

**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.38, #6; September & October, 2013

<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>2<sup>nd</sup> FRIDAY IN          SEPTEMBER          07/12/2013</p>	<p>2<sup>nd</sup> FRIDAY IN          OCTOBER          08/09/2013</p>
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**September Meeting:** We plan to have a talk by Jane Lenderman-Kruse about her rheas (like a small version of an ostrich or emu) and their very large eggs.

**August Meeting:** Three early attendees played bingo. Eight members were present for the potluck lunch, from noon to 1:15.

The business meeting had a valid quorum (8). Birthday greetings were sung to Kathy Zunick. Secretary Wanda Collins read the minutes for the June meeting, which was approved. Byron Nichols read the treasurer's report for July from the checkbook; the official report will be filed next month. Three bills were submitted for payment: \$22.48 for kitchen and mailing supplies, \$33 for the July/August Scout postage and \$17.10 for the August Alzheimer contribution.

Suggestions were heard for raising additional donations for Alzheimer's. We decided to individually make craft projects then sell them at a show at the Eisenhower Community Center later this year. Any remainders we will take to the KS NARFE Convention next April for the silent and live auctions.

The \$5 attendance drawing was won by #5, Wanda Collins, and the Half-and-Half ticket #657510 for \$5.50 went to Byron Nichols. Both drawings were contributed to the Alzheimer's Fund. The meeting was adjourned at 1:50pm.

**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 \$1's!)

**Membership Update: New Members:** none.  
**Dropped for non-renewal:** two. **Reinstated:** one. **Transfer out of the chapter:** none. **New Deaths (3):** Velma V Koskan, 83, 8/13/13, KCK, widow of a USPS employee; Marie J Dinges, 90, 8/20/13, Overland Park, KS, widow of a civilian Marine employee; Mary L Reynolds, 99, 8/22/13, Treasury Department. We now have **171** members.

Members with birthdays in **September** are:

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|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Naomi K Bowen     | Shirley J Newman      |
| Wanda J Collins   | Doris A Schnieders    |
| Kay F Crossley    | Ernestine B Smith     |
| James Dangerfield | Marjorie U Spitzengel |
| Dorothy L Dusek   | Velma J Storz         |
| Joann Hughes      | John W Tritle         |
| Margaret D Miller | Emmett J Tucker       |

Members with birthdays in **October** are:

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|------------------|------------------|
| Mary C Bellamy   | Anne R Rundle    |
| Virgie L Edwards | Ruth Saragusa    |
| John V Hitchcock | Barbara J Tritle |
| Byron K Nichols  | Gloria A Willis  |
| Thelma J Poole   | Esther E Woodard |

The 24 members above have an age range of 62 to 94 and an average age of 80¾. Congratulations! If you were born in September or October and not in the list, please notify the editor at the return address on the cover or e-mail address in the chapter officer list.

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.

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

OPM has issued guidance saying the start of the "Affordable Care Act" insurance exchange program (also known as Obamacare) in January should have little direct effect on the FEHB program. Most of those eligible for FEHB can stay in it. The exceptions are members of Congress and their personal staffs, who, under a special provision will have to get their insurance coverage through the exchanges where they live. FEHB-eligible persons could voluntarily switch to the exchanges, but there would be several strong reasons not to. They would (1) lose the employer contribution toward premiums, (2) have to pay premiums with after-tax money, (3) would not be eligible for FEHB in retirement unless they were covered by it for the five years leading up to retirement and (4) if they died while an active employee, their survivors would not be eligible for FEHB coverage even if they would be eligible for survivor annuities. In addition, OPM said that all FEHB plans qualify as providing the level of coverage needed to avoid the tax penalties that will begin in January for those who do not have health insurance meeting current certain standards.

The President issued an alternative federal pay plan late Friday, the 30th; the last day he can issue a plan without a much larger raise automatically takes effect. It sets an **across-the board one percent raise for civilian employees**. The president had previously issued a plan for a one percent raise for military service members, matching one proposed in the Senate. If the president hadn't informed Congress of his plan, then the increase mandated by the 1990 Federal Employees Pay Comparability Act would have kicked in, which would have been **1.3%**. The latest Federal Salary Council report concluded that federal employees are underpaid relative to comparable private sector workers by approximately **34.6%**.

With just two months left in the count toward the January retiree COLA, the count stands at 1.4%, following an increase of 0.4% in July.

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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](http://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: [fehb@opm.gov](mailto: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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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"**. You may either send the check to the **Chapter Treasurer** (see the return address area) or send it directly to: **Alzheimer's Association, 225 Michigan Avenue, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chicago, IL 60601-7633**. If you send the check to the chapter, 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](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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