption. Efforts through the years since the benefit was passed have been to “lift” federal retirees ONLY out of the organizations with the state income tax benefit.

To date, our efforts and those of Oscar Albrecht and Ron Musser before us have been successful. Other retired employee groups with the benefit are KS Public Employees Retirement System (KPERS); KS Police and Firemen’s Retirement System; KS Teachers Retirement; KS Highway Patrol; KS Justices and Judges Retirement; Railroad Retirement; retired employees of Washburn University and several additional categories. With pressure mounting on the KS Legislature to CUT taxes, I believe the ENTIRE benefit could be under fire for ALL organizations.

Adverse editorials and “news” stories decrying lavish pensions and benefits for public and especially federal retirees abound. The same criticism is leveled at current employees, public and federal. Representative Eric Canton (R-PA) said “Americans are fed up with public employee pay scales far exceeding that in the private sector.” That’s easy to understand because the business practice in vogue now is to CUT wages, hours and benefits for employees. Recession? Why expand? Hiring is easy because so many people are desperately seeking jobs. We’ve got ‘em down, let’s keep ‘em down! 2010 Topeka Capitol Journal, “THEN THERE’S THIS ISSUE OF PENSIONS. USA TODAY REPORTED THAT FEDERAL EMPLOYEES RECEIVED AN AVERAGE OF \$42,791.00 IN BENEFITS LAST YEAR AND MOST OF THAT FIGURE WAS THE GOVERNMENT’S CONTRIBUTION TO PENSIONS.”

**“That should be all the incentive we need to work for a stronger NARFE in Kansas and in Washington, D.C.” (Jim Miller, State Legislative Chair)**



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

TO: