

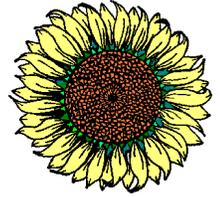


THE WYANDOTTE SCOUT

Sunflower Chapter 1160, Kansas City, KS

Byron Nichols, Editor byron666@earthlink.net

April & May, 2009 (Volume 34, Number 3)



APRIL MEETING: 11:00 A.M., Friday, 04/03/09 (a week early due to Good Friday holiday)

MAY MEETING: 11:00 A.M., Friday, 05/08/09

All at the Pat Hanlon Senior Center, 1101 Ridge Ave., KCK

NOTE: To save postage, we have changed publication of the Scout to every other month. Sorry for any inconvenience.

We invite you to attend the Fourth Annual Josef Meditz Memorial Luncheon, Friday, April 3, 2009 at the Pat Hanlon Senior Center, 1101 Ridge Avenue, Kansas City, KS (one block north of Central, under the Fire Station).

Parking is in the lot for the mini-park northwest of the fire station.

This honors Josef Meditz, 12-year Chapter President (1976 to 1987) and recruiter of over 100 members. He was a member for 35 years, from March, '70 until his death in October, '04, and performed this Chapter a great service.

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

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

The luncheon is FREE to all participants.

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

We will have our annual Chapter Memorial Service before the luncheon, about 11:45, honoring those chapter members who died since the last service in November.

Buffet Lunch will be served starting at Noon -- Catered by Meissen Catering Services.

Musical Entertainment during lunch will be provided by: Mrs. Doris Davis

The menu includes: Roast Beef or Baked Chicken, Broccoli Salad, Twice-baked Potato Casserole, Green Beans Almondine, Egg Dinner Rolls & Butter, Filled Cookie Assortment and Coffee, Iced Tea or Lemonade.

Those who wish to attend who have not been contacted by our calling tree need to call or e-mail an officer ASAP (by March 26th) so the caterer will have enough food for everyone. If your plans change after reservation, please call to cancel.

Please leave both a message and phone number.

Officers are listed on the back of this newsletter. Please RSVP ASAP !!

February Meeting: We had two guests this month, Area 1A Vice-President Eugene Harter and his wife, Sally. We also had a new member come to the meeting for the first time, Rev. Grady Felder, who just joined in January.

About 12 persons played 6 Bingo games before lunch (about 11:15am to noon). \$5 of the winnings were contributed to the Alzheimer's fund. Prayer was offered by Birdie Allen, then 15 members attended the pot luck luncheon.

The business meeting started at 1:05 with the usual prayer and flag salute. Minutes were read for the January meeting by secretary Wanda Collins, and they were approved as read. Correspondence were read by President Barger then passed around.

The M112 membership reports for January

and February were summarized by President Barger. We have three new members, three deceased members, two reinstatements and four members dropped for non-renewal.

The treasury report was read by Treasurer Byron Nichols and accepted for audit. Treasurer Nichols presented a projected budget for 2009, taking into account possible reductions in dues due to membership losses, increased per-capita dues and other trends. We will have a projected deficit of over \$200 unless steps are taken to reduce costs or raise revenues. The only suggestion was to change mailing the Scout to every other month, saving about \$250. We may try some unspecified fund raisers also. Bills were ratified, both those paid prior to the meeting and those awaiting payment, including postage for the Scout and a set of mailing labels.

We had a short presentation from our guest, Area VP Harter, who talked about the upcoming convention, nationwide membership worries and other topics.

We have switched our annual chapter memorial service to the April meeting, the same as the annual Josef Meditz Memorial Luncheon, to better coordinate with the convention and to present honors to the deceased when more members attend. Our callers will be contacting members during March.

The Alzheimer's ticket drawing was #480152, Henrietta Horseman, for \$4.25. The attendance drawing was #1, Byron Nichols, for \$5. Both were contributed to the Alzheimer's fund. A total of \$23.25 was collected for Alzheimer's this month (Bingo, tickets and attendance prize from the chapter). So far this year the chapter has sent **\$41.75** to the Kansas Federation Alzheimer's coordinator (or, about \$0.16 per official member).

The meeting was adjourned at 1:56.

March Meeting: About 10 persons played 5 Bingo games before lunch (about 11:15am to noon). \$1.50 of the winnings were contributed to the Alzheimer's fund. Prayer was offered by Birdie Allen, then 13 members attended the pot luck luncheon.

The business meeting, attended by 11 members, started at 1:05 with the prayer by chaplain Birdie Allen, followed by the flag salute. Minutes were read for the February meeting by secretary Wanda Collins, and they were approved as read. Correspondence were read by President Barger then passed around.

The treasury report was read by Treasurer Byron Nichols and accepted for audit. No bills needed to be ratified.

Delegates to the Manhattan convention April 26-28, so far, will be President Regina Barger, Treasurer Byron Nichols and Alzheimer's Chair Kathy Zunick. The host of the convention, Chapter 366, are selling lottery tickets for the event. One is for a beautiful handmade quilt at \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The other is for cash prizes of \$250 for first, \$100 for second and \$50 for third place, and cost \$1 each. These plan to be available at the luncheon next month.

The Alzheimer's ticket drawing was for 480197, Wanda Collins, for \$3.60. The attendance drawing was #11, Regina Barger, for \$5. Both were contributed to the Alzheimer's fund. A total of \$13.75 was collected for Alzheimer's this month (Bingo, tickets and attendance prize from the chapter). So far this year the chapter has sent **\$55.50** to the Kansas Federation Alzheimer's

coordinator (or, about \$0.21 per official member).

The meeting was adjourned at about 2pm.

Reminder: Please send us your **"Best Choice"** UPC codes when you get a bunch! (It's not worth using 43 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 \$\$.

A big thanks to member Mary Relic for her submission of Best Choice UPCs. We are well on our way to the next 1000 that we exchange for \$30 to donate to Alzheimer's Research.

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.

Remember -- for ALL meetings, if you wish to play Bingo, bring your nickels & dimes. We usually play from just after 11 AM until lunch. Please Come! (We **can** make change for \$1 bills!)

Membership Update: No members deceased since January 1, 2009.

Members with birthdays in **March** are:

Rachel J Brady	Nevada Kibble
Margaret Flattery	Theresa M Ruzick
Robert L Flattery	Betty J Shannon
Vernon Gibbons	Yusuf Shareef
Edna I Gunther	Barbara L Wells
Della E Jordan	

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
Geraldine E Darden	David Wilkins
Frank A DeSeure	William L Williamson
Norma L Finn	

Members with birthdays in **May** are:

Dorothy M Barrett	Robert E Kavanaugh
Charles K Bornschein	Lena M O'Malley
Donald C Breiby	Mary M Oliver
Phyllistine A Breiby	Deloris R Raymer
Maria Dinges	LaVerne Robinson
Charles E Fithian	Valentine J Ruzick
M Louine Herman	Barbara R Stafford
Larnell Johnson	

BOLD = Attends many meetings yearly

The 43 members above have an age range of 67 to 97 and an average age of 83 ½. Congratu-

lations! If you were born in March, April or 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 \$4.40 over annually paid dues (\$30.60 national plus chapter vs. \$35.00). 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 or on the website, www.narfe.org.

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

Congress: Broad Retirement Bill Offered:

Legislation (HR-1263) combining several former proposals has been introduced by the new chairman of the House federal workforce subcommittee, Rep. Stephen Lynch (D, MA). It would require the TSP to add a Roth option, where money goes in after-tax and comes out tax-free, the opposite of current arrangements; would require new hires be automatically enrolled in TSP, but with an opt-out provision; would allow the TSP to offer investors access to investment funds other than the ones offered by TSP itself; make unused sick leave for FERS employees creditable as time served for the annuity computation as for CSRS; revise the disincentive for CSRS employees to work part-time near the end of their careers, phasing into retirement; and allow annuitants to pay FEHB (health) and FLTCIP (long-term care) premiums with pre-tax money under a premium conversion arrangement as now available for active employees for only the FEHB. Most of these provisions were introduced before, usually as amendments to other bills which failed in various ways.

Other Bills: [1] (HR-1203/S-491) would make federal retirees eligible for premium conversion. [2] S-484 was introduced to repeal the GPO and WEP, mainly for CSRS retirees who are eligible for Social Security as a spouse or on their own accord (The House companion, HR-235 was introduced earlier.). [3] Also separate bills (HR-1198 & S-469) were introduced on the CSRS part-time work issue. [4] As well, bills are being reintroduced to allow the government to rehire federal retirees part-time, with limits, without an offset between salary and annuity as required under current law. [5] HR-626 was introduced to provide four weeks of paid parental leave for federal employees. Currently, only unpaid leave is available, up to 12 weeks. A similar bill failed last year.

CPI/COLA News: Obama's proposed bud-

get for 2010 would create a disparity between civilian and active-duty military pay raises and require more affluent Medicare beneficiaries to pay higher Part D drug program premiums. NARFE supports pay parity between civilian and military raises and opposes Medicare means testing.

The CPI-W was positive for the first time in the current fiscal year, starting in October, with a 0.4% raise in January. But, due to earlier drops, the count remains in negative territory at -4.5%. Should the count through September finish negative, annuities would **not** be reduced. This also starts the adjustment for FECA beneficiaries with a 0.4% positive index.

Stimulus Package Provisions: Under the terms of the stimulus package (P.L.111-5) tax relief via reduced payroll tax withholding will be provided to wage earners. Also, Social Security, Veterans, Supplemental Security and Railroad Retirement beneficiaries who are not otherwise wage earners will receive a one-time \$250 payment from the government without having to file any extra paperwork. Due to NARFE advocacy, federal retirees who are not eligible for any of these payments will be eligible to take a newly-created \$250 per person "refundable tax credit" for the 2009 tax year. Guidance on how Social Security retirees can apply for the credit is not yet available, but they will get something also.

TSP Funds: The three stock-index oriented TSP funds posted losses exceeding 10% in February, with the International stock (I) fund losing 10.23%, the small company (S) fund dropping 10.22% and the large company (C) fund down 10.64%. This brings their 12-month losses to 49.91%, 44.62% and 43.29% respectively. The bond (F) fund was also down for February by 0.39% but has a 12-month gain of 2.17%. The government securities (G) fund gained 0.21% in February for a 12-month gain of 3.57%. The life-cycle funds monthly and 12-month returns are: Income, -1.98 & -7.49%; 2010, -2.95 & -13.13%; 2020, -6.22 & -27.94%; 2030, -7.47 & -33.3%; and 2040, -8.52 & -37.77%.

The TSP has issued guidance on the recently enacted P.L.110-458 that suspends, for calendar year 2009 only, the requirement that participants who are retired or otherwise separated, must start drawing down on their accounts no later than April of the year they turn age 70. Those in that situation who are currently taking such distributions in the form of monthly payments may reduce those payments to as little as \$25 per month. Legislation has been introduced to waive the minimum distribution for next year as well.

DATED NOTICE - APRIL MEETING

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Chapter Officers		
President	E. Regina Barger	913-342-8256
Vice-President	LaVerne Robinson	913-371-7720 save900@aol.com
Recording Secretary	Wanda Collins	913-621-3849
Public Relations and Service Officer	Theodore J Robinson	913-371-7720 save900@aol.com
Treasurer and Newsletter Editor and Roster	Byron Nichols	816-333-5151 byron666@earthlink.net
Alzheimer's Chair	Kathy Zunick	913-281-3335
Membership Chair	Shirley Newman	913-334-2544

"What is a Grandparent?"

[My AARP chapter treasurer forwarded me this.]

(taken from papers written by a class of 8-year-olds)

Grandparents are a lady and a man who have no little children of her own. They like other people's.

A grandfather is a man & a grandmother is a lady!

Grandparents don't have to do anything except be there when we come to see them. They are so old they shouldn't play hard or run.

It is good if they drive us to the shops and give us money.

When they take us for walks, they slow down past things like pretty leaves and caterpillars. They show us and talk to us about the color of the flowers and also why we shouldn't step on "cracks."

They don't say, "Hurry up."

Usually grandmothers are fat but not too fat to tie your shoes.

They wear glasses and funny underwear.

They can take their teeth and gums out.

Grandparents don't have to be smart.

They have to answer questions like "why isn't God married?" and "How come dogs chase cats?".

When they read to us, they don't skip. They don't mind if we ask for the same story over again.

Everybody should try to have a grandmother, especially if you don't have television because they are the only grown ups who like to spend time with us.

They know we should have snack-time before bed-time and they say prayers with us every time and kiss us even when we've acted bad.

A 6 year old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh," he said, "she lives at the airport and when we want her we just go get her. Then when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport."

Grandpa is the smartest man on earth! He teaches me good things but i don't get to see him enough to get as smart as him!

It's funny when they bend over, you hear gas leaks and they blame their dog!"

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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.

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 memsrvc@narfe.org.

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