

DATED MEETING NOTICE

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THE WYANDOTTE SCOUT

Vol.39, #3; May & June, 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 MAY 05/09/2014</p>	<p>2nd FRIDAY in June 06/13/2014</p>
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March Meeting: Five members were present. Since Secretary Collins couldn't stay, Jane Lenderman-Kruse took the minutes and Byron Nichols read the February minutes. Carolyn Taylor read the treasurer's report. Bills were paid (\$50 for two raffle tickets for the April Convention, \$23 for the February Alzheimer's contribution, \$30 for a half-page ad for the KS Convention, \$35.94 for Scout postage). We have a new member transferred from the folded Tri-County chapter, Robert Call (along with a division of their treasury). Obituaries were presented for Georgia Treib (3/3/14), Mary Richard (1/27/14), Louine Herman (2/14/14) and Imogene Baird (2/20/14). Ernestine Smith and Lillian Green reported on calls made to members with January and February birthdays. Those able to be contacted welcomed the calls. The registration drawing was won by Lillian Green (\$5) and the half-and-half drawing was won by Carolyn Taylor (\$8). Both were contributed to the Alzheimer's Fund.

April Meeting: One guest and six members were present. We had a presentation from Jim Miller, president of the Topeka chapter and the Federation State Legislative chair. He talked about happenings in the KS and national legislature which may be detrimental to us, especially a plan to get block grants from the Feds to run the Medicare program at the state level, which may change benefits, etc. (probably not good). Birthday greetings were sung for Jane Lenderman-Kruse. March minutes were read by Wanda Collins and accepted. Carolyn Taylor read the treasurer's report. Bills were paid (\$21 for March Alzheimer's contribution). Items donated for the auctions at the convention are a jade necklace and a beadwork snowman. We will only be sending one representative to the state convention in April, President Byron Nichols, and will send a proxy to the national convention later this year. The registration drawing was won by Lillian Green (\$5) and the half-and-half drawing was won by Wanda Collins (\$5). Both were contributed to the Alzheimer's Fund. The Chapter Memorial service was postponed until the May meeting due to lack of time.

May Meeting: We will have the delayed Memorial service after lunch (before the business meeting).

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. Dropped for non-renewal: none. Voluntary cancellation: none. Reinstated: two. Deaths: One; Denzal C Davison, 93, 04/09/14, Topeka, KS, IRS. We now have 156 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 May:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Dorothy M Barrett | Larnell Johnson |
| Charles K Bornschein | Robert E Kavanaugh |
| Donald C Breiby | Lena M O'Malley |
| Phyllistine A Breiby | LaVerne Robinson |

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| Charles E Fithian | Barbara R Stafford |
| Members with birthdays in June: | |
| Mary L Bentz | Martha J Orth |
| Juanita B Brooks | David S Podrebarac |
| Kathleen E Bush | Gladys R Spacek |
| Janet Dillman | Georgia C Story |
| Alvin L Drake | Evelyn J Tucker |
| Thomas P Lewis | |

The 12 members above have an age range of 69 to 102 and an average age of 85. Congratulations! If you were born in May or June and not in the list, please notify the editor at the return address on the cover or e-mail address in the officer list.

KS Convention - 4/27-29/2014 in Manhattan: Your President was the only member representing our chapter this year. Needless to say, I wasn't able to attend any meetings happening at the same time, so I hope the following will be sufficient.

I took two items for the silent auction; a jade necklace from Jane-Lenderman-Kruse and a bead snowman which I made. There were quite a few items in the silent auction this year, as well as the live auction. The Sunday night live auction netted \$2,340 (\$157 more than last year), even though only one item got more than \$100 (a patriotic-themed large quilt at \$180). The range of selling prices were from about \$10 to the above \$180, with the average (as I perceived it) of around \$35. The preliminary total Tuesday morning for the silent auction (with a few items not picked up yet and about five with no bids) was about \$3,600 (the total probably will raise by more than \$100 due to this). Jane's necklace sold for \$9, and I had to buy back my snowman for the post-auction price of \$3, so we should get credit for \$12.

I attended a legislative session at 1:30 Sunday. There were three members present (all Democrats): Rep. Sydney Carlin of district 66, Rep. Tom Phillips of district 67, both in the Manhattan area, and a third whom I didn't get his name or district while trying to take notes. Approved this year were some benefits for autism treatments in large health plans (approval for small plans due next year). \$57 million new money was approved for school funding (the courts wanted \$17 mil, but money was short). There was a debate about tenure for K-12 teachers (which they don't have now) vs. some form of enhanced due-process rights, some of which were reduced in the session. All three were against the plan to eliminate the state income tax and replace it with something else. Also passed and signed by the governor was a healthcare compact with seven other states for each state to take over administration of Medicare by having the federal government give the states block grants; then states could make their own rules for payments. This seems to be a bad idea in the most part, and will probably never happen because the Congress would have to approve it, and they wouldn't want to give up their control. (There were a few more small topics, but I couldn't take notes fast enough.)

After lunch, I attended a training session for the Online Activities Module on the NARFE website. There, chapter

officers and above may view member lists, activity reports, change members' addresses and other data, and report deaths. This will help shorten the time between when a newsletter is returned with a change of address and when I find a death in the obituaries to keep our roster more accurate. One thing we found out was if a member is on Medicaid, the law specifies they can't be a member of any organization requiring dues payments or other costs, so this would explain a member being dropped, many times with no specified reason.

Later I attended the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee. There were no bylaw changes or other resolutions filed by members, so we only approved the usual courtesy resolution thanking the host chapter.

Monday's business session opened with the news that Kansas was down to 40 chapters from 45 due to closures and mergers.

We had a "Go-To-Meeting" remote presentation from John Hatton, of the national NARFE legislative department. He reported the 'Chained CPI' wasn't approved. The current CPI-W or a 'CPI-E' ('E' for elderly populace?) which is yet to be finalized will be used to determine COLAs. A new category for the FEHBP will be 'Self-Plus-One' and will probably start in 2016 if it will be allowed in the 'Affordable Care Act' (yet to be determined). Multiple versions of the postal reform bill are being proposed which are all not as severe as the original version (which took postal employees out of the standard civil service retirement system and the FEHBP, starting their own systems for these). Still in the bill (passed by a Senate committee) are reduced levels of FECA benefits, eliminating the FERS add-on part of retirement and require enrollment in both Parts A & B of Medicare. Also proposed is a plan to remove ALL feds from the FEHBP and require employees and retirees to get coverage through the ACA exchanges. This isn't moving at all in Congress; most likely the government portion of premiums will be reduced, increasing payments from employees and retirees.

A 'Future of NARFE' proposal from the National Executive Board of NARFE was discussed, where structure of NARFE, at least for advocacy purposes, will be simplified around congressional districts, where members elect a representative from their own congressional district, who then elect a state representative, who then elect one for each new region; the national officers and/or board to be determined by the district reps. Many procedures and rules would be changed, all yet to be determined by future actions. Whether or not to continue to develop this will be voted upon at the national convention this fall. There is still much confusion as to how current chapters would work and how members in different districts/states would be notified of important issues if they are currently in the same chapter. No matter how the 'Future' proposal comes out, we will have new regions on November 1: we will reduce from ten to five, meaning fewer regional VPs to be elected. Our new Region 3 would gain three states in the deal. Also to be voted on at the national convention is a reduction of paid national officers from four to two and mandatory chapter membership.

The memorial service occurred Monday afternoon. Our chapter had 18 deaths in the past year and nationwide there were 215.

Elections for state and area officers were then held. The incumbent president, Cindy Blythe, was reelected. New officers were second Vice-president Rita Dawson and treasurer Rebecca Rogers.

The 50/50 drawing held in the Monday banquet was won by Jean Nickel, netting \$525.

The target per-member Alzheimer's contribution will again be \$5.50 next year. The chapter with the highest per member giving was again #2053, Oberlin, with \$37.08. They are a small chapter but hold garage sales during the year. Janice Neuschafer will give up the state Alzheimer chair, but a new one is yet to be picked.

Next year's convention will be hosted by Chapter 2, Topeka, at the Ramada on 4/26-28. Room rates are \$96.24 including taxes, with free breakfasts. The 2016 convention will be hosted by Chapter 280, Salina, on 4/24-26. No rates were announced.

Legislative, Financial and Health News (summarized from GEMS Bulletins, FEDWeek & NARFE Legislative Hotlines): **Congress & Legislation:** The Chained CPI was not included in the president's 2015 budget. It included a 1% pay raise, which could be in effect as this past year only due to no specific language disallowing it. The President adhered to his assurance that he would not include an increase in retirement contributions for federal employees. House budget chair Paul Ryan released his budget (passed the House on April 10). It contains, among other items, about a 6% greater payment towards retirement, eliminate the FERS annuity supplement and a reduction of workforce by 10% through attrition (except for national security jobs). Senate budget chair Patty Murray will not release a separate 2015 budget document, believing the previous 2-year agreement (finalized in December 2013) is enough of a spending guideline.

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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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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