



“OLD TROOPER”

NEWSLETTER



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

October 2008

Chapter 383, 2008 Officers

President: Dixie Thomas, 238-1455 bthomas56@cox.net

1st Vice President: Don Campbell, 238-6082 dcampbell@oz-online.net

2nd Vice President: Carole Blixt, 922-6413 20blic43@eaglecom.net

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, Carole Blixt, 922-6413
Public Relations, Don Campbell, 238-6082
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
Decorating Program, Leonetta Chaves-Bibby, 238-6642
Newsletter, Dixie Thomas, 238-1455
Chaplain, Otis Scroggins, 238-1342
Historian
Special Projects, Appointed as needed.

Are you a Blue Cross / Blue Shield Subscriber??

(Dixie Thomas, President, Old Trooper Chapter #383)

I received a call last week from Cyndy Platt regarding the hospital's recent articles and decisions regarding Blue Cross / Blue Shield Subscribers and whether or not they will be accepted by the Geary Community Hospital and its physicians. Cyndy provided a pamphlet for all attendees with the correct information needed for you to make decisions regarding your insurance. Some of you received a letter around 24 September which stated "the patients' 'out-of-pocket expenses will increase.'" According to this pamphlet, "This is not true." "The hospital would offer the in-network discount to the patients instead of the insurance company. The hospital will also waive any penalties assessed because the hospital is out-of-network."

Please read the pamphlet carefully and if you still have questions, a hospital representative will be at our November luncheon to provide answers to your questions.



Program Chair, Leonetta Chaves-Bibby:

The next meeting of NARFE will be November 13, 2008, 11:30 a.m., at the 4H/Senior Citizen Building, Spring Valley Road. Program for the luncheon is pending but will be finalized this week. If confusion remains regarding the Blue Cross / Blue Shield issues, a representative from Geary Community Hospital will be our guest speaker to discuss the Hospital's decisions pertaining to BC/BS.



October Birthdays (Make sure we have your birthday)

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



October Anniversaries (Make sure we have your anniversary)

Happy anniversary to Mr. and Mrs. Ken Griffin, Mr. and Mrs. Logan Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Mitchell and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bondurant. Many, Many More!



If you would like to receive your newsletter via email, please send your request to Dixie Thomas at btomas56@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 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!!

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SUNSHINE CHAIR Report, Janet Harrel:

Janet sent a get well card to Virginia Smith. We wish you a speedy recovery.



Minutes of the September 2008 Meeting

Lannie Pender, Secretary

Meeting minutes of the National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) September 11, 2008. President Dixie Thomas, called the September 11, 2008 meeting to order at 11:30, at the 4H/Senior Citizens Center. Chaplain, Otis Scroggins led the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

New member Anita Hernandez and Tom Pederson were introduced as were Bill and Dorothy Stewart from Sun City, AZ.

President Dixie Thomas extended birthday and anniversary wishes to those members celebrating in the month of September.

President Thomas called for the reading of the June minutes and the Treasurer's report. She then asked for a motion and second from the floor to approve or modify the minutes. A motion was made by Maxine Kroeplin and seconded by Ray Thompson, the motion was approved as written and the Treasurer's report was filed for audit.

NEW BUSINESS: Thank you letters were read. President Thomas announced that the October 9th meeting would be a Food Drive. Please bring your non-perishable donations to that meeting. Our Area 5 Vice-Pres will be here for that meeting as well as Don Cooper, Kansas Area III Vice President. President Thomas spoke about the newspaper Ads that were spearheaded by Carole Blixt. President Thomas brought up the Kansas Dept on Aging Uniform Program Registration which we must do once a year. Members were reminded of the Casino trip on Oct 11, 08. President Thomas mentioned the Membership Drive and that the first 10 new members would receive a calculator. President Thomas announced that the board is looking for nominations for President, and 1st and 2nd Vice-President.

Jim Dodd, Legislative Officer, reported that the NARFE National Convention minutes have been posted on the NARFE website. The list of changes to Health Benefits has also been posted. Go to NARFE HQ and put in your ZIP Code.

There were 115 reservations for the October meeting with 104 in attendance. A total of \$122.50 was raised for Alzheimer's. Door Prizes were won by Carolyn Cook twice and by Tom Pederson our new member.

Donna Martinson Co. Extension Agent gave a very interesting and informative talk on Sleep Disorders. She listed the types of sleep disorder, the phases of sleep and the effects on people suffering from these disorders. We extend our thanks to Donna.

Old Trooper NARFE Chapter 383 was adjourned to meet again at 11:30 on October 9, 2008 at the 4H/Senior Citizens Center. Secretary, Lana M. Pender



Calling Chair: Vi Martin

- List # 1 Faye Heath
- List # 2 Sharon Griffin
- List # 3 Verleen Byrn
- List # 4 Pat Fisher
- List # 5 Judy Strauss
- List # 6 Maxine Kroepflin
- List # 7 Marie Sawyer
- List # 8 Dorothy Luttmann
- List # 9 Evelyn Lacey
- List #10 Janet Harrel
- List #11 Joan Martin
- List #12 Joyce Peoples
- List #13 Ramona Norcross
- List #14 Dorothy Gallaway
(Dwight area)
- List #15 Jonetta Rector
(Chapman area)



Brittany (age 4) had an earache and wanted a pain killer. She tried in vain to take the lid off the bottle. Seeing her frustration, her Mom explained it was a child-proof cap and she'd have to open it for her. Eyes wide with wonder, the little girl asked, "How does it know it's me?"

When I got home last night, my wife demanded that I take her someplace expensive ... so, I took her to a gas station And then the fight started.



TREASURER, Madelyn Brown:

Beginning balance Sep 1, 2008 \$2,611.48

Receipts - \$609.22

Expenses - \$513.27

Ending Balance Sep 30, 2008 \$2,707.43

It's scary when you start making the same noises as your coffee maker.

I had the opportunity to attend the NARFE National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, with Federation Secretary Carol Ek and Area 6 VP Brenda Myers. We had people from all states in attendance with a final tally of 1,266. I picked up good information which will be in the November 2008 magazine. There isn't enough space in the newsletter to share it all. I was disappointed that the single dues structure failed to pass again. We did vote to make the National Secretary and Treasurer salary to be equal at \$90,970.00 per year. We were glad that the vote on eliminating the Regional Vice Presidents' salary and provide for a token payment FAILED. Why people would think that someone would drive/fly all over the country for a token payment to do the job is beyond me. They must be from a different planet. The next convention in 2010 will be in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This is close enough and the prices are right - make plans to attend, and if you like the West and Nevada then plan on 2012 to attend that convention at The Nugget in Reno. We did take a tour of the city, ate lunch watching people boating on the Ohio River, visited the Louisville Slugger factory and museum, and ate to much good food. We walked 3 blocks to an area called Fourth Street Live, what a rocking place they hope to enlarge with more eating places and shops.

For you planning next year keep in mind that CONK will be in August in South Sioux City, NE. More information to follow.

My memory's not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my memory's not as sharp as it used to be.



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

These days about half of the stuff in my shopping cart says, "For fast relief."



I tried to talk my wife into buying a case of lite beer for \$14.95. Instead, she bought a jar of cold cream for \$7.95. I told her the beer would make her look better at night than the cold cream and that's when the fight started.

Reporters interviewing a 104-year-old woman: 'And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?' the reporter asked. She simply replied, "No peer pressure.'

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 Tiaht, 4th District - [email](#)

Washington: (202)225-6216
Wichita: (316)262-8992

Susan (age 4). The sermon I think this Mom will never forget... .."Dear Lord," the minister began, with arms extended toward heaven and a rapturous look on his upturned fact. "Without you, we are but dust..." He would have continued but at that moment my very obedient daughter who was listening leaned over to me and asked quite audibly in her shrill little four year old voice, "Mom, what is butt dust?"



Kansas delegates to the NARFE National Convention in Louisville.



Dixie J. Thomas, Editor
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TO:

