

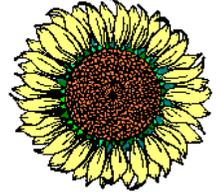


THE WYANDOTTE SCOUT

Sunflower Chapter 1160, Kansas City, KS

Byron Nichols, Editor byron666@earthlink.net

May, 2008 (Volume 33, Number 5)



NEXT MEETING: 11:00 A.M., Friday, 5/9/08 at the Pat Hanlon Senior Center, 1101 Ridge Ave., KCK

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

April Meeting: There was no business meeting due to the Third annual Joe Meditz Memorial Luncheon. An average of 25 people played Bingo prior to the lunch, with \$22 being won as prizes. The Twelfth Street Jazz Band played during and after lunch, from noon to 2pm, with a very enjoyable program of 'classical' old tunes. Lunch was served by Meissen's Catering Services, and was well received by all 48 attendees, members and guests alike.

The usual drawings were held: Ticket #479700, Henrietta Horseman, won \$13, and attendee #18, Dorothy Guest, won \$5; both were donated to Alzheimer's. Thanks to all who contributed 'that little extra' to the Alzheimer's funds. Among them: Carolyn Taylor, Gladys Koska, Christine Leaf and Corrine & Floyd Culp. Kathy Zunick also brought in the \$60 check from redeeming Best Choice UPCs for the past year. So far this year the chapter has sent **\$228.25** 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: Iris E. Wiggins, 92 (03/20/08, USPS employee widow).

Members with birthdays in May are:

Dorothy M Barrett	Lena M O'Malley
Charles K Bornschein	Mary M Oliver
Donald C Breiby	Deloris R Raymer
Phyllistine A Breiby	LaVerne Robinson
Maria Dinges	Valentine J Ruzick
Charles E Fithian	Barbara R Stafford
M Louine Herman	Henrietta Walker
Larnell Johnson	George L Wilson
Robert E Kavanaugh	BOLD = attends most meetings

The 17 members above have an age range of 71 to 96 and an average age of 82.3. Congratulations! If you were born in May 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 about \$5 over annual dues. You don't have to remember to write that check or risk being dropped. **64%** of our members required to pay dues are already using withholding, why not you? Applications are in the NARFE magazine each month.

The State Convention: Five from our chapter at-

tended the Kansas NARFE convention in Hutchison: President E. Regina Barger, Treasurer/Editor Byron Nichols, Service Officer T.J. Robinson, Carolyn Taylor and Alzheimer's Chair Kathy Zunick.

Election results for the Kansas Federation officers: New President Gary Townson, former first VP, was unopposed; New first VP Mary Fritzon was also unopposed; 2nd VP Elizabeth Bornman ran against Peggy Hughes of the Hutchison chapter and won 130 to 114; Secretary Carol Ek and Treasurer Madelyn Brown were both reelected unopposed.

A resolution to increase the per-capita tax charged to chapters to fund the Federation won by a fairly large margin. The tax goes from \$1 per head to \$1.50 and is effective starting in 2009.

The Memorial ceremony was moving, as usual, with 208 members passing in the last year, the same as the previous year. Our chapter had 28 pass this year, compared to 21 in 2006-7.

Area Vice-Presidents were also elected. T.J Robinson did not wish to continue in office, so the Area 1A delegates elected Eugene Harter from Achison County chapter to replace him, by acclamation. Four of the eight areas elected new VPs.

Alzheimer's: Statewide, nearly \$5 per member was donated to Alzheimer's Research. Therefore the new goal was raised for 2008 from \$4 to \$5. The Live Auction collected \$1,590, a little less than last year. The Silent Auction collected about \$2,445, more than last year. There were also more items donated for which to bid. In total, \$4,035 was collected, an all-time high for the convention.

Next year's convention will be held in Manhattan at the Clarion Hotel, April 26-28, 2009.

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):

TSP Funds: March was the fifth straight month where both the large stock C fund and small stock S fund were down, while the international I fund eked a small gain after four losing months. The C fund was down 0.46% and the S fund lost 1.43%. The I fund gained 0.18%. Each is in negative territory for the last 12 months: -5.07%, -8.2% and -2.55% respectively. The bond F fund gained 0.33% and the Government securities G fund gained 0.32%, for 12-month gains of

(see page 2)

DATED MEETING NOTICE

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 <City>, <State> <Zip9>**

(from page 1)

7.87 and 4.56% respectively. The March and 12-month returns for the Lifecycle funds were: Income, 0.23 & 3.09%; 2010, 0.07 & 1.96%; 2020, -0.06 & -0.57%; 2030, -0.18 & -1.69% and 2040, -0.29 & -2.71%.

The TSP governors have finalized rules for interfund transfers starting May 1. They generally allow investors only two interfund transfers per month, with a third allowed only to move money into the government securities (G) fund.

CPI/Colas: The CPI-W increased 0.9% in March, bringing the cumulative index to 2.7% above the 2007 third quarter figure. The index for those earning benefits under FECA now stands at 1.7% higher than the December 2007 figure.

Taxes: The Stimulus Payments are starting to be sent out, with those who had refunds electronically transferred receiving theirs first, then those who receive checks. Also, as a reminder to Kansas residents; recheck your state forms and be sure you have received the exemption for your federal pension. You do not have to pay state income taxes on your pension. Other states have different rules.

FEHB: OPM is encouraging FEHB carriers to enhance adult hearing benefits for 2009, including coverage for hearing aids. Also wanted was a pilot program to provide Medicare-eligible annuitants with a 'premium pass-thru' account to be used for paying some or all of Medicare premiums. No other details have been released yet.

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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Reminder: Please send us your "Best Choice" UPC codes when you get a bunch! (It's not worth using 42 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 \$\$.

Chapter Officers		
President	E. Regina Barger	913-342-8256
Vice-President	LaVerne Robinson	913-371-7720 save900@aol.com
Recording Secretary	vacant	
Public Relations	Theodore J Robinson	913-371-7720
Service Officer		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

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).

Membership Rosters are available in an 8.5" x 11" format. Drop me a note at the return address block with \$2.00 each to offset printing and postage.