



THE WYANDOTTE SCOUT

Sunflower Chapter 1160, Kansas City, KS

Byron Nichols, Editor byron666@earthlink.net

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ANNUAL PICNIC: 10:00 A.M., Friday, 07/14/06 at the Wyandotte County Lake Park, 91st & Leavenworth Road, Kansas City, KS -- Shelter House #4 on West Drive -- 10 AM until ????

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

June Meeting: A few rounds of Bingo were played prior to the luncheon; each winning board got a \$2 prize, \$4 for blackout wins. The pot-luck luncheon was held from noon to about 12:40 PM, at which time the President introduced our guest speaker, Ms. Donna Bosilevac, from the Wyandotte County Area Agency on Aging. She spoke until about 1:30 PM about available programs for the aged for transportation, health care, etc., with a Q&A session after.

The business meeting started at 1:30 PM. We had seventeen voting members present. We decided not to send a representative to the National Convention in Albuquerque due to the expense involved, merely forward our proxy to be voted. The bills from the previous month were paid. Ada Nichols won the \$5 Attendance Drawing. TJ Robinson won the \$4.75 Ticket drawing. Both were given to the Alzheimer's fund. We sent a check for \$17.50 to the fund, which included an \$8 recruitment award returned by Kay Crossley (Thanks!), for a total so far this year of \$346.85 (a little over \$1 per voting member).

Future Meetings: July 14th will be the Annual Picnic at Wyandotte County Lake Park, shelter house #4 (**see map on page 3, below**). We will have equipment to play horseshoes, Bingo, etc. We have the shelter from about 10 AM until ????. Bring food, family, friends, whomever! The chapter will supply some set-ups (plates, plastic ware & napkins) and three meats (brisket, hot dogs, fried chicken). Various members have been tapped to supply most of the rest, including ice, deviled eggs, beans, tea, pop, chips, olives, potato salad, melon, cake, bread & buns and BBQ sauce. Anything else you want to bring is welcome.

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 PRIZE\$ for the winners. Please Come!

Reminder - The **November** meeting, normally held on the 10th, will be **a week early**, on the 3rd, due to Veteran's Day.

Membership Update: Deceased: Marilouise Stuart, 81 (widow of USPS employee, 05/22/06), Louise Dale, 82 (HUD, 06/23/06). Dropped for non-renewal: Eileen DeSeure, Bobbie M Jackson, GERALD

dine Willis, all from KCK. Reinstatement: Patricia Brunson, KCK. NEW Member: Mary H Ortiz, KCK. **WELCOME!**

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 July are:

Alfred W Bridgeman	Marie E Kanosky
Helen M Brizendine	Norma J Kelly
Edward F Burgess	Christine A Leaf
Helen I Burke	Florence Lockridge
Gerald E Congrove	William N Moore
Corinne P Culp	Betty J Morrison
Jack U Decaigny	Donna L Piersee
Christine Marie Delich	Floryene K Ramage
Donald L Edwards	Theodore J Robinson
Richard D Fairbanks	Muriel Y Rucker
Ann J Felich	Helen J Verbeck
Lola M Forbes	James C Welter
Reginald Hamm	Roy White
Helen Huff	GuyAnne V Wilkins
Zeilla M Jester	Elzora L Williams
James M Johnson	Dorothy F Witte

Bold = attends meetings.

The 32 members above have an age range of 61 to 99 and an average age of 80. If you were born in July and not on this list, please notify the editor at the return address on the last page.

From the Legislative Arena [culled from NARFE Legislative Hotlines and FedWeek bulletins]:

Congress: On June 22nd, the House passed HR 4890, a bill granting the President 'fast-track' line-item rescission authority. It would allow the President, after a bill with spending or targeted tax benefits is enacted, to propose reductions to specific programs included in the bills. The proposed cuts would then receive an expedited up-or-down vote with no opportunity for amendments in either chamber or the right to filibuster in the Senate. If Congress did not approve the proposed reductions, the executive branch would have to spend the money as specified in the original bill. Both federal retirement and annuitant health ben-

(Continued overleaf...)

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efits would be unaffected by this authority, but reductions to spending for employee salaries and their health insurance would be possible. This bill would expire at the end of fiscal year 2012 (October 1). It was forwarded to the Senate on June 23rd, to be considered along with the Senate version, S.2381, which was introduced on March 7 with 23 bipartisan cosponsors.

Also, on June 22nd, the House passed Hr 5638, to permanently reduce the estate tax. It would raise the deduction to \$5 million and repeal sunsets passed earlier to the estate and generation-skipping taxes. No specific bill has been introduced in the Senate yet.

The house will work on the remaining FY 2007 appropriation bills (they've passed eight so far) in the last week of June, then be in recess for July 1 to 9 (along with the Senate). This would be a good time for face-to-face visits with your Congressional delegations; call now to arrange a visit. NARFE continues to make a toll-free phone number available for members to reach the Capitol switchboard: 1-866-220-0044. Ask for your Representative or Senator by name.

Consumer Price Indices (CPI): On June 14th the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported the CPI-W (for wage earners) for May was up 0.5% over April, making the index 2.9% higher since the third quarter 2005 base (for purposes of calculating employee and retiree COLAs). Annuitants receiving benefits under FECA receive a COLA based on the calendar year, so the May index is now 3% higher than December, 2005.

Health: The administration has sent proposed legislation to Congress to allow Blue Cross/Blue Shield to offer a third FEHB option, presumably a high deductible plan with a health savings account feature. It is expected to restart a long-running debate about whether a large amount of healthy enrollees will be siphoned out of the traditional insurance pool, or only a relatively small amount of those wishing to take advantage of tax breaks. The number of enrollees so far in other plans has been minuscule.

TSP Funds: Only the government securities fund (G), which by design cannot have a losing month, was in positive territory for May, up 0.44%. The other funds all lost ground: Bonds (F) -0.09%, Common Stock (C) -2.87%, International Stocks (I) -3.87% and Small Stocks (S) -4.36%. All of the Lifecycle funds were also down various degrees due to the stock market performance. But since these were designed to put retirement investing on a form of 'autopilot' with a balanced risk/reward, the number of investors and amounts invested continues to grow, with about \$11 billion in account balances.

Deposits / Redeposits: Some federal employees have worked where retirement contributions weren't deducted from their pay, while others took refunds, then later returned to work for the government. Now they are wondering if they'll get credit for that time for their current retirement eligibility and benefits computations. You can read an informative article from FedWeek benefits expert Reg Jones on the web at <http://www.fedweek.com/content/ev/index.php>. Click on the link to his June 13th article, about midway down the screen.

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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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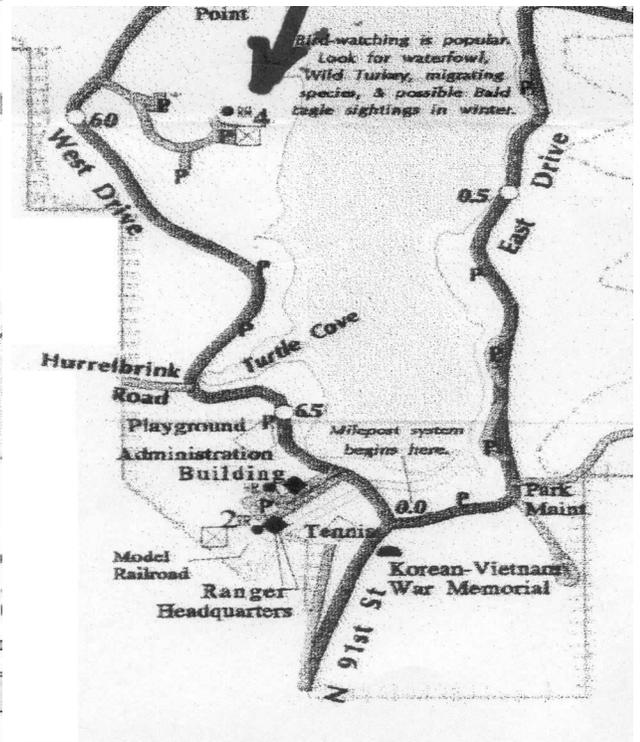
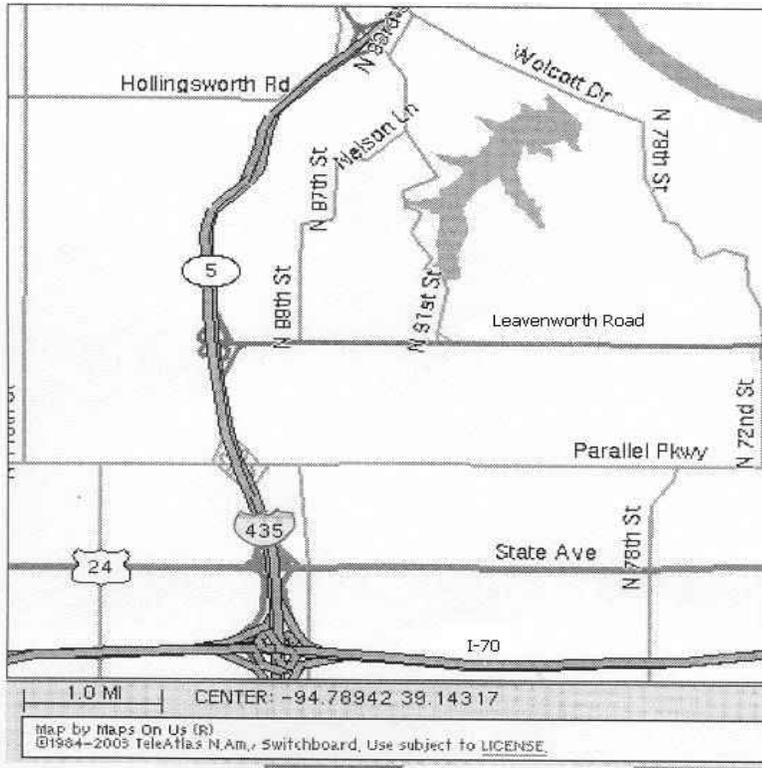
OPM Annuitant Express
To start, stop or change withholdings or get a duplicate 1099-R: Call 1-800-409-6528; or on the web type **www.opm.gov/retire** (you must apply for a pin # to change your \$ allocations).

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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 more 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.
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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 on the top of page 4. Thank You.

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A big thanks to Esther Woodward, who sent 22 UPCs in June. Keep up the good work!
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Easiest access: from I435 then East on Leavenworth Road, then North on 91st St. Turn slightly left onto West Drive & follow it to the turnoff for Shelter #4.

Mobile Phone security - worth doing.

Here is something worth knowing if you have a mobile phone. Have you ever wondered why phone companies don't seem interested in trying to prevent the theft of mobile phones? If you have ever lost, or had one stolen, and if you are on a plan, you still have to pay the plan approximately up to 24 months, and you have to buy another handset and enter into another contract. This is more revenue for the phone company. There is a simple way of making lost or stolen mobiles useless to thieves and the phone companies know about it, but keep it quiet. To check your mobile phone's serial number, key in the following on your phone: Star-Hash-Zero-Six-Hash (* # 0 6 #), and a fifteen digit code will appear on the screen. This is unique to your handset. Write it down and keep it safe. Should your mobile phone get stolen, you can phone your service provider and give them this code. They will then be able to block your handset, so even if the thief changes the sim card, your phone will be totally useless. You probably won't get your phone back, but at least you know that whoever stole it can't use / sell it either. If everybody did this, there would be no point in stealing mobile phones. To verify

this I called my cell phone provider and they said that you will need this number if you ever need to make a police report about your stolen cell phone. -- Carol Robinson

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Will our KCK Team be a winner again this season?
They're .444 as of 6/25 (the Royals are just .324!)
 Listen to AM 1030 KCWJ Mon-Sat; AM 610 KCSP Sundays
 or on the web at www.tbonesbaseball.com.
(NOT a paid advertisement, editorial comment only.)

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DATED MEETING NOTICE

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

Retirement

Question: How many days in a week?
Answer: 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday
Question: When is a retiree's bedtime?
Answer: Three hours after he falls asleep on the couch.
Question: How many retirees to change a light bulb?
Answer: Only one, but it might take all day.
Question: What's the biggest gripe of retirees?
Answer: There is not enough time to get every-thing done.
Question: Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?
Answer: The term comes with a 10% percent discount.
Question: Among retirees what is considered formal attire?
Answer: Tied shoes.
Question: Why do retirees count pennies?
Answer: They are the only ones who have the time.
Question: What is the common term for someone who enjoys work and refuses to retire?
Answer: NUTS!

Question: Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage?
Answer: They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there.
Question: What do retirees call a long lunch?
Answer: Normal.
Question: What is the best way to describe retirement?
Answer: The never ending Coffee Break.
Question: What's the biggest advantage of going back to school as a retiree?
Answer: If you cut classes, no one calls your mother.
Question: Why does a retiree often say he doesn't miss work, but misses the people he used to work with?
Answer: He is too polite to tell the whole truth.
 Share this one with all the retirees that you know. I'm sure they can relate to some of them! AND, If you have not yet retired, look what you have to look forward to.
Gary Townson, 2nd VP, KS Federation, NARFE
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BEWARE !! Whenever you use your credit or debit card at a drive-up window at night (or ANYWHERE for that matter) be sure YOUR card is returned to you. Some thieves have been known to give a stolen and already canceled card to unknowing consumers, then use the card fraudulently. BEWARE !!
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Our Chapter Officers:

President	E. Regina Barger	913-342-8256
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Membership Chair	Shirley Newman	913-371-4444