



THE WYANDOTTE SCOUT

Sunflower Chapter 1160, Kansas City, KS

Byron Nichols, Editor

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NEXT MEETING: 11:00 A.M., Friday, 02/09/07 at the Pat Hanlon Senior Center, 1101 Ridge Ave., KCK

For those of you with computers: Look for the newsletter on www.KSNARFE.org in Item #14, in COLOR.

January Meeting: The January meeting was canceled due to the icy weather throughout the metro KC area Friday and the weekend. Our secretary made calls to many who attended the last meeting to warn of the cancellation. If anyone showed up at the senior center only to find it closed, we apologize. We'll try again in February.

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 change 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. We thank Florence Lockridge for her \$30 contribution last month and Thomas Ksiazek for his \$20 check for this month. The chapter has forwarded \$460.45 to the Kansas Federation Alzheimer's Chair for 2006, or \$1.41 per member as of the November '06 listing. Thanks to all.

Future Meetings: At ALL meetings, if anyone would like to come early enough before lunch (say, at the 11 AM time above), we plan to play Bingo, with PRIZES for the winners (as long as we have room in the budget for them). Please Come!

Membership Update: Deceased: Luther A. Garlington, 76 (12/24/06, USPS); Dorothy M. Cunningham, 87 (1/9/07, Soc Sec Admin). Dropped for Non-Renewal: Alice E. Richardson of Lenexa, KS. Second notices sent to Loretta M. Breedlove, Frances K. Fry and Beatrice McDaniel, all from KCK; and Helen M. Brizendine of Ft. Lauderdale, FL and Darlene D. Jesse of Leavenworth, KS. If these people intend to stay members, please send dues to the NARFE national office ASAP (see NARFE magazine for the address).

Note to members: 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 February are:

Imogene Baird
Roland B Berg

Sophia Krzyczkowski
Dorothea V Linam

John O Bibbs
Goldie I Bronson
Betty B Cramer
Mrs. Denzal C Davison
Lillian B Green
Marlene G Hammontree
Charles Johnston

E Ruth McIntosh
Marie Mitchell
Verlee W M Mitchell
Valerie M Noble
Ethel H Pinklemann
Violet Rutherford
Cecil K Woods
Bold = attends many meetings

The 18 members above have an age range of 72 to 98 and an average age of 83.4. Congratulations! If you were born in February 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.

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

COLAs, CPI, Pay Raise: For the first three months of the fiscal year counting toward the January, 2008 retiree COLA, the rate adjustment is in negative territory (-1% since September, 2006). But, since there is no such thing as a negative COLA adjustment (yet), if the entire year trends this way, annuity payments would be unchanged. The December figure finalizes the 2007 COOA for injury compensations under FECA, who get their COLAs in April. They will get a 2.4 percent increase.

Health Benefits (FEHBP): A GAO report was recently released which confirms NARFE's belief that our health benefit premiums would have been lower if the OMB and OPM would have applied for a subsidy provided under the 2003 Medicare Prescription Drug Act, which is available to all employers, both public and private. One of the largest plans with a high percentage of elderly enrollees would have been 3.5 to 4% lower, and the overall average premium for 2006 would have been 2% lower. Payments would not have resulted in new spending under federal budget rules since they would not be spent outside the government (just a transfer from one pocket to the other). Also insurance carriers could have possibly improved coverage for the same premiums. The NARFE leadership hopes OPM will act in the interest of all federal workers and annuitants and take

DATED MEETING NOTICE

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<City>, <State> <Zip9>

advantage of the subsidy next year.

The monthly premium for those receiving Medicare Part B is rising to \$93.50 for most enrollees, and those with incomes over \$80,000 will go up more. The Part B deductible rises to \$131, Part A rises to \$992 for the first 50 days and coinsurance increases to \$248 a day for the 61st-90th day and \$496 over 90 days.

Congress: Legislation to entirely eliminate both the Social Security Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provisions (WEP) are gaining cosponsors (both Republican and Democrat) and have been reintroduced in both the House and Senate. The House version is H.R.82 and the Senate version is S.206. No date for debates have been announced yet.

TSP Funds: For the third year in a row the International (I) stock fund turned in the best performance, posting 26.32% gain for the year. The large company US stock fund (C) was next with 15.79%, followed by the small company US stock fund (S) at 15.3%, the Government securities fund (G) at 4.93% and the bond fund (F) at 4.4%.The Lifecycle funds were as follows: 2040, 16.53%; 2030, 15%; 2020, 13.72%; 2010, 11.09% and income, 7.59%.

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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)

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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 maga-

zine 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 (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 with larger type. 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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Reminder: Please send us your "Best Choice" UPC codes when you get a bunch! (It's not worth using 39 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 goes to the meetings or to the address in the return address block. Thanks. * * * * *
 Remember, we need only the bar codes, not the whole label. Saves postage.

Our Chapter Officers:

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