



"OLD TROOPER" NEWSLETTER



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

November 2011

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Upcoming Events

1. FROM NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, dated 1 Nov 2011.

Increasing employee retirement contributions, extending the federal pay freeze through 2015 and cutting the federal workforce by 10% -- all of these unfair proposals are being considered by Congress to help fix the deficit. Right now, the super committee is considering these egregious plans and will be coming to their decisions in just a few weeks. That's why this moment is absolutely crucial – Congress and the super committee need to know that federal workers and retirees won't stand by while they're singled out for cuts.

This is the last chance to have your members of Congress pressure the super committee to take these plans that hurt federal workers and retirees off the table.

Will you join thousands of NARFE members and call your members of Congress tomorrow? It's easy and only takes a few minutes. Use the toll-free number and follow the simple instructions below:

Step 1: Call the Capitol using NARFE's toll-free number 1-866-220-0044. Ask the operator to connect you to your representative's and/or senators' office.

Step 2: Tell the staff person who answers the telephone next where you live so they know you are a constituent, then say:

"I am a retired/active federal employee and member of NARFE." [Tell the staff person a little about your work.]

"[Senator or Representative X] represents thousands of federal workers and retirees and their survivors, and any recommendations the super committee makes shouldn't unfairly single us out to bear the burden of fixing a budget problem we didn't create."

"Federal workers, retirees, and survivors didn't cause the budget crisis - and making extreme cuts to pay, earned health and retirement benefits, or making changes to cost-of-living adjustments, would unfairly single out those who protected our nation, including many now on a fixed income."

If you've already made your call, thank you so much for your support. Please ask your friends, family, neighbors and any active or retired federal employees near you to join you in calling Congress.

This is likely your last chance to have an impact.

2. FEHBP Open House Tuesday 8 November, Building 319, Fort Riley. Those of you that would like to visit the open house sometime between 9 and 2 on Tuesday, please come on out. Got questions on your insurance, this is an excellent time to meet face to face with a company representative. Come on out – we will be looking for new members and need your help!!!!



**ALREADY
RESERVED YOUR
LUNCH AND
SOMETHING
CAME UP??? –
PLEASE CALL AND
CANCEL YOUR
MEAL
RESERVATION –
238-4015 – THANK
YOU!!**



May 2011 – April
2012

*Wanda Williams,
friend and
member*

*Danny Hartung,
spouse of Pat
Hartung*

*Pippy Engstrom,
sister of Carolyn
Cook*

*Catherine Simon,
friend and
member*

*Donald Kohls,
friend and
member*



Happy Birthday to Auguster Davis, Billie Jo Rivera, Dorothy Osburn, Elton Vaughn, James Dodd, Joseph Gilmore, Madelyn Brown, Marshall Heath, Martha Upshaw, Paul Hood, Vanetta Brumbaugh and Walter Salonka.



Happy Anniversary Don and Florence Whitebread, Jim and Vi Martin and Jim and June Wood. Many Many More!

SECRETARY'S REPORT by Lannie Pender: Well folks I don't know how I did it but I lost the minutes from the October chapter meeting. I sincerely apologize. However, I can report that Jim Martin stood in for President Jim Mitchell during his illness; the Nomination Committee reported that the current board members will retain their seats for calendar year 2012; there were 87 people in attendance and we collected \$85.50 for Alzheimer's. November minutes will be guarded....



TREASURER'S REPORT by Madelyn Brown:

Beginning Balance Oct 1, 2011 - \$2,153.59
Receipts 521.52
Expenses 492.65
Ending Balance Oct 31, 2011 \$2,182.46



SUNSHINE REPORT by Janet Harrel

Please make sure you call Janet on members that need best wishes, sympathy or just a thinking of you.



COLLECTION FOR THE FOOD PANTRY: Last month's collection of non-perishables for the Food Pantry totaled 213 pounds. Thanks to all that donated. We are getting closer to the 300 pound mark – Maybe in April.....

Retirees to receive COLAs for first time in 2 years

By RICK MAZE and MARKIE | Last Updated: October 19, 2011

After two years without a cost-of-living adjustment, federal retirees will receive a COLA hike in 2012, beginning in their January checks. Retirees in the Civil Service Retirement System will see a 3.6 percent increase in their **annuities**, while retirees in the Federal Employees Retirement System will see a 2.6 percent increase. COLAs are based on the **Consumer Price Index** for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, an inflation measure put out by the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics. COLAs are based on the CPI-W during July, August and September of the current year compared against the same months in the previous year there was a peak in the inflation rate. The previous peak year was 2008. The percentage difference between the two years, in this case the difference between the 2011 and 2008 quarters, determines the amount of the COLA for CSRS retirees. If the CPI-W increases by 3 percent or more, as it did this year, eligible FERS retirees receive the CPI-W minus one percentage point. BLS does not provide policy guidance for COLAs, a BLS spokeswoman notes. Social Security, military retired pay and other government entitlements linked to the Consumer Price Index will also increase 3.6 percent. Since 2009, there has been no retiree cost-of-living adjustment because weak economic conditions kept overall consumer prices flat or falling. That has not been the case this year, with increases in gasoline, energy and food costs driving up overall prices. The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association in a news release hailed the increase as "good news." "NARFE continues to support strong COLAs based on fair assessments of increases in consumer prices to protect the value of federal annuities from inflation," the release said.