

NARFE Sunflower Chapter 1160
c/o Byron Nichols, Editor
9000 Holly Street
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DATED MEETING NOTICE

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Please come to the Indoor Picnic on July 13, 2012!
At the Hanlon Senior Center, 1101 Ridge Ave, KCK



Sunflower Chapter 1160 Kansas City, KS Byron Nichols, Editor	JULY MEETING 07/13/2012	President, Public Relations and Service Officer: 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
Meets at the Hanlon Senior Center 1101 Ridge Ave, KCK 66102 11:00 AM	AUGUST MEETING 08/10/2012	Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Roster: Byron K. Nichols	816-333-5151 byron666@earthlink.net
		Alzheimer's Chair: Kathy Zunick	913-281-3335
		Membership Chair: Shirley J. Newman	913-334-2544

May Meeting: Early attendees played Bingo. There were only four members present for lunch, and no one else arrived by the 1:00 meeting time, so the group was dismissed after the drawings for lack of a quorum. Attendance went to #4, Lillian Green, and the Half-and-half ticket drawing went to #857157, Ada Nichols. Both prizes were contributed to Alzheimer's.

June Meeting: Five early attendees played bingo from 11:30am to 12:10pm, followed by the potluck lunch.

The business meeting started at 1:00pm with six members present, a quorum. Vice-President Laverne Robinson presided. The 'unofficial' minutes of the May meeting were read, bills were ratified and the combined Treasurer's report for the March through May meetings was read. Laverne Robinson presented the citation received at the convention for contributing \$5.64 per member to Alzheimer's in the previous calendar year. She then had a short talk emphasizing the need for a will, powers of attorney, etc. in case we become unable to care for ourselves. Amendments to the bylaws were introduced for permission to present to the membership via printing in the SCOUT (see the last page) for consideration at the next business meeting (August). The drawings: Attendance was won by #3, Ernestine Smith, and the Half-and-Half ticket #857187 went to Wanda Collins. Both were contributed to the Alzheimer's Fund. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45pm.

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's!)

July Meeting: July is our traditional "Picnic" meeting, which will be held at the Hanlon Senior Center due to the summer's heat and/or bad weather. Attendees are encouraged to bring picnic-related foods to keep with the theme of the

meeting. We already have commitments to bring regular KFC chicken (may want someone's spicy as well), hot dogs & buns, potato salad, baked beans, watermelon and a mixed salad. We still need condiments for the dogs, desserts, pop, maybe another meat and/or slaw or anything else you can think of. Members are encouraged to bring either a family member, driver, or someone they know who would be eligible to join NARFE. If you wish to bring a game that you think others may enjoy, please do so. We will be playing Bingo as usual (bring your nickels & dimes). We will not have a business meeting.

See you there!

Membership Update: New Members:

Paula S. Thrasher, KCK and Helen B. Torrence, Bonner Springs. WELCOME! **Deceased:** Helen I. Burke, 95, Thousand Palms, CA, 4/30/2012, Defense Supply Agcy; Dorothy F. Witte, 93, KCK, 6/15/2012, Ofc. of US Atty. Gen. Dropped for non-renewal: 2. We now have 190 members.

Members with birthdays in **July** are:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Alfred W Bridgeman | Florence Lockridge |
| Edward F Burgess | William N Moore |
| Corinne P Culp | Betty J Morrison |
| Donald L Edwards | Theodore J Robinson |
| Ann J Felich | Muriel Y Rucker |
| Lola M Forbes | James C Welter |
| Helen M Huff | GuyAnne Wilkins |
| Zeilla M Jester | Elzora L Williams |
| Norma J Kelly | |

Members with birthdays in **August** are:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Lula B Anderson | Kenneth M Jones |
| Clifford T Bauhard | Violet R Jones |
| Barbara A Bennett | Richard E Miller |
| Noah Bland | Caroline J Pippin |
| Bertha L Cole | Doris E Priest |
| Anna W Hamm | Betty E Robinson |
| Adelaide E Hartung | Frances K Sachen |
| Henrietta L Horseman | Kathryn A Zunick |

The 33 members above have an age range of 67 to 95 and an average age of 83½. Congratulations! If you were born in July or August 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.

Note to families of members: When a member passes on, please be sure to contact the chapter's Service Officer (T.J. Robinson, tjrobinson357@aol.com or 913-371-7720) 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.

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

Congress & the Administration: The House has moved to extend the federal salary freeze for another year by leaving any raise unmentioned in a key spending bill in the Appropriations Committee. Several other appropriations bills covering individual agencies also assume no raise. Earlier in the year the House voted a freeze in a freestanding bill, but the Senate refuses to take up almost any measure passed by the House. The Senate started drafting its own version of the appropriations bill that may call for a raise that the White House recommended; no more than 0.5%. Both general government spending bills include provisions that have been in similar bills for years, such as the FEHB plans continue to cover prescription contraceptives but bar them from covering abortions. They also bar lifestyle-type training that is not job-related and prohibits agencies from giving unions the names and home addresses of employees for use in union recruitment.

Congressional leaders also don't plan to act on a postal reform until at least July. At stake are differing plans for closing facilities and reducing delivery days, and moving some postal employees and/or retirees out of the FEHB and into a separate health insurance program. The USPS meanwhile has announced buyout offers to as many as 45,000 mail handlers, but anyone accepting a buyout would have to leave by the end of August with their first payments not starting until December. The problem with any plan mandating changes to the FEHB rates or participation is if the change is made during the term of a union contract. The 1970 law establishing the USPS as a quasi-governmental corporation may trigger lawsuits unless negotiated. However, Congress could amend the statute to limit the scope of bargaining subjects in the future, especially if enacted at the end of a contract.

On May 16, the Senate Homeland Security &

Governmental Affairs Committee favorably reported legislation that would prevent requiring a contractor to submit political information as part of a solicitation for a contract. The bill is in reaction to the White House's draft executive order that requires vendors to submit information about political contributions as part of their bid proposal packages to the government. (Why? So as to only hire political cronies?) Companion legislation has been approved by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

On May 31 Congressional leaders wrote a letter to the President that proposed increasing federal employee retirement contributions by 1.2% of salary as one of two options to offset the cost of extending the current interest rates on federally guaranteed student loans. Both parties and the President would like to extend the current rates (otherwise they would rise from 3.4% to 6.8% on July 1), but they disagree how to pay for it. NARFE President Beaudoin wrote a letter to Congress opposing any proposal that would use federal employees as a piggybank for costs of legislation unrelated to current or retired employees' benefits.

Civilian employment at the Defense Department could be cut by 5% over 5 years under the DoD Authorization bill in the Senate, and apply a similar reduction to spending for costs of contractor workers in the DoD. The bill further mirrors a House version which backs a 1.7% raise for uniformed personnel.

OMB's recent order to agencies to recommend 5% reductions in their discretionary spending budgets doesn't necessarily mean that federal jobs or benefits will be cut by the same percentage. The OMB memo is a step in preparation of the FY 2014 budget proposal and doesn't have a direct impact on the current budget process for FY 2013. While OMB told agencies to assume spending at below the fiscal 2013 proposed level, cuts typically aren't done across the board in all accounts but by reducing or eliminating certain programs.

TSP Values: All three stock-oriented TSP funds fell in May, dropping 6 to 11 percent each. It was the second straight month of losses following gains in the first three months of the year. The bond F-fund gained almost 1% and the government securities fund gained a paltry 0.14%. The May and 12-month returns for Lifecycle Funds are all down but for a slight gain for the year for the Income fund.

