

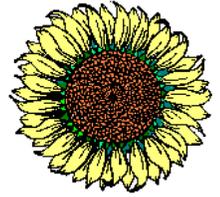


# THE WYANDOTTE SCOUT

Sunflower Chapter 1160, Kansas City, KS

Byron Nichols, Editor byron666@earthlink.net

August, 2008 (Volume 33, Number 8)



NEXT MEETING: 11:00 A.M., Friday, 8/8/08 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.

**July Meeting:** Twenty members and guests played Penny Bingo before lunch (about 10:30 to noon). Prayer was offered by Birdie Allen, then about 25 members and guests attended the 'picnic' luncheon. After lunch, we played more Bingo.

We had no business meeting, nor the usual drawings. The money collected for Alzheimer's from donated winnings was **\$5.60**. The donations will be forwarded to the Alzheimer's coordinator with the collection for the August meeting. So far this year the chapter has sent **\$275.60** 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: Mildred M. Clark, 92, Overland Park, KS (7/25/08, KC VA Hospital).

Members with birthdays in August are:

- |                             |                                     |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Hortense R Adams            | Violet R Jones                      |
| Lula B Anderson             | John M Kraly                        |
| Clifford T Bauhard          | Rose Ann Krzesinski                 |
| Alfred E Bell               | Kenneth J Ladd                      |
| Barbara A Bennett           | Willis O McCord                     |
| Edward L Bielski            | Richard E Miller                    |
| Noah Bland                  | Caroline J Pippin                   |
| Susan E Clark               | Doris E Priest                      |
| Bertha L Cole               | Grover T Rhodus                     |
| Edward S Goeffert           | Betty E Robinson                    |
| Anna W Hamm                 | Frances K Sachen                    |
| Adelaide E Hartung          | Edward C Welty                      |
| <b>Henrietta L Horseman</b> | <b>Kathryn A Zunick</b>             |
| Kenneth M Jones             | <b>BOLD = Attends many meetings</b> |

The 27 members above have an age range of 70 to 96 and an average age of 84. Congratulations! If you were born in August 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.

**Future Meetings: August:** We will resume our normal schedule of lunch then a business meeting. [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!**

Thanks to Ruth Saragusa for her latest submission of Best Choice UPCs! Keep up the good work!

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.

## Legislative, Financial and Health News

(summarized from FEDWeek Bulletins and NARFE Legislative Hotlines):

**Congress:** On July 15 the House and Senate overrode the President's veto of legislation to reverse the July 1<sup>st</sup> 10.6% payment cut for physicians who treat Medicare beneficiaries. The House voted 383-41 and the Senate voted 70-26. The August issue of NARFE magazine also has coverage of the bill.

The Senate Appropriations Committee has backed a 3.9% average GS raise in January, following the House lead earlier, which is one percentage point higher than the White House request.

**CPI/Colas:** The CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) increased 1.1% in June. For purposes of calculating the next COLA, the index is 5.7% above the 2007 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter base index. The raises for FECA recipients is 4.6% higher than the December, 2007 base index.

**TSP Funds:** Almost all funds suffered losses in June: the small-cap (S) fund was down 7.63%, the large-cap (C) fund lost 8.41% and the International (I) stock fund was down 8.15%. For the last 12 months the S fund was lower by 11.14%, the C fund down 13.05% and the I fund lower by 10.42%. The bond (F) fund was also down in June by 0.08% but with a positive return of 7.28% for the year. The government securities (G) fund gained 0.32% in June with a 4.25% 12-month gain. The June and 12-month returns for the life-cycle funds are: Income, -1.47 & 1.29%; 2010, -2.65 & -1.12%; 2020, -4.97 & -5.26%; 2030,

continued overleaf

**DATED MEETING NOTICE**

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

from page 1

-5.88 & -6.97%; and 2040, -6.70 & -8.54%.

Proposals passed by the House Oversight & Government Reform Committee would make several changes to the TSP program. New employees would be automatically enrolled in the TSP to capture government matching contributions, most likely in the G fund (government securities) or, maybe, in the Lifecycle funds. The deduction rate would be from 2 to 5%, probably 3%. Employees could change the fund, investment level, or opt-out completely. The measure would also authorize a Roth-style option, where money goes in after-tax but comes out with earnings tax-free. This is a reversal of all current options, where money goes in pre-tax but is taxable upon withdrawal. The TSP governors may also offer some index funds, depending on their overhead costs. These proposals may take a while to go thru Congress and the President, if ever.

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**Membership Rosters ...** are 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.  
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**OPM Retirement Information Center:**

Write to: PO Box 45, Boyers, PA 16017-0045.  
 Phone: 1-888-767-6738 (1-88USOPMRET) M-F, 6:30 AM to 7:45 PM Central Time.

Hearing impaired TDD# is 1-800-878-5707.

On the Web: [www.opm.gov/retire](http://www.opm.gov/retire).

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 or [memsrvcs@narfe.org](mailto:memsrvcs@narfe.org).

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

**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 \$\$.