



OLD TROOPER NEWSLETTER



Active and Retired Federal Employees Chapter No. 383, Junction City, Kansas

Volume 1, Number

December 2005

Chapter 383, 2005 Officers

President: James Martin, 238-8539

1st Vice President: Carl Shell, 238-8330

2nd Vice President: June Buckles, 238-6776

Secretary/Treasurer: Madelyn Brown, 238-5623

• Chapter 383, 2005 Committee Chairpersons

Legislative, James Dodd, 238-8041

Membership, Carl Shell, 238-8330

Public Relations, June Buckles, 238-6776

Service Officer, Morris Beckman, 238-5917

Alzheimer's, Opal Dalton and Virginia Adam, 922-6551 & 922-6706

Sunshine, Janet Harrel, 238-7488

NARFE-PAC, Larry Young, 238-3047

Calling, Violet (Vi) Martin, 238-8539

Decorating, Lillian Young, 238-3047 and Carlye Gilmore, 238-1897, Opal Dalton, 922-6551 and Virginia Adam, 238-1897

Program – Vacant

Newsletter, Dixie Thomas, 238-1455

Chaplain, Otis Scroggins, 238-1342

Special Projects Appointed as Needed



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

ELECTIONS!!!

Our 2006 elected officials are James Martin, President, Carl Shell, 1st Vice President, June Buckles, 2nd Vice President, and Madelyn Brown, Secretary/Treasurer. Thank you for your continuing support to our Chapter. We know without dedicated officials as you we would no longer have a Chapter. Again, thanks from all of us.

January 2006 Luncheon

Our January meeting/luncheon will be January 12, 2006, 11:30 a.m. at the Senior Citizen's Center, Spring Valley Road. Jim Martin, President, advised that the guest for the luncheon/meeting would be Ron Harris, Geary County Historical Society. Ron will do a re-enactment of the legislature at the First Territorial Capitol as seen through the eyes of Martin F. Conway, a delegate to the legislature, who is called, "The Patrick Henry of the West."

Contact your Senators and Representatives

John F. Surritte, Kansas Federation 1st Vice President, urges all of us to contact our Senators and Representative during the 109th Congressional holiday recess. The voting record of each is reflected below. Mr. Surritte pointed out that Senator Roberts and Representative Tiahrt supported Premium Conversion during the 108th Congress. Your correspondence should ask why they don't support it during the 109th Congress. This legislation would give the average retiree in our state over \$400.00 annually to help pay health insurance and Medicare increases. Additionally, please note in your correspondence that as federal retirees we pay income tax, sales tax, real estate tax, etc. Therefore we are not asking for something for nothing. We are only asking to be treated fairly. In fact, active Federal employees receive this benefit. Mr. Surritte further provided some good news in that very little has been heard lately on HR 2290. To refresh memory, this is the legislation that would make it possible to



NARFE STATE CONVENTION WILL BE IN JUNCTION CITY IN APRIL 2007





If you would like to receive your newsletter via email, please send your request to Dixie Thomas at bthomas56@cox.net

Of course, those attending the luncheon will receive newsletter at the luncheon - no change.

FREQUENTLY ASKED MEMBERSHIP & CHAPTER QUESTIONS

Q: What does NARFE do?

A: The National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) was founded in 1921 to establish equitable pensions for federal civil service workers. Today, NARFE is a non-profit, non-partisan organization of nearly 350,000 current and retired federal employees and their spouses or survivors dedicated to protecting the earned benefits of all federal service employees.

Q: Why should I join NARFE?

A: There is strength in organization and NARFE's sizable membership. The Association has one of the largest Political Action Committees (NARFE-PAC) in the nation, allowing it to pursue an aggressive legislative agenda. You also receive an informative monthly magazine, and many other valuable, cost-saving benefits.

Q: What are the

reduce your pension 2% a year for the next 10 years in order to help balance the federal deficit. The problem we have in Kansas is that Representative Ryun is a co-sponsor of this legislation, therefore those that live in his district need to contact him and let him know that we cannot afford a reduction in our annuity, especially since the average annuity in our state is only \$1,300.00 per month. Voting reflects the following:

	GPO / WEP Repeal		Prem Conversion	
	S619	HR 147	S 484	HR 994
Sen Brownback	NO		YES	
Sen Roberts	NO		NO	
Rep Moore		YES		YES
Rep Moran		YES		YES
Rep Ryun		NO		YES
Rep Tiahrt		NO		NO

December Birthdays

Happy birthday to Raymond Bennett, Dale Bergston, Rachel Bickerstaff, Ginette Cullum-Wisecarver, Opal Dalton, Ida Mae Higgins, Peter Kohlrus, Donald Lichtenhan, Lucille Loader, Ruth Owens-Pancake, Carrie Westover, Carl White, Betty J. Walters, Joyce Peoples, Donna Yenser, Robert Beam, Anetta Hayes, Hermina Marston, and Norman Lee.

December Anniversaries

Happy Anniversary to Mr. and Mrs. Rex Pierson, Mr. and Mrs. John Briestensky, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Thomas.



November Meeting Minutes

Virginia Smith, Secretary

- Junction City Old Trooper Chapter 383, NARFE, met November 10, 2005, 11:30 a.m. and the Senior Citizens Center, Spring Valley Road, Junction City, Kansas. There were 112 reservations with 111 attending. Guests joining members were Ruth Asbury and Norma Green.
- Other guests included Walt and Judy Gerrmann, Peggy Bennett and Frank and Virginia Irish.
- Jim Martin, President, called the meeting to order. Otis Scroggins, Chaplain, let the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- Jim Martin read the November birthdays and anniversaries and added Carl Shell to the November birthday list. Happy birthday Carl.
- Ray Thompson moved that the October minutes be approved, seconded and carried. Ray Thompson moved that the October Treasurer's report be accepted and held for audit; seconded and carried.
- Jim Martin stated he had received a letter from a NARFE member in Montana regarding a book she had written on starting a business. Anyone interested could purchase the book direct from the author.
- Legislative Chairman, James Dodd, reported on various legislative reports.
- Sunshine Chairman, Janet Harrel, reported that no cards were sent in October.
- Alzheimer's Chairman, Opal Dalton, reported that \$101.85 was

requirements of membership?

A: Membership is open to civilians in any agency of the federal or the District of Columbia governments who have a federal retirement plan (under either CSRS or FERS). Included are retirees; former employees; current employees and their spouses; spouses and surviving spouses of those eligible to join NARFE and former spouses who are legally eligible for a federal or survivor annuity. You don't have to be retired to join NARFE. One out of every five new members is a current federal employee. There is no minimum age requirement.

Q: Can military retirees join NARFE?

A: Military service does not qualify for membership in NARFE.

Q: If I work(ed) for the Postal Service, can I join NARFE?

A: Yes, postal employees and retirees are eligible for NARFE membership.

Q: How much does it cost to join?

A: Retired members, their spouses and survivor annuitants can enroll for \$33.00 for the first year in lieu of national and chapter dues. Upon the anniversary date for renewal, these members will have the option of renewing for multi-years. The one-year rate is \$29.00 plus one-year chapter dues of record, the two-year rate is \$52.00 plus two years chapter dues of record, or the three-year rate is \$74.00 plus three years chapter dues of record. Current federal employees (CFE) and their spouses can join at a different rate as long as the member(s) continues working for the federal government. A one-year CFE membership is \$25.00,

collected for the fund.

- Bessie Lighthall won the drawing on the table runner.
- The tables were decorated with a Thanksgiving and fall theme.
- Larry Young conducted the annual election. Nominated were: President Jim Martin, 1st Vice president, Carl Shell, 2nd Vice President, June Buckles, Secretary/Treasurer, Madelyn Brown. It was moved and seconded that the nominations be accepted, motion carried.
- Jim Martin discussed the 2007 State Convention that will be held here in Junction City. He has a booklet available that provides information regarding the convention. Approximately 40 volunteers will be required to adequately support the convention. (CONTACT Jim Martin if you are interested in volunteering.)
- Mike Cronin, Carl White, Ray Thompson, Doris Nelson, and Martha Upshaw were door prize winners.
- Speaker was Kay Hodison from Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Kansas.
- December luncheon/meeting will be December 8th with the J.C. Jazz Band on the program.
- Meeting was adjourned.



Treasurer's Report

Madelyn Brown, Treasurer

Beginning Balance, November 1, 2005	\$993.02
Receipts	\$660.29
Expenses	729.71
Ending Balance, November 30, 2005	\$923.60



Sunshine Report

Janet Harrel, Sunshine Chairman

Thinking of You cards were sent to Darlene Topping, Vaughan Llewelyn, Llewelyn McTavish, and Irene Stifler. Sympathy cards were sent to Irene Stifler and Mabel Kane.



RECOGNIZING A STROKE

Thank goodness for the sense to remember the "3" steps. Read and Learn!

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

1. *Ask the individual to SMILE.
2. *Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.
3. *Ask the person to SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently) (i.e.; It is sunny out today).

If he or she has trouble with any of these tasks, call 9-1-1 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.



"A positive attitude may not solve all your problems, but it will annoy enough people to make it worth the effort."

By Herm Albright (1876-1944)



"The reason congressmen try so hard to get re-elected is that they would hate to

two years are \$45.00, and three years are \$60.00. Multi-year rates, for both retired and current federal employees, represent considerable cost savings.

Q: How can I become a NARFE member?

A: All you have to do to join other active and retired federal workers is to contact Recruitment & Retention at 1-800-627-3394 or [Recruitment & Retention](#) to get started. You can also join via the NARFE Web site at www.narfe.org: under "Membership", "Review Your Record", and then "Join". (OR CONTACT ANY NARFE MEMBER; THEY WILL ASSIST YOU IN COMPLETING THE NECESSARY PAPERWORK!)

Q: Can my spouse join NARFE?

A: Spouses are encouraged to join NARFE so they can participate in activities of the association, vote, hold office, and become more knowledgeable about retirement benefits.

Q: What is Dues Withholding?

A: By signing an authorization form, retired members and survivor annuitants instruct the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to withhold 1/12 of their annual association dues each month from their annuity. OPM will send the money to NARFE. This can be arranged for both national and chapter dues. Dues cannot be deducted from the paychecks of current federal employees.

REMEMBER, CONTACT ANY NARFE MEMBER AND THEY WILL ADVISE/ASSIST YOU IN JOINING OUR GREAT ORGANIZATION!

have to make a living under the laws they've passed. “



Kay Hodison, BC/BS
November guest speaker.



Paul Hood, Verleen Byrn and Willadeen Kamm discussing "world events" before Luncheon!

**"May peace and plenty be the first,
To lift the latch to your door.
And happiness be guided to your home,
By the candle of Christmas."**

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAVE A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR



Chapter 383 Editor
Dixie J. Thomas
801 Sunshine Street
Junction City, KS 66441

TO:



