

12/9 CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON: The chapter will provide the meats (rotisserie chicken, brisket) and some sides (dressing & gravy, bean salad); members need only bring desserts and any other sides or meats desired!
We won't have any singing groups this year, but the members may sing carols if they wish and play various games provided at the senior center.
There will be no official business meeting.



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



**DECEMBER MEETING:
11:00 A.M., Friday, 12/09/11**

**Meet at the Pat Hanlon Senior Center
1101 Ridge Ave., Kansas City, KS**

2012-13 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

November Meeting: The pot-luck luncheon was attended by six members and a guest from 12:05pm to 1:05pm and was enjoyed by all, as usual. Our guest, Area 1A VP Judy Etter, led the group in grace prior to lunch.

The business meeting started at 1:07pm with eight members and one guest present. T.J. Robinson led the group for the Lord's prayer. The flag salute was recited in unison. Birthday congrats were sung for Robert Horseman, who couldn't be present.

T.J. Robinson introduced our guest, Judy Etter, who talked about the NARFE Scholarship program. Prospective scholars must be high school seniors and be a child, grandchild, stepchild or step-grandchild of a member. Application forms may be found on the NARFE website. To fund the project, members may donate to the NARFE/FEEA fund on the NARFE website.

Secretary Wanda Collins read the minutes of the October meeting, which was accepted with corrections. Ernestine Smith of the Sunshine committee reported on calls made and cards sent for November birthdays. The group was notified of a death since the last meeting, Richard D Fairbanks. The treasurer's report was read by Byron Nichols and submitted for audit. Bills were ratified & paid.

Vice-President LaVerne Robinson gave a short lecture about how to prepare if we need to go to a nursing home or have home services due to disability. This would cost at a minimum of \$5000 monthly, and would probably bankrupt most of us.

Only one member of the nominating committee was present and didn't have any different nominees than those already serving. The following were elected by acclamation then installed by the Area 1A VP Judy Etter:

President: Theodore J Robinson
 Vice-president: LaVerne Robinson
 Recording Secretary: Wanda Collins
 Treasurer: Byron Nichols
 Executive Committee: Kathy Zunick
 Dorothy Guest
 (3rd spot unfilled).

The drawings: Attendance, #6, Wanda Collins; Half-and-half Jackpot Ticket, #481342, Byron Nichols. Both prizes were donated to the Alzheimer's Fund. The meeting was adjourned at 2:12pm.

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: Richard D. Fairbanks, 88, Mission, KS, 10/20/11, Corps of Engineers & Navy; Albert H. Clark, 90, KCK, 11/21/11, USPS. Dropped for non-renewal: 5. **New Member: Norman D Scott of KCK; Welcome!** Rejoined: 0. Transferred: 0. We now have 201 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, please 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 **December** are:

Birdie Allen	Fred O Peterson
Paul J Breitenstein	Margaret A Peterson
Yvonne L Edwards	Janeria M Phillips
Mary Lee Fouts	Mary E Richard
Zenobia B Freeman	Herbert A Schnieders
Gary L Marks	Edwin Shutt
June M McConnell	Albert W Stevenson
Ada G Nichols	Mason B Tucker
Mary Nancy Palcher	Camille E Weems

BOLD = Attends many meetings yearly

The 18 members above have an age range of 61 to 96 and an average age of 83. Congratulations! If you were born in 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: In the first week of November the House Oversight & Government Reform Committee passed a bill (HR 3029) that would reduce the federal workforce through attrition by up to 10% by 2015. The measure calls for hiring only one or two federal employee or contract employee for every three workers who retire or leave their job. There are about two million federal employees and 10.5 million contractor employees. There would be exceptions for national security or events which threaten public health or

safety. Federal employee groups and manager associations criticized the measure, saying it fails to consider all negative impacts of the legislation.

Other bills up for approval that week were HR 665 and HR 1734 to expedite the disposal of excess government buildings and other property, and a plan to strengthen protections for federal whistle-blowers.

Congress came back from its Thanksgiving recess planning to work at most three weeks more, with many budget-related issues unsolved. Regular appropriations for the current fiscal year have been enacted for only a handful of departments and agencies (Agriculture, Justice, Commerce, Transportation and HUD). Temporary funding for the rest expires December 16. Leaders are leading toward, as usual, one large wrap-up bill to extend through the remainder of the fiscal year. The super-committee's failure eased prospects of immediate changes in law which affect benefits and job levels, but only until January, 2013. But there may be some deals made in the upcoming year which we will have to watch out for.

Also pending is the size of the required Social Security payroll deduction from FERS and hybrid CSRS-Offset employees for 2012. Typically, it is 6.2%, but under a stimulus provision it is only 4.2% until the end of December.

TSP funds: The stock-oriented funds broke a five-month losing streak in October by posting large gains, led by the small company S-fund's 14.09%, followed by the large-company C-fund's 10.9% and the international I-fund up 9.48%. Over the last year, the S and C funds are up 7.44% and 8.06% respectively, while the I-fund was down 5.04%. The bond F-fund gained 0.11% and the securities G-fund gained 0.14%, with 12-month gains of 5.07% and 2.54% respectively. The October and 12-month returns for the lifecycle L-funds are: income, 2.31 & 3.48%; 2020, 6.18 & 4.24%; 2030, 7.68 & 4.48%; 2040, 8.83 & 4.57%; and the 2050 fund launched in February gained 9.92% in October.

The IRS announced the investment limit on tax-favored retirement savings such as the TSP (and others) will rise to \$17000 in 2012, up from the \$16,500 maximum since 2009. The separate limit on "catch-up" contributions will remain at \$5,500. The TSP also plans to start a "Roth" option next year in which investments are made with after-tax money, with withdrawals being tax-free.

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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 7:45 PM Central Time.
 Hearing impaired TDD# is 1-800-878-5707.
 On the Web: www.opm.gov/retire.
 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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Membership Rosters are in an 8.5" x 11" format. Drop me a note at the return address block with \$2.00 each to offset printing and postage.

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NARFE Headquarters: 1-703-838-7760
 (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 memberrecords@narfe.org.

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Other numbers of Interest:
 Military Retirees: 800-321-1080
 V.A.: 800-827-1000 TSP: 877-968-3778
 Social Security: 800-772-1213

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If any member who doesn't attend meetings wishes to contribute to the Alzheimer's Fund, you can send a check to the Treasurer (see the address on the back cover of the Scout). **Please make checks out to "NARFE/Alzheimer Research"**. We'll forward the contribution to the state coordinator and mention you with a thanks in the Scout. Thanks to all.

I've had the incorrect dues figures for a while below after updating them in February. Sorry if this has caused any confusion between this newsletter and the bill you may have received from the National office!

Note to members: Dues Withholding saves the national organization money (no bills to mail out) and it saves annual renewals \$6 each year (the equivalent of Chapter dues) [\$40 national plus \$6 chapter vs. \$40 total under dues withholding!]. You don't have to remember to write that check or risk being dropped. **64%** 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 using 44¢ 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 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).

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

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