



# THE WYANDOTTE SCOUT

## Sunflower Chapter 1160

KANSAS CITY, KS

BYRON K. NICHOLS, EDITOR

August, 2006 -- Volume 31, Number 8



Pat Hanlon Senior Center, 1101 Ridge Ave., K.C., KS

AUGUST MEETING: 11:00 A.M., Friday, 08/11/2006

To celebrate the 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the chapter's founding on August 17, 1970, I gave the Scout a bit of a 'retro' look for this issue only. Thanks to Ed Welty and all the previous editors of the Scout!

PROGRAMS, etc.: At ALL meetings, if anyone would like to come early enough before lunch (say, at the 11 A.M. social hour), we plan to have Bingo or other games available, with PRIZES for the winners. Please Come!

Reminder: The **November** meeting, normally held on the 10<sup>th</sup>, will be **a week early**, on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, due to Veteran's Day, when the senior center will be closed.

### JULY MEETING

We had our annual picnic at the Wyandotte County Lake Park, Shelter 4 on July 14th. The pot-luck lunch was especially tasty: We had grilled hot dogs, bbq brisket and chicken wings (3 flavors), provided by the chapter, and the usual accompaniments (beans, salads, tomatoes, relishes, etc.) furnished by the members and attending guests. Dessert included cakes, watermelon, and more. Twenty-six in total attended (17 members and 9 guests, including 4 children). Penny Bingo was played both before and after lunch. The pots for normal games could be kept or given to Alzheimer's. Winners of special games, such as blackout, won \$2 bills: Birdie Allen, Christine Leaf and Byron Nichols.

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Deceased: Marjorie Lois Carlson, 78, died 7/16/06 (retired from the Immigration & Naturalization Service in 1988). Dropped for non-renewal: James T. Munsill (March anniversary date). Renewed membership: Henrietta Walker, KCK. **Second notices sent to: Faydell D. Grayson, KCK and Sylvia C. Terbovich, Sierra Vista, AZ. If these two intend to stay members, please send in your dues!**

Note: Dues Withholding saves the national organization money and it saves you almost \$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.

Members with birthdays in August are:

Hortense R Adams  
Lula B Anderson  
Clifford T Bauhard  
Alfred E Bell  
Barbara A Bennett  
Edward L Bielski  
Noah Bland  
Laurence W Breedlove  
Marjorie L Carlson  
Susan E Clark  
Bertha L Cole

Florstine S Freelon  
Edward W Goeffert  
Anna W Hamm  
Wayne L Harshaw  
Adelaide E Hartung  
Henrietta L Horseman  
Kenneth M Jones  
Violet R Jones  
John M Kraly  
Rose Ann Krzesinski  
Kenneth J Ladd

William A Lindsey  
Willis O McCord  
Richard E Miller  
Lurline I Nitschke  
Mahalia M Phillips  
Doris E Priest  
Grover T Rhodus  
Betty E Robinson  
Frances K Sachen  
Edward C Welty  
**Kathryn A Zunick**  
Bold = attends most meetings.

The 32 members above have an age range of 68 to 96 and an average age of 83. If you were born in August and not on this list, please notify the editor at the return address on the last page.

LEGISLATIVE & FINANCIAL NEWS [from NARFE Hotlines and FedWeek bulletins]:

### CONSUMER PRICE NEWS:

On July 19, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported the June CPI-W index as 198.6, up 0.2% from May. This makes the index used for figuring COLAs 3.1% over the third quarter closing figure. The index for FECA benefits, based on the calendar year, is 3.2% higher than last December.

### THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN NEWS:

The Small Stock Fund (S) leads the June returns up 0.47%. The Large Stock fund (C) was up 0.07% and the International Stock fund (I) was unchanged. The Bond Fund (F) gained 0.19%, the Government Securities fund (G) gained 0.44%. This makes the 12-month returns for those funds, respectively, at 14.43, 8.59, 26.57, -0.75 and 4.77 percent. Returns for the Lifecycle Funds follow: 2040, 0.26%; 2030, 0.27%; 2020, 0.28%; 2010, 0.37% and Income, 0.33%.

### CONGRESS:

On June 21, the House passed H.R.5293 to reauthorize the Older Americans Act, which provides elderly programs such as Meals on Wheels and job placement services.

DATED MEETING NOTICE

<ID#> 1160 <ExpDt>  
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<Addr1> <Addr2>  
<City>, <State> <Zip9>

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(continued from front)

On June 28 the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee reported out an amended version, S.3570, similar to the House's version. These need to be reconciled and re voted.

On Thursday, July 20, the Senate Appropriation Committee passed the Transportation-Treasury Appropriation with a 2.7% federal pay increase, the same percent as the House passed earlier. But the same panel voted only a 2.2% increase for the uniformed services in the Defense Appropriation. There is a possibility of either raising the military figure or lowering the civilian one later on.

H.R. 5826 was introduced in the house to expand Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) in the FEHBP, the same as proposed by OPM earlier. NARFE Headquarters opposes HSAs due to the possibility of higher premiums and/or lower benefits in the traditional plans later on if enough younger working employees sign up for the HSAs. Very few have bought into the few plans available at this time.

The House plans to be in recess for the elections from September 29 to November 13. They will also have a summer recess from early August through Labor Day. This will afford NARFE members some good periods of time to schedule meetings with their current (or future) Congressional delegations in their district or state offices. If your Senators or Representatives aren't already a sponsor of Premium Conversion (S.484 or H.R.994) or repeal of the GPO/WEP provisions (S.619 or H.R.147), contact them and ask why not (for 'fairness' sake!). GPO and WEP are explained in the center of the July NARFE magazine.

**ANNUITY RULES FOR REEMPLOYED RETIREES:**

FedWeek expert Reg Jones explains some of the pitfalls concerning handling of annuities of reemployed retirees in one of his columns on the FedWeek website at: <http://www.fedweek.com/content/ev/index.php>. Retirees who go back to work for the government may also continue insurance coverages, although there are differences between the programs offered to 'active' and reemployed retirees. See this column also at the above website. Quite a few of his columns are archived there.

**REMEMBRANCES**

The following was given to me at the chapter picnic. It was an editorial letter written by the late Joe Meditz and printed in the Kansas City Star on October 14, 1999.

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**"The Postman's Prayer"**

After serving 42 years in the Postal Service, I retired in 1970. My last position was superintendent of the post office in North Kansas City. During my postal career, I was a carrier and later served in several supervisory positions including postal inspector.

Several years after retirement, for one Christmas, I received an item of needlepoint made by my daughter-in-law and inserted into a large picture frame made by my son. It is a beautiful item and a tribute to postal carriers, titled "The Postman's Prayer." I believe all postal employees will enjoy reading it, especially letter carriers.

*God our father -- may everything we do be "first class." Imprint your own loving "Zip code" upon our hearts so that we may never go astray. Provide in your gracious providence "special handling" for those of us who are "fragile" and keep us in one piece. We have been "signed," "sealed," "stamped" and "delivered" in your image and likeness, and we beg you to keep us in your care as we go about our "appointed rounds." And when our days draw to a close and we are marked "return to sender," be there to greet us at heaven's door so that nobody may ever say "unknown at this address." Amen.*

I read it often, and at my age of 92, I extend my best wishes to all active and retired federal employees.

Josef A. Meditz  
Kansas City, Kan.

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OPM: 1-888-767-6738 NARFE: 1-800-456-8410 or 1-703-838-7760  
Please mail Best Choice UPCs to us at the return address above.