

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

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DATED MEETING NOTICE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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| Sunflower Chapter 1160 Meets at the Hanlon Senior Center 1101 Ridge Ave, KCK 66102 | 11am Bingo; Noon Lunch; 12:45 Program (if any); 1pm (approx.) Business Meeting | 2 nd FRIDAY in SEPTEMBER 09/12/2014 | 2 nd FRIDAY in OCTOBER 10/10/2014 |
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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 |

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| Newsletter Editor, Roster: Byron K. Nichols | 816-333-5151 byron666@earthlink.net |
| Alzheimer's Chair: Kathy Zunick | 913-281-3335 |
| Membership: Shirley Newman | 816-587-0508 |



THE WYANDOTTE SCOUT

Vol.39, #5; September & October, 2014

Byron Nichols, Editor

July Meeting: Five members played Bingo prior to lunch. We had a large variety of picnic-type food for our luncheon: ribs, chicken, bean salad, cobbler, cookies, etc. As usual it was all good and shared to take home. Eight voting members were present for the business meeting. Secretary Collins read the June minutes. Carolyn Taylor read the treasurer's report. Alzheimer's chair Kathy Zunick reported the UPCs were ready to send in to Best Choice for our rebate. Ernestine Smith and Lillian Green reported on calls made to members with June birthdays. Those able to be contacted welcomed the calls. Bills were paid (\$12.25 for the June Alzheimer's contribution, \$50 to Byron Nichols to replenish the Petty Cash fund, \$35.14 for July/August Scout postage and \$11.37 for Byron Nichols for postage to mail five distinguished Members packets and for envelopes. The members who became eligible for Distinguished Member recognition (20 years as a NARFE member) were: Lula B Anderson, Robert M Call, Margaret D Miller, Richard E Miller, Betty E Robinson and Barbara Wells. (We couldn't mail the recognition to Ms. Wells due to her address is undeliverable per USPS and we have no way of finding out her current address; can anyone help for this?) The registration drawing was won by Wanda Collins (\$5) and the half-and-half drawing was won by Kathy Zunick (\$9). Both were contributed to the Alzheimer's Fund. The meeting was adjourned at 2pm.

August Meeting: Seven voting members and Judy Etter (Area 1A VP) were present for the business meeting. One attendee (Kathy Zunick) had a birthday. July minutes were read

by Wanda Collins and accepted. Treasurer Collins read the treasurer's report for July. Ernestine Smith and Lillian Green reported on calls made to members with July birthdays. Those able to be contacted welcomed the calls. Bills were paid (\$27 for the July Alzheimer's contribution).

Besides finding out how our chapter was doing (we NEED more attendees!) Judy Etter had a short discussion about membership and other NARFE legislative topics (the need to give to the PAC fund to get more pro-NARFE people elected).

The registration drawing was won by Kathy Zunick (\$5) and the half-and-half drawing was won by Carolyn Taylor (\$10). Both were contributed to the Alzheimer's Fund. The meeting was adjourned at 2:05pm.

Future Meeting: We may have a speaker in a future meeting from either an insurance company or the KS Dept. of Health to explain the upcoming changes to health insurance requirements due to the 'Affordable Care Act'. Unconfirmed.

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: 0. Transfer into chapter: 0. Reinstated: 2. Transfer out of chapter: 0. Dropped for non-renewal: 2. Voluntary cancellation: 0. Deaths: 4: Velma J Storz, 91, 05/19/14, Shawnee, KS, USDA; Kathleen E Bush, 90, 06/30/14, KCK, SocSecAdmin; Marlene G Hammontree, 81, 07/25/14, KCK, Treasury Dept.; Muriel Y Rucker, 94, 08/04/14, KCK, SocSecAdmin. We now have 150 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 September:

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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 | John W Tritle |
| Joann Hughes | Emmett J Tucker |
| Margaret D Miller | |

Members with birthdays in October:

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

Bolded = attends meetings regularly

The 22 members above have an age range of 63 to 95 and an average age of 83¾. Congratulations! If you were born in September or October and not in the list, please notify the editor at the return address e-mail address in the officer list above.

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

Pay raise: Contrary to how some news outlets report federal events, the presidential pay raise order is not the final word. Any law containing a provision regarding a raise that is enacted after such an order overrides the order (note: a LAW must both be passed by Congress AND signed by the President, usually). So far there has been no move by Congress to either name a specific figure (despite reports that some advocate 3.3%) or to block the White House's recommendation for a 1% raise. This year Congress plans a post-election session to last at least through the first two weeks of December. (Note: the pay raise and retirement COLAs are not the same thing, and occur under different laws & regulations. Currently COLAs are expected to be somewhere around 1.9%.)

New Hire Retirement Contributions: In 2012 & 2013, Congress passed legislation increasing the percent that new hires pay towards their retirement. On July 31, Congresswoman Donna Edwards (D-MD) introduced a bill (HR-5338) that would return those percentages back to the same level as other FERS employees (0.8% of salary). It does not return money already paid at the higher levels. NARFE has issued a statement supporting the bill.

Phased Retirement: On August 7, OPM released their final regulations on Phased Retirement on its website. It will be an option beginning November 6. Agencies may have slightly different ways which they implement the regulations, though.

Spending for the next fiscal year: With both the House and Senate adjourning in mid-September (and not expected to return until after the elections for a lame-duck session), Congress will probably pass a short-term continuing resolution to keep the government operating. Little drama is expected this time.

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: fehbp@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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