



# “OLD TROOPER” NEWSLETTER



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

February 2012

**Chapter 383, 2011 Officers**

President: Jim Mitchell, 238-3423,  
wildman1@fhrd.net  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Ray  
Thompson, 762-5249  
2nd Vice President: Sharon  
Strain, 238-1361,  
srs5960jrs@yahoo.com  
Secretary, Lannie Pender,  
238-6503

[garfieldgal@embarqmail.com](mailto:garfieldgal@embarqmail.com)

Treasurer: Madelyn Brown, 238-  
5623 [madelyn11@cox.net](mailto:madelyn11@cox.net)

**Committee Chairpersons:**

Legislative, James Dodd, 238-  
8041

Membership, Sharon Strain,  
238-1361

Public Relations, Dixie  
Thomas

Service Officer, Walt  
Germann, 209-1938

Parliamentarian, Ray  
Thompson, 762-5249

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

Sunshine, Janet Harrel, 238-  
7488

NARFE-PAC, Carole Blixt, 922-  
6413

Decorating, Opal Dalton,  
922-6551 and Virginia Adam,  
922-6706

Program, Leonetta Chaves-  
Bibby, 238-6642  
Editor

Chaplain, Maxine Kroeplin  
Calling, Vi Martin, 238-  
8539/Cell 210-6037

**Historian, Marie Sawyer**

- List # 1 Faye Heath, 238-1412
- List # 2 Sharon Griffin, 238-5382
- List # 3 Verleen Byrn, 238-1659
- List # 4 Pat Fisher, 762-5249
- List # 5 Dee Campbell, 238-6082
- List # 6 Maxine Kroeplin, 238-2990
- List # 7
- List # 8 Dorothy Luttman, 461-5577
- List # 9 Wally Mitchell, 238-3423
- List #10 Janet Harrel, 238-7488
- List #11 Joan Martin, 210-0211
- List #12 Joyce Peoples, 238-3005
- List #13 Ramona Norcross, 762-2218
- List #14 Dorothy Gallaway, 482-  
3297 (Dwight area)
- List #15 Jonetta Rector, 922-6605  
(Chapman area)



*May this Valentine's Day be filled with love, understanding, and contentment as you journey through life with those you hold dear.*

## Upcoming Events

15 February: NARFE CALL CONGRESS DAY PLANNING REMINDER (see pg 4)  
11:30, 8 March: NARFE Luncheon / Meeting, Senior Citizens Center, 1025 South Spring Valley Road  
11:30, 12 April: NARFE Luncheon / Meeting, Senior Citizens Center, 1025 South Spring Valley Road  
11:30, 10 May: NARFE Luncheon / Meeting, Senior Citizens Center, 1025 South Spring Valley Road  
5:30, 14 June: NARFE potluck / meeting, Senior Citizens Center, 1025 South Spring Valley Road, and entertainment will be “CUZ” from Chapman who performs country music to the members and guests.



Happy Birthday to Calvin Bernard, Carolyn Cook, Helmut Holle, James Martin, Lola Brighton, Marilyn Wasyk, Sharon Griffin and Virginia McDiffett.



Happy Anniversary to Dallas and Dorothy Luttman, Lennie and Carole Blixt and Larry and Barb Steppe. Many Many More!

**SECRETARY'S REPORT by Lannie Pender:** Acting President Ray Thompson, National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) called the January 12, 2012, Chapter #383 meeting to order at 11:30, 4H/Senior Citizens Center. Invocation was led by Chaplain Maxine Kroeplin, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Acting President Thompson requested that all the Birthday and Anniversary members to please stand; he then extended birthday and anniversary wishes to those celebrating in the month of January. Clarice Longhofer will be added to the January birthdays. A motion was made by Maxine Kroeplin and seconded by June Buckles to approve the December 2011 minutes. Bob Norcross motioned that the Treasurer's report be approved and filed for January. Both motions were passed by attending members vote. Acting President Thompson read a paper on the creation of the “Pledge of Allegiance.” The Pledge was written in 1892, amended in 1923 and Congress officially recognized the Pledge of Allegiance in 1942; the words “under God” were added in 1954. Acting President Thompson presented Certificates of Appreciation to Dixie Thomas and Nancy Wiehl for their work at the Fort Riley Health Fair. June Buckles spoke to the group about the recall of Excedrin, Gas X, Bufferin and No-Doze; people



**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*

*Ben Kitchens, friend  
and member*

*Jim Hood, brother of  
Paul Hood*

can call Dillon's Pharmacy (785) 238-4141 for details. Acting President Thompson mentioned that Dillon's has a lot of lost keys so if you have lost any in that area, you may want to check with them. He also gave accolades to Vi Martin and her calling crew for their hard work.

James Dodd, Legislative Officer, gave a report that the 2 Dec Hot Line Message was the last Congressional report he had. NARFE is going to have a National Call-In Day on 15 February. If you are online with NARFE GEMS, you will receive an update of the campaign. He also presented information on the raises for NARFE annuities. There were no updates from the Service Officer, Sunshine Committee or Public Relations.

The speaker for the luncheon was Dr. Kimberly Wirths, Geary Community Hospital. She emphasized the importance of keeping immunizations current, she spoke to the top four cancers and identified them as Prostate, Colon, Breast and Lung cancer. She pointed out the dangers of falls which is the most common cause of nonfatal injuries and hospitalizations for trauma. There were 83 reservation but only 75 attended the luncheon. \$108.50 was collected for Alzheimer's.

Door prizes were won by Carlos Buckles, Phyllis Gates, Lannie Pender and Virginia Adam. The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m. The next meeting will be 9 February 2012.



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

**Beginning Balance December 1, 2011 \$2,277.67**

**Receipts \$447.85**

**Expenses \$ 830.50**

**Ending Balance January 31, 2012 \$1895.02**



### **SUNSHINE REPORT by Janet Harrel:**

Get well wishes were sent to Jim Mitchell and June Woods. A thinking of you message was sent to Jim Mitchell. A sympathy card was sent to Paul Hood who lost his brother Jim during the month of January. Our thoughts and prayers go to all of you. (Please make sure you call Janet on members that need best wishes, sympathy or just a thinking of you.)  
NARFE Legislative Hotline – February 3, 2012

### **To chapter Presidents: IMPORTANT – A MUST READ – STATE TAX EXEMPTIONS**

Given that there is much discussion lately about possible proposed changes to state tax exemptions in Kansas, it was felt that an email to clarify what is going on at state legislature would be useful. Ron Richey as well as Jim Miller of the Topeka Chapter is attending the legislative sessions to keep on top of any potential proposals that could affect our annuities. Judy Etter, Area 1A Vice President from the Amelia Earhart chapter has also been contacting her congressional district staff as well. Latest email from Jim Miller, Topeka Chapter:  
"Hello Louise, I just returned from the State House / Docking Building, where the House Tax Committee discussed HR 2480, the Governor's Tax Bill, or I could say, what's left of it. Every Democrat and more than several key Republicans believe his tax bill should have been Dead On Arrival (DOA) but those opinions won't stop the discussion and testimonies. A section of the bill discussed today was to CLARIFY THAT THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN DISTRIBUTIONS ARE NOT EXEMPT FROM KANSAS INCOME TAX. Ron and I knew that, but apparently some legislators didn't. One committee member made a caustic comment about state retirees having a "free ride" with their income tax exemption and it's a short jump to bring federal retirees into the conversation. Jim Miller

Accordingly, following is some advice offered by Jim Miller as our State legislative Chair:

*"(1) IF you don't know your Representative and Senator, at least become acquainted with their key staffers. (2) Make them understand the importance of retaining the KS income tax*

**Congressional District 1**

**Congressman Tim**

**Huelskamp:** Hutchinson  
Office: One North Main,  
Suite 525, Hutchinson,  
KS 67501 Phone: 620-  
665-6138 Fax: 620-665-  
6360

Dodge City; 100 Military  
Avenue, Suite 204,  
Dodge City, KS 67801  
Phone: 620-225-0172  
Fax: 620-225-0297  
Salina Office: 119 W.  
Iron Ave., 4th Floor,  
Suite A, Salina, KS 67402  
Phone: 785-309-0572  
Fax: 785-827-6957

**Congressional District 2**

**Congressman Lynn**

**Jenkins:** Pittsburg  
Office, 1001 N.  
Broadway Street #C,  
Pittsburg, KS 66762  
Phone: (620) 231-LYNN  
(5966) Fax: (620) 231-  
5972

Topeka Office, 3550 SW  
5th Street, Topeka, KS  
66606 Phone: (785)  
234-LYNN (5966)  
Fax: (785) 234-5967

**Kansas Senate District  
22**

**Senator Roger Reitz;  
Legislative**

**Administrative  
Services:** 300 SW 10th  
Ave. Ste 551-S  
Topeka KS 66612-1504  
Phone: 785-296-2391  
Fax: 785-296-1153

**Kansas House District  
64, Representative**

**Vern Swanson:** Home:  
1422 5<sup>th</sup>, Clay Center,  
67432, Phone: 785-632-  
5322 Email:  
[svswan@twinvalley.net](mailto:svswan@twinvalley.net)

*exemption LAW in place (3) compile a list of reasons. For example, you might explain that it may affect your decision to continue to live in Kansas, or that you would be looking to move to another state that has the exemption. (Note: Missouri for example now has a more tax friendly environment for feds.) (4) list the many taxes WE do pay on a regular basis (5) list any organizations, church, good causes they support in Kansas, helping to improve the quality of life for Kansans. (6) Pass on help and assistance to others. We have many NARFE members who utilize that tax exemption to pass on to others. Request they send you the lists, as, IF we are given enough time to submit for testimony, Ron Richey and I can use those, should this exemption come before a committee..... Hearing. The key is to stop it in committee. IF it makes it to the floor of the House....my guess is the tax exemption is gone! Then we will have to work to stop it in the Senate."*

Judy Etter, NARFE Area Vice President received the following information from her State representative: "The GOV's tax plan finally came out in writing on Friday. From what I can tell, it did not take the exemption away. BUT, there is a second bill to make your TSP and Railroad retirement taxable! This one seems to be under the radar right now- I've got to get some light on it too! "Based on the above comments, our tax exemption is not under immediate attack; however, we want to be in a position to take action to prevent any changes in the proposal.

The following is an example of language our RVP Carol Ek used to contact her state senator. Hopefully it will help you model something you could use to send to your own state congressional representative and state senator. Many of you who have email addresses registered with NARFE may have received this email from Carol directly. This can be sent by email or by letter.

**SAMPLE LETTER / EMAIL**

*I understand that innuendoes are surfacing to eliminate the Kansas Income LAW tax exemptions for Federal Annuitants living in Kansas.*

*I am one of those retired federal annuitants and would like to give a few reasons why this exemption LAW should stay in place.*

*(1) In Kansas, we have approximately 23,624 active federal employees; and 24,251 (retired federal employees earning approximately \$50,902,000 per month) living; raising their families; and purchasing goods in Kansas.*

*(2) Many federal annuitants presently living in Kansas maintain their main home in Kansas simply for the enjoyment of this tax break and voting privileges. They can pick up at any time moving to another State who will retain this tax privilege.*

*(3) Many federal annuitants and federal employees are middle income tax families, who cannot move because of MEDICARE privileges, doctors who accept MEDICARE, their churches, their families, and the voluntary positions they hold which better the quality of life for all Kansans. Many of these volunteers donate quality time in these venues.*

*(4) By staying in Kansas, these federal employees and spouses retain their homes paying real estate taxes, buy their goods paying Kansas sales taxes, and help maintain their schools, churches and all other benefits enjoyed by all Kansans.*

*(5) To gain this benefit, I spent 40 years of my life working and serving the general population of McPherson County, Kansas, every week day and believed it an honor to one day retire in this beautiful State. I am asking your help in defeating the proposal to take this tax exemption away from this group of people.*

*(Signed)*

*Name*

*Address*

**MESSAGE FROM NARFE PRESIDENT JOSEPH A. BEAUDOIN:** On February 1, we saw the federal community again singled out for a further year of frozen pay, when the House passed legislation, H.R. 3835, to extend the current two-year pay freeze for another year. The bill also includes pay for members of Congress and their staff. There are several actions NARFE members can take. Some of these are outlined below."

**Kansas House District 65, Representative**

**James P. Fawcett,**

Capitol Office: Room:  
DSOB Seat: 12, Phone:  
785-296-6838

Email:james.fawcett@ho

use.ks.gov Home

Information: 711

Crestview Drive,  
Junction City, Kansas  
66441 Phone: 785-  
210-2496

**Kansas House District 6,  
Representative Kathy**

**Martin,** 859 Valley view  
Road, Clay Center, KS  
67432

(785) 463-5463 (h)

[martinkathy@yahoo.com](mailto:martinkathy@yahoo.com)

**Senator Pat Roberts**

Dodge City, KS Office:

100 Military Plaza  
PO Box 550  
Dodge City, KS 67801  
Phone: (620) 227-2244  
Fax: (620) 227-2264

**Senator Jerry Moran**

Hays Office  
P.O. Box 249  
1200 Main St. Suite 402  
Hays, KS 67601  
Phone: (785) 628-6401  
Fax: (785) 628-3791

**1) NARFE PRESIDENT TESTIFIES BEFORE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE:** On February 1, NARFE President Joseph A. Beaudoin testified before the Senate Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce and the District of Columbia

**2) SENATE FLOOR MAY CONSIDER BILL WITH NARFE-OPPOSED FECA PROVISION:** The Senate may take up controversial legislation to overhaul the U.S. Postal Service, S. 1789, as early as the week of February 6. This legislation includes a NARFE-opposed provision to drastically change the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA). NARFE President Joseph A. Beaudoin's letter to all senators argues for removing the FECA provision.

**3) USE LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER TO PROTECT AMERICA'S HEARTBEAT:** NARFE's members made January 2012 one of the best months ever in the use of our Legislative Action Center. Still, the stakes are higher and the environment more difficult than ever before. NARFE President Joseph A. Beaudoin urges you, if you have not already done so, to use the link below to send NARFE's new (1/19/12) message to your congressional delegation. 6,397 members have already acted. We urge you to join them.

**NARFE CALL CONGRESS DAY PLANNING REMINDER**

Here (again) is the step-by-step process for NARFE's Call Congress Day on **February 15**. President Joseph A. Beaudoin asks each NARFE member to save the date of Wednesday, February 15, and share this step by step plan with all NARFE members via chapter newsletters and other communication channels.

**Step 1:** Call the Capitol using NARFE's toll-free number, 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. Any plan that pays for two-thirds of the payroll tax holiday by taking money out the pockets of fewer than 2 percent of America's middle class is unacceptable, unfair, and certainly isn't shared sacrifice."
- "Federal workers, retirees and survivors have already done their part, saving the federal government \$50 billion through a two-year pay freeze. Making \$65 billion in further 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."