

**DATED MEETING NOTICE**

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 **THE WYANDOTTE SCOUT** Vol.38, #4 May & June, 2013

Sunflower Chapter 1160 Kansas City, KS Byron Nichols, Editor	MAY MEETING 05/10/2013 see below	President: <b>Byron K. Nichols</b>	816-333-5151 byron666@earthlink.net
		Vice President: <b>Vacant</b>	
Meets at the Hanlon Senior Center 1101 Ridge Ave, KCK 66102 11:00 AM	JUNE MEETING 06/14/2013	Recording Secretary: <b>Wanda Collins</b>	913-621-3849
		Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Roster: <b>Byron K. Nichols</b>	816-333-5151 byron666@earthlink.net
		Alzheimer's Chair: <b>Kathy Zunick</b>	913-281-3335
		Membership Chair: <b>Shirley J. Newman</b>	816-587-0508

**Future Meetings:** In June we will have a speaker from Manor Place Senior Living, Debbie Fowler. I expect she will talk about options seniors have to living in facilities other than a personally-owned home. This will be at 12:30, before the business meeting.

**April Meeting:** Five early attendees played bingo. Eight voting members and one social member were present for lunch, the memorial and the business meeting.

The Memorial Service for the members who died the previous year was from 12:45 to 1:10pm. The 15 members deceased were: Estelle Regina Barger, Jeremiah Bennett, Helen I Burke, Elaine M Campbell, Corinne Culp, Robert L Flattery, William A Harris, Helen M Huff, Darlene D Jesse, Lorene B Jones, John D Knight, Marie Mitchell, Mary M Oliver, Shirley R Paige, Milton E Schroeder, Berniece M Smothers, Melvin E Stevens, Dorothy F Witte.

We had a speaker from the Area Agency on Aging, LaMonica Upton. She spoke and took questions for about 30 minutes on Medicare and Medicaid benefits as related to Kansas and the local area.

The business meeting had a valid quorum. No attendees had a birthday. Secretary Wanda Collins read the minutes for the February & March meetings, which were approved. The treasurer's report for March was not given and will be presented next month. One bill was submitted for payment, \$35 for Scout postage. It seems we will have only two members attending the convention at the end of the month, Byron Nichols (myself) and Carolyn Taylor. I will attend the Bylaws Committee and Carolyn will be in the Time and Place committee. The attendance drawing was won by #4, Ernestine Smith, and the Half-and-Half ticket #857413 went to Carolyn Taylor. Both drawings were contributed to the Alzheimer's Fund. A check for \$50 for Alzheimer's was received from Florence Lockridge in

Tennessee (THANKS!!) and deposited as well. The meeting was adjourned at 2:05pm.

**May Meeting:** Two members played Bingo before lunch. Five members were present for lunch. The five members were present for the business meeting, called to order at 1:20. No members present had a birthday in May. No minutes were read for the prior meeting as the secretary wasn't present. The treasurer's reports weren't presented for March & April due to failure to bring to the meeting. Ada Nichols is on the sick list due to a broken femur and hip in mid-March. She's doing well but will be out for another month or two. Bills were ratified: the Alzheimer's checks for April and May. Both the Attendance drawing for \$5 and the Half-And-Half drawing prize of \$7.50 were won by Carolyn Taylor, who returned both to Alzheimer's. We adjourned at 2:05.

**2013 Kansas Convention:** The convention was at the Holiday Inn West in Overland Park Sunday, April 28 to Tuesday, April 30. Our chapter sent only two members: myself (Byron Nichols) and Carolyn Taylor.

In a Legislative session, the guest was state representative Melanie Meier (D-Leavenworth). Topics discussed were bills stuck in the legislature for now: 1) reduce state income tax deductions by 24% for four years, leaving only 4% value, but with rate reductions at the same time (in preparation for installing a "Fair Tax" system later. 2) Make a sales tax exemption for foodstuffs and other essentials to reduce the regressiveness of the sales tax. The federal imposition of the "Chained CPI" to calculate COLAs was discussed. This would 'save' the budget money but at an expense of around 30% in reduced COLA value over the next 10 years.

The goal per member for Alzheimer's contributions was set at \$5.50 at the national conven-

tion, same as last year, since only \$5.43 was achieved in 2012. The total goal was raised to \$11 million. As of 3/31, NARFE had collected \$10.2 million since inception in 1985. Our chapter had no donations to the live or silent auctions. Preliminary totals were \$2,183 for the live and \$2,821 for the silent auction; about \$1,200 less in total than last year.

A 50-50 drawing of submitted tickets at \$25 each was won by a member in Area 2 for \$625. I won a door prize of a \$10 Wal-Mart card and 10 postage stamps. One member who stayed in the hotel won a voucher for a 2-night stay which could be used for the convention or anytime in the near future.

The NARFE National Director for Legislation, Jessica Klement, spoke on the last day. She talked mainly about problem legislation being considered: 1) an increase in the retirement contribution for new hires, 2) eliminate the FERS annuity supplement for new hires (leaving them with only Social Security and the TSP), 3) change back to a high-5 retirement calculation from the current high-3 and 4) unspecified Postal reforms. Positive points were the possibility of a 1% pay raise in 2014 (but health premiums would probably knock this out) and the introduction of a "Phased Retirement" where an employee could stay employed part-time and retired part-time for the balance (for a short period of time, as yet unspecified).

For the Memorial: we had 15 members deceased in the last year, Kansas had 224 total.

It was revealed that many Areas have at least one chapter "in trouble", with some not meeting for a year. This is a result of our aging membership and the lack of new, younger members who want to hold officers' positions.

Next year, the convention will be held in Manhattan at a newly remodeled Sheraton (formerly a Clarion and Holiday Inn) on 4/27-29/2014. Then it will be in Topeka at the downtown Ramada on 4/26-28/2015. All Sunday through Tuesday.

**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 (this will fund the winners' prize). Please Come! (We **can** make change for \$1's!)

**Membership Update: New Members:** Mark Cavanaugh and Carmen L Parks, both from KCK. **Dropped for non-renewal:** one. **Reinstated:** one. Transferred out of the chapter: one. **New Deaths:** Alice D. Hixson, 100, 6/11/12, Shawnee, KS, USDA (notified via late obit in KC Star 4/25/13); Valentine J. Ruzick, Jr., 93, 4/26/13, KCK, USPS. We now have **178** members.

Members with birthdays in **May** are:

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Dorothy M Barrett    | M Louine Herman    |
| Charles K Bornschein | Larnell Johnson    |
| Donald C Breiby      | Robert E Kavanaugh |
| Phyllistine A Breiby | Lena M O'Malley    |
| Maria Dinges         | Barbara R Stafford |
| Charles E Fithian    |                    |

Members with birthdays in **June** are:

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| Mary L Bentz     | Gladys E Koska |
| Juanita B Brooks | Velma V Koskan |
| Kathleen E Bush  | Thomas P Lewis |

- Janet Dillman
- Alvin L Drake
- Edna M Herzig
- Constance L Holliday

- Martha J Orth
- Gladys R Spacek
- Georgia C Story
- Evelyn J Tucker

The 25 members above have an age range of 68 to 101 and an average age of 86. 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 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):** None due to time limitations (late with this edition).

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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: [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 printing, envelope and postage.**

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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).