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# THE WYANDOTTE SCOUT

Vol. 41, #2; March & April, 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>MARCH</b> <b>03/11/2016</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> FRIDAY in</b> <b>APRIL</b> <b>04/08/2016</b>
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**As usual, this newsletter may be viewed online on the Kansas NARFE site: [www.ksnarfe.org](http://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.**

**January Meeting:** Six members played Bingo before lunch. Eight attended lunch. The business meeting was called to order at 1:10pm with seven voting members (a valid quorum). The minutes for the December meeting were read by Secretary Collins. Jane Kruse read the treasurer's report. No attendees had birthdays in January. Bills were authorized to be paid (\$21 for the January Alzheimer's contribution, \$53.90 for postage for the Jan/Feb Scout).

Jane Kruse called OPM to find information about when retirement checks were supposed to be deposited: It is the first workday of a month, but some banks may deposit early or hold it a few days. If yours is consistently late, talk to your bank to get a good reason (or change banks).

The registration drawing (\$5) was won by #2, Jane Kruse and the half-and-half drawing (\$6.50) was won by #858144, Wanda Collins. Both were contributed to the Alzheimer's Fund as well as \$3 from Bingo winnings. The meeting was adjourned at 2:05pm.

**February Meeting:** Five members played Bingo before lunch. Nine attended lunch. The business meeting was called to order at 1:15pm with eight voting members (a valid quorum). The minutes for the January meeting were read by Secretary Collins. Jane Kruse read the treasurer's report. One attendee had a birthday in February, Lillian Green. Bills were authorized to be paid (\$20.35 for the January Alzheimer's contribution, \$172.50 for the Per-Capita dues and \$30 for a half-page ad in the State Convention program).

Jane Kruse was to attend a town hall meeting with Kevin Yoder (or staff), but due to the weather, attendees were leaving when she arrived (it was cancelled).

Your President will be the only member attending the convention in Salina in April. It is in the same hotel as in at least two past conventions, but this time it's named the Ambassador Hotel. I will attempt to bring back some relevant information.

We mailed out one more "Distinguished Member" certificate (over 20 years a NARFE member): Violet Rutherford.

We voted 'Aye' for a National Convention Bylaw Change. It changes the term for Area Vice-Presidents to 2 years from one year, starting in 2016, and elected in the same year as the Federation Presidents (which are already on a 2-year basis).

The registration drawing (\$5) was won by #6, Lillian Green, and the half-and-half drawing (\$5.50) was won by #858179, also Lillian. Both were contributed to the Alzheimer's Fund as well as \$4.35 from Bingo winnings. The meeting was adjourned at 2:25pm.

**March Meeting:** Discuss NARFE issues from the NARFE magazine (your choice) and any unfinished business from the prior meeting. **We should also try to find some items for the Alzheimer's auctions at the April convention.**

**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 (1/4 to 2/26/16):**  
 New: None. Reinstated: None. Dropped for non-renewal: None. Transfer into chapter: None. Transfer out of chapter: None. Voluntary cancellation: None. Membership transfer from deceased member to spouse: None. Deaths: None. 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 March:**

Edna I Gunther                      Barbara L Wells  
Carolyn A Taylor

**Members with birthdays in April:**

Wanda L Campbell                      Norma L Finn  
Virginia L Chiles                      Jane E Lenderman-Kruse  
Alma L Clark                      Peggy Mae White  
Bolded = attends meetings regularly

If you were born in March or April 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):**

In February 2015, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee Kevin Brady, R-TX, introduced a Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) reform bill, the Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2015 (H.R. 711). The WEP reduces the Social Security benefits of local, state and federal retirees who worked in Social Security-covered employment (e.g., private-sector jobs, FERS) and who also receive a government annuity from their non-Social Security covered government employment (e.g. CSRS). H.R. 711 would **not repeal the WEP, but reduce the penalty** on an individual's Social Security benefits. The cost of this reform would be offset by increasing the Social Security Administration's enforcement power of the WEP for local and state government retirees. H.R. 711 has a greater chance of moving through Congress and providing some relief to those penalized by the WEP than previous efforts because: its sponsor, Rep. Brady, is chairman of the committee with jurisdiction over the bill; the bill has bipartisan support and the bill is cost neutral, meaning it will not add to the deficit.

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

**Support NARFE-PAC during NARFE-PAC Month!**

March is NARFE-PAC Month, a time to recognize the importance of NARFE-PAC and ensure NARFE-PAC has the resources necessary to succeed. Please help make this the most successful NARFE-PAC Month yet: Contribute to NARFE-PAC today!

**What is NARFE-PAC?**

NARFE-PAC is a separate, segregated fund of the Association financed solely through voluntary contributions by NARFE members made explicitly for political purposes. By law, membership dues and other general funds cannot be used by NARFE-PAC. Only direct contributions to NARFE-PAC fund the Association's political work.

**Why is NARFE-PAC important?**

NARFE-PAC exists to elect fed-friendly members of Congress in order to defeat threats to your earned pay and benefits. NARFE-PAC also builds relationships with lawmakers by allowing local NARFE members to attend in-state fundraisers and NARFE's legislative staff and National Officers to attend Washington, DC, fundraisers.

**How does NARFE-PAC decide which candidates receive NARFE-PAC funds?**

All candidates, whether they are Republican, Democrat or Independent, are eligible to receive NARFE-PAC funds. Many factors are considered when deciding who should receive NARFE-PAC funds, including support of NARFE issues as evidenced by the NARFE voting scorecard, input from local NARFE members, the competitiveness of the race and the overall NARFE-PAC budget. The NARFE-PAC Board, which is made up of the two National Officers and Legislative Director, makes the final decisions regarding NARFE-PAC contributions. A federation

recommendation on the candidate is sought before any decisions are made.

**Where can I learn more?**

To learn more about NARFE-PAC, read the feature story in the **March NARFE magazine**. You also can go to the NARFE-PAC page on the NARFE website, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org), which explains NARFE-PAC policies and procedures, and details contribution and disbursement information.

**How can I contribute?**

To contribute, fill out and return the postage-paid envelope found in the cover wrap of the **March NARFE magazine**. You also can contribute online at [www.narfe.org/narfepac](http://www.narfe.org/narfepac) or at an upcoming chapter or federation event.

**Please Contribute Today!**

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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