



**Sunflower Chapter 1160
Kansas City, KS
Byron Nichols, Editor**

MARCH MEETING:

11:00 A.M., Friday, 03/12/10

**at the Pat Hanlon Senior Center,
1101 Ridge Ave., Kansas City, KS**

Chapter Officers

President	E. Regina Barger	913-342-8256
Vice-President	LaVerne Robinson	913-371-7720 save900@aol.com
Recording Secretary	Wanda Collins	913-621-3849
Public Relations and Service Officer	Theodore J Robinson	913-371-7720 save900@aol.com
Treasurer, Roster and Newsletter Editor	Byron Nichols	816-333-5151 byron666@earthlink.net
Alzheimer's Chair	Kathy Zunick	913-281-3335
Membership Chair	Shirley Newman	913-334-2544

January Meeting: Due to extreme cold and heavy snows, the January meeting was canceled.

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February Meeting: About 8 persons played 7 Bingo games before lunch (about 11:15am to 12:10). 5 players won a total of \$8. Two of them gave \$5 between them to the Alzheimer's fund.

The pot-luck luncheon was held from 12:15 to 1:00pm. The prayer was offered by chaplain Birdie Allen. The food was very good, as usual.

The business meeting started at 1:15, attended by about 10 members and one guest. November minutes and unofficial proceedings of the December Christmas luncheon were read by secretary Wanda Collins. Both the December and January financial reports were read by treasurer Byron Nichols and submitted for audit. No one with a birthday in January or February were present. Correspondence was passed around. Bills were paid. Members were encouraged to come to the April state convention in Topeka (so far only 2 or 3 may attend). Please contact our president if you wish to attend (I will drive and can take 3 others besides me - editor).

The Alzheimer's ticket drawing was for \$3.75 (#480581) and the attendance drawing for \$5 (#1) both went to Byron Nichols. Both prizes were contributed to the Alzheimer's fund. A total of \$17.50 was collected for Alzheimer's this month (Bingo, tickets and attendance prize from the chapter). So far this year the chapter has sent **\$17.50** to the Kansas Federation Alzheimer's coordinator (about \$0.07 per official member).

The meeting recessed at 2:00pm.

Remember -- for ALL meetings, if you wish to play Bingo, bring your nickels & dimes. We usually play from just after 11 AM until lunch. Please Come! (We **can** make change for bills!)

Future Meetings: Remember, in April we have our annual Memorial for deceased members and the Josef Meditz Memorial Luncheon. We cater the meal and there is no charge for members and family/drivers in attendance. The menu or entertainment has yet to be finalized. We will have a calling tree contact members in the area, but if we don't have your phone number and you wish to attend, please call an officer listed above.

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Membership Update: Deceased: James M Johnson, 83, 11/23/09, KCK, USPS; Edward C Welty, 96, 01/30/10, Lenexa, KS, Immigration & Nat. Svc.; Beatrice Cannon, 96, 7/31/05 (per family member), Fairfield, CA, USDA; Edward L Bielski, 89, 01/25/10, KCK, USPS. New Members: None. Members dropped for non-renewal: 1. Our chapter is down to 243 members now.

Note to families of members: When a member passes on, please be sure to contact the chapter's Service Officer (currently T.J. Robinson, 913-371-7720) for assistance for which agencies to contact (such as OPM) or forms to file. Also so that we may contact NARFE headquarters to either stop dues billing or withholding or to transfer membership to a widow or widower. Thank You.

Members with birthdays in **March** are:

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| Rachel J Brady | Nevada Kibble |
| Margaret Flattery | Theresa M Ruzick |
| Robert L Flattery | Betty J Shannon |
| Vernon Gibbons | Yusuf Shareef |
| Edna I Gunther | Barbara L Wells |
| Della E Jordan | Travis R Worten |

BOLD = Attends many meetings yearly

The 12 members above have an age range of 42 to 112 and an average age of 85. Congratulations! If you were born in March and not in the above list, please notify the editor at the return address on the last page or e-mail address in the chapter officer list.

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

Administration: The Obama Administration's budget blueprint for fiscal year 2011 did not recommend any reductions in the earned retirement and health security for federal workers and annuitants. The next steps are up to the House and Senate in their respective committees, as well as the new "Bipartisan Fiscal Commission" established by Executive Order. How much power this will have to veto anything the Congress does is yet to be seen.

Congress: Federal, state and local government retirees who aren't eligible for Social Security have seen their Medicare Part B premiums jump from \$96.40 to \$110.50 in 2010. Current law "holds Harmless" most other beneficiaries from the Part B rate hike when no Social Security COLA was seen. On September 24th, the House passed HR 3631, the Medicare Premium Fairness Act to protect the above groups of beneficiaries from rate hikes as well. The Senate has yet to act; ask your Senator to pass their version of HR 3631 as well.

Health News: A tentative agreement between Congressional leadership, labor unions and the President would delay a move to tax high-value or "Cadillac" health plans of private-sector employees covered by collective bargaining agreements and state and local government employees to 2018. All other plans, including some covering Federal workers and annuitants, would be subject to the tax upon enactment, or 2013. In response to letters from NARFE president Baptiste and over 12,000 e-mails sent by NARFE members, negotiators agreed that FEHBP plans now also would not be subject to the tax until 2018. A political hurdle

to this agreement was removed when lawmakers and the administration decided that members of Congress and Executive Branch political appointees would be excluded from the tax delay and pay in 2013 instead of 2018. But, as usual, anything Congress tries to do to us is subject to further negotiation and political arguing, as nothing about the health system overhaul has been passed yet or signed into law. (But, as in all administrations, beware of Executive Orders!)

CPI/COLA News: The CPI-W increased slightly for January. For purposes of calculating the next COLA, the index is still 1.4% below the 2008 third-quarter average (due to deflation in the past year, this average is still the point of comparison). Benefits awarded under FECA are adjusted on a calendar year basis, and the January index is 0.4% higher than December, 2009.

TSP Funds: Every TSP fund except the Bond (F) fund and the government securities (G) fund started 2010 with a loss. The international (I) stock fund fell 5.17% in January, the small company (S) stock fund was down 2.43% and the large company (C) stock fund was down 3.6%. But over the last 12 months, the funds were up by 40.01, 43.31 and 33.33%, respectively (gains were so large due to the huge losses in January, 2009 are dropped from the running average). The bond (F) fund is up 1.54% and government securities (G) fund up 0.29%, for 12-month gains of 8.56 and 3.08% respectively. The January and 12-month returns for the life-cycle funds are: Income, -0.45 & 10%; 2010, -0.58 % 12.33%; 2020, -2.03 & 23.63%; 2030, -2.49 & 27.99%; 2040, -2.88 & 31.68%.

Note to members: Dues Withholding saves the national organization money and it saves you about \$4.40 over annually paid dues (\$30.60 national plus chapter vs. \$35.00). You don't have to remember to write that check or risk being dropped. **64%** of our members required to pay dues are already using withholding, why not you? Applications are on the NARFE website: www.narfe.org.

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OPM Retirement Information Center:
Write to: PO Box 45, Boyers, PA 16017-0045.
Phone: 1-888-767-6738 (1-88USOPMRET)
M-F, 6:30 AM to 7:45 PM Central Time.
Hearing impaired TDD# is 1-800-878-5707.
On the Web: www.opm.gov/retire.
Remarriage, divorce, death of spouse, change of address or financial institution or amount of life insurance under FEGLI (among many other services)
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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 or memsrvcs@narfe.org.
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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.

Reminder: Please send us your "**Best Choice**" UPC codes when you get a bunch! (It's not worth using 44¢ to mail one or two!) We get \$30 per 1000 codes (3¢ 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. Remember, we need only the bar codes, not the whole label. Saves \$.

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Membership Rosters ... are in an 8.5" x 11" format. Drop me a note at the return address block with \$2.00 each to offset printing and postage.
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**Byron Nichols, Editor, c/o
NARFE Sunflower Chapter 1160
9000 Holly Street
Kansas City MO 64114-3528**

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