

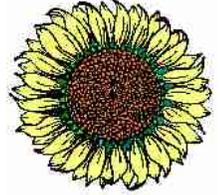


THE WYANDOTTE SCOUT

Sunflower Chapter 1160, Kansas City, KS

Byron Nichols, Editor byron666@earthlink.net

February, 2008 (Volume 33, Number 2)



NEXT MEETING: 11:00 A.M., Friday, 2/8/08 at the Pat Hanlon Senior Center, 1101 Ridge Ave., KCK (Weather Permitting! ... In case of bad weather, try calling our President, VP or Service Officer at number on back page.)

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

January Meeting: Eight members played Bingo. Ten attended the luncheon. Eleven members attended the meeting. The minutes of the November meeting were read, correspondence were presented, the Treasurer's report was read and bills were paid. We gave our usual \$25 each to the following charities: American Red Cross, Catholic Charities of KCK, Turner House Children's Clinic, Shepherd Center of KCK, and the Salvation Army. A certificate was awarded to Lillian Green for becoming a National Life Member.

We decided to buy a half-page ad in the state convention booklet again this year. The convention will be held in Hutchinson on April 27-29.

So far this year the chapter has sent **\$48.75** to the Kansas Federation Alzheimer's coordinator.

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.

Membership Update: Deceased: Helen J. Verbeck, 86 (12/30/07, unknown agency); John Paul Caster, 86 (1/17/08, Justice, Immigration, Treasury, Secret Service); Sylvia C. Terbovich, 90 (1/28/08, USDA).

Members with birthdays in February are:

Roland B Berg	Dorothea V Linam
Goldie I Bronson	E Ruth McIntosh
Betty B Cramer	Marie Mitchell
Mrs. Denzal C Davison	Verlee W M Mitchell
Lillian B Green	Valerie M Noble
Marlene G Hammontree	Violet Rutherford
Charles Johnston	Cecil K Woods
Sophia Krzyckowski	BOLD = attends most meetings

The 15 members above have an age range of 73 to 99 and an average age of 84. Congratulations! If you were born in February 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.

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.

Future Meetings: At ALL meetings, if anyone would like to come early enough before lunch (say, by 11 A.M.), we plan to play Bingo with prizes for the winners. Please Come!

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

Congress: Rep. Michael McNulty (D-NY) chaired a January 16 hearing of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security. The GPO and WEP were among the topics covered. Witnesses for postal and public employees, teacher and school employee groups testified as to the onerous impacts of the provisions. Full coverage will be in the March issue of NARFE magazine.

Most federal annuitants and active employees will receive the upcoming tax rebate, up to \$600 per person, despite some confusion created by some media outlets. Anyone with any taxable income would receive a rebate. Only those who would pay no federal income taxes would not receive the rebate. Members of the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (including NARFE) is urging the Senate to include seniors without taxable income in the rebate program. The House version currently doesn't include them. The President and the House are also encouraging the Senate not to include a raft of other earmarks, etc. in the bill to attempt to get the program passed as quickly as possible.

TSP Funds: For the fourth year in a row, the International (I) stock fund led the TSP funds for returns in 2007 with an 11.43% gain, followed by the bond (F) fund at 7.09%, the small company (S) fund at 5.49%, the large company (C) fund at 5.54% and the government securities (G) fund at 4.87%... The 2007 returns for the Lifecycle funds were: Income, 5.56%; 2010, 6.4%; 2020, 6.87%; 2030, 7.14% and 2040, 7.36%.

Colas, Raises, etc.: The COLA for CSRS retirees is 2.3%. FERS retirees also get 2.3%, but only on their Social Security component; they get 2% on the civil service component of their retirement. Through three months into the fiscal year, the count for the next retiree COLA for 2009 ...

DATED MEETING NOTICE

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

stands at 1%, following a decline in December of 0.1% in the inflation index. December's data also completes the measurement year for benefits earned under FECA. Those benefits will raise 4.3% effective in March for April payments.

Medicare costs will raise in 2008. The Part B premium increases to \$96.40 for those whose incomes are under \$82,000. Others will see their premiums rise on a sliding scale to up to \$238.40 monthly. The Part B annual deductible raises to \$1024 for the first 50 days and coinsurance requirements raise to \$256 a day for the 61st to 90th day and \$512 per day above 90 days.

The Social Security maximum wage base (for FICA tax payments) is also rising from \$97,500 to \$102,000. For those drawing benefits, the earnings test (where \$1 on benefit is lost for each \$2 in earnings) for beneficiaries age 62 through the "full retirement age" of 66, increased from \$12,960 to \$13,560. There is no limit on earnings beginning the month an individual reaches full retirement age. For purposes of determining the benefit offset under the Windfall Elimination Provision, the "substantial earnings" minimum will be \$18,975 for 2008.

The Consolidated Appropriations signed by the President after Christmas will give active employees an average raise of 3.5%. The Defense Appropriations bill was vetoed by the President for reasons unrelated to military pay, but another bill has cleared the House and is being considered in the Senate which would give the military the same 3.5% raise, retroactive to January 1. They currently received a 3% raise by default.

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).

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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).

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		816-333-5151
Newsletter Editor	Byron Nichols	byron666@earthlink.net
Roster		
Alzheimer's Chair	Kathy Zunick	913-281-3335
Membership Chair	Shirley Newman	913-334-2544

Reminder: Please send us your "Best Choice" UPC codes when you get a bunch! (It's not worth using 41 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 Ruth Saragusa for her submission 14 codes and Mary Relic for 31 codes in January!** ** Remember, we need only the bar codes, not the whole label. Saves \$\$.