



THE WYANDOTTE SCOUT

Sunflower Chapter 1160, Kansas City, KS

Byron Nichols, Editor byron666@earthlink.net

February, 2009 (Volume 34, Number 2)



NEXT MEETING: **11:00 A.M., Friday, 2/13/09** 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.

January Meeting: About 8 members played 6 Bingo games before lunch (about 11:15am to noon), winning \$11.80 among them. (Members contributed 5¢ per card for regular games and 10¢ per card for the blackout game; many played multiple cards.) \$10 of the winnings were contributed to the Alzheimer's fund. Prayer was offered by Birdie Allen, then 12 members attended the pot luck luncheon.

The business meeting started at 1:09 with the usual prayer and flag salute. Minutes were read for the November meeting by secretary Wanda Collins, and they were approved as read. Unofficial minutes of activities at the December meeting were also read. Correspondence were passed around. The treasury report was read for the last two meetings by treasurer Byron Nichols and accepted for audit. Bills were ratified, both those paid prior to the meeting and those awaiting payment, including postage for the past two months, the bulk mail permit, a half-page ad in the upcoming convention program and per-capita dues to the KS Federation for 2009.

The Alzheimer's ticket drawing was for #480113, Byron Nichols, for \$8.25. The attendance drawing was #8, Kathy Zunick, for \$5. Both were contributed to the Alzheimer's fund. A total of \$23.25 was collected for Alzheimer's this month (Bingo, tickets and attendance prize from the chapter). So far this year the chapter has sent **\$23.25** to the Kansas Federation Alzheimer's coordinator (or, about \$0.09 per official member).

The meeting was adjourned at 1:39.

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.

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 \$4 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: Edward W. Goeffert, 82, (1/1/09, Army, Navy).

Members with birthdays in February are:

Roland B Berg	Dorothea V Linam
Goldie I Bronson	E Ruth McIntosh
Betty B Cramer	Marie Mitchell
Mrs. Denzal C Davison	Verlee W M Mitchell
Lillian B Green	Valerie M Noble
Marlene G Hammontree	Violet Rutherford
Charles Johnston	Cecil K Woods
Sophia Krzyczkowski	

BOLD = Attends many meetings yearly

The 15 members above have an age range of 74 to 100 and an average age of 85. Congratulations! If you were born in February 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):

CPI/COLA News: The CPI-W declined for the fourth consecutive month at 1.2% for December. The index is now 5% below the 2008 3rd quarter average index that the next COLA is based upon. Current law states benefits **won't** be reduced when the CPI is lower than the prior year's average. December's data completes the measurement year for FECA benefits. That index is also 5% lower than calendar year 2007 numbers, so there will be no COLA for FECA benefits.

Congress: NARFE President Margaret Baptiste salutes those members who have already contacted their Senators and Representatives to urge them to include Premium Conversion in any economic stimulus package as an amendment; and encourages all others who have not to do so. A groundswell of NARFE communications sent ASAP could provide civilian and military retirees an economic boost that they could inject into the economy. When writing, calling or e-mailing your delegation, ask them to include the federal civilian/military Premium Conversion legislation into the stimulus package, which was introduced in the last Congress as H.R.1110 and S.773.

On December 23, 2008, President Bush signed into law the "Worker, Retiree and Employer Recovery Act of 2008" (P.L.110-458), which allows individuals to suspend the required minimum distribution payments for 2009 from IRAs and defined-contribution plans (401(k)s). TSP participants may also take advantage of this, although some on monthly withdrawals may not be able to completely stop all withdrawals. The TSP has issued formal guidelines on their site, www.tsp.gov. They will also mail a special notice to affected individuals by the end of January. The Treasury Department may not

DATED MEETING NOTICE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**<ID#> 1160 <ExpDt>
<FirstMid> <LastNm>
<Addr1> <Addr2>
<City>, <State> <Zip9>**

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as yet have issued full regulations concerning the new law, so individuals may have to contact their individual retirement plans.

On January 7, Rep. Howard Berman (D-CA) again introduced legislation to entirely repeal both the Social Security Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). The House bill number is H.R.235. Members are encouraged to urge their representative to cosponsor this bill and get it through the Ways and Means subcommittees, the usual roadblocks. Recent data indicates about 465,000 Social Security beneficiaries are affected by the GPO, of whom 77% are women and 43% are widowed, and 75% have lost their entire Social Security spousal benefit. The data also shows roughly 972,000 Social Security beneficiaries are affected by the WEP. NARFE President Baptiste has said, "The GPO and WEP arbitrarily eradicate the earned Social Security benefits of far too many public sector retirees. There is absolutely no legitimate reason for one segment of seniors being denied their Social Security benefits for which full Social Security taxes were paid."

TSP Funds: The stock-index oriented TSP funds posted by far the worst year in the program's two-decade history in 2008, with the International stock (I) fund losing 42.43%, the small company (S) fund dropping 38.32% and the large company (C) fund down 36.99%. The bond (F) fund gained 5.45% for the year and the government securities (G) fund gained 3.75%. The 2008 returns for the lifecycle funds are: Income, -5.09%; 2010, -10.53%; 2020, -22.77%; 2030, -27.5%; and 2040, -31.53%.

Reminder: Please send us your "Best Choice" UPC codes when you get a bunch! (It's not worth using 42 cents to mail one or two!) We get \$30 per 1000 codes (3 cents 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 \$\$.

Chapter Officers		
President	E. Regina Barger	913-342-8256
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 save900@aol.com
Treasurer and Newsletter Editor and Roster	Byron Nichols	816-333-5151 byron666@earthlink.net
Alzheimer's Chair	Kathy Zunick	913-281-3335
Membership Chair	Shirley Newman	913-334-2544

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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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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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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 memsrvcs@narfe.org.