



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



**JANUARY MEETING:
11:00 A.M., Friday, 01/13/12**

**FEBRUARY MEETING:
11:00 A.M., Friday, 02/10/12**

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

2012 Chapter Officers

President	Theodore J Robinson	913-371-7720 tjrobinson357@aol.com
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 tjrobinson357@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

December Meeting: About eight attendees played Bingo prior to lunch. The Christmas luncheon was from noon to 1:15pm and was enjoyed by all. The chapter provided the meats (ham & turkey) and the membership brought sides and desserts. The luncheon was attended by 11 members and two guests. There was no business meeting.

The drawings: Attendance, #10, Jamey Story; Half-and-half Jackpot Ticket, #481380, Henrietta Horseman. Both prizes were donated to the Alzheimer's Fund. Attendees who didn't leave after lunch played more Bingo until 1:50pm.

Remember - for ALL meetings, if you wish to play Bingo, bring your nickels & dimes. We usually play from just after 11 AM until lunch. Cost is 5¢ per card per game, 10¢ per card for the Blackout game. Please Come! (We can make change for \$1 bills!)

Membership Update: Deceased: Birdie Allen, 91, KCKS, 12/02/11, mother of VP LaVerne Robinson. Dropped for non-renewal: 1. New Members: 1; Johnnie Watson of KCK; WELCOME. We now have only 200 members.

Note to families of members: When a member passes on, please be sure to contact the chapter's Service Officer (T.J. Robinson, 913-371-7720 or tjrobinson357@aol.com) for assistance for which agencies to contact (such as OPM) or forms to file. Also, notify the chapter 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 **January** are:

Helen J Ambrose	Shirley R Paige
Ida Louise Bland	Mary J Relic
Donald C Castor	Harold W Rucker
Louisa A Fletcher	Berniece M Smothers
Alice D Hixson	Dorothy L Weller
Aleta M Johnson	Louis E White
Mabel O Johnson	

Members with birthdays in **February** are:

Roland B Berg	Dorothea V Linam
Betty B Cramer	E Ruth McIntosh
Mrs. Denzal C Davison	Marie H Mitchell
Lillian B Green	Violet Rutherford
Marlene G Hammontree	Cecil K Woods
Sophia Krzyckowski	

BOLD = Attends many meetings yearly

The 24 members above have an age range of 71 to 103 and an average age of 87½. Congratulations! If you were born in January or February and not in the list, please notify the editor at the return address on the last page or e-mail address in the chapter officer list.

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

Congress & the Administration: On December 13, the House has sent the message to federal workers and retirees that pay and retirement benefits are "still on the table" for additional cuts with the passage of HR3630. It would extend the current pay freeze for a third year and make radical changes to the federal retirement system for both current and future retirees. This comes after the Senate defeated a measure to continue the freeze and only allow the hiring of one replacement for three employees leaving (among other things). Some of the aforementioned cuts was to pay for another one-year extension of the payroll tax holiday, but it was only agreed to for two months, about mid-February. The House then passed an omnibus bill to extend funding for the 2012 fiscal year, and Senate concurrence was to happen on December 16 or 17.

COLAs: Retirees covered by the federal retirement programs (Social Security and civil service and military) will receive COLAs in their January payments. The CSRS system will give 3.6% raises and FERS will give 2.6% to those over 62. The consumer price index fell slightly for the

second straight month, so expect smaller COLAs next year, possibly 1.7%. Also it has been decided that there will be no 'pay parity' between civilian and military pay raises again this year. Military pay raised only 1.6% in January, with a similar proposal for 2013.

TSP funds: The TSP funds were generally flat or down in November, with the International stock fund (I) losing 2.46%, the Small company fund (S) losing 0.51% and the Large company stock fund (C) down 0.21%. Their 12-month returns are, respectively, -2.67, 3.78 and 7.82%. The Bond fund (F) gained 0.01% and the Government securities fund (G) gained 0.14% for 12-month gains of 5.68 and 2.51%. The November and 12-month returns for the Lifecycle funds: Income 0.02 & 3.55%; 2020, -0.34 & 4.4%; 2030, -0.49 & 4.55%; 2040, -0.62 & 4.59%. The 2050 fund which launched at the end of January lost 0.78% in November.

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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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Membership Rosters are in an 8.5" x 11" format.
 Write me a note at the return address block with \$1.00 each to offset printing and postage.

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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 memberrecords@narfe.org.

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Other numbers of Interest:
 Military Retirees: 800-321-1080
 V.A.: 800-827-1000 TSP: 877-968-3778
 Social Security: 800-772-1213

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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 return address on the back cover of the Scout). **Please make checks out to "NARFE/Alzheimer Research"**. We'll forward the contribution to the state coordinator and mention you with a thanks in the Scout. Thanks to all.

Note to members: Dues Withholding saves the national organization money (no bills to mail out) and it saves annual renewers \$6 each year (the equivalent of Chapter dues) [\$40 national plus \$6 chapter vs. \$40 total under dues withholding! - effective as of August, 2011]. You don't have to remember to write that check or risk being dropped. **62%** of our members required to pay dues are already using withholding, why not you? Applications are on the NARFE website at: www.narfe.org.

Reminder: Please send us your **"Best Choice"** UPC codes when you get a bunch! (It's not worth the postage 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 postage \$.

NARFE Sunflower Chapter 1160
 c/o Byron Nichols, Editor
 9000 Holly Street
 Kansas City MO 64114-3528

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