



**Sunflower Chapter 1160
Kansas City, KS
Byron Nichols, Editor**

AUGUST MEETING:

11:00 A.M., Friday, 08/14/09

SEPTEMBER MEETING:

11:00 A.M., Friday, 09/11/09

**Both at the Pat Hanlon Senior Center,
1101 Ridge Ave., Kansas City, KS**

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, Roster and Newsletter Editor	Byron Nichols	816-333-5151 byron666@earthlink.net
Alzheimer's Chair	Kathy Zunick	913-281-3335
Membership Chair	Shirley Newman	913-334-2544

June Meeting: About 9 persons played 6 Bingo games before lunch (about 11:15am to Noon). Seven players won about \$6 and five of them gave \$5 between them to the Alzheimer's fund. Noon to 1:00pm was the pot-luck luncheon. All the food was excellent, as usual.

The business meeting, attended by 13 members, started at 1:05 with the prayer by chaplain Birdie Allen, followed by the flag salute. There were no birthdays for meeting attendees for June. Minutes were read for the May meeting by secretary Wanda Collins, then approved.

The treasury report for May business was read by Treasurer Byron Nichols and accepted for audit. Bills were ratified and paid.

The menu for the July picnic was discussed. Meat (brisket and chicken) will be paid for by the chapter. Among the attendees, we will have a fairly complete picnic. We'll take our chance with those seeing the call for food in the previous newsletter.

The Alzheimer's ticket drawing was for #480255, Henrietta Horseman, for \$3.75. The attendance drawing was #3, Sylvia Williams, for \$5. Both were contributed to the Alzheimer's fund. A total of \$17.50 was collected for Alzheimer's this month (Bingo, tickets and attendance prize from the chapter). So far this year the chapter has sent **\$171.67** to the Kansas Federation Alzheimer's coordinator (about \$0.64 per official member).

The meeting was adjourned at about 1:45pm.

July 'Picnic': About 18 members and guests attended the picnic. We played 8 Bingo games before lunch (about 11 am to noon). Prizes ('white elephants') were awarded for games won. Prayer was offered by Birdie Allen, then we had lunch. We had more food than expected; along with the brisket and fried chicken we had burgers & brats; beans, salads, deviled eggs, chips & dips, etc. Dessert was a choice of cakes, cookies and ice cream. After lunch, some attendees played dominoes, while the rest played four more Bingo games, with the last one, a Blackout, paying out a \$2 bill for all winners as well as a prize. We will be giving out more prizes at the next meeting(s) until they're gone.

There was no official business meeting. Birthday wishes were delayed until next month.

The Alzheimer's ticket drawing was for #480288, Birdie Allen, for \$7.50. The attendance drawing was #10, Jean Collins, for \$5. Both were contributed to the Alzheimer's fund. A total of \$15 was collected for Alzheimer's this month. So far this year the chapter has sent **\$186.67** to the Kansas Federation Alzheimer's coordinator (or, about **73¢** per member).

The picnic ended at about 2 pm.

--- --- --- --- --- --- --- --- ---

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: Deceased: Valerie M Noble, 96, KCK; 05/28/09, widow of USPS retiree; Milton F Adams, 82, Overland Park, 6/13/09. IRS.

Members with birthdays in **August** are:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Lula B Anderson | Violet R Jones |
| 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 | Betty E Robinson |
| Anna W Hamm | Frances K Sachen |
| Adelaide E Hartung | Edward C Welty |
| Henrietta L Horseman | Kathryn A Zunick |
| Kenneth M Jones | |

Members with birthdays in **September** are:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Naomi K Bowen | Margaret D Miller |
| Albert H Clark | Shirley J Newman |
| Ellen C Clark | Doris A Schnieders |
| Wanda J Collins | Charles L Simkins |
| Kay F Crossley | Ernestine B Smith |
| James Dangerfield | Marjorie U Spitzengel |
| Dorothy L Dusek | Velma J Storz |
| Shirley Jean Fairbanks | Margaret I Swain |
| Joann Hughes | John W Tritle |
| Catherine T Mastro | Emmett J Tucker |

BOLD = Attends many meetings yearly

The 43 members above have an age range of 63 to 102 and an average age of 83. Congratulations! If you were born in August or 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 chapter officer list.

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

Congress: On June 22 President Obama signed the "Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act" (P.L.111-31). Besides changes in how the government can control the production of tobacco products, items related to the TSP were included. Newly hired employees will automatically be enrolled in the TSP with a matching contribution from their agencies. Also, a Roth-type option will be added to the TSP, which allows participants to make after-tax contributions to TSP accounts then withdraw earnings tax-free upon retirement. Furthermore, participants will be allowed to invest in mutual funds outside the investment funds currently offered by TSP. For more detailed coverage, see the NARFE website (URL is <http://www.narfe.org/departments/home/articles.cfm?ID=1827>). Also, under current law, a spouse married to a TSP participant who passes

away is required to transfer the inherited account to an IRA or take it as a cash withdrawal subject to income taxes. The new law would allow the spouse to retain the TSP account under the same rules as any other TSP participant.

On June 25, the House approved the Fiscal Year 2010 Defense Authorization bill H.R.2647, which included most of the civil service reform proposals which did not make their way into the Tobacco Bill, including a plan to allow FERS workers to credit their unused sick leave toward retirement. Left out were plans to allow re-employment of federal annuitants on a temporary basis without loss of either salary or annuity. Senators are still looking to include some provisions in the Senate version of the Defense bill.

Health News: During the week ending July 17, two of the three House committees conducting markups on massive health care legislation completed their work. Both Senate and House versions are undecided on how to pay for the massive programs, with a possibility of taxing healthcare benefits provided by employers, a surtax on the "rich" (whomever that turns out to be), or a combination of both. NARFE is still hoping to include Premium Conversion in the bills, but demand for funding may nix any real hope of passage or inclusion.

Eligible persons can continue to apply for FLT-CIP (long-term care insurance) under the terms that existed since program inception, but they may face premium increases starting in 2010. Certain new benefit options will become available in the fall, and anyone enrolled in the program by then will be eligible for those options. Premium increases of up to 25% will take effect in January, 2010 for those with automatic inflation protection and who were under age 70 at the time they applied. Enrollees who face premium increases will have a chance to revise their benefits package in a way that will keep their premiums about the same (called "landing spots"), although benefits would have to be reduced; for example, extending waiting period before benefits begin or changes in the total period of coverage. Options will be explained to enrollees in a letter in the fall.

CPI/COLA News: The CPI-W increased in June for the sixth consecutive month, for 1.1%. It had declined for the previous five months in 2008. For purposes of calculating the next COLA, the index is still 2.1% lower than the 2008 third quarter base index. Should the count through September finish negative, annuities would **not** be reduced,

just frozen. The index for FECA benefits, on a calendar-year basis, is now 3% higher than the December, 2008 index.

TSP Funds: [FedWeek didn't publish news about TSP rates ending in June. This will hopefully be available for the next newsletter.]

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.

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 on the NARFE website: www.narfe.org.

= = = = =
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.

= = = = =
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)

= = = = =
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.

Reminder: Please send us your **"Best Choice"** UPC codes when you get a bunch! (It's not worth using 44¢ to mail one or two!) We get \$30 per 1000 codes (3¢ 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 \$.

**Byron Nichols, Editor, c/o
NARFE Sunflower Chapter 1160
9000 Holly Street
Kansas City MO 64114-3528**

**NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
KANSAS CITY KS
PERMIT NO 106**

DATED MEETING NOTICE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**ID#: <ID#>
<FirstMid> <LastNm>
<Addr1> <Addr2>
<City> <State> <Zip9>**