

DATED MEETING NOTICE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THE WYANDOTTE SCOUT

Vol.39, #2; March & April, 2014

<p>Sunflower Chapter 1160 Kansas City, KS Byron Nichols, Editor</p>	<p>Meets at the Hanlon Senior Center 1101 Ridge Ave, KCK 66102 11am Bingo; Noon Lunch; 12:45 Program (if any); 1pm Business Meeting</p>	<p>2nd FRIDAY in MARCH 03/14/2014</p>	<p>2nd FRIDAY in APRIL 04/11/2014</p>
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January Meeting: The meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. The senior center was closed.

February Meeting: Two guests (Judy & Dale Etter) and seven members were present. The chapter supplied ham for the luncheon (as intended for the earlier cancelled meetings). Birthday greetings were sung for Lillian Green. November minutes were read by Wanda Collins and accepted. Carolyn Taylor read the treasurer's report. Bills were paid (postage for the Jan/Feb Scout, 2014 Bulk Mail Permit, 2013 Per-Capita Dues and assorted mailing and luncheon expenses). We had the swearing-in of 2014-2015 chapter officers by Area-VP Judy Etter. We are getting a new transfer member from Tri-County Chapter 1933, which was disbanded. The registration drawing was won by Jane Lenderman-Kruse and the half-and-half drawing was won by Ernestine Smith. Both were contributed to the Alzheimer's Fund.

March Meeting: We plan to talk about who will be sent to the convention and what to donate for the auctions. It will be held in Manhattan on April 27th to 29th (Sunday through Tuesday) at the Four Points by Sheraton. The hotel will charge \$86 per night (for 2 nights) including taxes. Registration and all meals will cost \$100.50. Manhattan is about 118 miles from the Hanlon Senior Center mostly via I-70; your mileage will vary.

April Meeting: Guest speaker planned is Jim Miller (KS Federation State Legislative Chair from Topeka), who will talk about the convention at the end of April and state legislative concerns.

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: Transfer from another chapter (Tri-County 1933): One; Robert M Call, KCMO. Dropped for non-renewal: Two. Voluntary cancellation: One. Reinstated: Two. Deaths: Two; Mary E Richard, 99, 1/27/14, Chicago, IL, GSA; Louine Herman, 91, 2/14/14, KCK, IRS. We now have 158 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:

Gunther, Edna I Wells, Barbara L
 Shareef, Yusuf

Members with birthdays in April:

Campbell Wanda L Holliday, Henry L
 Chiles, Virginia L Richard Jimmie
 Clark, Alma L White, Peggy Mae
 Darden, Geraldine Ellis Williamson, William L
 Finn, Norma L

The 12 members above have an age range of 76 to 94 and an average age of 89. Congratulations! If you were born in March or April and not in the list, please notify the editor at the return address on the

cover or e-mail address in the officer list.

Legislative, Financial and Health News (summarized from GEMS Bulletins, FEDWeek & NARFE Legislative Hotlines):

Congress & Legislation: The White House is releasing its annual budget proposal, which is supposed to be less contentious than in the past due to a Congressional agreement to a multi-year cycle and an agreement on raising the debt limit (the ceiling is suspended until March, 2015). The budget will call for a 1% employee raise next January. Employee organizations hoped it would be at least the 1.8% figure used for the starting point under federal pay law, but the law hasn't been obeyed for many years. Boosting the raise past 1% would be difficult, as the same amount is proposed for the military, and the recent budgetary deal reflects continued restrictions on hiring, travel, awards and incentive pay as a way to keep agency spending within overall limits.

The administration has said that the budget would not contain the less generous "Chained CPI" discussed late last year, and the idea to limit certain military retirement COLAs has been reversed. Also, some Capitol Hill officials have said they have received assurances that the White House won't again propose increasing employee contributions toward retirement. That idea and more could arise as Congress drafts its budget plans

The White House budget plan also could repeat proposals raised last year regarding FEHB (adding new plan designs, higher premiums for those who don't participate certain wellness programs and coverage of domestic partners). The 'self plus one' option for the FEHB, approved in late 2013, probably will not be available until at least 2016, giving more time to work out problems in the details.

A law enacted in 2012 created the authority for agencies to offer retirement-eligible employees to switch to half-time work with a prorated annuity ("Phased Retirement") that would not offset against the salary. However, OPM didn't propose implementing rules until last June and still they remain only in proposed form and therefore are not available yet. Many employees have expressed interest in this and have delayed their retirement decisions until the phased retirement is made available. Needless to say, patience is wearing thin for many.

COLA: Through four months of the count toward the January 2015 COLA, the count remains in negative territory at -0.1% (runs from October thru September each year). Should a count ever remain negative for the year, benefits would be frozen but not reduced.

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: fehb@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 with \$1.00 each to offset the envelope and postage.
Copies at the meeting are free.

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