

**DATED MEETING NOTICE**

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 **THE WYANDOTTE SCOUT** Vol.38, #5 July & August, 2013

Sunflower Chapter 1160 Kansas City, KS Byron Nichols, Editor	Meets at the Hanlon Senior Center 1101 Ridge Ave, KCK 66102 11am Bingo; Noon Lunch; 1pm Business Meeting	JULY 07/12/2013 (already met)	AUGUST 08/09/2013
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**Future Meetings:** We plan to have a program soon. A special Scout issue will be mailed when we find a speaker.

**June Meeting:** Four early attendees played bingo. Seven members and one guest were present for the potluck lunch, from noon to 12:45. Our guest was Debbie Fowler from Manor Place Senior Living (6016 Leavenworth Rd, KCK 66104). She gave an overview of the services offered and approximate cost of living there. If you want information, call her at 913-334-2065.

The business meeting had a valid quorum (5). No attendees had a birthday in June, but Lillian Green reported on those she called for June. Secretary Wanda Collins read the minutes for the April & May meetings, which were approved. The combined treasurer's report for March, April & May was read and approved. Two bills were submitted for payment, \$17 for the June Alzheimer contribution and \$4.18 for kitchen supplies. The \$5 attendance drawing was won by #3, Kathy Zunick, and the Half-and-Half ticket #857458 for \$6 went to Lillian Green. Both drawings were contributed to the Alzheimer's Fund. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45pm.

**July Meeting:** Four members played Bingo before lunch. Six members and two guests were present for the potluck lunch.

Six voting members and guests Judy Etter, Region 1A VP, and husband Dale were present for the business meeting, called to order at 1:15pm.

The invocation was led by Judy Etter. Minutes of the June meeting were read by Secretary Wanda Collins and accepted by acclamation. The treasurer's report was read by Byron Nichols and accepted for audit. Alzheimer's Chair Kathy Zunick reported we need a few more UPCs to send in for redemption this year. We paid Carolyn Taylor and Byron Nichols for the April state convention registration and meals.

A special election was called to install new officers due to rules preventing the current temporary president, Byron Nichols, from holding that job and treasurer at the same time. The members present elected Carolyn Taylor as treasurer, who expressed interest to try an office at the conven-

tion, and Byron Nichols as the official president. Judy Etter swore in the new officers.

The \$5 Attendance drawing, #5 was won by Wanda Collins, and the Half-And-Half drawing prize of \$8.50 was also won by #657486, Wanda Collins, who returned both to Alzheimer's. The meeting was adjourned at 2pm.

**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 (these will fund the winners' prize). Please Come! (We **can** make change for \$1's!)

**Membership Update: New Members:** none. **Dropped for non-renewal:** two. **Reinstated:** one. **Transfer out of the chapter:** none. **New Deaths (3):** Anna W Hamm, 96, 7/6/13, KCK, IRS; Ellen C Clark, 102, on 7/10/13 M112 report (no obit found), Shawnee, KS, Soc Sec Admin; Cecil K Woods, 97, 7/13/13, KCK, USPS. We now have **174** members.

Members with birthdays in **July** are:

Alfred W Bridgeman	Norma J Kelly
Edward F Burgess	Florence Lockridge
Donald L Edwards	Betty J Morrison
Ann J Felich	Theodore J Robinson
Lola M Forbes	Muriel Y Rucker
Zeilla M Jester	GuyAnne Wilkins

Members with birthdays in **August** are:

Lula B Anderson	Kenneth M Jones
Clifford T Bauhard	Richard E Miller
Barbara A Bennett	Caroline J Pippin
Noah Bland	Doris E Priest
Bertha L Cole	Betty E Robinson
Adelaide E Hartung	Frances K Sachen
Henrietta L Horseman	Kathryn A Zunick

The 25 members above have an age range of 68 to 95 and an average age of 84½. Congratulations! If you were born in July or August and not in the list, please notify the editor at the return address on the cover or e-mail address in the chapter officer list.

**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):**

A 'guideline' budget released in mid-April by the president proposed a switch from the current CPI calculation to a "chained CPI", which changes the effects of various segments of the economy on salaries, benefits, and tax calculations (and has never been properly explained). The bottom line is that the chained CPI will lower inflation adjustments in salaries and benefits, accumulating over time, while raising taxes for lower and middle income taxpayers. While the current CPI-W doesn't accurately reflect the costs older Americans face (it de-emphasizes health care costs), the new chained CPI will do an even worse job. I suggest going online to the NARFE website (for those able to) and find the articles and calculators to estimate the loss in future benefits.

Recently introduced legislation (HR-1780 and others) may eliminate the FEHB program and require enrollees to move into the health insurance exchanges under Obamacare. The proposal comes from an attempt to provide Congress with only the types of coverage available to general citizens, but current federal employees and retirees weren't specifically mentioned. Congress and their staffs may also lose the employer contribution toward premiums. This issue is still in flux, with no one agreeing how it will be implemented, just like all other issues dealing with Obamacare (as many regulations have yet to be written, even after the law went partially into effect).

A key component of NARFE's legislative agenda has finally seen some action. Legislation to repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) has been introduced both in the House (HR-1795) and the Senate (S-896). Action letters have been placed on the NARFE Legislative Action Center for you to modify and send to your representative and two senators, urging their co sponsorship.

The annual report of the two public trustees for Social Security and Medicare has been released, and is quoted, in part here: "Both the Social Security and Medicare programs face substantial financing shortfalls that require legislative corrections, but the implications are different for each one. Of the two programs, Social Security faces the larger actuarial imbalance as well as the most immediate threat of trust fund depletion, again projected in 2016 for its Disability Insurance (DI) Trust Fund. Accordingly, more far-reaching legislative measures are required to maintain the solvency of Social Security relative to Medicare. On the other hand, Medicare is projected to experience relatively greater cost growth over the long-range valuation period, posing greater strains for the federal budget as a whole due to the extent to which it's financing depends on general revenues. The legislative measures required to maintain Medicare solvency are not as pronounced as they are for Social Security, but

Medicare still requires substantial further reforms if it is not to eventually subject the general budget to severe levels of strain."

On July 16, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the June Consumer Price Index for Urban & Clerical Wage Earners (CPI-W) had increased 1.35% from the 2012 third-quarter base index (three months to go in the fiscal year). Whether this will result in a wage or benefit increase is very uncertain, given the sequestration and other budget constraints yet to be known.

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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 6:45 PM Central Standard Time.  
 Hearing impaired TDD# is 1-800-878-5707.  
 On the Web: [www.opm.gov/retire](http://www.opm.gov/retire). E-mail: [retire@opm.gov](mailto:retire@opm.gov).  
 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 (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](mailto:memberrecords@narfe.org).

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**Other numbers/websites/e-mails of interest:**  
**V.A.: [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov); 800-827-1000**  
**TSP: [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov); 877-968-3778**  
**Social Security: [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov); 800-772-1213**  
**FEDVIP: [fedvip@opm.gov](mailto:fedvip@opm.gov) FEGLI: [fegli@opm.gov](mailto:fegli@opm.gov)**  
**FEHBP: [fehbp@opm.gov](mailto:fehbp@opm.gov)**

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**Membership Rosters are in an 8.5" x 11" format.**  
**Write me a note at the return address block with \$1.00 each to offset the envelope and postage.**  
**Copies at the meeting are free.**

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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, 17<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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).

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Treasurer: <b>Carolyn Taylor</b>	913-205-7228	Alzheimer's Chair: <b>Kathy Zunick</b>	913-281-3335
Recording Secretary: <b>Wanda Collins</b>	913-621-3849	Membership: <b>Shirley Newman</b>	816-587-0508