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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 May 05/08/2015	2 nd FRIDAY in June 06/12/2015
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President: Byron K. Nichols	816-333-5151 byron666@earthlink.net
Treasurer: Carolyn Taylor	913-205-7228
Recording Secretary: Wanda Collins	913-621-3849

Newsletter Editor, Roster: Byron K. Nichols	816-333-5151 byron666@earthlink.net
Alzheimer's Chair: Kathy Zunick	913-281-3335
Membership: Shirley Newman	913-334-9444



THE WYANDOTTE SCOUT

Vol. 40, #3; May & June, 2015

Byron Nichols, Editor

Our Chapter belongings were packed in boxes the week prior to the convention. They should have been moved to Bethany soon after. We will try to meet at the Bethany Center on the 8th.

March Meeting: Five to seven members and guests played Bingo prior to lunch. We had seven for lunch; as usual the food at the luncheon was all good and shared to take home. Five voting members and two guests were present for the business meeting. The guests were Judy Etter, Area 1A VP, and her husband Dale. We sang Happy Birthday to Carolyn Taylor who had a birthday in March. Minutes for the February meeting were read by Secretary Wanda Collins. Carolyn Taylor read the treasurer's report. Alzheimer's chair Kathy Zunick reported the check for the Best Choice UPCs hasn't arrived yet. Bills were paid (\$58.80 for stamps for the Mar/Apr Scout and other business, \$26.45 for the March Alzheimer's contribution, #30 for a half-page ad for the convention). We will 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. Members are to bring items to the April meeting. I lost my notes, so the winners of the drawings will go anonymous this month, but both were contributed to Alzheimer's. The meeting was adjourned at about 2 pm.

April Meeting: Three 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 were present for the business meeting. One attendee had a birthday in April (Jane Lenderman-Kruse) to whom we sang 'Happy Birthday'. Minutes for the March meeting weren't read due to absence of Secretary Wanda Collins. Carolyn Taylor read the treasurer's report. The Best Choice check for \$60 was received and deposited for Alzheimer's. We collected and deposited \$75 for three convention raffle tickets from those present; winnings, if any, will be prorated based upon their contributions. Bills were

authorized to be paid (\$75 for the raffle tickets, \$77.60 for the April Alzheimer's contribution). Our stuff is, again, tentatively scheduled to be moved to the Bethany center, prior to the May meeting. The registration drawing was won by Ernestine Smith and contributed (\$5) and the half-and-half drawing was won by Kathy Zunick (\$6) and contributed to the Alzheimer's Fund. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Convention Report: The convention was held in Topeka April 26-28 (Sunday to Tuesday).

In a legislative strategy session, Louis Bornman (KS Federation Legislative Chair) outlined some of the good and bad results over the last couple of years due to the administration and Congressional policies (more bad than good). Higher contributions to the retirement and healthcare funds and lower COLAs and pay raises, etc. He stressed the importance of contacting your Senators and Representative to persuade them to not hit the Federal community as hard as they have been hit the last few years, if possible.

Representing NARFE-PAC, Tom Huntziger told us that, essentially, politicians listen more intently to those who contribute to their campaigns, whether individuals or groups like NARFE. The more they are aware of our numbers, the better they listen. If possible, along with personal visits or letters to politicians, 'grease the wheel' by giving to NARFE-PAC. Their directors will try to pick the politicians who most effectively speak for us.

Alzheimer's: GEHA contributed \$5,000 again this year. The \$5.50 per-member goal will be repeated for 2015 (our chapter only managed \$2.41; pretty good for the few members we get to our meetings). At the Live Auction, Jane's antique bracelet received \$55. Many items went for \$20 to \$60. Others which received more: \$70

for a German cuckoo clock, \$75 for an "OZ" themed wine and knickknack basket, \$85 for another wine & cheese assortment in a NARFE bag, \$100 for a red-white-&-blue lap robe, \$150 for a pair of Royals tickets just in back of Home plate, \$375 for an over-20-year-old collectible shotgun (never fired). The final total for the live auction was \$2,810. In the silent auction, I believe we will be credited with \$85 for our items. In total \$3,082 was collected, with a couple items still not paid for. With these, the auctions would get a total of \$5,892, and a couple attendees were going to give a little extra to make it an even \$6,000 (or more).

In a summary of legislative items, Jim Miller (KS Federation Chair) gave a litany of things proposed to relieve the Kansas state budget problems, most of which are probably 'dead'.

Elections: Carol Ek was reelected as the Area I-A Vice President. KS Federation 2-year posts were elected; Gwen Ketter reelected as the secretary and Elizabeth Bornman as First-VP.

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: One. Transfer out of chapter: None. Dropped for non-renewal: One. Voluntary cancellation: None. Deaths: One: **Emmett J Tucker**, 95, 03/06/15, KCK, USPS. 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 May:

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|----------------------|--------------------|
| 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 | |

Bolded = attends meetings regularly

If you were born in May or June 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:

The House and Senate finalized a joint budget resolution for FY16. This is the first time both chambers have agreed on a budget in several years. While the impact of the joint budget on federal employees and retirees is not as severe as the House budget passed in March, it still assumes more than \$193 Billion of cuts from the federal community. It also fails to relieve agencies from the constraints imposed by 'sequestration'. But it also doesn't set in motion an expedited budget reconciliation to achieve the cuts nor include policy proposals to do so. But any proposal contained within the budget may still be put in place if and when the budget items become law by

appropriations later. Possible inclusions to be considered: increase employee contributions toward retirement, targeting the FERS supplemental payment for reduction or elimination, decrease government contributions to FEHB (therefore increasing the employee/retiree payment), reduce the interest rate on the TSP G fund to next to nothing, and reduce the workforce by attrition.

The president has signed in to law the "Doc-Fix" bill, a \$200 Billion Medicare reform package. It repeals the current doctor reimbursement formula with one that provides a modest 0.5% increase in payments for the next five years then transitioning to a performance-based payment formula. The law also increases premiums for higher-income Part B & D participants starting in 2018. It also prohibits 'Medigap' policies from covering the Part B deductible for new beneficiaries starting in 2020. FEHBP plans for retirees with Part B are not defined as 'Medigap' plans and will not be affected by this provision.

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 on page 1 and I will send you one (members only!).

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