

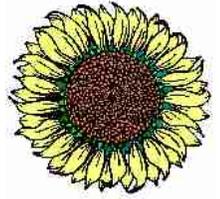


THE WYANDOTTE SCOUT

Sunflower Chapter 1160, Kansas City, KS

Byron Nichols, Editor byron666@earthlink.net

November, 2006 (Volume 31, Number 11)



NEXT MEETING: 11:00 A.M., Friday, 11/03/06 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.

October Meeting: We played Bingo again before lunch; 7 people played with 4 winning \$8 between them. The usual pot-luck luncheon was held from noon to 1:00 PM with 10 members attending.

The business meeting lasted from 1:00 to 1:29 PM. Ten members stayed for the meeting. Of the members present we recognized one birthday for October: Byron Nichols. The bills and other assorted expenses were paid. The last meeting's minutes was not read, as our secretary wasn't present. Wanda Collins served as the secretary pro-tem. Correspondence and the treasury report were read. We appointed a committee to plan the memorial service at November's meeting.

Ada Nichols won the \$5 Attendance Drawing. Byron Nichols won the \$2.75 Ticket drawing. Both prizes were contributed to the Alzheimer's fund. We sent a check for \$10.50 to the fund, for a total so far this year of \$393.45. **If any member who doesn't attend meetings wishes to contribute to the Alzheimer's Fund, you can send a check to the Treasurer/Editor at the return address on the cover of the Scout. Make checks out to "NARFE/Alzheimer's Research".** We'll mention you with a thanks in the Scout.

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!

At the **November** meeting (the NEXT one), we will have our annual Memorial Service for those members who have passed during the last 12 months. We will also have the usual pot-luck lunch and business meeting.

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

The December meeting will probably contain the annual Xmas feed (where the Chapter supplies the meats and members only need to bring the rest) and probably some carolers (we still have to decide about this, as usual). Stay tuned for more news next month.

Membership Update: Deceased: Josephine W. Vogrin, 92 (10/12/2006, Social Security) and Helen M. Brizendine, 84 (10/17/06, USPS). Dropped for non-renewal: Faydell D. Grayson of KCK and Sylvia C. Terbovich of Sierra Vista, AZ. Second notice sent to Alice E. Richardson. If you intend to stay a member, please send dues to the NARFE national office ASAP (see NARFE magazine for the address).

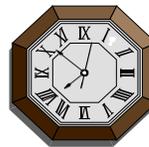
Note to members: Dues Withholding saves the na-

tional 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 November are:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Eugene A Collins | Stella G McDonald |
| George O Dale | Ruth M Overton |
| Doris E Deming | Nancy E Poor |
| Terry M Ehrhart | Frances C Rodina |
| Doris M Finley | Josephine M Rozich |
| Rita F Galvin | Carol J Smith |
| Eujetta S Holland | Florine Smith |
| Alvertis Holliday | Melvin E Stevens |
| Robert W Horseman | Mr. Ozine Washington Jr |
| Paul R Jordan | Vernon J Weller |
| Marie Macan | Bold = Attends many meetings |

The 21 members above have an age range of 59 to 95 and an average age of 80. 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.



Reminder: Daylight time ends Sunday -- set your clocks BACK on Saturday night and get an extra hour of sleep!

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

COLAs, CPI, Pay Raise: The Federal Salary Council indicates that the average gap between federal and private sector pay now stands at almost 19 percent, up from the 13 percent reported last year. It is unclear, however, how much is due to actual wage differences and the methods used to measure the gap. The Bureau of Labor Statistics, which does the measurement, has made several changes in its procedures over the years in an attempt to make the data more accurate. Meanwhile, the salary council is working on the assumption that the January 2007 GS pay raise will have a 1.7% cross-the-board component and whatever is left from the amount provided by Congress and the President will be divided up as locality pay, with the total expected to average 2.7%. But there will be a fight to raise the amount the military will get, 2.2%, to 2.7% OR cut the civilian raise to 2.2%. Stay tuned.

The next cost of living adjustment (COLA) for retired and disabled Americans will be 3.3%. Social Security and most civil service recipients will get it in their January 2007 checks. FERS annuitants 62 and older receive the full Social Security COLA, but the FERS COLA

DATED MEETING NOTICE

**<ID#> 1160 <ExpDt>
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 <City>, <State> <Zip9>**

is only 2.3%.

Congress: . NARFE continues to make a toll-free number available to reach the Capitol switchboard. Ask for your Representative or Senator by name. The number is 1-866-220-0044.

Health: OPM has released further information about benefits and premiums for the upcoming Federal Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP). For vision coverage, all three plans will be national, each with high and standard options. Premiums vary according to the type of selected coverage: self, self + 1 and self + family. Biweekly rates vary from \$2.63 to \$5.40 for self-only, \$5.13 to \$10.81 for self+1 and \$7.64 to \$16.21 for self+family. For dental coverage there are four national carriers, two of which have high and standard options, and three regional carriers. Premiums vary by type of coverage and "rating areas" established by the plans. Biweekly rates start at \$7.29 to \$18.92 for self-only, \$18.73 to \$37.85 for self+1 and \$28.09 to \$56.77 for self+family. Employees can sign up for either, both or neither during the Open Season running November 13 to December 11 (same as the FEHBP Open Season). Contact OPM for details and brochures.

TSP Funds: The large company (C) fund led returns in September with a 2.58% gain. The small company (S) fund was up 0.88%, the bond (F) fund 0.82%, government securities (G) up 0.35% and the international (I) fund up 0.15%.. Those funds posted, respectively, 12-month gains of 10.78, 8.77, 3.68, 4.90 and 19.23%. The lifecycle (L) fund returns were: Income, 0.73; 2010, 1.01; 2020, 1.17; 2030, 1.33 and 2040, 1.41% for 12-month gains, respectively, of 6.5, 8.72, 10.07, 10.72 and 11.52%.

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.

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).

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).

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. * * * * *
 Thanks to **Mary Relic** for forwarding **63** Best Choice UPCs. 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