

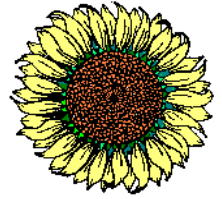


THE WYANDOTTE SCOUT

Sunflower Chapter 1160, Kansas City, KS

Byron Nichols, Editor byron666@earthlink.net

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NEXT MEETING: 11:00 A.M., Friday, 1/9/09 at the Pat Hanlon Senior Center, 1101 Ridge Ave., KCK

For those of you with computers: Look for the newsletter on www.KSNARFE.org in Item #14, in COLOR.

December Meeting: About 10 members & one guest played 4 Bingo games before lunch (about 11:20am to noon), winning \$7.35 among them. (Members contributed 5¢ per card for regular games and 10¢ per card for the blackout game; many played multiple cards.) All of the winnings were contributed to the Alzheimer's fund and winners received a Christmas gift prize for each game won. Prayer was offered by Birdie Allen, then 15 members attended the pot luck luncheon.

The Executive committee met after lunch at 1pm to pick a new recording secretary. Wanda Collins was selected unanimously. She will start her duties with the next meeting in January. A short, informal business meeting started at 1:15 pm. It was decided not to take official minutes, as this was the Christmas meeting. Birthday greetings were sung to Ada Nichols and Birdie Allen. Bills were ratified, including our usual gifts to five charities. The usual drawings were held: #14, Birdie Allen, won the \$5 attendance drawing and ticket #480067, Bea Johnson (guest of Wanda Collins), won the \$8.35 share of purchased tickets. Both were contributed to the Alzheimer's fund. The meeting was adjourned about 1:30 pm.

A total of \$104.10 was collected for Alzheimer's this month (Bingo, tickets and attendance prize from the chapter), including a special check of \$75 from Florence Lockridge. **THANKS Florence!!**. So far this year the chapter has sent **\$466.68** to the Kansas Federation Alzheimer's coordinator (or, about \$1.75 per official member).

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 Chapter 1160"**. We'll forward the contribution to the state coordinator and mention you with a thanks in the Scout. Thanks to all.

We played more Bingo after the meeting without collecting money due to many prizes left over. The final blackout game prize was a \$2 bill. Activities were over about 2:30pm.

Remember -- for ALL meetings, if you wish to play Bingo, bring enough nickels & dimes (we usually play 6 or 7 games) starting just after 11 AM until lunch. Please Come!

Note to members: Dues Withholding saves the national organization money and it saves you about \$5 over annual dues. 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 in the NARFE magazine each month.

Membership Update: Deceased: Hortense R. Adams, 96, (12/1/08, IRS); Frederick W. Mahler, 66, (10/14/08, DOD; member dropped Mar'08); Neil G. Cordell, 99, (12/11/08, Navy); Alvan M. Lisbona, 83, (12/19/08, USPS).

Members with birthdays in January are:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Milton F Adams | Loretta M McMillan |
| Helen J Ambrose | Shirley R Paige |
| Johnnie Mae Bailey | Ruth Passaro |
| Ida Louise Bland | Mary J Relic |
| Donald C Castor | Harold W Rucker |
| Louisa A Fletcher | Lawrence A Shannon |
| Ruby N Hancock | Berniece M Smothers |
| Alice D Hixson | Dorothy L Weller |
| Aleta M Johnson | Louis E White |
| Mabel O Johnson | |

BOLD = Attends many meetings yearly

The 19 members above have an age range of 68 to 97 and an average age of 84¾. Congratulations! If you were born in January and not in the above list, please notify the editor at the return address on the last page or e-mail address in the masthead above.

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

Health: Blue Cross revised its Standard Option benefit provision for 2009 in response to multiple objections by NARFE and other federal civil service trade press about earlier changes limiting benefits. It was the subject of an oversight hearing held December 3 by the House Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce. As a result, the Open Season will be extended through January, 2009. The effective date of any changes will still be January 1 for retirees and the first pay period for active employees (usually January 4 this coming year). Depending on the date an Open Season change is made, premium changes may not show up until February. A summary of the changes follows (**only for non-emergency surgeries performed by non-participating physicians**):

Original 2009 Benefit: 1) You pay 100% of the billed amount up to a maximum of \$7500 for non-emergency/non-accidental surgery performed by non-network physicians. 2) The \$7500 copayment was not included under the plan's catastrophic out-of-pocket protection. 3) Medicare B enrollees: copayment waived as provided in brochure.

Revised 2009 benefit: 1) You pay 30% of the plan allowance subject to the yearly deductible plus the difference between the plan allowance and amount billed. 2) The coinsurance is included in the annual \$7000

