

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

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# THE WYANDOTTE SCOUT

**Vol. 41, #3; May & June, 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>MAY</b> <b>05/13/2016</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> FRIDAY in</b> <b>June</b> <b>06/10/2016</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.**

**March Meeting:** Six members played Bingo before lunch. Seven attended lunch. The business meeting was called to order at 1:15pm with seven voting members (a valid quorum). The minutes for the February meeting were read by Secretary Collins. Jane Kruse read the treasurer's report. Birthday greetings were sung to Carolyn. Bills were authorized to be paid (\$18.40 for the March Alzheimer's contribution, \$58.80 for postage for the Mar/Apr Scout & assorted usage, \$5.23 for Kitchen supplies).

Kathy Zunick delivered the 1,000 UPCs to Associated Wholesale Grocers; the check should be mailed in a couple of months.

We will sell tickets for the Federation drawing to be held at the April convention: \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

The registration drawing (\$5) was won by #7, Kathy Zunick and the half-and-half drawing (\$5.75) was won by #858199, Jane Kruse. Both were contributed to the Alzheimer's Fund as well

as \$1.90 from Bingo winnings. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm.

**April Meeting:** Five members played Bingo before lunch. Six attended lunch. The business meeting was called to order at 1:30pm with seven voting members (a valid quorum) and two others. The pledge was recited in unison. We had one guest, the Area 1-A VP Judy Etter. The minutes for the January meeting were read by backup Secretary Kruse. Jane Kruse then read the treasurer's report. One attendee had a birthday in April, Jane Kruse. A bill was authorized to be paid (\$20 for the April Alzheimer's contribution).

The registration drawing (\$5) was won by #4, Jane Kruse, and the half-and-half drawing (\$7.50) was won by #858216, Kay Frey. Both were contributed to the Alzheimer's Fund. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10pm.

**May Meeting:** The annual memorial reading will be done at this meeting. It was delayed from

April. The following twelve will be honored: Barbara Anne Bennett, Noah Bland, John V Hitchcock, Regina Hitchcock, Alvertis Holliday, Sr., Henry L Holliday, Robert E Kavanaugh, Richard E Miller, Mary Nancy Palcher, Thelma J Poole, Nancy E Poor, Gladys R Spacek.

**July Meeting:** This is our traditional "Picnic" meeting, which is held inside now due to the age, or health of our members. Please plan on bringing picnic-type foods for the luncheon. Guests are, as usual, very welcome, especially potential new 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 last game (Blackout); which funds the winners' prizes. Please Come! (We **can** make some change!)

**Membership Update (2/27 to 5/12/16):**

New: None. Reinstated: None. Dropped for non-renewal: Three. Transfer into chapter: None. Transfer out of chapter: None. Voluntary cancellation: One. Membership transfer from deceased member to spouse: None. Deaths: One: Alvertis Holliday, Sr., 92, 3/8/16, KCK, DOD. We now have 110 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	Charles E Fithian
Charles K Bornschein	Larnell Johnson
Donald C Breiby	LaVerne Robinson
Phyllistine A Breiby	Barbara R Stafford

**Members with birthdays in June:**

Mary L Bentz	Martha J Orth
Juanita B Brooks	Georgia C Story
Janet Dillman	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):** On March 22, the House Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee held a hearing, "Social Security and Public Employees: Ensuring Equal Treatment." The hearing focused on the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), Government Pension Offset (GPO), and the Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2015, H.R. 711, the WEP reform legislation intro-

duced by Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady, R-TX. The hearing focused mainly on the WEP, and committee members from both parties generally agreed that the WEP unfairly penalizes retirees and reform is needed. No decisions were made, but Chairman Brady hinted that the committee may move to advance H.R. 711 soon.

The House Budget Committee approved the House's Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 budget by a 20 to 16 vote in a markup session on March 16. All the committee's Democrats and two Republicans voted against the budget. The budget's text was released on March 15, but the accompanying report with additional specifics was not released until March 24. The budget deal sticks to the \$1.07 trillion discretionary spending levels agreed upon in last year's budget, while including \$1.46 trillion in "other mandatory" cuts, which include cuts to federal employee and military personnel health and retirement benefits. Specifically, the House FY17 budget proposed: An increase in retirement contributions for all current federal employees; A 10% reduction of the federal civilian workforce through attrition, whereby one employee would be hired for every three who leave government service; A decrease in the rate of return on the Thrift Savings Plan's Government Securities Fund (G Fund); and Increasing postal employees' share of their FEHBP premiums. It's uncertain if Speaker Paul D. Ryan, R-WI, will have enough support from his party to move a budget through the House. This is due to the 40-member House Freedom Caucus' public announcement that its members will not support a budget that sticks with the \$1.07 trillion discretionary spending levels. Without the support of House Freedom Caucus members, GOP leaders will not have the 218 votes needed to pass the FY17 budget resolution (the budget was NOT passed prior to the April 15 deadline, so the appropriations committees will begin their work based on the two-year agreement reached at the end of 2015, including increased sequestration spending levels).

Sen. Brian Schatz, D-HI, introduced S.2699, the Senate version of the Federal Adjustment Income Rates (FAIR) Act, on March 16. The bill was cosponsored by Sens. Barbara A. Mikulski, D-MD; Benjamin L. Cardin, D-MD; and Sherrod Brown, D-OH. S.2699 would provide a 5.3 percent across-the-board pay increase for federal employees in 2017 - greater than the 1.6 percent pay increase proposed by President Obama. This is slightly different from H.R.4585, which was introduced by Rep. Gerald E. Connolly, D-VA, in February. The House bill calls for an across-the-board 3.9 percent pay raise for federal

employees for 2017, with an additional 1.4 percent allotted for locality pay adjustments. NARFE supports S.2699 and H.R.4585. An action letter is available on the Legislative Action Center for NARFE members to send to their representative and senators, asking for their co-sponsorship of S.2699/H.R.4585 or thanking them if they are already a cosponsor.

The Department of Labor released its final rule regarding conflict of interest and providing protections for retirement savings. The rule is designed to ensure that individuals saving for retirement are protected by a "best interest" or "fiduciary" standard when receiving investment advice. Previously advice was subject to a weaker "suitability" standard in most cases, allowing financial advisors to provide recommendations that serve their own interest instead of their clients. Some pushback from legislators has occurred, calling the new regulations overkill and wanting some changes. Any new rule wouldn't go into effect until at least April, 2017.

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

Convention News: Sunday, 1:30-2:30pm  
Legislative & PAC Session: The PAC helps support legislation favorable to retirees and active workers and works against that which hurts them. The PAC funding is separate from any dues, etc. and is totally voluntary. PAC money serves as the "grease" to facilitate interaction with legislators friendly to NARFE, as many won't even meet with anyone who hasn't contributed to their campaigns (or they just won't take non-donators seriously). By targeting funds to those friendly to NARFE, we can help author or modify proposed legislation just as other larger PACs do.

Sunday, 3-4pm OAM demonstration: It was suggested that all should use the "secure" login (presidents, 1<sup>st</sup> VPs, membership chairs, or secretary-treasurers can make changes to members' records). Also, each member makes their own password into the system (unlike the old system which had to be assigned by the chapter president). Chapters should do an update to their F-7 each year, whether any officers change or not so the system records an active use by a chapter. The new E-mail system within OAM can be used to send prospective members welcoming e-mails which have an official heading so as not to be confused with spam. Second-notice records now have a 'paid' or 'not yet' indicator, lessening the chance of the membership chair to send duplicate reminders to members who haven't yet paid late dues. The deceased archive now goes back three

years.

Sunday 4:15-5:15pm Alzheimer's committee meeting: Co-chaired by Joanne Miller (for checks) and Chantelle Haas (auctions) [Chantelle is President Blythe's daughter, who is an active employee]. Some suggestions to raise money: try a letter writing campaign using odd stamps to attract attention, 'bakeless' bake sales, penny-per-pound from members, etc. The per-member goal for the upcoming year has been raised from \$5.50 to \$6. Last year chapters in KS averaged \$7.45.

Sunday evening session: Over \$400 thousand in Alzheimer's research grants were awarded in the previous year. During the Live Auction the average price for items sold for \$30 to \$100 was \$48, with a few items selling for less than \$30. One item, a beautiful king-size patchwork quilt got into a bidding war and sold for \$500!

Monday AM session: In elections, Cindy Renee Blythe was reelected KS Federation president, Peggy Coder was elected the new treasurer and Rita Dawson was reelected the 2<sup>nd</sup> VP. We reelected Judy Etter as the Area 1A VP. Area Vice-Presidents will now be elected for a two-year term in even years along with the federation president, treasurer and 2<sup>nd</sup> VP.

Monday PM session: In the Memorial Reading:  
Area 1 1A 2 2A 3 4 5 6 Total  
Count 60 36 7 10 33 24 3 6 179  
Eleven members were read for our chapter.

Some things being considered at the national convention in Reno this fall: Reduce the number of regions from ten to five; make chapter membership optional rather than mandatory (these national-only members may meet with the chapter assigned to their zip-code, but have no voting rights; "one-member-one-vote" where any member can vote at meetings as long as they do it at their zip-assigned chapter or the one to which they pay dues (the E-NARFE chapter would then be disbanded). How these would work if more than one is approved is still TBD.

Proposals have been floated in Congress to gig federal workers and retirees again: raise the contribution to retirement to 6% for everyone, but FERS recipients still get the lower benefit amounts; eliminate FERS altogether, making those on it now rely solely on Social Security and their TSP savings; plus other iterations of the above. Some of these are detailed in the NARFE magazine's Bill Tracker pages.

The 50/50 drawing during the Monday night banquet was won by Sharon Rosenow (from Topeka) for \$350.

Tuesday AM session: NARFE-PAC raised \$2,445 from 42 contributors with 6 new sustainers (recurring credit card contributions).

Alzheimer's: The Live Auction raised \$2,181.50 (2015 was \$2,810); Silent Auction raised \$3,145.50 (2015 was \$3,137) for a total of \$5,327 from 431 auction items. The few which received no bids were either taken back by their chapters or given to charities. Chapters received certificates for averaging \$6 or more in calendar year 2015. These were mostly smaller chapters with good meeting attendance or those with members well enough to do outside fund raisers. The highest was McPherson #1704 with \$25.94 per member. Topeka #0002 received an award for the highest grand total contribution of \$4,894. (By contrast our chapter managed to only collect \$2.67 for calendar year 2015 due to low meeting attendance.) Our silent auction items got approximately \$30, some of which I bought back for the \$5 minimum bid instead of just taking them back. I also bought an item, raising our probable total contribution to \$35.

Time and Place: The 2017 convention will be held in Hutchison at the Atrium Convention Center, April 23-25 (Sunday to Tuesday). It will be hosted by the Kansas Federation, as no chapter wished to host. No chapter has bid to host the 2018 convention either, the site is TBD. Ideas put forward for future conventions would be to start them earlier on Sunday and end Monday evening (with early and late travel necessary), smaller hotels with fewer breakout rooms to spread around to other cities, or having a more compact program in other ways (including holding a 50/50 ticket drawing for Alzheimer's instead of at least one of the auctions).

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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