

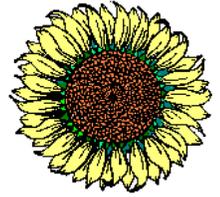


# THE WYANDOTTE SCOUT

Sunflower Chapter 1160, Kansas City, KS

Byron Nichols, Editor byron666@earthlink.net

September, 2008 (Volume 33, Number 9)



NEXT MEETING: **11:00 A.M., Friday, 9/12/08** at the Pat Hanlon Senior Center, 1101 Ridge Ave., KCK

For those of you with computers: Look for the newsletter on [www.KSNARFE.org](http://www.KSNARFE.org) in Item #14, in COLOR.

**August Meeting:** Eleven members played Bingo before lunch (about 11:00 to noon), winning \$8 among them. \$4 were contributed to the Alzheimer's fund from the winnings. Prayer was offered by Birdie Allen, then twelve attended the pot luck luncheon.

Due to unforeseen circumstances a President or VP weren't present, so we had no formal business meeting. Some news was discussed, among which the Shannons (Betty & Lawrence) are moving to the Manor Place Retirement Apartments. The usual drawings were held: #8, Henrietta Horseman, won the \$5 attendance drawing and ticket # 479935, Carolyn Taylor, won the \$4.50 share. Both were contributed to the Alzheimer's fund. So far this year the chapter has sent **\$294.60** 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: Carl L. Holmberg, 96, Harlingen, TX (4/1/07, USPS); Russell L. Coll, Sr., 94, KCK (7/31/07, widower of USDA retiree); Christine Marie Delich, 87, KCK (8/1/08, US Courts); William C. Kalich, 83, Prairie Village, KS (8/17/08, USPS); George L. Wilson, 78, KCMO (8/17/08, USPS).

Members with birthdays in September are:

Naomi K Bowen  
Albert H Clark  
Ellen C Clark  
**Wanda J Collins**  
Neil G Cordell  
Clyde R Cowgill  
Kay F Crossley  
James Dangerfield  
Dorothy L Dusek  
Shirley Jean Fairbanks  
Joann Hughes  
Sibyl J Johnson

Catherine T Mastro  
Margaret D Miller  
**Shirley J Newman**  
Doris A Schnieders  
Charles L Simkins  
Ernestine B Smith  
Marjorie U Spitzengel  
Velma J Storz  
Margaret I Swain  
John W Tritle  
Emmett J Tucker  
Travis R Worten  
**BOLD** = Attends many meetings

The 24 members above have an age range of 62 to 110 and an average age of 83. Congratulations! If you were born in September 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.

Thanks to Mary Relic for the envelope full of Best Choice UPCs!

**Future Meetings: September:** We will pursue 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!**

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:** In one of its last actions before leaving for their summer recess, the House attached provisions involving the TSP and FERS sick leave policy to an unrelated bill on tobacco policy, HR-1108 (business as usual!) then passed that bill. The TSP language requires the TSP to create a Roth-style option (money goes in after-tax but comes out with earnings tax-free) and to automatically enroll all new hires with a required personal contribution between 2 and 5% unless the individual specifically opts out. Also the TSP has the option of changing the default investment from the G fund to a lifecycle fund for those not specifying investment choices. The language on FERS sick leave makes FERS policy closer to the CSRS policy. Those retiring in the first three years after enactment would get service credit for ¾ of their unused sick leave and those retiring afterward would get full credit. The House bill is unclear how it would finance the costs of this new obligation, as the FERS law as it now stands requires benefits to be pre-funded. The fate of the provisions are uncertain, however, since the White House has threatened a veto of the bill to which they are at-

**DATED MEETING NOTICE**

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 <FirstMid> <LastNm>  
 <Addr1> <Addr2>  
 <City>, <State> <Zip9>**

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tached. Congress won't reconvene until after the second busiest primary day on September 9.

[The NARFE Legislative Hotline reports that a commercial website, "CongressMerge.com" is the best choice for concise information about members of Congress, including addresses, phone numbers, committee assignments and key staff people. It also has maps of district offices and voting histories.]

**CPI/Colas:** The CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) increased 0.5% in July. For purposes of calculating the next COLA, the index is 6.2% above the 2007 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter base index. The raises for FECA recipients is 5.2% higher than the December, 2007 base index.

**TSP Funds:** Almost all funds suffered losses in July: The international (I) stock fund was down 3.72%, the large-cap (C) fund lost 0.8%, the small-cap (S) fund was down 0.79% and the bond fund (F) was down 0.01%. For the last 12 months the I fund was lower by 11.64%, the S fund was lower by 7.61% and the C fund was down 10.99%. The F fund was up 6.42% over that time. The government securities (G) fund gained 0.4% in July for a 12-month gain of 4.15%. The July and 12-month returns for the lifecycle funds are: Income, zero & 1.52%; 2010, -0.23 & -0.43%; 2020, -0.82 & -4.36%; 2030, -1.07 & -5.95%; and 2040, -1.31 & -7.41%.

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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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**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 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

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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.  
 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.  
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