



# THE WYANDOTTE SCOUT

Sunflower Chapter 1160, Kansas City, KS

Byron Nichols, Editor

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**NEXT MEETING: 11:00 A.M., Friday, 11/09/07 at the pat Hanlon Senior Center, 1101 Ridge Ave., KCK**

For those of you with computers: Look for the newsletter on [www.KSNARFE.org](http://www.KSNARFE.org) in Item #14, in COLOR.

**October Meeting:** Bingo was played by 10 members before lunch and prizes were won by five different members. Potluck lunch was at noon. As usual we had plenty of good food contributed.

Fourteen members attended the business meeting. The minutes of the last meeting was read, as well as the treasurer's report. The membership chair, Shirley Newman, reported we had two new members and one reinstatement. As usual, we lost members due to moving away, failure to renew and death. We have just a little over 300 members now.

Byron Nichols won the attendance drawing of \$5. Henrietta Horseman won the ticket drawing for \$4.75. Both were contributed to the Alzheimer's fund. So far this year the chapter has sent **\$967.43** to the Kansas Federation Alzheimer's coordinator (\$3.18 per official member). The KS Federation goal this year is \$4 per member. We have a ways to go for this one.

If any member who doesn't attend meetings wishes to contribute to the Alzheimer's Fund, you can send a check to the Treasurer (see the address on the back cover of the Scout). **Please make checks out to "NARFE Chapter 1160"**. We'll forward the contribution to the state coordinator and mention you with a thanks in the Scout. Thanks to all.

**Membership Update:** Deceased: Homer A Johnson, 91 (7/6/07, USPS); Irma Lee Palmer, 80 (10/2/07, Soc Sec Admin); Thomas A Ksiazek, 95 (10/11/07, USPS); Michael T Denk, 89 (10/22/07, USPS).

Members with birthdays in November are:

Eugene A Collins  
George O Dale  
Doris E Deming  
Terry M Ehrhart  
Doris M Finley  
Rita F Galvin  
Eujetta S Holland  
Alvertis Holliday  
**Robert W Horseman**  
Paul R Jordan

Marie Macan  
Stella G McDonald  
Ruth M Overton  
Nancy E Poor  
Frances C Rodina  
Josephine M Rozich  
Carol J Smith  
Melvin E Stevens  
Ozine Washington Jr  
Vernon J Weller  
**BOLD** = attends most meetings

The 20 members above have an age range of 60 to 96 and an average age of 80.4. Congratulations! If you were born in November and not in the above list, please notify the editor at the return address on the last page or e-mail address in the masthead above.

Note to members: Dues Withholding saves the national organization money and it saves you at least \$5 over annual dues. You don't have to remember to write that check or risk being dropped. Applications are in the NARFE magazine each month.

**Future Meetings:** We will hold our annual Memo-

rial Program at the November meeting, where we read the names of members who died during the past year. It will follow the usual pot-luck luncheon. A short business meeting will also be held. In December, we will have our Christmas Luncheon, where the chapter will provide turkey and ham, as usual. Members are still to bring side dishes and desserts. **At ALL meetings, if anyone would like to come early enough before lunch (say, at about 11 A.M.), we plan to play Bingo, with prizes for the winners. Please Come!**

**Special Needs:** The NARFE-FEEA Disaster fund is requesting contributions to help NARFE members due to the California fires. To make a tax-deductible donation by check make it payable to "NARFE-FEEA Disaster Fund" and send it to: FEEA, 8441 W Bowles Ave., Suite 200, Littleton, CO 80123. Credit card donations may be made online at 'www.feea.org' or you can call 1-800-323-4140. Be sure to tell them you are donating to the NARFE Disaster Fund.

**Legislative, Financial and Health News** (summarized from FEDWeek Bulletins and NARFE Legislative Hotlines):

**Congress:** Under an OPM plan introduced in Congress, federal retirees could return to work on a limited basis without having their annuity offset from their salaries, but they would not be considered to be federal employees for retirement purposes (no additional benefits or time-in-service calculations would be done). Nothing has yet been done with this proposal.

As expected, on Sept. 29 the President signed the Continuing Resolution to allow the government to continue operations through November 16, as well as an increase to the debt ceiling. This may be extended if work is not done on the appropriations bills before the winter recess.

**COLAs, CPI, rates:** The next cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for retired and disabled Americans will be 2.3%. Social Security beneficiaries, civil service and military retirees will receive it in their January, 2008 checks. FERS annuitants 62 years old and older, FERS survivors and disability retirees will receive the full Social Security COLA, but their adjustment to their FERS annuity will only be 2% because the FERS COLA formula differs from that used by CSRS.

Several other figures in Social Security will also be affected. Earnings subject to the 6.2% Social Security withholding tax will rise from \$97,500 to \$102,000. Also the earnings test applied to Social Security beneficiaries age 62 through their "full retirement age" increases from \$12,960 to \$13,560 (full retirement age varies from 65 years & 10 months to 66 depending on

**DATED MEETING NOTICE**

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 <City>, <State> <Zip9>**

birthdate). There are no limits on earnings after an individual reaches their full retirement age.

Medicare rates also increase for 2008. The Part B premium for most enrollees increases \$2.90 per month to \$96.40. Higher income retirees pay larger premiums, ranging up to \$238.40 per month. The Part B deductible will be \$135 (up by \$4). The Part A (hospital) deductible will be \$1024, the daily copay for days 61 to 90 increase to \$256, and for over 90 days goes up to \$512. Monthly premiums for Part D prescription coverage rises \$3 to \$25 (FEHB plans already provide prescription coverage equal or greater than Part D plans).

The latest possible figures for the active employee pay raise is 3.5%, to be split between an across-the-board and locality pay. The President has not recommended an 'alternative' default raise of 2.5% as rumored. Congress still needs to act.

**TSP Funds:** The International stock (I) fund gained 5.36% in September, followed by the Common stock (C) fund at 3.76%, small stock (S) fund by 2.97%, bond (F) fund at 0.78% and government securities (G) fund by 0.41%. The latest 12-month returns are: I, 24.96%; S, 18.79%; C, 16.93%; F, 5.27% and G, 4.93%. September and 12-month returns for the lifecycle funds are: Income, 1.13 & 7.71; 2010, 1.78 & 10.82; 2020, 2.68 & 14.02; 2030, 3.09 & 15.63; 2040, 3.45 & 17.14.

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**OPM Retirement Information Center:**

Write to PO Box 45, Boyers, PA 16017-0045 or phone 1-888-767-6738. Remarriage, divorce, death of spouse, change of address or financial institution or amount of life insurance under FEGLI (among many other services)

**NARFE Headquarters: 1-703-838-7760**

(7 am to 3:45 pm Central Time) Call to get official forms at this number. See the NARFE magazine for various web addresses. Also, be sure to notify NARFE for address changes, deaths, etc. at 1-800-456-8410.

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**OPM Annuitant Express**

To start, stop or change withholdings or get a duplicate 1099-R: Call 1-800-409-6528; or on the web at [www.opm.gov/retire](http://www.opm.gov/retire) (you must apply for a pin # to change your allocations).

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**Membership Rosters** are available in an 8.5" x 11" format. Drop me a note with \$1.00 each to offset printing and postage (My address is on the return address above).

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<b>Chapter Officers</b>		
President	E. Regina Barger	913-342-8256
Vice-President	LaVerne Robinson	913-371-7720 save900@aol.com
Recording Secretary		913-371-7720
Public Relations	Theodore J Robinson	save900@aol.com
Service Officer		
Treasurer		816-763-4729
Newsletter Editor	Byron Nichols	byron666@earthlink.net
Roster		
Alzheimer's Chair	Kathy Zunick	913-281-3335
Membership Chair	Shirley Newman	913-371-4444

**Reminder:** Please send us your "Best Choice" UPC codes when you get a bunch! (It's not worth using 41 cents to mail one or two!) We get \$30 per 1000 codes (3 cents per code), plus an additional \$30 bonus once a year. The money goes to Alzheimer's Research. Send them either via a member you know who goes to the meetings or to the address in the return address block. **Thanks to everyone for their submissions!** \*\* Remember, we need only the bar codes, not the whole label. Saves \$\$.

**Reminder: I have changed my address; look at the return address above for the new one! (bn)**

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