

"Old Trooper" Newsletter

Chapter 383, National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, Junction City,
Kansas 66441
November 2

2015 CHAPTER OFFICERS

President: Robert
Norcross, 762-2218

1st VP: Ray Thompson,
762-5249

2nd VP: Dixie Thomas,
238-1455

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: Walt
Germann, 209-1938

Parliamentarian: Ray
Thompson, 762-5249

Alzheimer's/ Decorating:
Opal Dalton, 922-6551

Sunshine: Wally
Mitchell, 238-3423

NARFE-PAC: Jim Martin,
238-8539

Program: Karen Brough,
210-7420/ Darlene
Gaskins, 209-8761

Chaplain: Maxine
Kroeplin

Calling: Vi Martin, 238-
8539 / Cell 210-6037

NARFE INFORMATION FROM AROUND THE STATE (Excerpts from the Kansas Federation Newsletter July-September 2015)

- Since the Kansas convention, the Kansas Federation has worked on merging two chapters; the Dodge City Chapter #1873 and the Custer 7th Cavalry – Hays Chapter #2050. In merging chapters, the first-line contact with members is lost. These two chapters cover several hundreds of miles that prevents members attending meetings due to time constraints in driving.
- Membership remains an issue. NARFE is not the only organization that is taking a big hit in membership. All member-dependent organizations are experiencing the loss of membership.
- Chapter Secretaries/Presidents should have received a copy of the F-7 Chapter Officer Roster Form for all the newly elected officers and chairpersons that will be elected in the October/ November timeframe. This report is due to NARFE HQ no later than January 1st.
- In December, Chapters will be receiving the Convention Call packet. This will include credential sheets, registration forms, memorial listing and ability to volunteer to participate in a committee at next convention in April in Salina.
- Jim Dodd keeps us up-to-date on legislative but here are some possible proposals:
 - Increase employees' FEHBP premiums by limiting the governments increase in premium increases to the inflation rate.
 - An increase in retirement contributions for all current federal employees of roughly 6% (this would result in FERS plan employees paying almost the same as what CSRS retirement plan employees pay/paid but for no more benefits than what are currently offered by FERS which is much less in retirement pension than under CSRS).
 - A 10% reduction of the federal civilian workforce through attrition, whereby one employee would be hired for every three who leave government service.
 - A decrease in the rate of return on the Thrift Savings Plan's Government Securities Fund (G-Fund). This would result in an almost zero rate of return for all monies invested in this fund.
 - Encouraging the total elimination of the FERS system.
 - Eliminating the FERS Annuity Supplement
 - Increasing postal employees' share of their FEHBP premiums.

November Birthdays: Happy birthday to Billie Jo Rivera, Dorothy Osburn, James Dodd, Madelyn Brown, Marshall Heath, Peggy Blevins, Paul Hood, Vanetta Brumbaugh and Connie Puett. Hope you have a great day!!

November Anniversaries: Happy anniversary Don and Florence Whitebread and Jim and Vi Martin. Wishing you many more anniversaries!

Secretary Lana Pender: National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees NARFE October 8, 2015 Opening: President Bob Norcross, National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees NARFE called the October 2015 meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. at the 4H/Senior Citizens Center.

President Bob Norcross opened the Chapter meeting at 11:30; Maxine Kroeplin led the invocation, followed by the Pledge of allegiance. President Norcross extended birthday wishes and anniversary wishes to those members celebrating in the month of October. The following guests were welcomed; Ella Maloney, Karen Jamison and Anita Hernandez.

President Norcross stated the Minutes are in the Newsletter, and asked for a motion and a second to approve them; a motion was made by Maxine Kroeplin seconded by Diana Dowling, motion passed. He then asked for a motion and second to accept the Treasurer's report, Ray Thompson made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, motion was seconded by Dixie Thomas, motion passed subject to audit.

The President would like everyone to start thinking about people to nominate for Chapter offices. He asked for a volunteer for the nominating committee, no one stepped up, so he appointed Jim Mitchell to Chair the committee. He announced that October 23rd was the Retired Open House on Fort Riley; it was also announced that the new Hospital on Fort Riley will open on January 16, 2016. October is food pantry month, thank you all for your generous donations.

Legislative Report by Jim Dodd: The latest Hotline message was dated October 2nd. He stated if Congress doesn't pass a budget there is a possibility of another Government shutdown. Retirees under the CSRS who do not have S.S., will see an increased in Medicare premiums from \$104. To \$159 per month, S.S recipients will not be affected. BC/BS premiums will increase to 6.4%. It has already been announced that retirees will not receive a Cost of Living increase in 2016.

Sunshine Report by Wally Mitchell: Cards that were sent in September are in the Newsletter and she stated that Clarence Lehner was going in for a knee replacement.

This month's speaker is Deb Andres, Debra is the Family and Consumer Sciences Agent for the Geary County Extension Office. Deb provides Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas (SHICK). As a SHICK Counselor, Deb has received training on Medicare, Medicare Supplement Insurance, Long-Term Care and other health insurance subjects that concern older Kansans. Deb handed out a Medicare I.Q test, which quite a number of us learned some facts about Medicare. Deb strongly encourages everyone to carry their Medication list with them at all times. For Medicare prescription coverage (Part D) you must have Medicare Parts A and B. When a person turns 65 there are a lot of decisions that must be made concerning Medicare. She noted that there are prescription plans than there were: There is a list at MyMedicare.com. She also said everyone should record their medical appointments and what was done. If you are traveling out of the country, conduct a medical research on what to do if you should fall ill in a foreign country. The Keynote publication has all of the Medicare changes. Deb gave a very informative presentation and we thank her very much.

There were 58 reservations and 55 were present, we collected \$81.00 for Alzheimer's.

Door prizes were won by Bob Norcross, Marie Sawyer, Jim Dodd and Mary Reed.

Treasurer's Report (Wally Mitchell):

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| Beginning balance 30 September 2015: | \$2512.94 |
| Receipts | 400.44 |
| Expenses | <u>382.83</u> |
| Ending Balance 31October 2015: | \$2530.55 |

Sunshine Report (Wally Mitchell):

Get Well cards were sent to Marlene Van Sickle. We are all sending prayers and well wishes in your recuperation.

Our thoughts and prayers go to the family of one of our NARFE members, Auguster Davis, Sr., who passed away 30 September 2015.