



"To Serve — Not To Be Served"
Affiliated with NRTA and AARP

Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel



NEWSLETTER



Spring 2018 www.narsp.org

Published Twice Yearly

NRTA Celebrates 70 Years

The 70th Anniversary Celebration of NRTA: AARP's Educator Community took place in conjunction with the NRTA National Advocacy Conference in late September 2017 in Washington, DC. Pat Etherton, LARSP Legislative chair, and Bob Bussmann, NARSP Executive Director, represented NARSP at this three-day event.

Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus founded the National Retired Teachers Association in 1947. As a former high school principal, she was shocked to learn that so many retired educators had no health insurance and inadequate pensions, forcing many to live in poverty.

Today, NRTA is America's largest national organization representing the interests of educators 50+. With a national network of 850,000 retired educators and school personnel, NRTA provides support and resources to the retired educator network and strategic, state-based partners for AARP's advocacy, community outreach, volunteer, and education initiatives.

As part of the Celebration Reception and Dinner the newly selected NRTA Director, Al Campos, was introduced. The evening showcased the beginnings of NRTA and spotlighted a few of the rich contributions retired educators continue to give back to their local communities. Also honored were the 2017 "With Our Youth!" award recipients. NRTA received eighteen nominees this year from ten states for this year's "With Our Youth!" awards.

Gloria Jean Williams of the Alabama Education Retirees Association won first place for the SKIP program – a nonprofit that helps stop the cycle of incarceration through education, training and mentoring for children in kindergarten through twelfth grade.

Kay Poeth of the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees (Snyder County) won second place for the Books Alive project with the purpose of spreading the love of books throughout the community delivered through storytelling programs and using costumes to bring the books alive. Kay came dressed as "Amelia Bedelia" in accepting her award.

The Squaw Butte (Idaho) Retired Educators won the group category. Brenda Hansen accepted the award on behalf of Squaw Butte. This local unit conducts a warm clothing drive for schools each year that are located in a rural district with a high poverty rate.

The Advocacy Conference, which is held every other year, included two full-days of individual speakers and panel presentations as well as scheduled time for Capital Hill constituent visits.

Topics included: Federal Legislative Climate and Outlook, Public Pension Research and Resources, Current and Future State of Health and Financial Security on Capital Hill, Federal and State Landscapes on Public Pensions, RAISE Family Caregivers Act, and Effective Messaging on Teacher Retirement Issues. There were opportunities to participate in Roundtable Conversations and for individual networking.

Pat and Bob attended the Nebraska Breakfast while in D.C. The Nebraska Breakfast is the oldest organized gathering of its kind on Capital Hill. Every Wednesday morning that Congress is in session, Nebraskans visiting the nation's capital can meet and visit informally with their congressional delegation. The Nebraska Breakfast originated in 1943. It was the



Bob Bussmann, NARSP Executive Director; Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, Founder of NRTA; and Pat Etherton, LARSP Legislative chair, at NRTA 70th Anniversary Celebration and National Advocacy Conference.

idea of U.S. Senator Hugh Butler. All five members of the Nebraska delegation spoke on legislative issues and committee activity that they were involved with at the present time as well as what was happening on "The Hill" that week. A packet with information about NARSP and some fact sheets related to legislative issues was provided each member of the Nebraska delegation.

The speaker at the closing reception and dinner for the conference was Lily Liu, AARP Historian. Her power point presentation related to the life of Ethel Percy Andrus and the history of NRTA.

NARSP Executive Board

Robert Bussmann, Executive Director

Wauneta Peterson, President

Ann Meinzer, Vice President

Billie Carole Bussmann, Secretary

Wanda Samson, Treasurer

Additional officer information located on the NARSP Website:

www.narsp.org



...a little bit of This 'n' That from Bob...

Robert L. (Bob) Bussmann

Executive Director of The Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel

The focus for this column will be on a word and a phrase.

wel come – used to express a greeting to a guest or a newcomer upon their

arrival.

Since the last issue (Summer Issue) of the NARSP Newsletter we have received a considerable number of new NARSP State memberships. Some of these “newcomers” are recent retirees while others retired a few years back. “Welcome to membership in NARSP!”

Membership with NARSP gives you representation in the community and legislature, fellowship with other retired school personnel, and access to many benefits and discounts through Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) for which many of you found attractive and have taken advantage of through your NARSP State membership.

NARSP membership provides continued learning opportunities through workshops and our biennial state convention. You will receive the NARSP Newsletter that is published twice each year (spring and summer).

Many of you may reside in a city or an area of a local unit. There are fourteen local units across the state. You may wish to consider joining a local unit, which is an organization that focuses on community service, continuing education, fellowship, philanthropy, recognition of service to the association, and member welfare concerns by promoting the social, professional, and economic well being of retired school personnel. In this newsletter you will find the “Unit Reports” from a number of those local units and read about what’s happening at the local level. If you would be interested in finding out more information about the local unit in your area I would encourage you to contact the local president. The NARSP website lists the names of the local unit presidents along with their directory information.

Additional information about NARSP can be found on our website: www.narsp.org and also on Facebook www.facebook.com/NRTA.NE.

Again, “Welcome to NARSP!”

thank you – kindly or grateful thoughts; an expression of gratitude.

With the attendance at the NARSP State Convention declining over the years and the costs of holding such an event increasing, a decision was made to develop and send out a survey related to having future conventions. A letter of information and a return post card was sent to the NARSP members in the local units in June.

“Thank You” to 52.9% of the members receiving the mailing and returning the survey response post card. Your response and the additional comments and thoughts were greatly appreciated and beneficial to the Board of Directors when making the decision. The responses generated five single-spaced pages of comments, thoughts, and suggestions.

“Thank You” to the Board of Directors for their review of the received data and comments in their own deliberations in making an ultimate decision for the association. The thoughtful discussion that took place at the Board of Directors’ Annual Meeting was commendable! The eventual hard decision resulted in a motion that was approved to hold the NARSP Convention every other year. Your leadership at the Board Meeting and continued within your local Unit is greatly appreciated.

Survey Results were as follows: Continue to hold a yearly NARSP Convention (6%); Hold the NARSP Convention every other year (36%); Discontinue holding a NARSP Convention (31%); and No opinion (25%).

...a “little bit” more – The next NARSP State Convention will be held in the fall of 2019. The Annual Board of Directors’ Meeting will be held this coming fall. The date, time, and location have yet to be determined. More information will be sent to the local Unit Presidents in the near future and there will also be related information included in the Summer Issue of the NARSP Newsletter.

Unit Presidents received the NARSP “Active Educator” Scholarship information and application packets in January. NARSP will be awarding this fall two \$1000 scholarships for the 2018-2019 academic year. If you know of an active educator in your area that is working on an advanced degree or endorsement, encourage them to contact your local Unit President for the information and application. Completed applications need to be submitted to the local Unit by Saturday, April 14. Units need to submit the semi-finalist applications to me on or before Friday, May 18.

The Nebraska Unicameral meets this year for a 60-day session. They are on the downhill stretch with adjournment scheduled for mid-April. At this time most of the debate time will be on priority bills selected by each individual senator, bills from each of the Legislative Committees, and bills the Speaker of the Legislature has selected. The major focus for this year since the beginning of the session appears to be on property taxes and dealing with the revenue shortfall of \$195 million on the state budget. There have been two bills of interest that the “Coalition to Make Nebraska More Retiree Friendly” having been following this session. LB 738 was introduced by Senator Brett Lindstrom, District 18, Omaha – “to adjust the threshold income for taxing Social Security for inflation”. Senator Lindstrom has designated LB 738 as his priority bill. LB 824 was introduced by Senator Adam Morfeld, District 46, Lincoln – “to exclude all Social Security income from Nebraska state income tax beginning in 2019”.

In conclusion... *“So remember, greatness and rewards are perhaps within your group if you see the needs of the people about you and apply yourself to fulfilling their needs.”* --Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, Founder of NRTA, 1947

Nebraska Association Retired School Personnel

Financial Report

September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017

Checkbook Balance, September 1, 2016 \$8,768.76

Income

Dues	\$10,025.00
Registration	\$1,590.00
Baskets	\$374.00
Contribution	\$200.00
AMBA	\$1,000.00
Total Income	<u>\$13,189.00</u>

Total Balance and Income \$21,957.76

Expenditures

Postage	\$505.23
Printing	\$95.95
Supplies	\$186.74
Board Expenses	
Mileage	\$443.03
Meal	<u>\$343.89</u>
Total Board Expenses	\$786.92

Convention Expenses

Awards	\$11.77
Food	\$2,068.06
Pictures from 2016 Conv	\$14.25
Printing	\$186.82
Mileage/Presidents	\$1,465.33
Prizes	\$225.00
Rooms	\$1,772.34
Speaker 2016	\$277.00
** Speaker 2017	\$150.00
Supplies	<u>\$346.99</u>
** Total Convention Expenses	\$6,517.56

Newsletter Expenses

Postage	\$841.10
Printing	<u>\$5,318.40</u>
Total Newsletter Expenses	\$6,159.50

Miscellaneous

Secretary of State	\$20.00
Fidelity Bond	\$100.00
Scholarships	\$2,000.00
Stipend	\$200.00
Memorial Don Leighton	<u>\$100.00</u>
Total Miscellaneous Expenses	\$2,420.00

Total Expenditures \$16,671.90

Checkbook Balance, August 31, 2017 \$5,285.86

** **Total Convention Expenses, 2016 \$6,367.56**

REMINDER

It would be appreciated if local Units and individuals would regularly notify Wanda Samson, NARSP Treasurer, of the name(s) of NARSP members who have changed addresses or passed away. This will help with keeping an updated membership/ mailing list as well as a listing of the necrology for the 2017-18 Memorial Service Program. **If you have not already done so, names of members who have passed since the last convention need to be submitted to Wanda by Friday, August 31 to be included in the memorial program.**

[Wanda Samson, NARSP Treasurer, 1636 N. Clamar Avenue, Fremont, NE 68025 or wanda.samson@gmail.com]



NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOOL PERSONNEL

Executive Board Meeting Minutes, October 9, 2017

Hotel Grand Conference Center, Grand Island / Suite 142

The Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel Executive Board meeting was held at The Hotel Grand Conference Center, Grand Island, NE. Members present were Bob Bussmann, Executive Director; Wauneta Peterson, President; Ann Meinzer, Vice-President, Billie Bussmann, Secretary; Wanda Samson, Treasurer and Richard Meinzer, guest.

Wauneta Peterson called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m.

The minutes of the June 20, 2017 Executive Board Meeting were approved as printed.

The treasurer's report was accepted for financial review with a September asset balance of \$52,572.20. A financial report from September 1, 2016 June 30, 2017 was also provided.

Thus far, NARSP Membership totals 346. Unit membership includes 153 paid members and 37 (85 plus) honorary lifetime members for a total of 190. AMBA only membership includes 122 paid members and 34 (85 plus) honorary lifetime members for a total of 156. Renewal notices will be sent out in November.

No additional agenda items were indicated.

Bob reported on the 70th Anniversary of NRTA and the biennial National Advocacy Conference held in Washington, DC. Pat Etherton also attended the Conference. The Senate has passed the RAISE Act which is concerned with Family Caregivers. The bill is now in the House of Representatives for hopeful passage. They attended the Nebraska Breakfast where they were able to meet with the Nebraska delegation. Most of the conference was spent on discussion of Public Pensions. Al Campos was introduced as the new Director of NRTA.

There is a new Executive Director at the State Retirement System. It is Randy Gerke who was the Deputy Director. Jina Ragland is the new Nebraska AARP Assistant State Director of Advocacy.

Art Dunham will be presenting a new package of benefits for AMBA. The AMBA website will be updated with all of the information. Bob and Billie will be attending the AMBA Roundup in November. We have had 30 to 35 new AMBA memberships over the summer.

The North Platte Unit has disbanded. There was no one to take the position for being an officer and many of them were in the 85+ category. They gave their records to the historical society.

Wanda reported on the membership ad hoc committee. These suggestions were included in the recent newsletter and a poster for local schools to join the state and local unit (an example was provided). The membership brochure for LARSP was shared. Wanda can be contacted for more information. Bob should be the state contact for the association.

The update on the NARSP Scholarship recipients indicated that both individuals would be present at the State Convention Luncheon. They both have their scholarship checks.

The registration for the Board of Directors' Dinner/Meeting is 25 and the number attending the Convention/Luncheon is 45. The cost for speakers is \$123.50 and \$158.50 respectively to the Council of Humanities. The Chamber of Commerce is providing \$150. There will be ten (10) people at a table with two tables reserved. The Fall City Unit is providing favors for each attendee.

Bob reported on the post card survey of the membership concerning the continuation of having a State Convention. During the Board of Directors meeting we will have members share their thoughts on this issue. It took one postcard 15 days to arrive in the mail. Many would love to continue the convention every year. It was even on the vote for every other year. Depending in what is decided the Standing Rules will need to be changed if we go to every other year.

Unit Officer information for 2017-2018 was provided to the officers.

Wanda indicated the membership figures for 2016-2017. There are 15 Units with 6 units increasing membership, 2 staying the same, and 7 decreasing membership. Cass County had the greatest percentage of increase in membership and Lincoln had the largest increase in number of members.

The Agenda for the Board of Directors' Annual meeting was reviewed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05

Respectfully submitted,

Billie Carole Bussmann, NARSP Secretary



Elizabeth (Beutler) Dunn

She is from Falls City and a member of the Southeast Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel. As far back in the records as they can go, it seems she is the first member of the Southeast Nebraska Unit to achieve their 100th birthday. Elizabeth has been a member of NARSP since 1984.

Elizabeth Beutler was born on January 1, 1918, at the George & Caroline Beutler family home south of Humboldt, Nebraska. The home is about 1/12 mile east and 3/4 mile north of the Four Mile Church which the family attended. The home she was born in is still used as a residence. She was the older of two children. Her sister Catherine was born on July 4, 1921.

Elizabeth attended Speiser Center School, District #65, where her father was on the school board from 1927-1932. After completing 8th grade she attended Humboldt High School graduating in the spring of 1934, at the age of 16.

She attended a course at Peru State Teachers College that summer for 4 weeks and started teaching in the fall of 1934, at Rose Dale School for the salary of \$35 per month. She taught at Rosedale for 3 years then went to Pleasant Hill School from the fall of 1937, to the spring of 1942.

In the fall of 1942, she went to her first school with more than one teacher, moving to Shubert. She remained in Shubert until the spring of 1945.



Spotlight on a 100-Year-Old Member

Elizabeth married Dale Dunn on November 29, 1944, and

began teaching in Falls City in the fall of 1945. She taught in Falls City until the spring of 1951, when she left teaching to raise her family. Her daughter Dianne was born in August of 1951, and son Mike was born in January 1957.

Elizabeth returned to teaching in the fall of 1963, when Mike started kindergarten. She taught at District 30, Glen Dale, aka Litchy School until the spring of 1969. She was hired by the Falls City school district beginning in the fall of 1969, as she obtained her degree in elementary education from Peru State College in the summer of 1969. All the classes she took at Peru were either summer or night school over the span of 45 years.

Elizabeth taught kindergarten at both North and South schools in Falls City over the years and retired from teaching in the spring of 1984.

In her retirement, she was busy as a pink lady at Community Medical Center, church volunteer, member of several card clubs and civic organizations and supporter of her grandchildren's activities.

She moved to Jonesbrook in the spring of 2012, where she remains an active resident.



"Remember the Spotlight"

Do you have a centenarian in your local Unit that is a member of NARSP or a member that will be reaching that milestone in the very near future? Plan to submit an article about that individual along with their picture to Robert Bussmann for inclusion in a future issue of the NARSP Newsletter so the "Spotlight on a 100-Year-Old Member" can be turned on!

NARSP



Remember to LIKE us on



www.facebook.com/NRTA.NE

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, October 10, 2017

Hotel Grand Conference Center, Grand Island, NE

Ambassador Meeting Room

The Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel Board of Directors meeting was held in Grand Island, NE on October 10, 2017. Members present were Bob Bussmann - Lincoln Unit, Executive Director; Leona Anderson - Hastings Unit, State Community Service Chair; Billie Bussmann - Lincoln Unit, NARSP Secretary; Wauneta Peterson - Lincoln Unit, State President; Sally Ganem - Fremont Unit, Representative; Patricia A. Jenkins Rohde - Wayne Unit, President; Wanda Samson - Fremont Unit, treasurer and State Treasurer; Eldon Ervin - Grand Island Unit, President; Judy Williams - Grand Island Unit, Representative; Mildred Boyd - Omaha Unit, NSRTA Past President; Nancy Johnson - Omaha Unit, President; Ann Meinzer - Southeast Nebraska Unit, President and State Vice-President; Richard Meinzer - Southeast Nebraska, guest; Karen Christensen - Hastings Unit, President; Jan Stamper, Lincoln Unit, Vice-President; Pat Etherton - Lincoln Unit, Representative; Karen Indra - Norfolk Unit, President; Paul Weinert - Southeast Nebraska, Vice-President; Mary Jane Weinert - Southeast Nebraska, guest; June Bowers - Southeast Nebraska Unit, treasurer; Jenny Gubbels - Wayne Unit, Secretary/Treasurer; Twila Griffins - Scottsbluff Unit, President; Ernie Griffiths - Scottsbluff Unit, Representative; Mary Lou George - Wayne Unit, guest; and Art Dunham - AMBA Regional Vice-President.

Wauneta Peterson, President, called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. All people present were introduced. Ann Meinzer served as parliamentarian.

The October 11, 2016 minutes were approved as printed.

Wanda Samson indicated the state dues forms are due October 16. The 2017-2018 membership cards were sent to each unit. If you need additional membership cards, do let Wanda know. Do indicate those members who are 85+. The red font is notice of changes. Send via email as this helps in sending back information. Please give mileage forms to her tonight so that checks can be given out tomorrow. The 2016-2017 yearly financial report was distributed. The monies are down about \$3,500 from last year. The report will be filed for financial review.

Leona Anderson indicated volunteer hours were down from last year. Units will be presented with certificates for volunteer hours and recognition of their Day of Service activities on Wednesday during the convention.

Wanda reported on the membership totals for 2016-2017. Seven units decreased in membership, two units stayed the same and six units increased their membership. There are 625 unit members and 204 AMBA only members for a total of 829 NARSP members. The unit that increased most in numbers and the unit with the highest percentage of increased will be announced at tomorrow's convention and presented with the traveling plaques.

For the 2017-2018 membership year five units have turned in their dues for 190 unit members and 156 AMBA members for a total of 346.

Wanda reminded individuals to check NARSP Facebook and to let Janet Kletke jkletka@Q.com know any information for posting to share with others. Do check Facebook for ideas and to stay connected.

Art Dunham indicated there is a new benefit sheet with codes. There is a Home Health Care Plan where one can be cared for in your home. There are no medical questions and anyone not receiving care at this time is eligible to age 85. Mutual of Omaha provides a term life policy for AMBA members. There is a dining/restaurant piece for restaurants in our areas with deductions on meals. Nebraska is one of four states that do not have health care through retirement. Do check the medical supplement plan offered by AMBA as one might be paying more than their plan.

Ann Meinzer, chair of the nominations committee, presented Billie Bussmann for Secretary and Wanda Samson for Treasurer for a two-year term. Wauneta asked for nominations from the floor for these two offices. There were none.

Bob Bussmann and Pat Etherton reported on the NRTA 70th Anniversary and Biennial Advocacy Conference. "With Our Youth" awards were presented as well. They discussed legislation on climate, public pensions, health and financial teacher retirement. The RAISE Act is now in the hands of the House of Representatives. They attended the Nebraska Breakfast where the entire Nebraska congressional delegation was present. Here they are able to meet with the Nebraska Senators and Congress Representatives individually. Bob mailed the NARSP packets to each member of the Nebraska delegation.

At the conference a history of the founder of NRTA, Ethel Percy Andrus was given.

The Executive Director's report included convention attendance, Board of Directors' Dinner/Meeting is 25 and Convention/Luncheon is 45; and scholarship recipients, Carrie Foster-Lincoln Unit and Amanda Moenning-Fremont Unit will be attending the State Convention Luncheon tomorrow.

The North Platte Unit has disbanded as of September 2017.

Bob suggested units consider having a historian to keep track of records and yearly unit activities. An example of the LARSP historian book for this past year will be on display at the convention.

NRTA has a new director, Al Campos, who was previously with NEA for 14 years. The new NPERS Executive Director is Randy Gerke. Jina Ragland is replacing Mark Intermill at AARP as Advocacy Director.

The newsletter items are due February 9. It would be great if

every unit would submit an article.

The "With Our Youth" applications are now online. For the Community Service Award only one nominee per unit is allowed unless it would be a husband and wife couple. Wayne had an issue with selecting two recipients because of the age of their recipients. Since not many individuals are chosen for this award all across the United States, it appears this rule should be changed.

The "Coalition for Making Nebraska Retiree Friendly" has not met. AARP RAN Meetings have been held in Lincoln and Grand Island. Do subscribe to the Unicameral Updates.

There was a drawing for prizes.

Wanda reported on the Membership Ad Hoc Committee with ideas for increasing membership. She handed out ideas for a local poster to be placed in schools throughout the state and a recruitment suggestion sheet. Our active teacher scholarship would be indicated to all staff throughout the state. Other members of this committee were Sally Ganem and Pat Etherton.

Bob reviewed the purpose of the Annual Meeting and the Board Notebooks. He explained with the Bylaw change that each unit has two representatives as members on the Board of Directors. The notebooks should be handed down to a new representative that may attend a Board of Directors' in the future.

The Annual Meeting recessed for dinner.

The meeting reconvened at 6:52 p.m. with the presentation of the Convention Input Survey by Bob. There were 606 Letters/Survey sent with 321 Postcards returned for a return percentage of 52.9%. The breakdown of the results were continue to hold a yearly NARSP Convention-20 (6%), hold the NARSP Convention every other year-117 (36%), Discontinue holding a NARSP Convention-101 (31%), no opinion-80 (25%), no preference marked-1 (less than 1%, cards returned indicating member had

passed-2 (less than 1%). There are over four full single spaced pages of comments.

Bob presented the 2017-2018 budget. He indicated the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce had given NARSP \$150 for the State Convention. Bob moved on behalf of the Executive Board approval of the budget. The budget passed.

Pat Jenkins Rhode, Nancy Johnson and Ann Meinzer were selected to be members of the NARSP Nominating Committee.

It was moved by Twila Griffiths and seconded by Sally Ganem to approve Billie Bussmann for Secretary and Wanda Samson for treasurer for a two-year term. Both will be installed at the convention.

The future of NARSP Conventions was discussed with each individual on the Board of Directors giving input. Judy Williams moved the NARSP State Convention be held every other year with next year having a Board of Directors' meeting followed by a State Convention the following year. Sally Ganem seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There will now need to be changes to the Constitution, Bylaws, and the Standing Rules.

There was a reminder to submit mileage forms to Wanda before leaving tonight. Morning coffee will be available and registration check in is from 8:30 to 9 a.m. There is a complimentary breakfast for hotel guests. Checkout is at 12 noon. Theme baskets/Packages need to be brought to the Meeting Room tomorrow morning by 8:30 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Billie Carole Bussmann

NARSP Secretary

Do you have questions regarding your pension benefits?
Do you need additional information or need to
schedule an appointment about your pension benefits?
Have you changed your address? Contact NPERS:

Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems

1526 K Street, Suite 400
P.O. Box 94816
Lincoln, NE 68509-4816
Phone 402-471-2053
Toll Free 800-245-5712
npers.ne.gov



Nebraska Association Retired School Personnel 2017 Convention

Income		\$1,780.00
Expenditures		
Awards	\$65.83	
Food	\$1,551.21	
Printing	\$239.07	
Mileage/Presidents	\$1,620.62	
Prizes	\$225.00	
Hotel Rooms	\$1,804.94	
Speaker Expenses	\$432.00 **	
Supplies	\$58.07	
Postage	\$27.86	
Total Convention Exp		<u>\$6,024.60</u>
Net Loss		<u><u>-\$4,244.60</u></u>

** Expenses paid during 2016-17 Fiscal Year (included above)
Speaker Expenses \$150.00

Helen Weber

Helen Weber was born January 18, 1918 in Nehawka, Nebraska to Edwin and Anna Schomaker.

She was the middle of three children having an older brother and a younger sister.

Helen graduated from Nehawka High School in 1935 and Bryan Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in 1939. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Nebraska Wesleyan in 1961 and a Masters Degree in 1970 from the University of Nebraska.

In 1941 Helen married Ralph H. Weber. Helen and Ralph had two sons – Ralph H. 2nd “Scott”, who is a pediatrician, and Edwin Lynn that died in infancy. Helen is a proud grandmother and great grandmother. Helen’s extended family includes nieces and nephews.

Helen began her nursing career as a private duty nurse working 20-hour and 12-hour shifts before 8-hour shifts were started. She continued as a general duty nurse at Bryan Memorial Hospital and served as a floor supervisor after Ralph’s passing. Her career as a school nurse with the Lincoln Public Schools began in 1959 and continued to 1969 when she became Supervisor of School Nurses. Helen retired from LPS in 1985.

By nature of her profession, Helen belonged to numerous organizations and served many of these organizations in varied capacities as a member, committee chair, or officer. Beginning with the Red Cross in 1939 and continuing after retirement.

“A Volunteer Tradition of Sharing and Caring” was definitely a part of Helen’s being as noted through the following experiences:

- through the local Red Cross, Helen taught home nursing classes, served on the Nursing and Junior Red Cross Committees, and assisted with local disasters which were mainly shelter operations.

- National Red Cross Disaster experiences after Helen retired included Hurricane Juan in Louisiana, 1985; floods in West Virginia, 1985; Texas Hurricane Gilbert, 1988; floods in Houston, Texas, 1989; Hurricane Hugo in Puerto Rico, 1989; tornado in Lawrence, Nebraska, 1990; and tornado winds in Kearney, Nebraska, 1993

- Nebraska Heart Association, taught CPR classes in LPS
- founding member and board member of the Nebraska Affiliate for the National Society to Prevent Blindness
- Project Coordinator for the National Association for

Spotlight on a 100-Year-Old Member



School Nurses that developed

“Guidelines
for a Model
S c h o o l

Nursing Services Program”; Helen was granted a Hilda Maehling Fellowship from NEA to help fund the project

- participant in the Bryan School of Nursing Alumni Association

- volunteered at Bryan Health for over two decades through Volunteer Services assisting in the office as well as with mail delivery and mailings

- served as a hospice volunteer at Tabitha Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

- served as a member and chair of the LARTA/LARSP Health Advocacy Committee

and has volunteered with the Annual Used Book Sale

Over the years, Helen has been the recipient of numerous recognitions that include:

- Hilda Maehling Fellow for Outstanding Contributions to Education and the Teaching Profession, 1981

- United Way Certificate of Honor for Outstanding Volunteer Services in Lincoln, 1980, 1987, and 1990

- National Society to Prevent Blindness Distinguished Service Award, 1987

- 1990 Sertoma Service to Mankind Award from University Sertoma Club of Lincoln

- National Association of School Nurses Recognition Award, 1992

- Distinguished Service to Nursing Award from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, 1992

- Alumni Services Award from the Bryan Memorial Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association, 1997

Helen resides at Eastmont Towers. Helen’s favorite color is “blue” and she definitely has a love for violets.



Nebraska Association Retired School Personnel

Financial Report

September 1, 2017 to January 31, 2018

Checkbook Balance, September 1, 2017	\$5,285.86
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Income

Dues	\$9,050.00	
Registration	\$1,780.00	
Baskets	\$445.00	
Other: Sale of Coffee Mugs/ARC Collection	\$72.00	
AMBA	\$1,000.00	
Total Income		<u>\$12,347.00</u>

Total Balance and Income	<u>\$17,632.86</u>
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Expenditures

Postage	\$145.59
Printing	\$0.00
Supplies	\$27.87

Board Expenses

Mileage	\$535.11
Meal	<u>\$113.20</u>
Total Board Expenses	\$648.31

Convention Expenses

Awards	\$65.83
Food	\$1,551.21
Printing	\$239.07
Mileage/Presidents	\$1,620.62
Prizes	\$225.00
Rooms	\$1,804.94
Speaker	\$282.00
Supplies	\$58.07
Postage	<u>\$27.86</u>
Total Convention Expenses	\$5,874.60

Miscellaneous

ASRTE Dues	\$100.00
Scholarships	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
Total Miscellaneous Expenses	\$2,100.00

Total Expenditures	<u>\$8,796.37</u>
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Checkbook Balance, January 31, 2018	<u><u>\$8,836.49</u></u>
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Other Monies

	<u>Original</u>	<u>Current</u>
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US Bank

CD (xxxxx11) Matures 01-07-2021	\$6,009.35	\$6,183.31
CD (xxxxx01) Matures 05-20-2018	\$10,380.30	\$10,987.72
CD (xxxxx31) Matures 01-16-2021	\$10,000.00	\$10,289.50
CD (xxxxx49) Matures 01-16-2021	\$10,000.00	\$10,289.50

State Farm

CD (xxxxx59) Matures 03-06-2018	\$9,280.18	<u>\$9,812.42</u>
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Total CD's	<u>\$47,562.45</u>
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Checkbook Balance and Other Monies, January 31, 2018	<u><u>\$56,398.94</u></u>
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Nominations Sought for NARSP Awards

NARSP has two annual awards, the “Big Apple” Award and the “Educational Service” Award, that are given to recognize individuals for their efforts in the community and/or unit or on behalf of retired school personnel.

The “Big Apple” Award is given to a person(s) who has made the biggest difference in the lives of retired school personnel. Past award recipients include: State Senator Gail Kopplin (2007), Mark Intermill (2008), Leona Anderson (2009), Bob Kuhn (2010), Don and Marilyn Leighton (2011), Bob Bussmann (2012), Gwynne Kuhn (2013), Adams County Convention and Visitors Bureau (2013), Roger Rea (2014), Jeri Lorenz (2015), Marjorie Pearson (2016), Janet Hibbs-Jones (2017), and Paul Weinert (2017).

Members can nominate anyone in their local Unit, community, or in our state who you think deserves this honor. It can be a person of any age and any walk of life that you believe has made the biggest difference in the lives of retired school personnel. The individual does not need to be a member of NARSP.

The “Educational Service” Award is given to a NARSP member that in retirement keeps education alive, embodies the mission of NARSP, and continues to serve the Association and/or their local Unit in an unassuming way.

Do you have such an individual in mind that fits the description for either of these awards? If so, please complete the nomination form for either of these awards that is included in this issue of the “NARSP Newsletter”. Nomination forms need to be mailed to: Robert L. Bussmann, NARSP Executive Director, 3750 Normal Blvd., Lincoln, NE 68506 by Tuesday, May 1, 2018. If you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to call at 402-488-3231 or e-mail at RBUSSMANN@neb.rr.com.

AMBA Roundup

Bob and Billie Bussmann attended the 2017 AMBA Roundup the first week in November in Austin, Texas. The Roundup theme was “Roadmap to Growth” with AMBA’s goal being to have robust discussions about how they can help partner associations increase membership in a significant way and thrive in today’s environment. The agenda and schedule for two days was packed with relevant information, motivation, strategic discussion, future direction, and some well-deserved fun! The content and breakout sessions included topics about how to improve recruitment, retention, and association value proposition.

Participants heard from Steve Cardinal, CEO, and Nick Taylor, COO, the new leaders of AMBA. An update was given on the benefits and discounts that AMBA offers members of associations. There were opportunities for networking with other association leaders during the conference and sharing best practices for membership recruitment and retention.

Guest speakers included: Jim Craig, 1980 hockey Olympian, shared his story about the importance of teamwork and goal setting. Jim’s belief in having a shared dream, confidence in winning, and never giving up are all important themes we can apply to the work we do with associations and supporting our membership growth.

Jan Hargrave, renowned body language expert, was definitely one of the most captivating speakers. Jan’s expertise on how to

approach individuals and what your body language says are all great tools everyone can apply when speaking with current and potential members at your local meetings.

Keith Brainard, author and Research Director for the National Association of State Retirement Administrators (NASRA) briefed the conference attendees on the current public employee retirement ecosystem and policy news updates.

AMBA has 54 endorsements in 32 states. NARSP endorsed AMBA in 2002 so that our association has access to exceptional member benefits. Check out the NARSP website (www.narsp.org) provided and maintained by AMBA to learn more about your member benefits and discounts.



AMBA
ASSOCIATION MEMBER BENEFITS ADVISORS
Association solutions. Member benefits.
It's what we do.

**To find out more,
call 800.258.7041
or visit
myAMBAbenefits.info/narsp**

NOMINATION FORM
for
NARSP “BIG APPLE” AWARD
or
NARSP “EDUCATIONAL SERVICE” AWARD

Your Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ **E-mail** _____

Nominee’s Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Local Unit (if applicable) _____

Please check one of the award options below for which this nomination is being submitted.

_____ **“Big Apple” Award**

_____ **“Educational Service” Award**

In a brief paragraph or two, describe the activities and reasons why this person(s) should receive either the NARSP “Big Apple” Award or the NARSP “Educational Service” Award. Please type your information and attach it to this completed form.

Nomination forms need to be mailed to: Robert L. Bussmann, NARSP Executive Director, 3750 Normal Boulevard, Lincoln, NE 68506 by Tuesday, May 1, 2018. (You may make copies of this form for other members to use.)

"A Look Back In Time"

TELLING TALES Out of School is a collection of articles describing highlights of teaching experiences of retired teachers of Nebraska. This book was a bicentennial book for the "Pride in America Project" of the National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA) in 1976. The Nebraska State Retired Teachers Association (NSRTA) decided to publish a book of 164 articles out of the 294 submitted. There was room for only 164. Fifty-two towns were represented in the book. The Nebraska book represents the combined efforts of many individuals. One of the 164 articles is included for "A Look Back In Time"...

Do You Remember...

by Goldie Krumwide, South Sioux City

Signing a contract for a yearly salary equal to a monthly one 40 years later?

Finding a transient asleep in the school's cob shed one Monday morning? He apologized and went on his way.

Lighting the Christmas tree candles to the children's delight, but only for a few seconds while an adult stood by with several pails of water?

Watching the children from one family eat the same kind of unappetizing-looking sandwiches day after day?

Being sure to sweep immediately after the children left and finishing other work to get out before dark as mice weren't very good company?

Receiving beautiful and elaborate valentines, which were given with so much love because you were someone very special?

Giving programs and box socials every year and having your box sell for as much as \$75?

Warning the pupils to take excellent care of their eight crayons, which were expected to last the year?

Teaching 45 pupils daily?

Receiving loving notes and pictures placed secretly on your desk by pupils?

Having pupils announce on opening day, "You taught my mother (or father) too"?

Being happy to receive a new set of books but not completely giving up the old ones because of good material?

Not recognizing the first symptoms of whooping cough and soon having a roomful of children exposed and absent?

Catching mumps from one of the pupils?

Making costumes for yearly musicals?

Discovering teachers conventions are a source of fun and inspiration?

Being broke on a nine-month's salary when starting school and through September?

Applying to each school board member to get a position in rural areas?

Playing ball with the children during the noon hour and having them make you feel like a super-star?

Replying to question on how you like teaching by saying, "It doesn't seem like work. I'm doing what I want and like to do."

Maybe this is why I enjoy these memories.



NRTA Staff

Al Campos, Director NRTA

Shelisa Ashford, DC Office

Mary Beth Dixon, Advisor

Tom Nicholls, Senior Legislative Representative

I have checked the books from January 1, 2017, to December 31, 2017, and have found them to be in order.

Linda Ebeling

3-19-2018

The news articles for the Summer Issue of the NARSP Newsletter are due by Friday, July 6, 2018.

57th NARSP State Convention News & Memories



Board of Directors' Meeting

Both (programs) historically interesting -
Beautiful Nebraska History



Board of Directors' Meeting, presided by President Wauneta Peterson



Jan Barnason facilitating a Community Improvement Survey with David Scribner, Hastings Unit

I always enjoy hearing about
all of the AMBA services and
discount opportunities

Board of Directors Meeting - Lots of
discussion about necessary topics -
Good decisions made

Liked the focus on Nebraska
History through song.



Art Dunham, AMBA Regional Vice President visiting with Nancy Johnson, Omaha Unit President

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL

57th State Convention

Hotel Grand Conference Center, Grand Island, NE

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

The 57th annual NARSP State Convention convened at 9:00 a.m. on October 11th, with Wauneta Peterson, NARSP State President, presiding. The Grand Island Unit hosted the event. The theme of the convention “. . . and the CELEBRATION continues!”

Bob Bussmann began with a reading and led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the singing of “God Bless America.”

Grand Island Mayor, Jeremy Jensen welcomed us to the city and thanked us for holding our meeting in Grand Island.

Thanks were extended to Dorothy Ervin, Velma Fehr, Beverly Peterson and Judy Williams from the Grand Island Unit who greeted the convention attendees at the registration table.

Wauneta introduced the NARSP Executive Board. Past Presidents in attendance were: Janet Hibbs-Jones, Hastings NARSP Co-President from 2006-2008; Judy Williams from Central City, Co-President from 2006 to 2008; Mildred Boyd from Omaha, President from 1992-1996; and Bob Bussmann, Lincoln, President from 2008 to 2012. The unit presidents in attendance were asked to stand and be recognized. They were thanked for their dedicated service to their local unit as well as their commitment to and support of NARSP.

Donations to the American Red Cross (Hurricane Relief) were collected today to assist victims affected by the hurricanes this summer.

Patricia Jenkins Rohde, Wayne Unit President served as Leader, assisted by Mary Lou George, Wayne Unit and Jenny Gubbels, Wayne Unit, led the Memorial Service that honored 41 members who had passed away this past year.

Art Dunham, AMBA Regional Vice President from Austin, Texas, gave a short presentation concerning AMBA benefits with particular emphasis on the new Kemper Home Health Care Insurance, a Mutual of Omaha Life Insurance, AMBA discounts with especially restaurant discounts in our local areas, MASA for ambulance coverage, and Medicare supplement insurance as AMBA's plan could be cheaper than the one you are carrying. AMBA, initially founded in 1981, is in 32 states with representation in 54 organizations. There are only four states with no insurance with retirement of which Nebraska is one of them. Art will be available throughout the day until early afternoon to help attendees with their AMBA benefit needs. Art was thanked with another big thank you to AMBA for providing our NARSP website.

During the break Individuals were able to purchase raffle tickets.

Bob introduced the morning speaker, Bob Ferguson. He provided the convention attendees an enrichment of “America's History, People and Culture on Postage Stamps.” He indicated the first stamps were engraved in steel and were in one color. In 1957 stamps were made with additional colors. They are now designed

on the computer and not engraved. There are no living persons on stamps. Many examples of stamps shown had connections to Nebraska. You can find stamps to purchase on USPS.com. Mr. Ferguson is from the Humanities Nebraska Speaker's Bureau.

Connie Benjamin, State AARP Director and Dave Holmquist, State AARP President shared an update from AARP Nebraska. They discussed AARP's vision, having livable communities, caregiving (Paid Family and Medical Leave Act), Caregiver Tax Credit, exempt Social Security from state income taxes, and fraud prevention. They are working on LB439 concerning assisted living to allow nurses to provide health services. Connie and Dave were thanked for their presentation as well as for providing the information and handout materials. They also provided gifts for the drawing at the end of the convention.

Before the attendees moved to the Royal Room for the Plated Luncheon, Bob Bussmann gave the invocation. The Southeast Nebraska Unit and NARSP were thanked for providing the luncheon favors on our luncheon tables.

At the luncheon Wauneta presented the NARSP Scholarships. This is the eighth year that NARSP has awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 to an active educator pursuing studies for an advanced degree or endorsement. This year two scholarships were awarded.

There were eight semi-finalists from six local units that were reviewed by the NARSP Executive Board. The first recipient this year was Carrie Foster, a Special Education Supervisor with Lincoln Public Schools. She is pursuing an Educational Specialist Degree from Doane University. Attending the luncheon with Carrie was her mother, Carol Ann Anderson and her grandmother, Jean Hovey. Both are retired educators. Wauneta read and presented the certificate to Carrie. She shared her appreciation for the scholarship.

The second recipient was Amanda Moenning, a Preschool Special Education Teacher at Davenport School within the Fremont Public Schools. She is pursuing a Masters in Special Education Inclusive Practices degree at Concordia University. Her husband, Dan, joined Amanda. She also shared her appreciation for the scholarship. Wauneta read and presented the certificate to her. Both were thanked for being with us and were wished well with their continued graduate studies.

This concluded our luncheon and scholarship presentations.

Bob introduced Dan Holtz. He sang with a beautiful sound with substantial lyrics with great history “All Original, All Nebraska.” His musical presentation brought the history of the State of Nebraska alive with his own words and melodies. Dan's presentation was also from Humanities Nebraska.

The convention attendees were reminded to purchase raffle tickets for the baskets now and during the afternoon break for the last chance to put your name in for one the baskets you would like to win.

Bob gave a recap of the Board of Directors' Annual Meeting held on Tuesday.

Ann Meinzer, NARSP Vice-President installed the Secretary Billie Bussmann, Lincoln Unit and Wanda Samson, Treasurer, Fremont Unit.

Bob presented a NARSP "Big Apple" Award to Janet Hibbs-Jones of the Hastings Unit for her continued service as an officer and her attention to legislative issues. He also presented a NARSP "Big Apple" Award to Paul Wingert of the Southeast Nebraska Unit for his continued service as an officer as well as being the first individual negotiating a teacher contract.

Units receiving Mission Statement Certificates, "Day of Service" Recognition and/or Community Service or "With Our Youth" awards included Grand Island, Beatrice, North Platte, Southeast Nebraska, Hastings, Lincoln, Wayne, Scottsbluff, Norfolk, Omaha, and Mullen.

Leona Anderson, NARSP Community Service Chair assisted by Hastings Unit members reported a total of 80,208 volunteer hours that equates to \$1,936,221.10 from 12 Units.

Wanda Samson presented the NARSP membership awards. Lincoln received the plaque for greatest increase in members and Cass County received the plaque for the greatest percentage of increase.

The convention attendees joined together in singing "Happy Birthday to Nebraska."

Before all of the drawings the announcement included reminding people to complete their convention feedback survey, to recycle the plastic holder from their name badge, and the feedback for the Humanities Nebraska. A thank you was given for the donations for the American Red Cross Hurricane Relief fund.

The raffle of theme baskets raised \$410 for scholarships. They were won by: LaVila Van Boening, Hastings, "Celebrating 150

Years - 1867-2017"-Fremont Unit; Wauneta Peterson-Lincoln Unit, "Gently Read Books!"-Grand Island Unit; Nancy Johnson-Omaha Unit, "Happy Birthday Nebraska"-Hastings Unit; Ernie Griffith-Scottsbluff Unit, "From North to South and East to West, 93 Stories Weave Together 150 Years of Nebraska History"-Lincoln Unit; Mary Lou George-Wayne Unit "A Basket of Nebraska Corn"-Lincoln Unit; Sally Ganem-Fremont Unit, "Husker Sports - Nebraska Products"-Norfolk Unit; Pat Jenkins Rhode-Wayne Unit, "Nebraska with Candle Scenery and other Nebraska Items"-Omaha Area Unit; Cathy Morgan-Hastings Unit, "Nebraska - 150 Years"-Scottsbluff Area Unit; Mildred Boyd-Omaha Unit, "Nebraska's Bounty"-Southeast Nebraska Area Unit; and Judy Williams-Grand Island Unit "You Can Get Anywhere in the World from Wayne, Nebraska!"-Wayne Area Unit. Billie, Wauneta, and Bob facilitated the drawings. Since some names were drawn for more than one basket an auction was held where more money was raised for scholarships. Thanks to Sally Ganem and Janet Hibbs-Jones for facilitating the auction. Thanks also to all the units that donated baskets.

This year for the drawing the monetary door prizes each person whose name is drawn will pick an envelope. Inside that envelope will be the monetary amount of their prize. The winners were as follows: Velma Fehr-Grand Island Unit, \$50; Twila Griffiths-Scottsbluff Unit, \$75; Pat Etherton-Lincoln Unit, \$100.

There were also door prizes, Nebraska Shaped Baskets containing Nebraska products, compliments of AARP Nebraska won by Judy Williams and Verl Morey both from the Grand Island Unit.

The Grand Island Unit was thanked for hosting the convention. The hospitality was great! Everyone was thanked for coming and have safe travels returning home.

Convention feedback surveys were completed.

Convention was adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Billie Carole Bussmann

NARSP Secretary

NARSP Membership

Membership with NARSP gives you representation in the community and legislature, fellowship with other retired school personnel, and access to many member benefits.

All retired teachers, administrators, school personnel and support staff are invited to join our organization. Membership dues are \$15.00 per fiscal year of September 1 to August 31.

Possibly you have not renewed your NARSP membership or you might know of past members that have not renewed their membership for 2017-2018 year or local members that would still like to join NARSP. Membership dues and/or renewals are still welcomed and can be submitted to NARSP State Treasurer: Wanda Samson, 1636 N. Clarmar Avenue, Fremont, NE 68025.

A membership application form may be downloaded from the NARSP website: www.narsp.org



Sampling of the ten Theme Baskets raffled at the end of the convention.

Enjoyed all of it. Thanks to all the officers and directors!

The table favors were very fitting for the theme - thanks!

Love the basket drawing!



Convention attendees



Convention attendees



Carrie Foster, Lincoln Public Schools, receives NARSP Active Educator Scholarship from President Wauneta Peterson



Connie Benjamin, AARP Nebraska State Director

NARSP DECEASED MEMBERS 2016-2017

BEATRICE

Zelda Stevens
Helen Thompson

FREMONT

Lois Engdahl
Ardes Zakovec

GRAND ISLAND

Max Cates
Lila Hiller
Bonnie Owens

HASTINGS

Iona Bump
Hazel Devine

LINCOLN

Helen Chastain
Mary C. Commers
Luella Corliss Sphon
Rita Coyle
Elizabeth da Silva
Barbara Eisenbraun

Patricia Hart
Gladys Herstein
Patricia Jorn
David Mickey
Jane Neal
Aletia E. Nissen
Joeline Venter

NORFOLK

Lewis Copple
Robert (Bob) Starr

NORTH PLATTE

Mary Deutschman

OMAHA

Marcia Abbott Ochsner
Myrton Hall
Sally Kjelson
Elaine Krumme
Shirley McKim
Agnes Petr Hall
James Reim

SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA

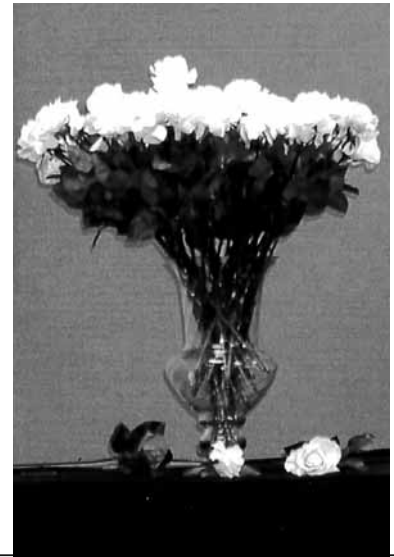
Lynne McCullough

WAYNE

Don Leighton
Arlene Ostendorf
Jo Ann Stoltenberg

AMBA

Mary Virginia Burns,
Friend
Mary J. Hall, Omaha
Joyce Morgan, Lincoln
Don Yager, Bellevue



Patricia Jenkins Rhode, Wayne Unit President, leader of the Memorial Service



Mary Lou George and Jenny Gubbels, Wayne Unit members assisted with the Memorial Service



Bob Ferguson, Humanities Nebraska Speaker, presented "History, People and Culture On Postage Stamps" with a special focus on stamps related to Nebraska.



Two of many Nebraska related stamps

Excellent place for the convention - Great food - Wonderful time to visit with other members!

Impressed with the number of stamps with Nebraska connections.



I just loved it all!



Luncheon, conversation, and fellowship.



David Holmquist, AARP Nebraska State President



Amanda Moenning, Fremont Public Schools, received NARSP Active Educator Scholarship from President Wauneta Peterson

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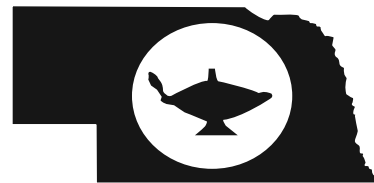
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Email

Your email

Activation Code

ambasavers

First Name

Last Name

City

State

OPT-IN

- ☐ Yes, please sign me up for periodic email updates regarding restaurant additions and special events in my area.

ADDITIONAL EMAIL PREFERENCES

- ☐ Autos, Vehicles & Boats
☐ Clothes & Accessories
☐ Finances & Money
☐ Food & Beverage
☐ Home & Garden
☐ Tech & Electronics
☐ Travel & Vacations

☒ YES, COUNT ME IN FOR A FREE 30-DAY TRIAL OF PASSPORT DINING BENEFITS!

Your mobile membership includes a **free 30 days of unlimited access to Passport Dining restaurants**. After your trial period ends, you can upgrade your membership and continue to dine and save all year long - for just \$7.00/month!

Want to know more? Click here to learn more about how to make the most of your Passport Dining benefits.

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Now you're ready to save!

Benefits made available by





Janet Hibbs-Jones, Hastings Unit, receives NARSP "Big Apple" Award from Bob Bussmann, Executive Director



Paul Weinert, Southeast Nebraska Unit, receives NARSP "Big Apple" Award from Bob Bussmann, Executive Director

Inspirational! (Awards)



Dan Holtz, Humanities Nebraska Speaker, presents "All Original. All Nebraska" – history of Nebraska through song



Newly installed officers – Wanda Samson, Treasurer; Billie Bussmann, Secretary; and Ann Meinzer, Vice President and Installer



Bob and Billie Bussmann, Lincoln Co-Presidents, receive from Wanda Samson, Membership Chair, the Traveling Membership Award for the Unit increasing the most number of new state members.

All was great!



Unit representatives receiving certificates for Community Service Hours, Days of Service activities, and Mission Statement recognition.

Meeting with and enjoying retired educators - Great people

Just wished more would attend!

Everything was useful.



Cathy Morgan and LaVila VanBoening display the number of volunteer hours recorded and the dollar amount of value.



A couple of the theme baskets were donated back to be auctioned off – Sally Ganem, Fremont Unit, served as auctioneer assistant and Janet Hibbs-Jones, Hastings Unit, as auctioneer.



“LIKE” NARSP on Facebook

Have you joined Facebook yet? If not, you are missing out. Recently you could have seen the following items that were posted:

- Who, What, When, Where for local area meetings
- Posts that are informative for retired individuals
- Stories that bring back memories
 - Pictures
- and much more

Do you need help getting on?

You can ask questions from wanda.samson@gmail.com or jkletke@q.com if you write one of us. Don't be afraid of facebook. If you don't want to connect with anyone else, don't "friend" them or "like" a group...except NARSP, of course!

www.facebook.com/NRTA.NE



Medicare Announces New ID Card Mailing Schedule

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES VIA AP
The new cards have an 11-character, randomly assigned number that has no connection to a beneficiary's other personal data.

If you live in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia, you are scheduled to receive your new Medicare ID card between April and June.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicare Services (CMS) announced the seven-stage rollout schedule for the replacement card, which has been redesigned to prevent fraud. The card is still red, white and blue, but it no longer includes a Social Security number, gender, signature or other personal information that could compromise a Medicare beneficiary's identity.

The new cards have an 11-character, randomly assigned number that has no connection to a beneficiary's other personal data. Medicare has until December 2019 to get recipients their new card.

The mailing schedule:

- Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia: April-June 2018
- Alaska, American Samoa, California, Guam, Hawaii, Northern Mariana Islands, Oregon: April-June 2018
- Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wisconsin: After June 2018
- Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont: After June 2018
- Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina: After June 2018

- Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming: After June 2018

- Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Virgin Islands: After June 2018

Before the mailing begins, beneficiaries should make sure their addresses are correct. If you need to make a change, contact the Social Security Administration, which will be preparing and mailing the cards, at ssa.gov/myaccount or by calling 800-772-1213.

CMS also wants beneficiaries to beware of anyone who contacts them about their replacement Medicare card, as scammers have already targeted recipients with new ploys. CMS officials say they will never ask a beneficiary for personal or private information or for any money as a condition of getting a new Medicare number and card.

[Article from AARP website, Health – Medicare Resource Center Section -- written by Dena Bunis, AARP, February 7, 2018]



Monetary Door Prize Winners – Twila Griffiths, Scottsbluff Unit, \$75.00; Pat Etherton, Lincoln Unit, \$100.00; and Velma Fehr, Grand Island Unit, \$50.00.



"Hip, Hip, Hooray!" to the Hastings Unit for having the most convention attendees!



UNIT REPORTS



~ FREMONT AREA ~

The Fremont Area Association of Retired School Personnel met in July at Trinity Lutheran Church in Fremont. A salad luncheon was served by a committee from the church.

The Scholarship committee announced that two recent graduates had won the FAARSP scholarship for their first year of college. They were Rileigh Heller from Fremont Bergan High School and Brett Hull from Logan View High School.



Mary Jane Thulin president of FAARSP, far right, talks to scholarship winners and their families prior to meeting in July. Two one thousand dollar scholarships are awarded each year.

Wanda Samson talked to the group about some of the benefits of being a member. The Community Health Charities campaign pledge envelopes were distributed. 136 pounds of pasta and spaghetti sauce were collected for the Low Income Ministry.



FAARSP members were honored by Community Health Charities of Nebraska for their 5 years of support to the charity. 7,125 dollars were donated by members during the 2017 campaign.

In September the group was served a lunch at the First Congregational Church in Fremont. Our program was about a new store in Arlington called Roots to Wings. Four young adults with disabilities are given the opportunity to learn skills and earn

some money working at the store. They would like to get more kids involved, but need donations and volunteer adult help to accomplish this.

Six big boxes of school supplies were collected and delivered to the Low Income Ministry. Our day of service project involved giving snacks to area Boy Scout leaders and



Each meeting members of FAARSP donate piles of designated items for the Low Income Ministry for distribution for the needy.



FAARSP members signed up to deliver treats to local schools as a thank you for what they do for our children in the area.

thanking them for their service. Also FAARSP members served brunch to Habitat workers throughout the building season. A memorial service was held for the two members that had died this year.

In November we met at the First Methodist Church and enjoyed a hot lunch served by a committee from the church. Caris Kenny

from Community Health Charities was there to thank us for 5 years of continued service to her group. The first year 8 members gave \$395. In 2017, 53 members donated \$7,125.



Items donated by FAARSP to the Bridge (domestic abuse) for auction to raise funds for the organization during the holiday season.



Ruth Register, VP FAARSP, helps members find their pledge cards for their donations to the Community Health Charities of NE. Members donated a record \$7,125.00 to the charity in 2017.

Our program was presented by Wendy Brenner, a FAARSP member who along with her husband collects antique clocks. She showed us all different kinds of clocks and gave a brief history of them.

Membership books were distributed for the 2017-2018 year. Bell ringers for Salvation Army were organized and a date was selected to do this. The group collected enough money to sponsor 7 families for the Salvation Army



FAARSP members listen to stories from veterans as they deliver their Christmas bags.

donated and delivered to the Low Income Ministry. An ongoing service project is the delivery of meals/snacks to every school building in the area represented by FAARSP members.

Respectfully Submitted by Jo Mitteis, Public Relations



During the January meeting FAARSP members spent their time making over 400 valentines to go with bags of candy packed for our Veterans in state veterans homes and VA hospitals in Nebraska.



Norma Register chairman of the Change for Holiday Meals project presents Wanda Samson, treasurer of FAARSP, the money collected from members at each meeting. Seven needy families were helped to have a better holiday with FAARSP's help.

Christmas Drive. 79 pounds of cereal were donated to Low Income Ministry by the members.

About a dozen members got together in November to pack 200 Christmas bags for veterans in care facilities in Fremont and four state veteran homes. Lots of hygiene products and snack foods were placed into the bags. They were delivered during the first two weeks in December by FAARSP members all organized by Ruth

Register, Vice President of the group.

A potluck was held in January at the Calvary Methodist Church. It was our annual birthday celebration. Cake and ice cream were furnished by the board for dessert. The time was spent decorating Valentine cards to be given to State VA hospitals and Veteran homes along with candy. Three elementary schools helped by sharing some of their Halloween candy.

It was announced that we have 105 paid members this year. 43 pounds of facial tissue were



As a service project FAARSP members rang bells for the Salvation Army in November.



Collage picture of FAARSP members as they deliver Christmas bags to veterans in care centers around Fremont.



Collage picture of Christmas bag program for our veterans in care centers in Fremont. FAARSP members collected supplies, packed bags, and delivered the 200 bags.

~ GRAND ISLAND AREA ~

The Grand Island unit of NARSP meets the third Monday of September, October, February, March, April and May.

In September, new members Dennis and Janet Hatfield were welcomed.

Jennifer Hagen, Principal at St. Paul High School informed us about a program they are using to combat alcohol and drug consumption in St. Paul Schools and the community. It is the CARE program and it is affiliated with UNL. They are seeing positive results with the program.

In October, we were enlightened by Mary Ingram, who founded the organization, Volunteer Nebraska. Volunteer Nebraska is a nonprofit organization with a mission to empower young people from the pre-school through high school and beyond to become more active in their communities through service projects.

Judy Williams, gave a report from the State Convention. GIARSP was praised for the volunteer hours the members have served. It was also announced that a convention will not be held in 2018.

Submitted by Pat Sheehan, Secretary

~ HASTINGS AREA ~

If you feed them, they will come. And so it was at our annual membership luncheon and meeting in July. Newly retired school personnel were invited to attend this meeting, which was very well attended. As a result of the meeting, HARSP gained nine new members and three were added later. Also invited were our two scholarship recipients and their families. Although Kelsey Ripperger wasn't able to attend, our other recipient, Morgan Lowery, was able to be there. She spoke briefly of her decision to become a teacher because of a mentoring program with elementary students in her school. The program for the luncheon was presented by Kayla Nelson of the Hastings Visitors Bureau. She gave an informative presentation about the upcoming solar eclipse along with its economic impact on the area.

Interesting programs were also part of our September and November meetings. In September Katie Karr from the Hastings Museum spoke about volunteer opportunities at the museum. In November Beth Janning spoke about "Raising Nebraska," the interactive agriculture experience at the State Fair.

Our members are continue to be actively involved in so many different volunteer opportunities. Working in a food booth at the Adams County Fair is one of the ways we support our scholarships. Once again in December, several members put up a HARSP Christmas tree at the Hastings Museum. Ten members helped with the Progressive Agricultural Safety Day at the Adams County Fairgrounds on October 4. This was sponsored by the UNL Adams County Extension Office and was attended by 400 students.

Our project last year was supporting the food pantry at Hastings High School. Students in elementary classes are often sent

home with food backpacks on weekends. A continued need for help with food and personal items still remains when these students reach high school, which prompted Hastings High to create the food pantry. Our members have brought items to each meeting, which are then donated to the food pantry. We may be retired, but concern for students is still a priority, and we are happy to help with this project.

In October, ten members attended the State Convention in Grand Island. Jan Barnason set up an AARP display and survey. We were especially proud of Janet Hibbs-Jones who was presented the Big Apple Award. Congratulations to her!

Unfortunately, when our January meeting date rolled around, inclement weather forced us to cancel. We were unable to enjoy the camaraderie we all enjoy at HARSP meetings. We look forward to our March meeting.

Submitted by Karen Christensen

~ LINCOLN AREA ~

The first LARSP meeting of the new membership year began with the Unit having Bob and Billie Bussmann serve as Co-Presidents. The local unit membership for this year is at 217 members. Monthly meetings are held in the Fellowship Hall at Eastridge Presbyterian Church in Lincoln.

Meeting highlights for LARSP included the following:

September – Sgt. Jeff Sorensen from the Lincoln Police Department, presented Operation Tipping Point, an LPD sponsored program to deter middle school children from gang activity.

Honorary memberships were presented to Donna Barnell, Virginia Haba, Don Hobbs, Joan Huffer, Beverly Jackson, Marleen Johnson, L. Ann Powers, and Helen Willmeng. Newly retired members were introduced and welcomed to LARSP.



Facsimile check presentation by Billie Bussmann, Community Service chair, to Roy Christensen, Lincoln City Council chair.

Billie Bussmann, Community Service chair, introduced Roy Christiansen, Lincoln City Council chair. She presented Mr. Christiansen with the facsimile checks for LARSP's volunteer

hours to the City of Lincoln. The hours for "With Our Youth" were 9,514 amounting to a contribution of \$229,667.96. The hours for other community service activities were 16,473 amounting to a contribution of \$397,658.22. The total hours for this past year were 25.987 that equates to a total contribution of \$627,326.18 to the local area.

A "Back-to-School" Book Sale was held on three end-of-the-week dates in September. Monies from the book sale profits go toward high school scholarships for those planning to become a teacher and toward numerous philanthropic endeavors that focus on children and youth within Lincoln and the area.

October – Christine Gotschall, presented the program "Wind-song Equitherapy." Their mission is to provide high-quality equine assisted activities to individual of all ages with varying abilities in a safe and supportive environment.



"Songs for the Season" with Doris Wiens and her accordion.

The Fall Fling Book Sale was held on the last weekend in October as part of the Antique and Flea Market at the Lancaster Event Center.

November – Sari Hall, from the Alzheimer's Association, presented the program "Basics of Alzheimer's." She outlined and explained the early signs of Alzheimer's, answered questions, and provided print materials.

NARSP "Snack Sacks" were delivered with brief visits to twelve of our shut-in members.

December – LARSP member Doris Wiens led us in singing songs of the season and delighted us with her wit. Doris played her accordion to accompany the singing.

LARSP decorated a tree for the Heritage League's "Holiday of Trees." The theme for this year's tree was "...for the Children." LARSP members donated 390 clothing items for Willie's Underwear Project that were used as the tree decorations. The sweatpants were used as a tree skirt with the legs sticking out from under the tree.

January – The program



LARSP tree at the Heritage League's "Holiday of Trees" decorated by Bob Bussmann, Co-President; Jan Stamper, Vice President; and Billie Bussmann, Co-President.

"Life Reimagined" was presented by Karla Friesse from Eastmont Outreach. The curriculum for the presentation was provided by AARP.

February – This month's program was 'Kids for Kids' and Other Goat Adventures in Haiti presented by Lee Ann Bergland-Fosdick, DVM, PhD.

At the end of the month LARSP had a book sale in conjunction with the Antique Flea Market at the Lancaster Events Center. A final LARSP Book Sale will take place in March. After 39 years of book sales we are "going out of business."

~ NORFOLK AREA ~

Norfolk Area Retired School Personnel met July 15, September 16 and November 18 of 2017 and January 20 of 2018.

At the September meeting, members brought school supplies to be donated to BelAir Elementary School in Norfolk. They were delivered to the school with donuts for the teachers. A basket of Nebraska and NU items was put together for the State Convention.

John Petersen of Tilden presented a musical program of patriotic songs at the November 18 meeting. It was announced that 223 members had contributed 3,904 volunteer hours in the community during the last year, which would be worth \$91,978.24m and 22 members volunteered 222 hours with youth, which would be worth \$5,230.32. President Karen Indra announced that AMBA has a new policy for home health care insurance through Kemper. Christmas gift bags were filled with items donated by members and delivered to 35 of the residents of the Norfolk Veteran's Home.

At the January meeting, members were asked to invite those who are retiring from the local schools to join our group.

From Donna Rector, Secretary



President Karen Indra, Fran Rohrich, and Lorene Konopasek with school supplies collected for Bel Air Elementary School in Norfolk in September.

~ OMAHA AREA ~

The Omaha Area Retired School Employee Association has met two times so far this year. At our October meeting, David Hendee, an Omaha World Herald employee, showed slides and talked about several of the sites covered in the book he wrote titled Nebraska: 150 Years Told Through 93 Counties. The book has a section for each county in the state and highlights the unique aspects of each county.

The Northwest High Singers was the program at the November 30th meeting, and we are looking forward to our February meeting at which Anna Brewer of the Woman's Fund will speak about Human Traffick-

ing. Attendees will be asked to bring items to donate to Carole's House of Hope which is an organization designed to provide hope and healing for mothers and their children through innovative programs and services that promote self-sufficiency and independence. This project will be in addition to our usual donation collected for either the Food Bank or our Scholarship fund.

We are proud to announce that OARSEA member Roger Rea, the recipient of NARSP's Big Apple award in 2014, has been chosen president-elect of the National Council on Teacher Retirement. He will become president next fall. The NCTR serves 68 state and local pension systems and represents more than 19 million active and retired teachers, non-teaching personnel, and other public employees with a total of more than \$2 trillion in their trust funds. NCTR's mission is to protect and advocate for retirement security for teachers, educators, and other public plan participants. It also provides training for public retirement plan trustees, and it lobbies Congressional leaders in Washington, D.C., to assure that federal policies and laws do no harm public employee retirement plans.

Submitted by Linda Hammer

~ SCOTTSBLUFF AREA ~

Scottsbluff Area Retired School Personnel's annual fall kick-off picnic was well attended. Bob and Dorothy Krantz of Scottsbluff hosted it in their screened-in porch which is appreciated. This year we were excited to have NSEA-Retired president De Tonack and her sister join us. De encouraged us to continue volunteering and stay active. We enjoyed her visit.

In September Connie Wiedeman gave an abbreviated version of her Fraud Watch presentation. Connie has been trained by AARP and gives an excellent presentation about scams and being on

the alert. We definitely appreciated all the information we were given.

Senator John Stinner visited with us at our October meeting. He is very knowledgeable of the finances of our state and works hard to find solutions to our state budget problems. We appreciated the way he listened to our concerns and the way he represents us in the Unicameral.

The Aging and Disability Resource Center was in the spotlight at our November meeting. Mandi Fertig gave us information on the many resources available and encouraged us to contact the center with our questions.

The new Twin City transit system had only operated a few days, when Chuck Richter spoke to us about it at our January meeting. This is quite an undertaking for our region, and we were impressed with the patience and humbleness of this man as he explained the routes and fielded our questions and concerns.

Future programs include Jim McDermott, our Panhandle NSEA-Retired director, giving a legislative update in February. A representative from the airport will visit with us about the new carrier and scheduling in March. Our April presenter will be from the Legacy of the Plains Museum. We are grateful to our program chairpersons, Kent and Karon Harvey, for another year of excellent programs. We welcome any retired school personnel to join us the third Monday of the month at 11:00 a.m. at the Scottsbluff Runza. For further information contact Twila at 308-631-1743.

Twila Griffiths, SARSP President

~ SOUTHEAST NE AREA ~

The Southeast Nebraska Area of Retired School Personnel Fall season began in September of 2017. We currently have 31 active members. Our meetings always begin with a prayer, a delicious meal and a reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. We currently meet 5 times a year.

We started off our Fall meeting with the installation of new officers:

Ann Meinzer, President
Paul Weinert, Vice President
Deb Harris, Secretary
June Bowers, Treasurer.

A memorial service was held honoring retired educator, Lynne McCullough, who passed away in April, 2017. June Bowers then presented a very informative program about serving on our local school board. June has since been elected president of the school board here in Falls City.

Our October meeting included highlights of the NARSP convention and President Meinzer shared the following: 1. Our unit volunteered nearly 2000 hours!, 2. We made donations to our local food pantry. 3. Paul Weinert received the Big Apple Award in honor of his dedication and service to education, church, and community.



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Guidelines for our \$500 scholarship were discussed. It was decided to give this award to a graduating senior pursuing a future position as a classroom teacher. Last May, we awarded \$500 to John Kanel.

Our members enjoy fellowship and meeting to discuss current education issues as well as sharing ways to volunteer and further education in Southeast Nebraska.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Harris, Secretary

