

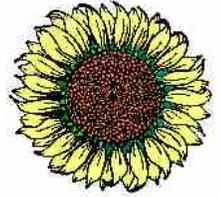


THE WYANDOTTE SCOUT

Sunflower Chapter 1160, Kansas City, KS

Byron Nichols, Editor byron666@earthlink.net

April, 2008 Early Edition (Volume 33, Number 4)



NEXT MEETING: 11:00 A.M., Friday, 4/11/08 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.)

Attend the Third Annual Josef Meditz Memorial Luncheon at the next meeting! See Page 3!

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

March Meeting: Nine members played Bingo with six different prize winners. Thirteen attended the pot luck luncheon. Thirteen members attended the meeting. An invocation was given and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison. Birthday greetings were sung to Betty Shannon. The minutes of the February meeting were read, correspondence were presented, the Treasurer's report was read and bills were paid.

President Regina Barger, Treasurer Byron Nichols and Kathy Zunick are delegates to the convention in Hutchison at the end of April; Secretary TJ Robinson will also be present for the first day. A short report will be in the June issue of the Scout. One of the issues to be presented is a per-capita payment increase by the chapters to the state federation. If this is approved, look for a slight increase in membership dues in the future.

Due to other obligations, our secretary TJ Robinson has decided to vacate his position after the convention. The official duties (besides attending all meetings) include: Recording the meeting minutes, maintaining chapter files and permanent documents, maintains lists of committees and their chairs, maintains the membership roster, order necessary supplies from the national organization and report new members, deaths and address changes to Headquarters. And, for all that, you don't get paid a dime! Just the satisfaction of doing a good and necessary job. If anyone wishes to take on the job, please contact an officer (listed on the back of this newsletter).

The drawings were held: ticket #479666, Ada Nichols, won \$4.25, and attendee number 6, Betty Shannon, won \$5; both were donated to Alzheimer's. So far this year the

chapter has sent **\$75.25** 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: Daniel F. Draper, 95 (3/9/08, USPS).

Members with birthdays in April are:

Estelle R Barger	Louise E Foster
Jeremiah Bennett	Dorothy O Guest
Annabelle Bruce	Henry L Holliday
Wanda L Campbell	Albert C Relic
Virginia L Chiles	Jimmie Richard
Alma L Clark	Peggy Mae White
Howard L Crews	Iris E Wiggins
Geraldine E Darden	David Wilkins
Frank A DeSeure	William L Williamson
Norma L Finn	BOLD = attends most meetings

The 19 members above have an age range of 66 to 94 and an average age of 85. Congratulations! If you were born in April 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: April is the annual Josef A Meditz Memorial Luncheon. See further information on page 3. 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):

TSP Funds: All three stock-based funds were down for the second straight month in February, with the large stock (C) fund down 3.28%, the small stock (S) fund down 2.05% and the international (I) fund losing 0.66%. Over 12 months, each is now in negative territory, with the C fund down 3.59%, the S fund down 5.85% and the I fund down 0.22%. The bond (F) fund gained 0.16% and the government securities (G) fund gained 0.24% for 12-month gains of 7.52 and 4.66%. The February and 12-month returns for the Lifecycle funds were: Income, -0.22 & 3.50%; 2010, -0.59 & 2.80%; 2020, -1.25 & 0.57%; 2030, -1.51 & 0.37% and 2040, -1.80 & -1.11%.

Congress: Two bills introduced recently in Congress may interest NARFE members. Rep. Jim Moran (D-VA) introduced HR-5573 to provide FERS accumulated sick leave to be partially "cashed out" at retirement. Details are yet to be negotiated. Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL) introduced HR-5550 to increase the maximum age to qualify as a "child" under FEHBP from 22 to 25. This would help college age dependents retain coverage while in school.

The House and Senate started their budget process with a "Chairman's Mark", which is not binding until enacted into law. One item was a proposal to make the upcoming military and civilian pay raise the same, 3.4%, instead of the President's proposal of 2.9% for civilians and 3.4% for military.

Rebate Checks: There continues to be some confusion as to who is eligible for the economic stimulus 'rebate' checks soon to be issued. The first way is to have paid federal income tax on any form of income during the 2007 tax year. These taxpayers would receive a payment of up to \$600 per person or \$1200 per couple without dependent children and \$300 per dependent child. The amount is phased out at a rate of 5% of adjusted gross income beginning at \$75,000 for singles and \$150,000 for joint filers, eliminating the payment at \$87,000 and \$174,000 respectively. Under the second option, those who pay no income taxes but have at least \$3000 income

from self-employment, Social Security or Veterans disability will receive \$300 for individuals or \$600 for joint filers. These people would have to file a 2007 federal income tax return by December 31, 2008 and write "Stimulus Payment" on the top of the tax form. The IRS encourages those eligible under the second option to file ASAP. The payments will start to be issued in May, and no one will be required to pay federal taxes on the rebates. Direct-Deposit payments will be made first, then those receiving paper checks. The last two digits of your Social Security number will determine the order of payouts: May 2 for those with 00-20, May 9 to those with 21-75 and May 16 to those with 76-99. Those who receive paper checks are on a longer schedule; those with 00-09 are for May 16, 10-18 for May 23, 19-25 for May 30, 26-38 for June 6, 39-51 for June 13, 52-63 for June 20, 64-75 for June 27, 76-87 for July 4 and 88-99 for July 11. Late filers or those with back taxes may get a later stimulus payment or a smaller one.

OPM/Retirement: The first phase of the "retirement system modernization" project has gone live, involving the records of some 26,000 employees whose payroll is serviced by GSA. Over the next 12 months others will be included, including the Postal Service, National Business Center, National Finance Center, the Defense Department and other payroll providers and current retirees. The project involves moving paper records to electronic format and providing new services to employees and retirees through a new "RetireEZ" service.

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. ** Remember, we need only the bar codes, not the whole label. Saves \$\$.

*** FREE FOOD * FREE FOOD ***

Invitation to attend the **Third** annual

Josef Meditz Memorial Luncheon

Friday, April 11, 2008 at the Pat Hanlon Senior Center
1101 Ridge Avenue, Kansas City, KS
(one block north of Central under the Fire Station)

Come early (10:30 A.M. or so) for meet-&-greet or other activities

We plan to play **Bingo** starting about 11 A.M. (if so requested)

Buffet Lunch will be served starting at Noon

Catered by Meissen Catering Services

Entertainment may be provided by "The 12th Street Revue Band" during or after lunch

This will be the third annual luncheon honoring Josef Meditz, 12-year Chapter President (1976 to 1987) and recruiter of over 100 members. He was a member for 35 years, from March, 1970 until his death in October, 2004, and performed this Chapter a great service.

We welcome any current and former member of this Chapter, especially those who were members while Joe was President, to attend.

The luncheon will be catered and is to be funded by a bequeath to the Chapter from Joe's estate, therefore, it is **FREE** to all participants.

If you need a driver or family member to bring you here they will also be welcome.

Those who wish to attend will who have not been contacted by our calling tree need to call or e-mail our Vice-President ASAP (by March 31st) so the caterer will have enough food for everyone. If your plans change after reservation, please call to cancel.

Always leave a message and phone number where you can be reached.

Contact LaVerne Robinson at 913-371-7720 or e-mail at 'save900@aol.com'.

Please RSVP ASAP !!

We also need any pictures or memorabilia from activities which you attended with Joe, or the names of anyone whom Joe recruited. Anything you wish to keep will be returned.

Contact V.P. LaVerne Robinson, as above, with any memorabilia.

*** FREE FOOD * FREE FOOD ***

DATED MEETING NOTICE

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

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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).

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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.

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 Service Officer	Theodore J Robinson	save900@aol.com
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

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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).

The below excerpts appeared in the Salt Lake Tribune. They were taken from real court records and actually happened...

Q: What happened then? A: He told me, he says, "I have to kill you because you can identify me." Q: Did he kill you?

Was it you or your brother that was killed in the war?

The youngest son, the 20-year-old, how old is he?

Q: She had three children, right? A: Yes. Q: How many were boys? A: None. Q: Were there any girls?

Were you alone or by yourself?

Q: I show you Exhibit 3 and ask you if you recognize that picture? A: That's me. Q: Were you present when that picture was taken?

Were you present in court this morning when you were sworn in?

Q: You say that the stairs went down to the basement? A: Yes. Q: And these stairs, did they go up also?

Q: Now then, Mrs. Johnson, how was your first marriage terminated? A: By death. Q: And by whose death was it terminated?

Q: Do you know how far pregnant you are now? A: I'll be three months on March 12th. Q: Apparently then, the date of conception was around January 12th? A: Yes. Q: What were you doing at that time?

Do you have any children or anything of that kind?

Was that the same nose you broke as a child?

Q: Mrs. Jones, do you believe you are emotionally stable? A: I used to be. Q: How many times have you committed suicide?

So, you were gone until you returned?

You don't know what it was, and you didn't know what it looked like, but can you describe it?

Q: Have you lived in this town all your life? A: Not yet.

A Texas attorney, realizing he was on the verge of unleashing a stupid question, interrupted himself and said, "Your Honor, I'd like to strike the next question."

Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, in most cases he just passes quietly away and doesn't know anything about it until the next morning?