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# THE WYANDOTTE SCOUT

**Vol. 41, #4; July & August, 2016**  
**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>11-11:45am Bingo; Noon Lunch;</b> <b>1-1:15pm Program (if any);</b> <b>Business Meeting after program.</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> FRIDAY in</b> <b>JULY</b> <b>CANCELLED</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> FRIDAY in</b> <b>AUGUST</b> <b>08/12/2016</b>
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Sunshine: <b>Lillian Green</b>	913-342-4051

**As usual, this newsletter may be viewed online on the Kansas NARFE site: [www.ksnarfe.org](http://www.ksnarfe.org).**

**THE JULY MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO THE PLANNED LACK OF WATER SERVICE AT THE EISENHOWER CENTER ON 7/8. WE WILL HAVE THE AUGUST MEETING AS USUAL.**

**May Meeting:** Five members played Bingo before lunch. \$1.80 of the winnings were donated. Seven attended lunch. The business meeting was called to order at 1:10pm with seven voting and one non-voting members (a valid quorum) present. The minutes for the April meeting were read by Secretary Collins. Jane Kruse read the treasurer's report. No one attending had a birthday. Bills were authorized to be paid (\$83.80 for the May Alzheimer's contribution, \$51.70 for postage for the May/June Scout, \$120.07 for convention costs to the President & \$40 to replenish the Petty Cash Fund for the President).

The \$60 rebate check was received from Associated Wholesale Grocers for the UPCs and deposited in the checking account. I reported about the April convention to the membership. This was detailed in the May/June newsletter.

The registration drawing (\$5) was won by #6, Kathy Zunick and the half-and-half drawing (\$8.50) was won by #858263, Carolyn Taylor. Both were contributed to the Alzheimer's Fund as well as the \$1.80 from Bingo winnings. The meeting was adjourned at 2:05pm.

**June Meeting:** Three members played Bingo before lunch. \$2 of the winnings were donated. Seven attended lunch. The business meeting was called to order at 1:24pm with seven voting members (a valid quorum). The pledge was recited in unison. The minutes for the May meeting were read by Secretary Collins. Jane Kruse then read the treasurer's report. No one attending had a birthday. A bill was authorized to be paid (\$44 for the June Alzheimer's contribution). We sold some leftover convention auction items for \$25 and included that with the Alzheimer's donation.

The registration drawing (\$5) was won by #4,

Jane Kruse, and the half-and-half drawing (\$6) was won by #858299, Ernestine Smith. Both were contributed to the Alzheimer's Fund. The meeting was adjourned at about 1:52pm.

**July Meeting:** Cancelled. See above.

**August Meeting:** No program 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 to 6/30/16):**

New: None. Reinstated: One. Dropped for non-renewal: Two. Transfer into chapter: None. Transfer out of chapter: None. Deaths: None. Voluntary cancellation: None. Membership transfer from deceased member to spouse: None. We now have 108 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 | 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    | Betty E Robinson        |
| Adelaide E Hartung | Frances K Sachen        |
| Kenneth M Jones    | Milton E Schroeder      |
| Caroline J Pippin  | <b>Kathryn A Zunick</b> |
| Doris E Priest     |                         |

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):**

**Medicare:** Based on the results so far in the inflation count, the Medicare program has projected that for 2017 a "hold harmless" provision will again mean that some of its enrollees (including most of those retired under CSRS) will have to pay higher premiums than most others. That provision restricts the increase in Medicare Part B (physicians and related services) premiums if the increase in Social Security benefits is insufficient to cover the Medicare premium increase (the same COLA count is used for adjusting both Social Security and federal employee retirement benefits). This would result in a small increase in Part B premiums for about 70 percent of Medicare beneficiaries, with increases in Part B costs spread over the remaining 30 percent. The provision impacts most CSRS retirees because Social Security is not part of that retirement benefit; however, some of them receive Social Security benefits based on other work that was covered by that program. Because there was no COLA payout in January of this year, the provision resulted in a monthly Part B premium of \$104.90 for those held harmless but \$121.80 for those not. Even that higher figure would have been still higher except for a change in law enacted late last year to ease the impact. Whether the hold harmless provision actually will kick in, and whether similar relief will be enacted later this year if it does, is to be determined. In addition to those not getting Social Security, the hold harmless provision does not protect individuals enrolling in Part B for the first time in the affected year, pre-existing enrollees who pay an income-related higher premium, and those eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid.

**COLA, etc.:** The annual Social Security Trustees Report, released in June, predicted that the fund will remain "solvent" until 2034. It also predicted a 0.2% COLA for Social Security beneficiaries in 2017. Most federal annuitants and military retirees receive the same COLA as Social Security beneficiaries. The actual percent-age will not be determined until October.

**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. **57%** 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 to the return address block on page 1 and I will send you one (members only!).**

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