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THE WYANDOTTE SCOUT

Vol. 43, #4; July & August, 2018
 Byron Nichols, Editor

Sunflower Chapter 1160 @ Eisenhower Rec. Center 2901 N 72 nd St., KCK 66109 (driveway south of school)	11am Bingo; Noon Lunch; 12:45pm Program (if any); Business Meeting 1pm (after program). Times are approximate and subject to change	2nd FRIDAY in JULY 07/13/2018	2nd FRIDAY in AUGUST 08/10/2018
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President: Byron K. Nichols	816-333-5151 byron666@earthlink.net	Vice-President: Kay Frey	913-299-2842
Sec'y/Treasurer: Jane Lenderman-Kruse	913-441-3484 quill@planetkc.com	Sunshine: Ernestine Smith	913-287-8529
Alzheimer's Chair: Kathy Zunick	913-281-3335	Membership: Ernestine Smith	913-287-8529

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

If bad weather occurs and driving is hazardous (i.e. if the KCK schools cancels classes), or if the Rec Center is closed, we will cancel a meeting. Usual attendees will be notified by phone as soon as possible

May Meeting: Three members played Bingo before lunch, contributing \$0.55 to Alzheimer's. Five attended lunch.

The business meeting was called to order at 1:25 pm with seven voting members present. The pledge was recited in unison. The minutes for the April meeting were read by Secretary Kruse and accepted. Jane Kruse then read the April treasurer's report, which was also accepted. Bills were authorized to be paid (\$40.00 for the May/June Scout postage and \$22.55 for the May Alzheimer's contribution). As of this meeting we are down to 77 members. There were no guests or program.

The attendance drawing (\$5) was won by #6, Ernestine Smith, and the half-and-half drawing (\$8.50) was won by #858704, Kathy Zunick (both contributed to Alzheimer's). The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

June Meeting: Three members played Bingo before lunch, contributing \$3.20 to Alzheimer's. Eight attended lunch.

The business meeting was called to order at 1:45 pm with seven voting members present. The pledge was recited in unison. The minutes for the May meeting were read by Secretary Jane Lenderman-Kruse and accepted. Jane Lenderman-Kruse then read the May treasurer's report, which was also accepted. Bills were authorized to be paid (\$20.70 for the June Alzheimer's donation). As of this meeting we still have 77 members.

We had a presentation from Jim McGilley from his family's funeral business. He presented us with a summary of some of their services and gave members an opportunity to sign up for a personalized meeting with their staff to discuss needs.

The attendance drawing (\$5) was won by #5, Jane Kruse, and the half-and-half drawing (\$6.25) was won by #858746, Carolyn Taylor (both contributed to Alzheimer's). The meeting was adjourned

at 2:08 pm.

July Program: Nothing pre-planned.

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 (5/1/18 - 6/30/18):

New: None. Reinstated: None. Dropped for non-renewal: One. Transfer into chapter: None. Transfer out of chapter (includes optional membership): None. Deaths: None. Voluntary cancellation: None. Membership transfer from deceased member to spouse: None. We now have 76 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 July:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Alfred W Bridgeman | Zeilla M Jester |
| Donald L Edwards | Norma J Kelly |
| Ann J Felich | GuyAnne Wilkins |

Frances K Frey

Members with birthdays in August:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Lula B Anderson | Betty E Robinson |
| Adelaide E Hartung | Frances K Sachen |
| Kenneth M Jones | Kathryn A Zunick |

Bolded = attends meetings regularly

If you were born in July or August 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):

Social Security and Medicare face projected insolvency – During the week of June 12, the Social Security and Medicare Boards of Trustees released the 2018 annual reports for both programs. According to the new reports, Social Security and Medicare are both on a path to

long-term financial shortfalls based on scheduled benefits and financing projections. The Boards of Trustees release reports on the current and projected financial status of the two entitlement programs on an annual basis. They call for action sooner rather than later to minimize any negative impacts on beneficiaries and taxpayers. Solutions will likely take the form of benefits cuts, increased payroll taxes or a combination of both.

The reports claim that the threat of Social Security and Medicare insolvency is a consequence of an aging population as the baby-boomer generation reaches retirement as well as lower-birth-rate generations entering the workforce, which leads to a slower growth of the labor force. Social Security's total cost is anticipated to surpass total income in 2018, requiring the government to utilize trust fund money to pay scheduled benefits. This would be the first time this occurred since 1982. DI reserves are projected to be depleted in 2032 and OASI reserves in 2034. The Trustees project that HI will reach depletion by year 2026. After these funds reach depletion, the government will no longer be able to cover the total costs of scheduled benefits and will only be able to cover a portion with dedicated revenues. [Social Security is composed of two trust funds: The Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund (OASI) and the Disability Insurance (DI) Trust Fund. OASI pays retirement and survivors' benefits and DI pays disability benefits. Medicare is also composed of two separate trust funds: The Hospital Insurance (HI) Trust Fund and the Supplementary Medical Insurance (SMI) Trust Fund. HI, also known as Medicare Part A, helps seniors and the disabled pay for hospital stays and care from nursing facilities. SMI is more familiarly known as Medicare Parts B and D. Part B helps pay for outpatient care and Part D helps pay for prescription drugs.] In the case of SMI, Medicare Parts B and D, the Trustees project adequate financing for the indefinite future since the law provides for financing from general revenues as well as beneficiary premiums each year to meet the next year's expected costs. However, SMI costs are expected to increase significantly as a percentage of GDP through 2092. In response to the Social Security Board of Trustees Report, the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security recently held a hearing and agreed that there is an immediate need to act.

Senators Oppose Administration's Proposed Cuts -

On June 13, 26 Democratic senators wrote a letter to Office of Personnel Management Director Jeff Pon in opposition to the proposed \$143 billion in cuts to federal retiree pay and benefits included in the director's May 4 letter to House Speaker Paul Ryan.

The senators call upon Director Pon to avoid such cuts, "and instead commit to comprehensive reforms that modernize our government's compensation system in a way that encourages the best and brightest talent to join the ranks of our dedicated civil servants." They maintain that Pon's proposed cuts would negatively impact active and retired federal employees financially as well as hamper the government's ability to recruit and retain top talent.

The proposed cuts in Pon's original letter include: the elimination of the FERS Annuity Supplement, calculating retirement annuities using the highest five years of pay instead of three; increasing FERS employees' contributions to their retirement benefits without any corresponding increase in benefits, which is essentially a pay cut; and the reduction and even elimination of federal annuity cost-of-living-adjustments (COLAs), which are vital to protect the value of earned federal annuities from eroding through inflation.

Other members of Congress, from both sides of the aisle, have expressed strong opposition to the cuts proposed in OPM Director Pon's letter.

Please access the NARFE Legislative Action Center for a letter to push your own representatives to oppose any cuts to the earned pay and benefits of the federal community. If your congressional representatives have already expressed opposition, you should edit the letter to thank them for their support.

House GOP Members Request Reversal of Recent Executive Orders - On June 11, a group of 21 House Republicans sent a letter to President Trump requesting that he rescind his three executive orders issued May 25 regarding the discipline and removal of federal employees, federal employee

union use of official time and collective bargaining. They emphasize that the three executive orders run contrary to existing labor laws and will weaken vital protections for federal employees.

In the letter, these members of Congress urge the president to "uphold the current law and long-standing federal labor statutes that protect America's civil service from discrimination, unfair treatment and sexual harassment." They further stress the importance of management and labor working collaboratively in order to work at peak performance and deliver public services while maintaining a fair workplace. As one of the largest employers in the country and a steward of taxpayer dollars, the authors believe the federal government must serve as a model employer. The letter argues that undermining employee protections will only diminish the ability of federal employees to deliver quality public services to the American people. They further believe that the executive orders in question run contrary to the principles and checks and balances in the federal workplace that are protected by law.

Several lawsuits have been filed to stop implementation of the orders. NARFE is closely monitoring any action stemming from the orders.

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 to all.**

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. **~65%** of our members required to pay dues are already using withholding, why not you? Applications are on the NARFE website at: 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. 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 # 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.

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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: fehb@opm.gov

To contact Senators or Representatives through the Capitol switchboard: call 1-800-456-8410, option 5, then give your zip code

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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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