

“OLD TROOPER” NEWSLETTER



*National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, Old Trooper Chapter #383,
Junction City, Kansas.*

October 2013

Chapter 383, 2012 Officers

President: Robert Norcross 762-2218
1st Vice President: Ray Thompson,
762-5249
2nd Vice President: Dixie Thomas
238-1455
Secretary, Lannie Pender, 238-6503
Treasurer: Madelyn Brown, 238-5623

Committee Chairpersons:

Legislative, James Dodd, 238-8041
Membership Dixie Thomas 238-2455
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, Wally Mitchell 238-3423
NARFE-PAC, Jim Martin 238-8539
Decorating, Opal Dalton, 922-6551
Program, Joan Martin 210-0211 or Carolyn Cook 762-3488
Editor, Dixie Thomas, 238 1455
Chaplain, Maxine Kroepin
Calling, Vi Martin, 238-8539/Cell 210-6037
Historian, Marie Sawyer

1000 DAYS OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PAY FREEZE

Send a message, letter or call your Senators stating the following letter telling Congress to reopen the government of the United States of America, no strings attached.

Senator Pat Roberts
Frank Carlson Federal Bldg.
444 SE Quincy - Room 392
Topeka, KS 66683
Phone: (785) 295-2745

Senator Jerry Moran
923 Westport Place, Suite 210
P.O. Box 067
Manhattan, KS 66502
Phone: (785) 539-8973

Dear Senator _____:

Because Congress has failed to perform its most basic responsibility, much of the government has shutdown. About 800,000 federal employees have been told not to report to work. The remaining 1.2 million employees continue to work without the support of many of their colleagues, and with the prospect that they will not receive a check come payday. Numerous federal government services and functions have stopped, and at a minimum, even the most vital ones are being disrupted.

Federal employees perform functions irrefutably important to our nation. We provide the support, intelligence, and diplomacy to defend our country overseas, and from terrorist attacks on our homeland. We care for veterans when they return home from war. We guard our borders and protect our airways. We ensure the food that we eat and water we drink are safe. We take criminals off our streets and keep them behind bars. We make sure seniors receive the benefits they have earned.

I am a retired federal employee, and am proud of the work I did on behalf of this country. I simply ask that you let me continue to be proud. So, please, fund the government. Tell Congress to Stop Playing Politics and End the Shutdown!

Sincerely,

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND PLANNING:

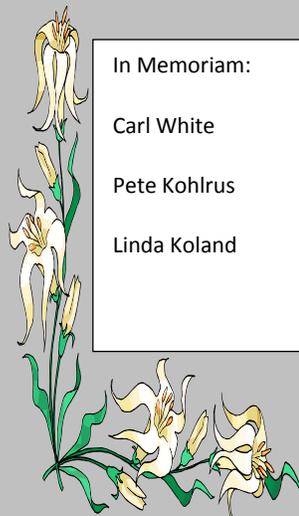
Provided by Joan Martin and Carolyn Cook:

14 November meeting will feature a speaker from the Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging addressing services available to senior citizens.

12 December meeting with the St. Xavier School Singers and they will provide Christmas music for entertainment.



October BIRTHDAYS: Happy Birthday Daisy McTavish, Dixie Thomas, Eva Freeman, Gerald Vincent, Jack Herron, James Nelson, Jim Mitchell, Judy Germann, Kathy Triplett, Llellwyn McTavish, Marilyn Stephens, Max Albin, Melba Easley, Orval Rodgers, Vaughan Llewelyn, Verleen Byrn, Jean Boyd, and Diana Dowling



In Memoriam:

Carl White

Pete Kohlrus

Linda Koland



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

Beginning 1 Sep 2013

Balance	\$1,767.90
Receipts	476.02
Expenses	391.69
<u>Ending Bal:</u>	<u>\$1,749.90</u>



SUNSHINE REPORT:

Wally Mitchell sent cards to Virginia Brunner, Mary Ann Brown, Virginia Adams, Faye Heath and Dixie Thomas. Hoping this newsletter finds all recovered and able to get around.

Secretary report continued:

There were 70 reservations for the meeting with 68 in attendance and one calling in to cancel. We collected \$86.50 for Alzheimer's. Next month's program will be a representative from the Flinthills Area Agency on Aging. Door prizes were won by Mrs. Carole Blixt, Mrs. Stephany Walker, Mrs. Peg Anderson and Mrs. Judy Germann.



October ANNIVERSARIES: Happy Anniversary to Ken and Sharon Griffin, Jim and Jean King, Jim and Wally Mitchell, Robert and Carol Bondurant and last but certainly not least, my friend, Nancy and Dean Wiehl. Many, Many more.....

SECRETARY'S REPORT by Lannie Pender: President Robert Norcross, National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) called the 12 September 2013 meeting to order at 11:30 in the 4H/Senior Citizens Center. Chaplain Maxine Kroeplin led the invocation; followed by the Pledge of allegiance.

President Norcross extended birthday and anniversary wishes to those members celebrating in the month of September. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written. The Treasurer's report was approved for filing, pending year end audit. President Norcross read a thank you note from the St. Xavier Church and from Mrs. Mary Kohlrus on the donation made in memory of her husband, Mr. Peter Kohlrus.

Legislative Chair, Jim Dodd advised the group on legislative issues being acted on by NARFE Headquarters Legislative Office. Starting next week 16-20 September is NARFE Chained CPI Advocacy Week where Congress will switch to the Chained CPI. This proposal from the current method (CPI-W) of determining annual cost of living adjustments would result in lower COLAs and hurt seniors already facing increasing costs. Mr. Dodd recommended members contact their representatives and let them know they are against this proposal. Additionally, Mr. Dodd made members aware of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform voting in support of H.R. 2748, the Postal Reform Act of 2013, and moved the bill out of committee. H.R. 2748 places the burdens of cost-cutting on the backs of the postal workforce while undermining the mission of universal mail service provided by the United States Postal Service (USPS). In so doing, the legislation threatens the future of postal service as we know it today. Before the full House votes on the bill, members need to contact their representatives. Most importantly, Mr. Dodd advised the members of the April 26, legislation Congress introduced that would remove all federal employees from the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, and force them to buy health insurance provided through the exchanges created under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). FEHBP is often cited as the model health care plan for harnessing marketplace competition in the delivery of health care. Now, FEHBP and federal employees are being used as a pawn in the never ending battle over the Affordable Care Act. ... Lastly, Mr. Dodd advised members that the House is focusing its attention on targeting the federal workforce. The House approved several bills as part of "Stop Government Abuse Week" that would negatively impact federal workers and the American people they serve. He encouraged members to send an action alert to your Representatives to stop targeting the federal workforce or to thank him/her for standing up for the federal community and voting against these bills.

Service Officer, Walt Germann, advised the members that OPM changed the telephone number and procedures regarding a death. The new phone number is 1-888-767-6738. He stated the changed procedures require the surviving family member to be in attendance when he calls OPM so that they could get various questions answered. Claims are taking 8-12 weeks. Mr. Germann stated there is a "scam" going around regarding a new Medicare card. Apparently, they call and need information regarding their new Medicare card and requests personal information. This is a SCAM! They want your social security number.

Mrs. Carol Ek, Region V Area Vice President was guest speaker bringing our group up-to-date regarding National Headquarters activities. Mostly, she emphasized what Mr. Dodd had shared with the group and mentioned that next week 16-20 September is National Legislative Week and discussed the Chained CPI in length. Mrs. Ek stated that not only federal employees are affected but it affects everyone; i.e., military, active employees, Social Security recipients, disabled and many more. In addition to Mr. Dodd's comments, Mrs. Ek stated that NARFE has collected \$40,000.00 in coupons and the NARFE legislative staff is taking these coupons to Congress next week. Mrs. Ek stated that elected officials promised certain benefits and if these benefits are changed, it will affect every one of us. If Congress and staff are taken out of the Health Benefits plan, this will affect our plan and it will raise our health benefits costs.

In other areas, Mrs. Ek said OPM is short of personnel and retirees have to wait approximately 18 months for their correct monthly annuities. She stated there is a new committee looking into the future of NARFE to include membership. Without "new blood" the old members are wearing out and in order to continue having viable chapters, we must get new members. The next National convention will be August 24-28 2014 at the Rosenberg Center, Orlando, Florida.