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THE WYANDOTTE SCOUT

Vol. 41, #1; January & February, 2016
 Byron Nichols, Editor

Sunflower Chapter 1160 @ Eisenhower Rec. Center 2901 N 72 nd St., KCK 66109 (driveway south of school)	11-11:45am Bingo; Noon Lunch; 1-1:15pm Program (if any); Business Meeting after program.	2 nd FRIDAY in JANUARY 01/08/2015	2 nd FRIDAY in FEBRUARY 02/12/2015
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President: Byron K. Nichols	816-333-5151 byron666@earthlink.net
Treasurer: Jane Lenderman-Kruse	913-441-3484 quill@planetkc.com
Recording Secretary: Wanda Collins	913-621-3849

Newsletter Editor, Roster: Byron K. Nichols	816-333-5151 byron666@earthlink.net
Alzheimer's Chair: Kathy Zunick	913-281-3335
Membership: Shirley Newman	913-334-9444

As usual, this newsletter may be viewed online on the Kansas NARFE site: www.ksnarfe.org.

If bad weather occurs where driving may become hazardous (i.e. if the KCK school district cancels classes), we will cancel a meeting.

Usual attendees will be notified by phone as soon as possible.

November Meeting: Five members played Bingo before lunch. We had nine attending lunch. Ten voting members were present for the business meeting. Our guest, Judy Etter, Area 1A VP gave a short talk about some options for healthcare for Medicare enrollees. The minutes for the October meeting were read by Secretary Collins. Carolyn Taylor read the treasurer's report. No attendees had birthdays in November. Bills were authorized to be paid (\$21.25 for the November Alzheimer's contribution, \$58.80 for postage for the Nov/Dec Scout). The officer election was held for the 2015-2017 term. Most officers were retained, with the exception of a new Vice-President, Carolyn Taylor, a new Treasurer, Jane Lenderman-Kruse and a new Executive Committee member, Kay Frye. Jane also will assume the appointive jobs of backup recording secretary and the national and state Legislative Chairs. Social member Sylvia Williams is our new greeter. We will try to get a speaker for December, Ron Miller from BC/BS. The registration drawing (\$5) was won by #9, Lillian Green and the half-and-half drawing (\$6.30) was won by #858112, Carolyn Taylor. Both were contributed to the Alzheimer's Fund as well as \$3.65 from Bingo winnings. The meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm.

December Meeting: Five attendees played Bingo before lunch. We had eleven attending lunch. Nine voting members were present for the business meeting, called to order at 1:45 pm. Minutes for the November meeting were read by Secretary Collins. Jane Lenderman-Kruse read the Treasurer's report. No attendee's birthdays were in December. Bills were authorized to be paid (\$18 for the December Alzheimer's contribution). The registration drawing (\$5) was won by #7, Georgia Story, and the half-and-half drawing (\$6.50) was won by #858137, Carolyn Taylor. Both were contributed to the Alzheimer Fund. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

January Meeting: Discuss NARFE issues from the NARFE mag. (your choice).

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 some change!)

Membership Update (11/8/15 to 1/3/16): New: None. Reinstated: None. Dropped for non-renewal: Three. Transfer into chapter: None. Transfer out of chapter: None. Voluntary cancellation: None. Membership transfer from deceased member to spouse: None.

Deaths: Four: Thelma J Poole, 83, 12/3/15, KCK, DoD; Robert E Kavanaugh, 91, 12/6/15, Mission, KS, H.U.D.; Regina Hitchcock, unknown age, sometime in November '15 (no obit in KC Star), Lampe, MO; Henry L Holliday, 94, 12/12/15, KCK, Army & Army Map Service. We now have 115 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.

Members with birthdays in January:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Helen J Ambrose | E Ruth McIntosh |
| Ida Louise Bland | Mary J Relic |
| Donald C Castor | Dorothy L Weller |
| Louisa A Fletcher | Louis E White |
| Aleta M Johnson | |

Members with birthdays in February:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Roland B Berg | Dorotha V Linam |
| Betty B Cramer | Violet Rutherford |
| Lillian B Green | |

Bolded = attends meetings regularly

If you were born in January or February and not in the above list, please notify the editor at the newsletter return address or the e-mail address in the officer list above.

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

The budget agreement funding the government for the remainder of the 2016 fiscal year (ending in September) has been passed and signed. Money was added to both defense and domestic agencies, heading off the past dramas about sequestration, furloughs, etc.

Congress took no action on the President's proposed pay hike, resulting in an average of 1.3% raise, variously split between the many types of locality pay. (Due to a "lack" of inflation, social security and federal retirements will NOT be receiving a COLA.)

Legislative highlights include: Medicare Part B premiums won't increase a disproportionate amount for about 30% of beneficiaries (mostly federal retirees); NARFE's lobbying prevented Congress from reducing the rate of return in the Thrift Savings G Fund to help fund the highway funding legislation; the amount of ID Theft insurance for those with hacked personnel records was increased to \$5 million and the time duration of

protection was increased to 10 years as well; the implementation of the "Cadillac tax" on employer or union-backed health care plans was delayed until 2020.

Don't forget to read your NARFE magazine each month. It has more news and information than can be summarized here.

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"**. Send your check to the **Newsletter Editor** (see the return address area). 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. **2/3** 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).

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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.
 E-mail: 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.

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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
FEDVIP: fedvip@opm.gov FEGLI: fegli@opm.gov
FEHBP: fehbp@opm.gov

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Membership Rosters are in an 8.5" x 11" format. Write me a note to the return address block on page 1 and I will send you one (members only!).

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