

# “OLD TROOPER” NEWSLETTER



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

May 2009

Chapter 383, 2009 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, 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.

## HAPPY Mother’s Day

This NARFE Legislative Hotline, number 670, was released Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. Paid parental leave is the lead. The next scheduled Hotline, set for Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, will report on April consumer price indices. (449 words; 3:18)

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, legislation (H.R. 626) to provide federal employees paid leave for the birth or adoption of a child was approved by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Specifically, the bill provides that, of the 12 weeks of unpaid leave guaranteed by the Family and Medical Leave Act, federal employees be allowed to substitute 4 weeks of paid leave, as well as any accrued annual or sick leave, for the birth or adoption of a child. In a May 5<sup>th</sup> letter to committee members, NARFE President, Margaret L. Baptiste, saluted the bill’s sponsor, Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY). Baptiste also lauded Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) and Rep. Ed Town (D-NY) chairmen of the subcommittee and full committee respectively. (NARFE’s full press release is available from the NARFE home page, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org) . Sixteen new Presidents have been elected at federation conventions in Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, Rhode Island and Texas. Chapter meetings to be held before summer darkness should devote time to beginning 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.

Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, is the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers and supported by NARFE, is the nation’s largest single-day food drive. On **SATURDAY, May 9**, the National Association of Letter Carriers ([www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org)) and allied postal crafts will conduct their 17<sup>th</sup> annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. In 2008, this NARFE supported drive delivered 73.1 MILLION pounds of non-perishable items donated by postal patrons to local food organizations. NARFE members are urged to collect and bag non-perishable food items and place the bag by your mailbox for your letter carrier on Saturday, May 9, 2009. Results of the Food Drive will be reported to NARFE members.

This NARFE Legislative Hotline, number 669, was released Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. A snapshot of Congress is provided. The House and Senate have adopted the conference report (Report # 111-89) on the budget resolution for fiscal year 2010. This budget resolution, Senate Concurrent Resolution 13, **contains no reductions in federal retiree income security or health care and language preserving the important tradition of parity in military and civilian pay increases.** Budget resolutions do not require Presidential action and do not have the force of law. However, the budget resolution does guide committee action on legislation which implements the budget, for example, Appropriations and Budget Reconciliation.





If you would like to receive your newsletter via email, please send your request to Dixie Thomas at [bthomas56@cox.net](mailto: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!!**

**Mother's Day**

**Contact Carole Blixt 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., 11 June 2009, at the 4H/Senior Citizen Building, Spring Valley Road. **Guest Barbara Hartley will entertain the attendees with music.**

Call Membership Chair June Wood – 785 922-6776 - TO explain why you should join NARFE TODAY! A lot of protection for a small price! NARFE is the key to your retirement security. Protecting Your Future Since 1921.



**May and July Birthdays:** Happy May Birthday to Larry Langvardt, Therisha Jo Hudson, Vena Rowbotham, Marilyn Bielefeld, Carol Bondurant, Doris MacLaird-Nelson, Donald Stiers, Barbara Rawlins, Carlye Gilmore and Mary Ballowe. Happy July Birthday to Margaret Hageman, Mabel Kane, Morris Beckman, Michael Cronin, Joseph Knox, Maxine Kroepin, Doreen Kanode, Loren Fiest, Benjamin Kitchens, Sharon Kitchens, Richard Roome, Faye Sexton, Judy Strauss, Jean Parker, Lanny Pender and Maureen Miller. MANY Happier, happy birthdays!



**May and July Anniversaries:** Happy May anniversary to Mr. & Mrs. Richard Lacey. Happy July anniversary to Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Walters, Mr. and Mrs. Alan Stephen, Mr. and Mrs. John Strain, Mr. and Mrs. Danny Hartung, Mr. and Mrs. John Triplett, Mr. and Mrs. Milt Rawlins and Mr. and Mrs. Elton Vaughn. CONGRATULATIONS to all of you.



**SUNSHINE CHAIR Report, Janet Harrel:** Get well wishes were sent to Larry Young and a sympathy card was sent to the family of Robert Brent.



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

Opening: President Jim Martin, of the National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) called the April 8, 2009 Chapter #383 meeting to order at 11:30 at the 4H/Senior Citizens Center.

Invocation: Florence Whitebread led the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. President Martin extended birthday and anniversary wishes to those members celebrating in the month of April June Wood was added to the April birthday list.

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, the minutes and the Treasurer's were approved of as written and the Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

New Business: Kathy Triplett addressed the members to inform them about the upcoming show at the Opera House titled Taffeta Memories; she listed the cast members and stated the shows would be April 24-26, at \$15.00 per person. Ray Thompson informed the members that the dedication of the new Veterans' Cemetery would be April 24, 2009 at 9:00 a.m., invited everyone to attend and gave directions to get there.



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)

Thanks to Cameron Davis for finding this beautiful dedication to Mothers.

**A Mother's Crown**

Heaven lit up with His mighty presence,  
As all the Angels looked down,  
Today the Lord was placing the jewels,  
In all the mother's crowns.

As He held up a golden crown,  
As all the mother's looked on,  
He said in His gentle voice,  
I just want to explain each stone.

He held the first gem in His hand  
But the radiance couldn't match  
His own.  
For He was the light of Heaven,  
Reflecting off each of the stones.

The first gem, He said, is an emerald,  
And it's for endurance alone,  
For all the nights you waited up,  
For your children to come home,  
For all the nights by their bedside,  
You stayed till the fever went down,  
For nursing every little wound,  
I add this emerald to your crown.

A ruby, I'll place by the emerald,  
For leading your child in the right way,  
For if you hadn't taught them about me,  
They wouldn't be here with you today.  
For always being right there,  
Thru all life's important events,  
I give you a sapphire stone,  
For the time and love you spent.

Old Business: The dates of April 26 – 28 were stated, items for the Live Auction and the Alzheimer's Silent Auction were asked for, and items contributed should be in nice condition. Dixie Thomas and Lannie Pender offered to take items to Manhattan, for members to call if they had items to donate. President Martin said Chuck Marr of the Manhattan Chapter had called him asking for assistance with the Memorial Service; Carole Blixt stepped up and volunteered. Good job Carole.

The legislative report was in the Bulletin and there was no report from the Service Officer. Membership Chair, June Wood thanked Carole Blixt and Barb Steppe for calling prospective members and to Carlos and June Buckles for names of prospective members.

Public Relations: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Jim Mitchell asked the members if our Chapter would like to host the 1012 State Convention. The question was put to a vote but did not pass.

Entertainment: Susan Moyer from the Dorothy Bramlage Public Library spoke about the proposed upgrade and explained they are seeking funding through various grants. The Gates Foundation has provided computers for the Library, and they are seeking to increase the size of the computer Lab. They are trying to cover all aspects and researching all options for the expansion. The talk was a very comprehensive, and gave a lot of information on the impact our Library has on the community.

There were 104 reservations and 92 members present.

The total for the Alzheimer's Fund was \$131.50.

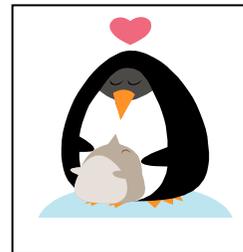
Door prizes were won by Wally Mitchell, Helen Bauer, Paul Hood and Donna Motley.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.



**TREASURER, Madelyn Brown:**

Beginning Balance \$1,408.35  
Receipts \$570.26  
Expenses \$546.60  
Ending Balance \$1,432.01



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

Our friends and family members were honored at the NARFE State Convention 26-28 April 2009. Carole Blixt conducted the Memorial Ceremony during the convention. Those who will be remembered at the 2010 Convention:

- April 2009: Carl Wright
- April 2009: Robert Brent
- May 2009: Alice McClain

**Reheat Pizza**

Heat up leftover pizza in a nonstick skillet on top of the stove, set heat to med-low and heat till warm.

This keeps the crust crispy. No soggy micro pizza. I saw this on the cooking channel and it really works.



For untying the strings that held them,  
When they grew up and left home,  
I give you this one for courage,  
Then the Lord added an amethyst stone.

I'll place a stone of garnet, He said,  
For all the times you spent on your knees,  
When you asked me to take care of your children,  
And them for having faith in me.

I have a pearl for every little sacrifice,  
That you made without them knowing,  
For all the times you went without,  
To keep them happy, healthy, and growing.

And last of all I have a diamond,  
The greatest of all gems,  
For those mother's who lost their children,  
When they came home to heaven before them.

This is the most precious sacrifice,  
So I give the most precious stone,  
For I know just how you felt,  
I too lost a child of my own.

After the Lord placed the last jewel in,  
He said, Heaven is now complete,  
For every mother has her crown of jewels,  
And all her children are at her feet.

(author unknown)

#### EXERCISE FOR PEOPLE OVER 50

Begin standing on a comfortable surface where you have plenty of room at each side. With a 5-lb potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute and then relax. Each you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer. After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato bags. Then try 50-ob potato bags and then eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. (I'm at this level...). After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag.



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

TO:

On April 24, 2009, Our member Ray Thompson was mentioned in the Fort Riley Post Newspaper. The article was written by Nikla Simon, IACH and was entitled, "IACH honors longtime volunteer.

Veteran Ray Thompson volunteers more than 90 hours a month with the Red Cross in Irwin Army Community Hospital's Medical Surgical and Special Care Unit.

For almost a decade, Thompson has been a mainstay in the medical community. His duties vary from putting together personal care kits to distributing toys to children. No matter what he is doing though, Thompson does it with a positive attitude. He also goes above and beyond the call of duty by providing personal chauffeur services to Santa during the holidays.

Thompson, along with other volunteers, will receive recognition April 19-25 during National Volunteer Week. This year's theme of "Celebrating People In Adction" captures the meaning behind the week by celebrating normal people who accomplish extraordinary things through service.

SSG Donna Medek, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Special Care Unit, recalled numerous contributions Thompson has made over his nine years of volunteer service.

"If you need to know where to go in the community for veterans assistance, Ray is your go to guy," Medek said.

Volunteers contribute to the overall success of organizations in big ways.

"I had a calling," the 77 year-old volunteer said about his service. "I wanted to do something for the veterans."

