

**DATED MEETING NOTICE**

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 **THE WYANDOTTE SCOUT** Vol.37, #6 Sept. & Oct., 2012

Sunflower Chapter 1160 Kansas City, KS Byron Nichols, Editor	SEPTEMBER MEETING 09/14/2012	President, Public Relations and Service Officer: <b>?</b>	
		Vice President: <b>Laverne Robinson</b>	913-371-7720 save900@aol.com
Meets at the Hanlon Senior Center 1101 Ridge Ave, KCK 66102 11:00 AM	OCTOBER MEETING 10/12/2012	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>	913-334-2544

**July Meeting (Indoor Picnic):** Early attendees played Bingo. Eleven guests and members were present for lunch. Among the Items brought: Cookies, Apple Cobbler, Watermelon, Chicken Salad, Potato Salad, Hot Dogs & Buns, 3-Bean Salad, Macaroni Salad, Fried Chicken, Cole Slaw, Deviled Eggs and Baked Beans. Plenty was left over for take-home. More Bingo was played after lunch. The attendance drawing went to #10, Wanda Collins, and the Half-and-half ticket drawing went to #857231, Carolyn Taylor. Both prizes were contributed to Alzheimer's. The picnic was adjourned at 2pm.

**August Meeting:** Five early attendees played bingo from 11:30am to noon, followed by the potluck lunch. No official business meeting was held due to the lack of a quorum under current rules.

An emergency Executive Committee Meeting was held in lieu of the regular meeting. Members present were Treasurer Byron Nichols (presiding), Secretary Wanda Collins and Kathy Zunick (a majority of those still serving on the committee). Past bills were ratified (Alzheimer's contributions for July and postage for the July/August Scout issue). The current August Alzheimer's contribution to be paid was also ratified. Amendments to the following bylaws were approved: 1) Add a section to Article VII concerning establishment of an Audit Committee and 2) Clarify and alter the designation for a meeting quorum to "The number of elective officers currently serving plus ONE member with one of said attendees being a Presiding Officer under the normal scheme of succession". Two changes to the Standing Rules were also made: 1) Specify the "line of succession" for the Presiding Officer as the President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, then Treasurer and 2) Change the cost of the Alzheimer Half-and-Half tickets to 50¢ each from 25¢ (this should save a little money for buying replacement ticket rolls). New copies of the bylaws reflecting the above changes will be available at the September meeting.

The drawings: Attendance was won by #4, Wanda Collins, and the Half-and-Half ticket #857257

went to Ernestine Smith. Both were contributed to the Alzheimer's Fund. The meeting was adjourned at 1:25pm.

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!)

**Special Meeting:** Your Editor (along with two new chapter members, Paula Thrasher and Helen Torrence as well as members from the Atchison and Shawnee Mission chapters) attended the September 6 meeting of the Buffalo Bill Chapter 27 in Leavenworth. The regular meeting was replaced with a Skype presentation by Julie Tagen from the National Office. She discussed legislation affecting Federal retirees and active employees. Officiating were Region V Vice-President Carol Ek and other officers from the KS Federation.

Legislators are still arguing about how to implement the "sequestration" or how to avoid it. As usual, both civilian and defense workers and retirees will probably take the brunt of the cutbacks; they just haven't decided how. One way of paying for the Social Security tax 'holiday' will be to charge another 3.1% increase in retirement premiums by new hires or rehires with less than 5 years service. Employees will be able to take advantage of 'Phased Retirement' starting sometime next year (after regulations are written).

The next Congressional action to be actually approved prior to the election will probably be a Continuing Resolution to fund government operations until about March, 2013. The Lame Duck session after the election may get some other business passed generally agreeable to both sides, such as the "Doc Fix" (paying doctors and hospitals for Medicare services) or some small, relatively unimportant legislation.

After the presentation ended, our chapter members, Carol EK and others briefly talked about what could be done to 'revitalize' the chapter. The

two things (other than recruit more members) were to change the time and/or place of the meeting. It was decided that a questionnaire should be sent to all chapter members (with a reply envelope) as to why they don't attend and if there are any ideas from the members to cure this problem. Look for this mailing sometime soon.

**Membership Update:** **New Members:** None. **Dropped for non-renewal:** 2. **Reinstated:** 2. We now have **189** members.

Members with birthdays in **September** are:

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

Members with birthdays in **October** are:

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
Mary L Reynolds	

The 26 members above have an age range of 61 to 102 and an average age of 81.3. 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 the chapter's Service Officer (T.J. Robinson, tjrobinson357@aol.com or 913-371-7720) for assistance for which agencies to contact (such as OPM) or forms to file. Also, notify the chapter so that we may 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):**

**Congress & the Administration:** The dozen individual annual appropriations bills will be abandoned and replaced by a single, six-month continuing resolution (through March, 2013) in order to avoid a showdown over a government shutdown at the end of the fiscal year. The resolution should set funding at the level agreed to in the Budget Control Act passed last summer. Also, the president announced that absent a comprehensive budget, he is delaying a scheduled raise for federal employees in January. At the earliest, employees will receive a raise in April of about 0.5%.

The official party platforms for both the Democrats and Republicans have been posted on the web. The Republican platform is posted at: [http://www.gop.com/2012-republican-platform\\_home/](http://www.gop.com/2012-republican-platform_home/). The Democrat platform is posted at: <http://www.democrats.org/democratic-national-platform>. Both may be downloaded in .pdf format.

Some issues still unresolved is whether employees will be forced to pay higher retirement premiums. Several proposals have been floated which require employees to pay 1.2, 1.5 or 5 percent more, phased in over several years. Earlier this year Congress did enact an increase, but only for new hires or re-hires with less than five years service. Other ideas are to limit hiring so that the workforce is reduced by some as yet unspecified amount over a period of years. Also undecided is whether to continue the Social Security "holiday" of 2% into the next year, and how to pay for it.

In combining and passing two high-priority bills Congress dropped several (but not all) proposals to

require higher retirement contributions by all employees and backed a plan for a "phased retirement" authority. Individual agencies may offer eligible employees the opportunity to continue working part-time while drawing a proportionate retirement, without reduction. Employees may be required to mentor new hires for the retirees' jobs. When fully retired, the annuity would be recalculated reflecting the additional service. Bills extending some transportation programs and lowering student loan rates were merged and the final version signed into law by the president.

**TSP Values:** All TSP funds posted positive returns in August, led by the small company S fund with 3.57% gain and the international I fund with a 3.29% gain. The large company C fund was up 2.25%, the government securities G fund rose 0.11% and the bond F fund up 0.07%. The August returns for the Lifecycle L funds were: Income, 0.63; 2020, 1.57; 2030, 1.94; 2040, 2.23; and 2050, 2.51. For year-to-date and 12-month returns, see [www.fedweek.com](http://www.fedweek.com).

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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)**

**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).