

NARFE Sunflower Chapter 1160
c/o Byron Nichols, Editor
9000 Holly Street
Kansas City MO 64114-3528

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunflower Chapter 1160 @ Bethany Community Center 1120 Central Ave, KCK 66102 (enter from 11 th Street)	11am Bingo; Noon Lunch; 12:45 Program (if any); 1pm (approx.) Business Meeting	2 nd FRIDAY in March 03/13/2015	2 nd FRIDAY in April 04/10/2015
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President: Byron K. Nichols	816-333-5151 byron666@earthlink.net	Newsletter Editor, Roster: Byron K. Nichols	816-333-5151 byron666@earthlink.net
Treasurer: Carolyn Taylor	913-205-7228	Alzheimer's Chair: Kathy Zunick	913-281-3335
Recording Secretary: Wanda Collins	913-621-3849	Membership: Shirley Newman	913-334-9444

THE WYANDOTTE SCOUT

Vol. 40, #2; March & April, 2015

Byron Nichols, Editor

Due to a delay in relocating our supplies and other equipment from Hanlon to the Bethany Community Center, we may meet at the Hanlon Center again. The President will call the usual attendees if that is the case.

January Meeting: Five members played Bingo prior to lunch. We had six for lunch; as usual the food at the luncheon was all good and shared to take home. Six voting members were present for the business meeting. No attendees had a birthday in January. No guests attended. Minutes for the December meeting were read by Secretary Wanda Collins. Carolyn Taylor read the treasurer's report. Alzheimer's chair Kathy Zunick reported she is ready to send another thousand UPCs as soon as she gets the forms from Best Choice.. Bills were paid (\$33.09 for the Jan/Feb Scout, \$208 for the 2014 Per Capita assessment from the KS Federation, \$14 to the January Alzheimer's contribution). We discussed and decided to give up our bulk mailing permit. The cost has gone up again and we have to mail extra letters just to meet the 200 minimum. We will resume the policy of mailing only one letter to an address and not mail all chapters the newsletter (unless they request it, as some have). President Nichols reported on his visit to the KCMO Chapter 20. They're hosting the Missouri convention in April and are getting very busy making arrangements. They conduct their meeting different than we do, and are a good example of how to do it. We will probably only send one member to the Kansas Convention in Topeka this year. We need to identify items to sell at the live and silent auctions at the convention. The registration drawing was won by Wanda Collins (\$5) and contributed to the Alzheimer's Fund; the half-and-half drawing was won by Ernestine Smith (\$4.50) and contributed. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.

February Meeting: Four played Bingo prior to lunch. We had six attending lunch; as usual the food at the luncheon was all good and shared to

take home. Six voting members and one social member were present for the business meeting. One attendee had a birthday in February (Lillian Green) to whom we sang 'Happy Birthday'. Minutes for the January meeting were read by Secretary Wanda Collins. Carolyn Taylor read the treasurer's report. Bills were authorized to be paid (\$13.70 for the February Alzheimer's contribution). Our stuff is tentatively scheduled to be moved to the Bethany center, possibly prior to the March meeting. Regular attendees will be called as to where we will meet in March. We need to approve an ad for the April convention program; we normally buy a half-page size which costs \$30 this year. Some kind members have given the chapter some funds to help with newsletter postage (even though it wasn't specifically requested in the last issue). We greatly appreciate the help and contributors were either called or e-mailed with our thanks. PLEASE don't send further contributions, our treasury is capable of handling the load for the foreseeable future. Thank You! The registration drawing was won by Byron Nichols and contributed (\$5) and the half-and-half drawing was won by Carolyn Taylor (\$8) and contributed to the Alzheimer's Fund. The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 pm.

March Meeting: No planned activity.

April Meeting: Annual Memorial for Deceased Members.

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 change for ones!)

Membership Update: New: none.

Transfer into chapter: none.

Reinstated: none.

Transfer out of chapter: 1 (Helen Torrence moved to the E-NARFE Chapter 2363).

Dropped for non-renewal: none.

Voluntary cancellation: none.

Deaths: 6: **Mabel O Johnson**, 95, 01/14/15, KCK, IRS; **Clifford T Bauhard**, 96, 01/26/15, Prairie Village, KS, Army & USPS; **William L Williamson**, 91, Colorado Springs, CO, USPS; **Harold W Rucker**, 94, 02/11/15, KCK; **Fred O Peterson**, 91, 02/14/15, Tonganoxie, KS, USPS; **Yusuf Shareef**, 94, 02/18/15, KCK, USPS; **Esther E Woodard**, 94, c. 3/1/15, Broomfield, CO (lived in Bonner Springs for many years), widow of Earl, a USPS retiree.

We now have 134 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:

Margaret Flattery **Carolyn A Taylor**
Edna I Gunther Barbara L Wells

Members with birthdays in April:

Wanda L Campbell Henry L Holliday
Virginia L Chiles **Jane E Lenderman-Kruse**
Alma L Clark Peggy Mae White
Norma L Finn

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):

Congressional/Presidential actions: In the first week of February, the President sent his FY 2016 budget to Congress. It proposes only a 1.3% pay raise for federal employees for January, 2016. This means a reduction in real pay when compared to the 2.3% increase in the Employment Cost Index (last figures from 2013 to 2014). The ECI measures private sector pay and is supposed to serve as the baseline for federal pay increases. This is the third straight year the President's budget proposed a reduced pay raise (which follows a three-year pay freeze). NARFE supports House (H.R. 304 introduced by Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA)) and Senate (S. 164 introduced by Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI)) bills seeking a 3.8% pay raise to partially offset the losses. On a positive note, the budget did not include a switch to the 'Chained CPI' or a further increase in retirement contributions for current employees.

Also during the same week, Rep. Donna Edward (D-MD) reintroduced the 'Federal Employee Pension Fairness Act' (H.R.785) which would repeal the added pension contribution requirement for new hires. In 2013 they began to pay 2.3% more than their previously hired colleagues without any increase in benefits. In 2014, new hires began paying another 1.3%, or 3.6% more than those hired prior to 2013. NARFE supports H.R. 785.

Legislation introduced by Rep. Darrell Issa (R-

CA, H.R. 138)) would repeal the 'Affordable Care Act' and require the establishment of a national health program administered by OPM. It would offer benefits similar to FEHBP to citizens not eligible for the FEHBP. Because the legislation requires a separate risk pool than the current federal employee program, NARFE hasn't yet taken a position.

The President announced that he will push for states and Congress to take action offering paid leave to workers throughout the country following the birth or adoption of a child. He has already signed a presidential memorandum requiring federal agencies to advance (not give) up to six weeks paid sick leave for that purpose. On January 26, Rep. Carolyn Maloney re-introduced legislation for this. NARFE supports this 'Employee Paid Parental Leave Act'.

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. **62%** of our members required to pay dues are already using withholding, why not you? Applications are on the NARFE website at: 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. 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 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.

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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: 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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