

NARFE Sunflower Chapter 1160
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THE WYANDOTTE SCOUT

Vol.38, #3 April Special, 2013

Sunflower Chapter 1160 Kansas City, KS Byron Nichols, Editor	APRIL MEETING 04/12/2013	President: Byron K. Nichols	816-333-5151 byron666@earthlink.net
		Vice President: Laverne Robinson	913-371-7720
Meets at the Hanlon Senior Center 1101 Ridge Ave, KCK 66102 11:00 AM		Recording Secretary: Wanda Collins	913-621-3849
		Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Roster: Byron K. Nichols	816-333-5151 byron666@earthlink.net
		Alzheimer's Chair: Kathy Zunick	913-281-3335
		Membership Chair: Shirley J. Newman	913-334-2544

April Meeting: After the usual potluck lunch, about 1:00 PM, we will have our chapter memorial program where we read the names of members who died during the previous year. We will then have a speaker from the 'Area Agency on Aging' about Medicare, Medicaid and senior housing. A short business meeting will follow. We will **not** be having a memorial luncheon for Joe Meditz this year due to lack of funds.

March Meeting: Three members & one guest were present for lunch, and then attended the business meeting starting at 12:45pm. Treasurer Byron Nichols was presiding officer, assuming the position of chapter president since no one else will take the job. No attendees had a birthday in March. No minutes were read, as Secretary Collins wasn't present. The Treasury Report for February business was read and approved. No other committees reported due to lack of attendance. Bills were ratified for the Mar/Apr Scout postage, the

Alzheimer's contribution and a half-page ad for the convention program. Kathy Zunick decided to sign up for the convention, making three attendees. The Area 1A VP, Judy Etter, was our guest. She discussed with us what we may have to do about our chapter. An e-mail from the KS NARFE President indicated it would probably be best for us to combine with another chapter. Our convention attendees will discuss this with officials at the convention in April. [The closest chapter to most in KCK would be the Shawnee Mission chapter, which meets in Overland Park. The next closest, Leavenworth, is 40 to 50 miles away.] The attendance drawing went to #4, Judy Etter, and the Half-and-half ticket drawing went to #857397, Byron Nichols. Both prizes were contributed to Alzheimer's. The meeting was adjourned at about 1:40pm.

2013 Kansas Convention: We will have three members attending the convention: Byron Nichols, Carolyn Taylor and Kathy Zunick, all of which should be on a committee and will have

reports next month.

Remember - for ALL meetings, if you wish to play Bingo, bring your nickels & dimes. We usually play from just after 11 AM until lunch. Cost is 5¢ per card per game, 10¢ per card for the Blackout game (this will fund the winners' prize). Please Come! (We **can** make change for \$1's!)

Membership Update: **New Members:** Robert A. Harrison, KCK. **Dropped for non-renewal:** 2. **Reinstated:** none. **New Deaths:** Helen Huff, 84, 3/2/13, KCK, Dept. of Labor; Robert L. Flattery, 92, 3/4/13, KCK, Air Force; Marie Mitchell, 97, KCK, 3/12/13, (widow of a USPS retiree); William A Harris, per March 2013 M112 (National member, no other info available). We now have **181** members.

Note to families of members: When a member passes on, please be sure to contact NARFE headquarters to either stop dues billing or withholding or to transfer membership to a widow or widower. Thank You.

Legislative, Financial and Health News (summarized from FEDWeek & GEMS Bulletins and NARFE Legislative Hotlines): Political leaders are wrapping up work on the 2013 fiscal year budget (over 6 months late) with a catchall spending measure. It cancels the 0.5% raise that would have gone in effect in April and avoids the threat of a partial government shutdown. But it leaves in place sequestration cuts and unpaid furloughs starting soon. The measure allows for some fund-shifting inside agencies and specifically prevents furloughs for Department of Agriculture food inspectors. The affect on the DoD hasn't been determined yet, but both the Army and Air Force said that few employees would be exempted.

Both the House and Senate are also turning their attention to the 2014 budget that begins in October. The House version leaves sequestration in place and also orders a 10% workforce cut by attrition over two years. It also requires an increase in employee contributions toward retirement of more than 5%. The Senate version takes just the opposite position on all those issues. Reconciling the two competing versions will be a lengthy and difficult process. It is expected to be combined with the necessity to raise the federal debt ceiling sometime in May. The White House's

own budget plan, still lacking in detail, will seek a 1% federal raise next January.

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NARFE Headquarters: 1-703-838-7760 (hq@narfe.org)
606 N. Washington St, Alexandria, VA 22314
(phone 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 E-mail memberrecords@narfe.org.

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Other numbers/websites/e-mails of Interest:
V.A.: www.va.gov; 800-827-1000
TSP: www.tsp.gov; 877-968-3778
Social Security: www.ssa.gov; 800-772-1213
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Membership Rosters are in an 8.5" x 11" format.
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If any member who doesn't attend meetings wishes to contribute to the Alzheimer's Fund, **please write the chapter number on the check (Chapter 1160) and make your check out to "NARFE/Alzheimer Research"**. You may either send the check to the **Chapter Treasurer** (see the return address area) or send it directly to: **Alzheimer's Association, 225 Michigan Avenue, 17th Floor, Chicago, IL 60601-7633**. If you send the check to the chapter, we'll forward the contribution to the state coordinator and mention you with thanks in the Scout.). Thanks to all.

Note to members: Dues Withholding saves the national organization money (no bills to mail out) and it saves those who renew annually \$6 each year (the equivalent of Chapter dues) [\$40 national plus \$6 chapter vs. \$40 total under dues withholding (effective as of August, 2011)]. You don't have to remember to write that check or risk being dropped. **62%** of our members required to pay dues are already using withholding, why not you? Applications are on the NARFE website at: www.narfe.org.

Reminder: Please send us your "Best Choice" UPC codes when you get a bunch! (It's not worth the postage 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 NARFE/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 postage).