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 **THE WYANDOTTE SCOUT** **Vol. 40, #4; July & August, 2015**  
**Byron Nichols, Editor**

<b>Sunflower Chapter 1160</b> @ Eisenhower Rec. Center 2901 N 72 <sup>nd</sup> St., KCK 66109 (driveway south of school)	<b>11am Bingo; Noon Lunch;</b> <b>12:45 Program (if any);</b> <b>1pm (approx.) Business Meeting</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> FRIDAY in</b> <b>July</b> 07/10/2015	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> FRIDAY in</b> <b>August</b> 08/14/2015
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President: <b>Byron K. Nichols</b>	816-333-5151 byron666@earthlink.net
Treasurer: <b>Carolyn Taylor</b>	913-205-7228
Recording Secretary: <b>Wanda Collins</b>	913-621-3849

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

**NOTICE: We have moved to the Eisenhower Recreation Center as of the July meeting. It has plenty of parking and no stairs. See the above address. If you haven't attended in the past, please try to come and see our new digs.**

**May Meeting:** We met for the first time at the Bethany Center. Another group had been scheduled for the same time, using the kitchen, so we used a back part of the room on a ping-pong table (no one seems to coordinate there!) The Bingo equipment had not been moved, thus no Bingo. Some coffee supplies were moved, but we had to borrow a large percolator. We put our boxes of supplies in the cabinet (they were just stacked in a hallway; I think we found all of it). We had seven for lunch. Seven voting members were present for the business meeting, which started early at 11:40. Minutes for the April meeting were not read by Secretary Wanda Collins as she wasn't present last time and I didn't bring my notes with me (sorry). President Nichols (me) read the treasurer's report, as Carolyn Taylor arrived after the meeting began early. Bills were paid (\$35 for the remainder of the year for the Petty Cash Fund, \$73.50 for stamps for the May/Jun Scout and other business, \$33.75 for the May Alzheimer's contribution, \$86.25 for the president's convention costs and \$5.83 for lunch supplies). We discussed the possibility of meeting at the Eisenhower Rec. Center, as it has some better facilities; as recommended by Carolyn Taylor (her AARP chapter will also move there). I will tour it in the coming weeks and make my recommendation at the next meeting at Bethany. The winner of the attendance drawing was Ernestine Smith (\$5) and the winner of the half-and half drawing was Jane Kruse (\$3). Both were contributed to Alzheimer's. The meeting was adjourned at about 1:40 pm.

**June Meeting:** Some Bingo equipment had been moved to Bethany, but most seemed to be claimed by another group (only one box of cards of the four we had at Hanlon were there, and only one of the two cages had balls in it). We played Bingo, with \$3.20 being contributed to the Alzheimer's Fund. We had eight attending lunch, including one guest from Carolyn's AARP group, Evelyn Welton (she may join our group). Eight voting members were present for the business meeting. Minutes for the May meeting were read by Secretary Wanda Collins. Carolyn Taylor read the treasurer's report. Attendees had no birthdays in June. We unani-

mously approved a move to the Eisenhower Recreation Center (we repacked our stuff and I moved it Saturday morning). The Eisenhower Center doesn't have a Bingo set, but they will see if we can move one from Bethany. We may have to buy a partial set (cards and balls) from the internet if an extra set isn't available. A decent set of balls & 50 cards will cost about \$160. Coffee brewers are available; we just have to bring our own coffee and filters. Bills were authorized to be paid (\$18.20 for the June Alzheimer's contribution). We had a presentation with handouts by Carolyn Taylor about the Juneteenth celebration for this weekend (later today and Saturday) at the Big 11 Lake (11<sup>th</sup> & State). The registration drawing (\$5) was won by Lillian Green and the half-and-half drawing was won by Kathy Zunick (\$5). Both were contributed to the Alzheimer's Fund. The meeting adjourned at 2:18 pm.

**July Meeting:** We may have a speaker for the July meeting, but the program chair hasn't yet received a confirmation as of this printing. Please come to the meeting anyway!

**August Meeting:** Our chapter will have its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary in August (founded 8/27/1970). We'll have a cake and possibly the Area 1A VP and Region V VP (if they can clear their schedules). Bingo as usual, with 'special' bonus cash prizes.

**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:** New: None. Transfer into chapter: None. Reinstated: None. Transfer out of chapter: None. Dropped for non-renewal: One. Voluntary cancellation: None. Membership transfer from deceased member to spouse: One (Regina A Hitchcock). Deaths: None. We still have 130 members.

It pleases me to announce we have four more members who qualify for NARFE's Distinguished Member program (members for 20 years or more). Your certificate packages are in the mail and will arrive

shortly. Congratulations to Janet Dillman, Doris & Herbert Schneiders and Ed Shutt!

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:**

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|--------------------|---------------------|
| Alfred W Bridgeman | Norma J Kelly       |
| Donald L Edwards   | Florence Lockridge  |
| Ann J Felich       | Theodore J Robinson |
| Lola M Forbes      | GuyAnne Wilkins     |
| Zeilla M Jester    |                     |

**Members with birthdays in August:**

- |                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Lula B Anderson    | Doris E Priest          |
| Barbara A Bennett  | Betty E Robinson        |
| Noah Bland         | Frances K Sachen        |
| Adelaide E Hartung | Milton E Schroeder      |
| Kenneth M Jones    | <b>Kathryn A Zunick</b> |
| Caroline J Pippin  |                         |

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):**

On May 20, the House Education and Work-force Committee held a hearing about modernizing the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA). The hearing focused on reforms suggested by the Department of Labor in both Presidents Bush and Obama's administrations. Most proposals include noncontroversial modernizations that have received broad bipartisan support in the past, and that NARFE supports. But, there was also discussion of benefit reductions for injured federal workers once they reach retirement age, which NARFE opposes. FECA reforms may be included in budget reconciliation legislation in the near future.

The House has passed a bipartisan bill and the Senate has attached the same provisions to the 'fast-track trade authority' bill to allow federal law enforcement officers, fire-fighters, border protection officers, customs officers and air traffic controllers to take money out of their TSP accounts when they retire, without a penalty. Under current law, individuals who withdraw from their TSP prior to turning 55, if retired, or 59.5 if still working, incur a 10% penalty. Many individuals covered by the new bill are eligible for retirement at age 50 and mandatory retirement at age 57. The bill, HR-2146, passed by 407-5 and the final version was eventually passed and sent to the President's desk.

OPM has started notifying many employees and former employees whose personal information was compromised by a cyber-attack that occurred in December and discovered in April. It originally involved some four-million individuals, and has since raised to anywhere from 14 to 30 million, including names, SSNs, date & place of birth, current & former addresses, and possibly other data. The notices were supposed to be sent by June 19, and state which information was compromised. No one affected by the later discovered breach have been notified, so if you received a notice, it was from the earlier discovered breach. The investigation is ongoing, so the number of persons affected may rise and the types of information disclosed may be broader. Security clearance and payroll information do not appear to be at stake, as they are kept on systems other than the database that was hacked. The data-base didn't include records on retirees, but since the records go back some 30 years, many who have since retired may be affected. Similar attacks last year against the USPS affected nearly all their employees and an earlier one against the TSP

involved more than 100,000 account holders. In all cases, questions are being raised regarding how long it took to discover the attacks and the delay between the discovery and disclosure. Congressional hearings may be in the offing. Unions and other employee organizations are seeking a longer period of credit report monitoring than was originally pro-posed. The notices to affected persons include the offer of a complimentary 18-month subscription to a private sector credit monitoring service, along with \$1 million in identity theft insurance and access to an identity restoration service even if they don't enroll in the credit monitoring.

Sen. Brown (D-OH) introduced the 'Social Security Fairness Act of 2015' (S-1651) which would repeal the government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). Similar legislation was introduced in the House by Rep. Davis (R-IL), HR-973. NARFE supports both bills and encourages members to send letters urging their Senator/Representative to support these or thanking them for their support.

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](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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**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 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 on page 1 and I will send you one (members only!).**

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