



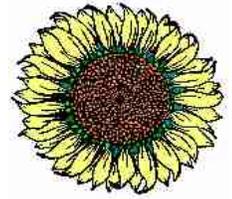
THE WYANDOTTE SCOUT

Sunflower Chapter 1160, Kansas City, KS

Byron Nichols, Editor

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July, 2007 (Volume 32, Number 7)



NEXT MEETING: 11:00 A.M., Friday, 07/13/07 at the Wyandotte County Lake Park, Shelter #4

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

June Meeting: About 10 early attendees played Bingo prior to lunch; four winners received \$10 in prizes total. The meeting was attended by 11 members and ran from about 1:10 pm. to 2:10 pm. The usual reports were given, bills ratified and correspondence was read. Wanda Collins acted as the Secretary Pro-tem. The registration drawing of \$5 was won by Kathy Zunich and the ticket drawing for \$3.50 was won by Wanda Collins; both were contributed to the Alzheimer's fund. An additional dollar was contributed by Shirley Newman. So far this year the chapter has sent **\$901.75** to the Kansas Federation Alzheimer's coordinator (\$2.89 per official member).

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 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. Thanks to all.

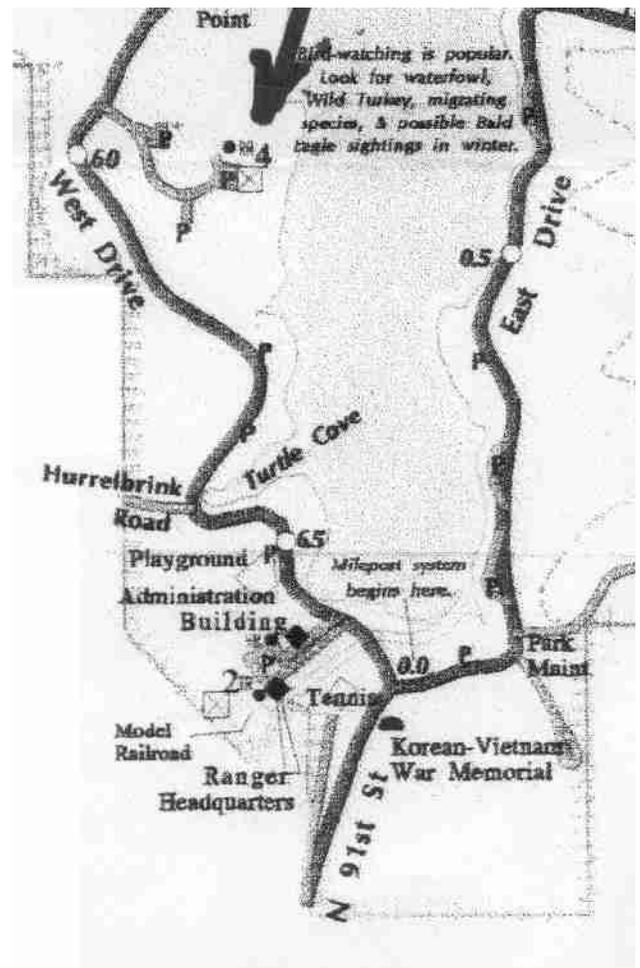
Future Meetings: The July Picnic will be at the Wyandotte County Lake Park, Shelter #4 (see map) instead of the regular meeting Friday, July 13th!! Good Luck!! All are welcome!

Items being brought so far include: Tea, cookies, charcoal, plasticware, cups, plates, mustard, ketchup, baked beans, chips, 3-bean salad, vegetable relish plate, fried chicken, hot dogs & buns, BBQ flavor pulled pork, deviled eggs and a dessert or two. More items can be

brought, whatever you can think of!

The shelter is rented from 9:30 until whenever we leave. We will start lunch at noon or when the dogs are ready, so don't be late! We will play penny Bingo also, so bring change!

At ALL other meetings, if anyone would like to come early enough before lunch (say, at about 11 A.M.), we plan to play Bingo, with PRIZES for the winners. Please Come!



Membership Update: New Members: Pam Johnson, Cindy Larson and Barbara Stanton, all from KCK. Welcome! Deceased: Joseph P. Rozich, 86 (6/11/07, USPS), Wayne L. Harshaw, 97, (6/19/07, USPS).

******* In Memoriam *******

Wayne L Harshaw was a former vice-President of Chapter 1160. He passed in Los Angeles June 19th. Visitation is at 6-8pm Friday, June 29 at Thatcher's Funeral Home, KCK, with Masonic Services. The Funeral will begin at 11am at the Olivet Institutional Baptist Church (2013 N 7th St, KCK). Burial will be at the West Lawn Cemetery.

Note to members: Dues Withholding saves the national organization money and it saves you at least \$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:

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|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Alfred W Bridgeman | 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 |
| Helen Huff | Roy White |
| Zeilla M Jester | GuyAnne Wilkins |
| James M Johnson | Elzora L Williams |
| Marie E Kanosky | Dorothy F Witte |
- BOLD** = attends most meetings

The 30 members above have an age range of 62 to 91 and an average age of 80. Congratulations! If you were born in July and not in the above list, please notify the editor at the return address on the last page or e-mail address in the mast-head above.

Legislative, Financial and Health

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

COLAs, CPI, rates: The CPI-W again increased 0.8 percent in May, making the COLA count at 2.3% for the eight months of the fiscal year. FECA benefits would have an increase of 3.3% so far this calendar year.

Health Benefits: OPM announced in June that retired federal public safety officers will be eligible to exclude up to \$3000 in payments made after 2006 from their retirement annuities for their share of the FEHBP premiums and Federal Long Term Care Insurance (FLTCIP) premiums. These people are defined as law enforcement officers, firefighters, chaplains or member of a rescue squad or ambulance crew. OPM had reversed its opinion from last year when only state and local government officers were included in the provision. Retired officers will have to manually report their eligibility to the IRS when they file their 2007 returns. The **NARFE** magazine will have further details about this in the future. NARFE will also use this as a precedent to help include all retirees in the pending premium conversion legislation.

Congress: Rep. Jim Moran (D-VA) introduced NARFE-supported legislation to clarify the method of computing certain annuities under CSRS which are based on part-time service (HR 2780). It would benefit both current employees and retirees.

Legislation to limit the penalty for late enrollment in Medicare Part B (HR 2591) was introduced by Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) on June 6 with 24 cosponsors. Legislation to extend voting rights in the House (S 1257) to the District of Columbia won approval from the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee 9 to 1.

TSP Funds: The small stock fund (S) led returns in May with a 4.4% gain. Both the common stock (C) fund and the

international stock (I) funds were up, with 3.52% and 2.54% gains, respectfully. The government securities (G) fund gained only 0.34% and the bond fund (F) lost 0.7%. For the last 12 months, the I Fund leads with a 26.92% gain, followed by C at 22.81%, S at 21.89%, F at 6.71% and G at 4.92%. For the Lifecycle funds, the May and 12-month returns are, respectively: Income, 0.92 & 8.64%; 2010, 1.53 & 12.79%; 2020, 2.15 & 16.85%; 2030, 2.52 & 18.87%; 2040, 2.79 & 20.92%. The TSP board is also considering requiring new hires to invest some of their own money unless they opt out of the program entirely. Currently they get the 1% agency contribution under FERS and don't have to give their own money. Under the considered plan, they would have 3% of their pay invested in TSP automatically unless they chose a different amount. The board is also considering changing the default fund from the government securities (G) fund to the Lifecycle funds. The changes would require legislation to go into effect.

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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 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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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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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

Subject: Tick Removal (tis the season)

Please forward to anyone with children or hunters, everyone!! Thanks!
A School Nurse has written the info below -- good enough to share -- And it really works!!

I had a pediatrician tell me what she believes is the best way to remove a tick. This is great, because it works in those places where it's sometimes difficult to get to with tweezers: between toes, in the middle of a head full of dark hair, etc. Apply a glob of liquid soap to a cotton ball. Cover the tick with the soap-soaked cotton ball and let it stay on the repulsive insect for a few seconds (15-20), after which the tick will come out on it's own and be stuck to the cotton ball when you lift it away. This technique has worked every time I've used it (and that was frequently), and it's much less traumatic for the patient and easier for me. Unless someone is allergic to soap, I can't see that this would be damaging in any way. I even had my doctor's wife call me for advice because she had one stuck to her back and she couldn't reach it with tweezers. She used this method and immediately called me back to say, "It worked!"

Please pass on: everyone needs this helpful hint.

(from John Pace III, via e-mail)

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Membership Rosters are available in an 8.5" x 11" format. Drop me a note with \$1.00 each to offset printing and postage (My address is on the return address above).

DATED MEETING NOTICE

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

(The following is a forwarded e-mail alert. It may or may not be true.)

Please pass this on to anyone you know with kids or grandkids. (SNOPEs confirms this is true. <http://www.snopes.com/medical/toxins/sanitizer.asp>)

"Ok. I don't know where to begin because the last 2 days of my life have been such a blur. Yesterday, My youngest daughter Halle who is 4, was rushed to the emergency room by her father for being severely lethargic and incoherent. He was called to her school by the school secretary for being "very VERY sick." He told me that when he arrived that Halle was barely sitting in the chair. She couldn't hold her own head up and when he looked into her eyes, she couldn't focus them. He immediately called me after he scooped her up and rushed her to the ER. When we got there, they ran blood test after blood test and did x-rays, every test imaginable. Her white blood cell count was normal, nothing was out of the ordinary. The ER doctor told us that he had done everything that he could do so he was sending her to Saint Francis for further tests. Right when we were leaving in the ambulance, her teacher had come to the ER and after questioning Halle's classmates, we found out that she had licked hand sanitizer off her hand. Hand sanitizer, of all things. But it makes sense. These days they have all kinds of different scents and when you have a curious child, they are going to put all kinds of things in their mouths. When we arrived at

Saint Francis, we told the ER doctor there to check her blood alcohol level, which, yes we did get weird looks from it but they did it. The results were her blood alcohol level was 85% and this was 6 hours after we first took her. There's no telling what it would have been if we would have tested it at the first ER. Since then, her school and a few surrounding schools have taken this out of the classrooms of all the lower grade classes but what's to stop middle and high schoolers too? After doing research off the Internet, we have found out that it only takes 3 squirts of the stuff to be fatal in a toddler. For her blood alcohol level to be so high was to compare someone her size to drinking something 120 proof. So please PLEASE don't disregard this because I don't ever want anyone to go thru what my family and I have gone thru. Today was a little better but not much. Please send this to everyone you know that has children or are having children. It doesn't matter what age. I just want people to know the dangers of this."

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 who goes to the meetings or to the address in the return address block. **Thanks to everyone for their submissions!**** Remember, we need only the bar codes, not the whole label. Saves postage. **