



**Sunflower  
Chapter 1160  
Kansas City, KS  
Byron Nichols, Editor**



**NOVEMBER MEETING:  
11:00 A.M., Friday, 11/03/11  
NOTE THE SPECIAL DATE DUE TO VETERAN'S DAY**

**DECEMBER MEETING:  
11:00 A.M., Friday, 12/09/11  
Both at the Pat Hanlon Senior Center,  
1101 Ridge Ave., Kansas City, KS**

## 2011 Chapter Officers

President	Theodore J Robinson	913-371-7720 tjrobinson357@aol.com
Vice-President	LaVerne Robinson	913-371-7720 save900@aol.com
Recording Secretary	Wanda Collins	913-621-3849
Public Relations and Service Officer	Theodore J Robinson	913-371-7720 tjrobinson357@aol.com
Treasurer, Roster and Newsletter Editor	Byron Nichols	816-333-5151 byron666@earthlink.net
Alzheimer's Chair	Kathy Zunick	913-281-3335
Membership Chair	Shirley Newman	913-334-2544

**September Meeting:** Six players participated in five Bingo games prior to lunch. The pot-luck luncheon was from 12:05PM to 1:05pm and was enjoyed by all, as usual.

The business meeting started at 1:10pm with 8 members present (a quorum). Minutes were taken by Byron Nichols, unofficial pro tem secretary. The president led the group in a prayer and the flag salute. Birthday congrats were sung to Ernestine Smith. No minutes were read due to the absence of secretary Wanda Collins. The treasurer's report was read by Byron Nichols and submitted for audit. Bills were ratified and paid.

Birdie Allen is at home again and continuing her recovery. Copies of the changed bylaws agreed to at the last meeting were distributed to the officers present.

The drawings: Attendance, #6, Kathy Zunick; Half-and-half Jackpot Ticket, #481300, Lillian Green. Both prizes were donated to the Alzheimer's Fund. The meeting was adjourned at 1:35PM.

**October Meeting:** Eight players participated in four Bingo games prior to lunch. The pot-luck luncheon was from noon to 12:50pm and was enjoyed by all, as usual.

The business meeting started at 12:50PM with 11 members and one guest present (a quorum). The president led the group in a prayer and the flag salute. Birthday congrats were sung to Byron Nichols. Lillian Green of the Sunshine committee reported no calls were made. Secretary Wanda Collins read the minutes of the August and September meetings, which were accepted. The treasurer's report was read by Byron Nichols and submitted for audit. No bills needed paid.

A nominating committee for the upcoming officer election was appointed: Kathy Zunick, Dorothy Guest and Shirley Newman. If anyone wishes to serve as an officer or any committee member, PLEASE contact one of the above.

**If we can't get people to serve as our basic officers (president, vice-president, treasurer, recording secretary), we may have to fold and combine with another chapter!**

The drawings: Attendance, #7, Lillian Green; Half-and-half Jackpot Ticket, #481332, Kathy Zunick. Both prizes were donated 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. Please Come! (We **can** make change for \$1 bills!)

**Membership Update:** Deceased: Mary B. Mann, 92, KCK, 9/5/11, USPS; Susan E. Clark, 93, Olathe, KS, Dept. of Labor. Dropped for non-renewal: 2. New Members: 0. Rejoined: 1. Transferred: 0. We now have 207 members.

Note to families of members: When a member passes on, please be sure to contact the chapter's Service Officer (T.J. Robinson, 913-371-7720 or tjrobinson357@aol.com) 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.

Members with birthdays in **November** are:

Eugene A Collins	Robert W Horseman
George O Dale	Nancy E Poor
Doris E Deming	Frances C Rodina
Terry M Ehrhart	Carol J Smith
Rita F Galvin	Melvin E Stevens
Eujetta S Holland	Ozine Washington Jr.
Alvertis Holliday	Vernon J Weller

Members with birthdays in **December** are:

**Birdie Allen**

Paul J Breitenstein  
Yvonne L Edwards  
Mary Lee Fouts  
Zenobia B Freeman  
Gary L Marks  
June M McConnell

**Ada G Nichols**

Mary Nancy Palcher

Fred O Peterson  
Margaret A Peterson  
Janeria M Phillips  
Mary E Richard  
Herbert A Schnieders  
Edwin Shutt  
Albert W Stevenson  
Mason B Tucker  
Camille E Weems

**BOLD** = Attends many meetings yearly

The 32 members above have an age range of 61 to 96 and an average age of 80½. Congratulations! If you were born in November or December and not in the list, please notify the editor at the return address on the last page or e-mail address in the chapter officer list.

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

**Congress & the Administration:** Near the end of October, President Obama proposed requiring federal workers to pay more for their retirements (1.2% more phased in over three years starting in 2013) and ending the FERS annuity supplement for newly hired workers as part of his \$3.2 trillion, 10-year deficit-reduction package. With the President now supporting cuts to our earned compensation, the threat to federal retirees and active workers grows every day. The "Supercommittee" has until November 23 to pass legislation through Congress to reduce the deficit by at least \$1.5 trillion over the next 10 years or face a 10% sequestration of funds. They will be looking to their colleagues (your representatives & senators) for guidance. If you haven't yet sent a message to them, please do it now using NARFE's www.ProtectAmericasHeartbeat.org site. Tell them to not single us out for the debt deal cuts!

Just a few other aspects of the administration's proposal include: The Social Security Tax, usually at 6.2% but reduced to 4.2% this year, would be further cut to 3.1% for 2012; payments by the Postal Service to prefund health insurance for its retirees would be stretched out; OPM would be allowed to talk directly to prescription drug providers in an attempt to command better prices for the FEHBP and eliminate the middleman known as 'pharmacy benefit managers'.

On October 4, the House passed another Continuing Appropriation Bill to fund the government through November 18. The president signed it on October 5. The negotiations circus starts again in mid-November.

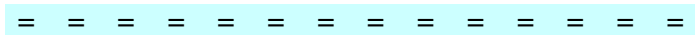
By the way, pay raises for Congress have already been denied for the 2011 and 2012 fiscal

years due to the freeze in the general schedule salaries. By law, raises for Congress cannot exceed the base raise for general schedule employees. Except for 2008, Congress hasn't received a raise since 2007.

**COLAs:** Federal retirees will receive a COLA to their civil service annuities in January, 2012. CSRS retirees will get a 3.6% increase, while FERS retirees will get 2.6%. While CSRS retirees receive the full amount, current law reduces the FERS COLA by 1% for increases above 3%. By law, COLAs for federal and military retirements, as well as Social Security payments, are determined in reference to the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W), which uses prices for consumer goods, food & beverages, housing, clothing, transportation, medical care, recreation, education, communications and more. This may be changed soon if recommended by the "Supercommittee".

**Health Benefits:** FEHBP premiums will increase ONLY (!) 3.8% from 2011 to 2012, a rate comparable to private and other public sector health insurance premiums. Officials attribute the moderation in premiums to lower than expected claims rates, use of generic drugs and cost containment efforts. However, within that average there is substantial variation, with premiums actually decreasing by less than one percent in the Blue Cross/Blue Shield standard plan and others increasing by ten percent or more. Overall, average increases for fee-for-service plans will be below those for HMOs. (The Open Season to change enrollments will be from November 14 through December 12 this year.) But many lower-paid federal workers and annuitants will struggle to pay any increase due to the two-year salary and COLA freeze. (Another net decrease for our checkbooks.)

The open season will also apply to the FEDVIP dental and vision plans. Carriers will be unchanged from 2011 and premiums will increase by less than one percent on average for dental plans and drop by nearly two percent for vision plans.



Here's a joke article I couldn't resist: This was provided by an active FAA employee who worked with my older brother before his retirement:

**The Darwin Awards.** These Annual Honors are given to the persons who did the human gene pool the biggest service by killing themselves in the most extraordinarily stupid way. You may recall that last year's winner was killed by a Coke machine that toppled over on him as he was trying to tip a free soda out. This year's winner was a

genuine Rocket Scientist...no jive! Read on...and remember that each and every one of these is a true story. The nominees were:

**Semifinalist #1:** A young Canadian man, searching for a way of getting drunk cheaply because he had no money with which to buy alcohol, mixed gasoline with milk. Not surprisingly, this concoction made him ill, and he vomited into the fireplace in his house. The resulting explosion and fire burned his house down, killing both he and his sister.

**Semifinalist #2:** Three Brazilian men were in a light aircraft at low altitude when another plane approached. It appears that they decided to moon the occupants of the other plane, but lost control of their own aircraft and crashed. They were all found dead in the wreckage with their pants around their ankles.

**Semifinalist #3:** A 22-year-old Virginia man was found dead after he tried to use octopus straps to bungee jump off a 70-foot railroad trestle. Fairfax County police said Eric Barcia, a fast-food worker, taped a bunch of these straps together, wrapped an end around one foot, anchored the other end to the trestle at Lake Accotink Park, jumped and hit the pavement. Warren Carmichael, a police spokesman, said investigators think Barcia was alone because his car was found nearby. "The length of the cord that he had assembled was greater than the distance between the trestle and the concrete," Carmichael said. Police say the apparent cause of death was "major trauma."

**Semifinalist #4:** A man in Alabama died from numerous rattlesnake bites. He and a friend had been playing a game of catch, using the rattlesnake as a ball. The friend - no doubt a future Darwin Awards candidate - was hospitalized but lived.

**Semifinalist #5:** Employees in a warehouse in west Texas noticed the smell of a gas leak. Management ordered people to evacuate the building, extinguishing all potential sources of ignition; lights, power, etc. After the building had been evacuated, two technicians from the gas company were dispatched. Upon entering the building, they found they had difficulty navigating in the dark. To their frustration, none of the lights worked. Witnesses later described seeing one of the technicians reaching into his pocket and retrieving an object that resembled a cigarette lighter. Upon operation of the lighter-like object, the gas in the warehouse exploded, sending pieces of it up to three miles away. Nothing was found of the technicians, but the lighter was virtually untouched by the explosion. The technician suspected of causing

the blast had never been thought of as "especially bright" by his peers.

And now the winner of this year's Darwin Award; as always, awarded posthumously; **THE 2011 WINNER!** Arizona Highway Patrol came upon a pile of smoldering metal embedded in the side of a cliff rising above the road at the apex of a curve. The wreckage resembled the site of an airplane crash, but it was a car. The type of car was unidentifiable at the scene.

Police investigators finally pieced together the mystery. An amateur rocket scientist had somehow gotten hold of a JATO unit (Jet Assisted Take Off...actually a solid-fuel rocket) that is used to give heavy military transport planes an extra 'push' for taking off from short airfields. He had driven his 1967 Chevy Impala into the desert and found a long, straight stretch of road. He attached the JATO unit to the car, jumped in, got up some speed and fired off the JATO.

The facts that could be determined are that the operator of the Impala hit the JATO ignition at a distance of about three miles from the crash site. This was established by the scorched and melted asphalt at that location.

The JATO, if operating properly, would have reached maximum thrust within five seconds, causing the Chevy to reach speeds well in excess of 350 mph and continuing at full power for an additional 20-25 seconds.

The driver, and soon-to-be pilot, would have experienced G-forces usually reserved for dog fighting F-14 jocks under full afterburners, causing him to become irrelevant for the remainder of the event.

However, the automobile remained on the straight highway for about 2.5 miles (15-20 seconds) before the driver applied and completely melted the brakes, blowing the tires and leaving thick rubber marks on the road surface, then becoming airborne for 1.4 miles and impacting the cliff face at a height of 125 feet, leaving a blackened crater 3 feet deep in the rock. Most of the driver's remains were not recoverable.

Epilogue: It has been calculated that this moron attained a ground speed of approximately 420 mph, though much of his voyage was not actually on the ground.

Really.....we can't make this stuff up.

