

"Old Trooper" Newsletter

Old "Trooper" Chapter 383, National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, Junction City,
Kansas 66441
January 2017

2017 CHAPTER OFFICERS

President: Dixie Thomas, 238-1455

1st VP: Ray Thompson, 762-5249

2nd VP: Jim Mitchell, 238-3423

Secretary: Lannie Pender, 238-6503

Treasurer: Wally Mitchell, 238-3423

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

Legislative: Jim Dodd, 238-8041

Membership/Public Relations/Editor: Dixie Thomas, 238-1455

Service Officer:

Parliamentarian: Ray Thompson, 762-5249

Alzheimer's: Ruth Linville, 223-1550

Sunshine: Wally Mitchell, 238-3423

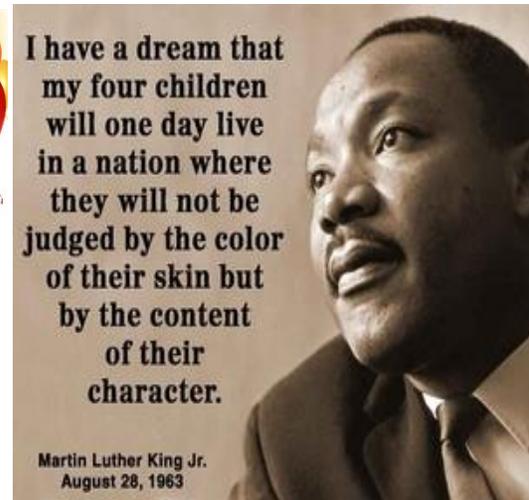
NARFE-PAC: Jim Martin, 238-8539

Program: Karen Brough, 210-7420

Chaplain: Dan Rickman, 238-4148

Calling: Mary Reed, 223-6203

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) is dedicated to protecting and enhancing the earned pay, retirement and health care benefits of federal employees, retirees and their survivors.



Happy New Year to all!

Happy Birthday to Barbara Hill, Cameron Davis, Carole Blixt, Celina Vincent, Clarice Longhofer, Corky Briestensky, Leonetta Chaves-Bibby, Richard Mathes, Robert Norcross, and Sharon Strain. I hope you all enjoy or enjoyed your day.

Happy Anniversary to Cameron and Bobbi Davis, Llellwyn and Daisy McTavish, and Otis and Shirley Scroggins. Congratulations to you and may you have many more anniversaries.

Sunshine Report (Wally Mitchell): Get well wishes went out to Karen Brough, Mary Brown, and Mildred Smith. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

Treasurer's Report (Wally Mitchell):

Beginning balance 1 December 2016:	\$2390.65
Receipts	456.67
Expenses	539.26
Ending Balance 31 December 2016:	\$2308.06

Secretary's Report (Lana Pender): National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) December 8, 2016: President Dixie Thomas opened the meeting at 11:30; NARFE Chaplain Dan Rickman gave the benediction and led the members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Thomas extended birthday wishes and anniversary wishes to those members celebrating in the month of December. President Thomas introduced our new member Mrs. Mas Prosper-Mayberry, and welcomed John Ourada, our Area III Vice President.

President Thomas stated the Minutes are in the Newsletter and asked for a motion and a second to approve them; a motion was made by Jim Mitchell and seconded by Ray Thompson, motion passed. She then asked for a motion and second to accept the Treasurer's report pending audit, motion made by Maxine Kroeplin and seconded Ray Thompson.

John Ourada congratulated the new officers. He spoke about membership and the membership application in the latest NARFE magazine. The application doesn't have a space for the Chapter number, so when the application is submitted, our Chapter number needs to be annotated; he spoke about the National Convention and the one member one vote rule. He told us that the State Convention would be in Hutchinson, date will be forthcoming. We passed out the Bingo cards. The Bingo winners each won \$20.00 and the winners were; Mary Reed, Mas Mayberry, Madelyn Brown, Wally Mitchell and Don Whitebread. Everyone was invited to enjoy the homemade desserts that were donated by the members, thank you to everyone who donated a dessert.

There were 55 reservations and 50 in attendance and we collected \$68.00 for Alzheimer's.

The Door Prize winners were Bert Thomas, Jim Dodd, Dan Rickman and Dick Mathis. Madelyn Brown won the Alzheimer's 50/50, and we donated an additional \$70.00 to Alzheimer's in the Chapter's name.

NARFE statement on the President's 2017 pay raise for federal employees

December 9, 2016

"NARFE applauds President Obama's decision to provide a 2.1 percent pay raise to the hard-working men and women who keep our government and nation running day-in and day-out. The 2.1 percent raise is at parity with the amount Congress authorized for the uniformed services and the average increase in private-sector wages from the last measured year. Pay parity had been standard practice over much of the last three decades, prior to the pay freeze in 2011, for civilian pay raises to track with raises for the uniformed services and in the private-sector," commented NARFE President Richard G. Thissen.

NARFE'S LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS 114TH CONGRESS (2015-2016) REVIEW

1. Thwarted ALL attempts by Congress to cut the earned pay and benefits of federal employees and retirees.

The House of Representatives' FY 2016 budget resolution contained EIGHT provisions totaling \$318 billion to cuts to the Federal community.

The Senate failed in its attempt to pay for highway improvements on the backs of the federal community.

A budget agreement offsetting sequestration cuts for two years did not take from federal employees or retirees.

2. Successfully mitigated disproportionate and unfair increases in Medicare premium.

Without a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in 2016, millions of Medicare enrollees not "held harmless" would have seen their premiums increased by 52 percent, unless Congress or the administration took action.

In the face of a small retiree COLA in 2017, which did not trigger the budget deal's provisions, NARFE secured the introduction of legislation to mitigate the effects of Medicare premium increases for those not held harmless, in a situation similar to 2016.

3. Protected postal retirees' health benefits through the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP).

Postal reform legislation in both the House and the Senate would have required all eligible postal retirees and their spouses to enroll in Medicare or forfeit their earned retiree health benefits coverage through the FEHBP.

4. In response to significant spikes in premiums (by an average of 83 percent and as much as 126 percent) under the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP). NARFE secured critical information and support for enrollees and pushed Congress to act to avoid a repeat of the situation.

NARFE provided critical information and secured dedicated support for Association members who participate in the program.

NARFE played a critical role in securing a November 2016 hearing on the FLTCIP rate hike at which NARFE President Richard G. Thissen testified.

5. Worked to keep Association members informed regarding the data breaches at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

Following the announcements of two OPM data breaches, NARFE stayed in constant communication with OPM officials to ensure NARFE members were provided the information they need to protect their financial well-being.

6. Worked to increase identity theft protection provided to individuals impacted by the data breaches at OPM.

NARFE supported lifetime identity theft protection, while the services offered after the breaches only cover three years.

7. Supported efforts to protect TSP participants from receiving bad financial advice.

NARFE testified before the Department of Labor in favor of a rule to hold financial advisers to a “best interest” standard, instead of the current “suitability” standard, when providing advice regarding rollovers and other financial matters.

8. NARFE’s media coverage reaches new heights.

Throughout the 114th Congress, NARFE saw unprecedented coverage in the press, thanks to a combination of being out in front on certain issues and efforts to draw attention to others that were being overlooked by the media.

ALZHEIMER’S RESEARCH

Alexandria, VA – Cumulative NARFE-member donations to the Association’s NARFE-Alzheimer’s Research Fund have topped \$12 million, NARFE National President Richard G. Thissen announced November 22. “I appreciate the efforts of all NARFE members who helped us reach this goal,” Thissen said. “Our members’ continued generosity shows our dedication to help all Americans and the world fight this terrible disease.”

Since NARFE took on Alzheimer’s as a national project in 1985, members have raised money through setting progressively higher cumulative fundraising goals. The total represents thousands of individual member donations and proceeds from hundreds of small fundraising efforts.

“All of our members know someone who has had Alzheimer’s – a family member, friend or acquaintance – and many of our members have been Alzheimer’s caregivers,” said Thissen. “They know first-hand the toll Alzheimer’s takes and how important it is to find a cure. We are proud to help fund vital research that will lead to a world without Alzheimer’s.”

Through a partnership with the Alzheimer’s Association in Chicago, IL, 100 percent of NARFE-member donations go to Alzheimer’s research. The NARFE-Alzheimer’s National Committee, made up of members from NARFE’s 10 regions, meet each year and, with the help of experts from the Alzheimer’s Association, select the research projects to fund. NARFE has funded 71 projects since 1985. By virtue of its contributions to Alzheimer’s research, NARFE is a member of the Alzheimer’s Association’s Zenith Society, which represents the Alzheimer’s Association’s “highest and most involved” level of donors.

“NARFE member efforts to raise funds for research aimed at bringing an end to the devastation of Alzheimer’s disease demonstrate the spirit of public service and altruism that federal employees and retirees so often show throughout their careers – something too often ignored by unknowing people, pundits and politicians,” Thissen added.

The donation program is strictly voluntary on the part of NARFE members. The “\$12 million in 2016” goal was set at NARFE’s 2014 National Convention. Confident that the goal would be reached this year, members attending the NARFE National Convention in August 2016 set a new goal of reaching a cumulative total of \$13 million in 2018.

Separately, NARFE members who formed teams to participate in local Alzheimer’s walks contributed an additional \$41,000 to the Alzheimer’s Association this year, Thissen noted.