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	<h1 style="margin: 0;">THE WYANDOTTE SCOUT</h1>	<p><b>Vol. 43, #1; January &amp; February, 2018</b>  <b>Byron Nichols, Editor</b></p>
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<p><b>Sunflower Chapter 1160</b>          @ Eisenhower Rec. Center          2901 N 72<sup>nd</sup> St., KCK 66109          (use driveway south of school)</p>	<p><b>11am Bingo; Noon Lunch; 12:45pm Program (if any); Business Meeting 1pm (after program). Times are approximate and subject to change</b></p>	<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> FRIDAY in JANUARY</b>  <b>CANCELLED</b></p>	<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> FRIDAY in FEBRUARY</b>  <b>02/09/2018</b></p>
<p>President: <b>Byron K. Nichols</b></p>	<p>816-333-5151          byron666@earthlink.net</p>	<p>Vice-President: <b>Kay Frey</b></p>	<p>913-299-2842</p>
<p>Sec'y/Treasurer: <b>Jane Lenderman-Kruse</b></p>	<p>913-441-3484          quill@planetkc.com</p>	<p>Sunshine: <b>Ernestine Smith</b></p>	<p>913-287-8529</p>
<p>Alzheimer's Chair: <b>Kathy Zunick</b></p>	<p>913-281-3335</p>	<p>Membership: <b>Ernestine Smith</b></p>	<p>913-287-8529</p>

**As usual, this newsletter may be viewed online on the Kansas NARFE site: [www.ksnarfe.org](http://www.ksnarfe.org).  
 If bad weather occurs and driving becomes 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:** Cancelled for Veteran's Day.

**December Meeting:** Five members played Bingo before lunch. Eight attended lunch.

The business meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm with six voting members and two others present. The pledge was recited in unison. The guest, Judy Etter, Area Vice-President, was introduced. The minutes for the October meeting were read by Secretary Kruse and accepted. Jane Kruse then read the October/November treasurer's report, which was also accepted. There were no attendees' birthdays in December. Bills were authorized to be paid (\$49.00 for the November/December Scout postage, \$7.70 for mailing tabs and \$78.03 for the December Alzheimer's contribution). As of this meeting we were down to 78 members.

The election for chapter officers was held. All former officers were reelected except for the Vice-President. Kay Frey now holds that post. Judy Etter, Area Vice-President, swore in the officers.

Judy Etter announced that the 2019 convention will be held in Park City (north of Wichita) at the Best Western Hotel. It will span only two days during the week, not on Sunday, in the last week of April.

The attendance drawing (\$5) was won by #2, Kay Frey, and the half-and-half drawing (\$6.00) was won by #858592, Sylvia Williams (both contributed to Alzheimer's). The meeting

was adjourned at 2:05 pm.

**January Meeting:** Cancelled due to weather.

**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 last game (Blackout); which funds the winners' prizes. Please Come! (We **can** make some change!)

**Membership Update (11/1/17 to 1/10/18):** New: None. Reinstated: One. Dropped for non-renewal: None. Transfer into chapter: None. Transfer out of chapter (includes optional membership): Three. Deaths: None. Voluntary cancellation: None. Membership transfer from deceased member to spouse: None. We now have 79 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 | Mary J Relic     |
| Donald C Castor | Dorothy L Weller |
| Aleta M Johnson | Louis E White    |

**Members with birthdays in February:**

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Betty B Cramer  | Violet Rutherford |
| E Ruth McIntosh |                   |
- 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 \(summarized from GEMS Bulletins, FED-Week & NARFE Legislative Hotlines\):](#)**

**New Medicare Rates Set:** The Medicare program has announced rates for 2018, with a \$134 standard monthly premium for Part B (physicians and related services); for certain beneficiaries, the premium will be slightly lower, on average \$130. The standard premium also was \$134 in 2017 although many beneficiaries paid only \$109 due to a complex provision called "hold harmless." Those with annual taxable incomes above \$85,000 for single filers and \$170,000 for joint filers will be subject to surcharges that will range from about \$54 to \$295 a month depending on income, about the same as in 2017. The Part B annual deductible remains \$183. In Part A, which covers hospitalization and related costs, the deductible will rise from \$1,316 to \$1,340 for the first 60 days and proportionate boosts also will apply to deductibles for longer periods.

**Congressional Actions:** Before lawmakers left for the holidays, The House and Senate passed a continuing resolution that kept the government funded at fiscal year 2017 levels through January 19. With an extension of funding set, leaders from Congress and the White House met to negotiate topline spending numbers for a potential bipartisan spending agreement. As lawmakers debate how much to raise the current sequestration caps, the threat against the federal community remains.

**Executive Actions:** In late December, the President issued an executive order that finalized the federal employee pay raise for 2018. The raise includes a 1.4% across-the-board increase and average additional increase of 0.5% in locality-based adjustments. The raise became effective on January 1.

**NARFE Actions:** In the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress (2017-2018), the federal community continues to face assaults on its earned benefits. As a result, NARFE's legislative efforts focused on defeating proposals attacking federal employees and retirees, as well as working toward solutions to other problems facing NARFE members. Here are the highlights of the association's accomplishments in 2017:

- 1) Thwarted ALL attempts by Congress and the President to cut the earned pay and benefits of federal employees and retirees.
- 2) Protected postal retirees' health benefits through the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program.
- 3) Helped provide more flexible withdrawal options for TSP participants, giving them more control over their own retirement savings.

The President signed the TSP Modernization Act into law, P.L. 115-84, on November 17, 2017.

As noted above, this is only until the end of 2017. Further attempts to reduce benefits will occur in 2018.

**Don't forget to read your NARFE magazine each month. It has more complete 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 "Chapter 1160" in the memo line and make your check out to "NARFE/Alzheimer Research"**. Send your check to the **Alzheimer's Chair** (see the officers' block above). We will forward the contribution to the state coordinator and mention you with thanks in the Scout. **Thanks.**

**Note to members:** Dues Withholding saves the national organization money (no bills or reminders 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. **~61%** 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) or in the *narfe* mag.

**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 will go to NARFE/Alzheimer's Research. Send them either via a member you know who goes to the meetings or to the Alzheimer's Chair in the officers' block above. 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](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](mailto:hq@narfe.org))**  
**606 N. Washington St, Alexandria, VA 22314**  
 (phone # open from 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 about address changes, deaths, etc. at 1-800-456-8410 or E-mail [memberrecords@narfe.org](mailto:memberrecords@narfe.org).

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**NARFE Legislative Hotline: 1-877-217-8234**

This may be a way to contact your Senator/Representative without as long a wait on hold as calling each office directly. Be sure to not represent yourself as a spokesperson for NARFE, only a concerned retiree.

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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 to the return address block on page 1 and I will send you one (members only).**

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