



"To Serve — Not To Be Served"

Affiliated with NRTA and AARP

Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel



# NEWSLETTER



Summer 2018

[www.narsp.org](http://www.narsp.org)

Published Twice Yearly

## NARSP Scholarship Recipients Named



Brittnei Peltz, Elementary Title I Reading teacher with the Malcolm Public Schools, and Karen Valdes, Hastings Middle School Explore Reading teacher, have been selected

as the 2018-2019 recipients of the Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel (NARSP) Active Educator Scholarships. The scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each are awarded annually to an active educator working toward an advanced degree or endorsement in a related field of education.

By offering the scholarships to active educators in the field, NARSP members have an opportunity to "maintain professional contacts and to develop new ones" with the district, schools, and educators in around the communities of the local Units.

### NRTA Staff

Al Campos, Director

Mary Beth Dixon, Advisor

Tom Nicholls, Senior Legislative Representative

Shelisa Ashford, Administrative Associate

A total of twelve quality semi-finalist applications were submitted from nine local units that were reviewed by the NARSP Executive Board. There were also twelve applications submitted in 2011-2012 when only one scholarship was awarded. This year was the highest percentage (64%) of Unit participation in the nine years the scholarships have been offered. Since 2010-2011 there have been a total of 86 semi-finalist applications submitted and a total of 16 scholarships awarded.

Brittnei Peltz is pursuing a Master of Arts degree with an endorsement in PK-12 Reading from the University of Nebraska-Kearney. The Lincoln Area Retired School Personnel submitted her application.

Ms. Peltz received her Bachelor of Science degree with an endorsement in Inclusive Early Childhood Education: PK-Grade 3 from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Prior to her affiliation with the Malcolm Public Schools, she was a First Grade teacher and a District-wide Instructional Coach/Assessment Director with the Centennial Public Schools. Brittnei has been an educator for nine years.

In her application Brittnei stated, "Reading instruction has always been my passion." This was evident from her student teaching, to being a first grade teacher, and the emphasis in the reading and language arts subjects that was part of her assignment as Instructional Coach/Assessment Director. She indicated, "Although professionally,

### 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](http://www.narsp.org)

waiting several years to start my master's degree proved to be beneficial because I was able to learn more about myself as an educator and match my advanced degree to my passion of reading instruction. There is always room to grow as a teacher and always ways to improve and become more effective in the classroom."

One of the references indicated, "Her (Brittnei's) goal is to continue to grow as an educator but also be able to collaborate with various staff on how to incorporate reading programs, strategies, and interventions into their daily lessons. Brittnei will continue to grow, as she is a lifelong learner. She is passionate about reading and understands its importance in the educational setting."

Brittnei is affiliated with several professional organizations. She is involved with numerous committees at school. She

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**Board of Directors' Annual Meeting - Lincoln - Tuesday, September 25, 2018 - 12:30 p.m.**



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

**Robert L. (Bob) Bussmann**

Executive Director of the Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel

Someone recently asked me how long I had been in the NARSP Executive Director position. I responded by saying "year seven begins in September!" which means I have previously written eleven columns for the NARSP Newsletter as Executive Director and I needed to think about getting #12 ready for this issue of the Newsletter. My columns have always begun with a single word or a few words followed by the definition and then a few paragraphs as how that word or words relate to NARSP. So, I had to come up with a word that previously had not been used...and I did...

**reflection** - re flec tion - *noun* - consideration of some subject matter, idea, or purpose

So let us begin by looking back and doing some "reflection" upon the past eleven columns beginning with the Spring 2013 Issue of the NARSP Newsletter...

**...transition** - movement, passage or change from one position to another -- In our lifetime, the word "transition" is very much a part of our being. Probably more than we actually realize. As we think of transitions some bring about positive thoughts while others may be memories we probably wish to forget. Transition is all around us.

**...membership** - the state of being a member -As noted in our mission statement, NARSP strives to enhance the quality of life and to protect and improve the financial benefits of Nebraska's retired school personnel and to promote independence, dignity and purpose for its members. Membership in NARSP offers you a variety of benefits.

**...community** - an interacting population of varying kinds of individuals in a common location; a group of people with common interests - The word "community" can definitely apply to our association on three different levels and to varying kinds at each level...local Unit...state NARSP...and...NRTA with ties from each of our states.

**...workshop** - a seminar emphasizing discussion, exchange of ideas, and practical methods and given mainly for adults... and...convention - an assembly of persons met for a common purpose-You won't want to miss out on the sharing and exchange of ideas; the fun, food, and fellowship; and the renewing of previous acquaintances and making of new friendships.

**...service** - the occupations or function of serving; the work or action performed by one that serves; contribution to the welfare of others - Members worked "With Our Youth" and assisted in school classrooms and programs; served as special advocates, mentors, and tutors; and raised funds for scholarships

and other philanthropic endeavors. Many volunteers also served older adults by work through organizations, hospitals, care facilities, and retirement centers as well as assisted seniors with rides to the grocery store and doctors' appointments. They also lend their "serving hand" to many civic events and programs as well as the churches within their communities. And, the list could definitely go on!

**...change** - to make or become different; modify, transform; to give a different position, course, or direction; to replace with another - A number of proposed changes to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules were being presented related to the Board of Directors and their function. The convention was held in late October and earlier in the week vs. being in September. The workshop and convention schedules were slightly tweaked from the past. Change is sometimes difficult for all of us to make; but it often becomes the necessity to modify our ways to give clearer direction to the present and replace practices of the past.

**...attend** - to be present at...**participate** - to take part... and...**convention** - an assembly of persons met for a common purpose -- The convention this last fall (2015) may have been small in the number of participants; but was still very successful based on the Feedback Survey. Plan to attend and participated in the upcoming (2016) convention in Grand Island. Come "Celebrate Nebraska!"

**...celebrate** - to observe in some special way; to observe a special day or event with festivities - Come and "CELEBRATE Nebraska!" as our state approaches its sesquicentennial (150th statehood celebration) in 2017. The featured presentations, the noon luncheon, many of the theme baskets, and much more will have a focus on Nebraska.

**...commitment** - an agreement or pledge to do something in the future - Think back to when you retired (it may have been just recently or more like than not, a number of years back) and you made a commitment to join your local area Unit and / or NARSP. What prompted you to make such a commitment? What were the reasons you contemplated and then said count me in?

**...convention** (see above for definitions already noted) - In the past have you attended a NARSP Convention? Has your Unit noted and encouraged members to attend the upcoming NARSP Convention? Have you already marked your calendar and are making plans to attend this year (2017)? Are you aware that this might possibly be the last Convention or that the

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# Annual Meeting Information

The NARSP Board of Directors' Meeting serves as the Annual Meeting of the Association. As the governing body of the Association, each Unit is allotted two representatives on the Board of Directors (i.e. President and Vice President, Co-Presidents, President and another Unit officer or representative, or any other combination the Unit so chooses to be represented).

With no convention being held this year, the stand-alone Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 25, 2018 in Lincoln at the AARP Nebraska Office located in the Cornhusker Plaza Executive Suites at 301 South 13th Street, Suite 201. The Cornhusker Plaza is located adjacent to The Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel. The meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m. with adjournment targeted for 3:30 p.m.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will find a number of articles including the tentative meeting agenda, officer election information, and proposed changes to the NARSP Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules.

Unit Presidents will be receiving registration information for the Annual Meeting. Guests are welcome to attend. If you would not be a Unit representative and wish to attend as a guest, please check with your Unit President for additional information.

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serves as a Team Mates mentor and extends her involvement into the community.

Karen Valdes is pursuing a Masters Degree in Curriculum and Instruction with an endorsement as a Reading Specialist from Chadron State College. The Hastings Area Retired School Personnel submitted her application.



Ms. Valdes received her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education K-6 with a Minor in English K-8 from Chadron State College. Prior to her teaching at the Hastings Middle

School, she was a Grades 6-8 Literature/ Science teacher at Community Christian School in Scottsbluff. Karen has been an educator for seventeen years.

In her application Karen stated, "Education is important in my family. As far back as I can remember I would constantly hear my mom say, 'It's important that you do your best at school. I want you to have a better life than I did.' As a young kid, I didn't really see how having a good education would translate into having a better life than my mom had. As I progressed through school my eyes were

opened to the fact that my life would be better because of a good education. My mom never had the opportunity to get any formal schooling." Through her K-12 education Karen knew she wanted to become a teacher. Throughout her studies in college that desire was even more solidified that teaching was what she wanted to do for the rest of her life. Karen indicated that the "Explore Reading position at Hastings Middle School...is an extra reading class that students take in order to hone in their reading skills and get a deeper appreciation for literature. Honestly, it has turned out to be my dream job. I get to teach 225 students and am able to share my love of reading with them."

One of the references indicated, "Karen comes to school everyday with a smile on her face and maintains the growth mindset, even when students may put up barriers to learning. Karen finds ways to connect with students and bring out the love for learning, which is important in all areas but especially true when teaching reading. Karen is able to make literature come to life for students. A great example of this is when she helped turn a classroom into the actual setting of a novel that students were reading. The novel became alive because students could look around and feel as if they were part of the environment."

Karen is affiliated with several professional organizations. She is involved

with numerous committees at school and extends her involvement into the community and her church.

Unit semi-finalists included: Fremont Area Unit – Casey McEntee, Johnson Crossing Academic Center (Fremont) Grade 6 Science teacher and Daryl Nelsen, Fremont Howard Elementary Physical Education teacher; Grand Island Area Unit – Benjamin S. Gehring, Doniphan-Trumbull Science teacher; Hastings Area Unit – Kate Baker, Silver Lake 7-12 English, Speech, and Journalism teacher; Lincoln Area Unit – Mallory Gregory, Waverly 6-12 Family and Consumer Science Education; Mullen Area Unit – Dominique Werner, Mullen High School substitute teacher (enrolled in the Transitions to Teaching certification program at UNK toward a Masters as a Spanish teacher); Omaha Area Unit – Adam Wayne Stolzer, Burwell High School 7-12 Math teacher; Scottsbluff Area Unit – Walker Dobry, Mitchell High School 7-12 Industrial Technology teacher; Southeast Nebraska Area Unit – Jessica Howard, Falls City North Elementary First Grade teacher; and Wayne Area Unit – Andrea Lee Hinrichs, Winside K-12 School Counselor.

"Congratulations" to Brittni Peltz and Karen Valdes on being selected as this year's scholarship recipients and to those individuals that were a Unit semi-finalist!

# Nebraska Association Retired School Personnel

## Financial Report

September 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

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

### Income

Dues	\$10,313.85
Registration	\$1,780.00
Baskets	\$445.00
Other: Sale of Coffee Mugs/ ARC Colleection/Cash Rewards	\$122.00
AMBA	\$1,000.00
Total Income	<u>\$13,660.85</u>

Total Balance and Income \$18,946.71

### Expenditures

Postage	\$391.06
Printing	\$30.89
Supplies	\$38.02
Board Expenses	
Mileage	\$588.41
Meal	<u>\$222.54</u>
Total Board Expenses	\$810.95

### 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

### Newsletter Expenses

Postage	\$391.42
Printing	<u>\$2,132.60</u>
Total Newsletter Expenses	\$2,524.02

### Miscellaneous

ASRTE Dues/Hurricane Relief	\$142.00
Fidelity Bond	\$100.00
Scholarships	\$2,000.00
Stipend	<u>\$100.00</u>

Total Miscellaneous Expenses \$2,342.00

Total Expenditures \$12,011.54

Checkbook Balance, May 31, 2018 \$6,935.17

# NEW Tool – Sign Up for Election Reminders & Updates

This is no ordinary election year. Retired educators can be the difference and vote to hold politicians accountable on issues such as retirement security, Medicare, Social Security, prescription drugs, caregiving and more.

AARP and TurboVote are making it easier than ever for retired educators to receive election reminders, update their voter registration, and apply for an absentee ballot.

The new TurboVote tool provides customized information on when an election is coming up and information to help 50+ Americans vote with confidence.

Retired educators can get started with this new tool <[votingtool.aarp.org](http://votingtool.aarp.org)>.

[article from “NRTA in the Know” – July 20, 2018]



**Kell C. Smalley**  
**District Manager**  
**Cell: 913.912.2157**  
**800.258.7041 Ext. 144**  
**[kell.smalley@amba.info](mailto:kell.smalley@amba.info)**

## \*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 2018 NARSP 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. Clarmar Avenue, Fremont, NE 68025 or [wanda.samson@gmail.com](mailto:wanda.samson@gmail.com)]

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Convention may not be held every year? The decision on the future of NARSP Conventions will be made by the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting based on the feedback provided from the survey completed this summer by Unit members.

...**welcome**—used to express a greeting to a guest or a newcomer...and...**thank you**—kindly or grateful thoughts; an expression of gratitude—Some of the “newcomers” are recent retirees while others retired a few years back. “Welcome to membership in NARSP!” and “Thank You” to 52.9% of the Unit members receiving the mailing and returning the survey response post cards. Your response and the additional comments and thoughts were greatly appreciated and beneficial to the Board of Directors when making the decision. “Thank You” to the Board of Directors for their review of the data and comments in their own deliberations in making an ultimate decision for the Association. The eventual decision resulted in a motion that was approved to hold the NARSP convention every other year (odd numbered years).

“Reflection” is ongoing for each of us whether it is about the past, the present, and somewhat into the future. Reflection can bring about positive feelings and emotions as well as some not so positive. The reflection over the past six years for NARSP through my columns has covered the spectrum of some “highs” and “lows.” As

we move forward we will continue to reflect on what will be the best for NARSP and its members. Keep your individual reflection ongoing! The leadership for NARSP as well as the leadership of the fourteen Units will do the same.

...a **“little bit more”**—Congratulations to this years AARP/NRTA/Local Community Service Award recipients... Carol Martin, Fremont Area Unit; Nora Lindner, Grand Island Area Unit; Nancy Breault, Hastings Area Unit; Rosalee Nagele, Lincoln Area Unit; Rose Sheehy, Omaha Area Unit; and Sandy Harrah, Scottsbluff Area Unit. NARSP recognizes the volunteer efforts of these individuals “To Serve, Not To Be Served.”

The Annual Board of Directors’ Meeting will be held in Lincoln at the AARP Nebraska Offices on Tuesday, September 25 beginning at 12:30 p.m. Information and a number of related items about this meeting are found throughout this Newsletter. Unit Presidents will also be receiving some additional information regarding meeting attendance in the near future.

Senator Brett Lindstrom of Omaha introduced LB738 in the Unicameral this session, which indexes state income tax rates for Social Security income for inflation using the traditional CPI method, this session. This piece of legislation was passed in the final days of the session by a vote of 44-2-2 and was signed by Governor Ricketts. This was another step toward

“making Nebraska more retiree friendly” and provide some relief to Nebraskans on fixed incomes.

As of the printing and mailing of this Newsletter you should have received your letter from NPERS. The CPI increase for 2018 was 3.09%, therefore, the COLA for School Plan members is capped at 2.5%. If you would have further questions or concerns you should call Member Service at 1-800-245-5712 option #3, and NPERS will be glad to help you.

A special “Welcome” is extended to Kell Smalley, AMBA District Manager. Kell will be working in the states of Nebraska and Kansas. If you would have specific questions about any of the AMBA Benefits available to NARSP members, Kell would be your closest contact. He is working to find an AMBA Benefits Representative for Nebraska. [Directory info for Kell is located within this Newsletter.]

On a personal note — Billie and I had the opportunity to attend the March meeting of the Cass County Unit and share information about NARSP and a variety of legislative topics...thanks and appreciation is extended to the members for their hospitality, fellowship, and luncheon.

In conclusion...“We learn the inner secret of happiness when we learn to direct our inner drives, our interest and our attention to something besides ourselves.”-- Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, Founder of NRTA, 1947

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## Record Number of 85+ Americans Still Working

Over that past 12 months, 4.4 percent of Americans aged 85 and older were working, up from 2.6 percent in 2006.

This is the highest number on record of 85+ Americans staying on the job and they’re doing all types of work -- from crossing guards to truck drivers.

A new Washington Post analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data finds that the nation’s aging workforce is defining the post-Great Recession labor market.

“Baby boomers and their parents are working longer as life expectancy grows, retirement plans shrink, education levels rise

and work becomes less physically demanding. Labor Department figures show that at every year of age above 55, U.S. residents are working or looking for work at the highest rates on record.”

The analysis finds that crossing guards are likely to be age 85 or above. The same goes for musicians and anyone who works in a funeral home and product demonstrators like those you might find at a warehouse club store.

[article from “NRTA in the Know” — July 10, 2018]



# “It’s Time to Join or Renew Your 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 through AMBA.

All retired teachers, administrators, school personnel and support staff are invited to join our association. A spouse of an active member, any individual who is interested in and subscribes to the purpose of NARSP, and an active school personnel within three years of retirement may become associate members upon payment of annual dues. Membership dues are \$15.00 per fiscal year of September 1 to August 31.

Those active and associate members with paid state membership who have reached the age of 85 or older as of August 31 will be granted Honorary Lifetime Membership. Honorary Lifetime Members shall not be assessed dues. [PLEASE NOTE if an individual is not presently a NARSP member and turns 85 prior to August 31 they are not automatically granted the honorary membership. They must be in good standing with their dues paid for 2017-2018. If the individual has not been a state member, turns 85 prior to August 31, and wishes to avail himself or herself of the honorary membership they are welcome to join NARSP for the 2018-2019 membership year. The honorary membership would then occur for them in 2019-2020.]

If you have knowledge of a new retiree in your area, invite them to join NARSP or better yet surprise them with a retirement gift of a membership in NARSP.

**Membership with NARSP is required in order to obtain and maintain AMBA Benefits.**

NARSP membership dues and/or renewals for 2018-2019 may be paid through your local unit treasurer or can be submitted using the form found below to NARSP State Treasurer: Wanda Samson, 1636 N. Clamar Avenue, Fremont, NE 68025. (There is also a membership form that can be downloaded from the NARSP website – <[www.narsp.org](http://www.narsp.org)>.)

## NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL

2018-2019 Membership Application  
(Please Print All Information)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

District Retired From \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

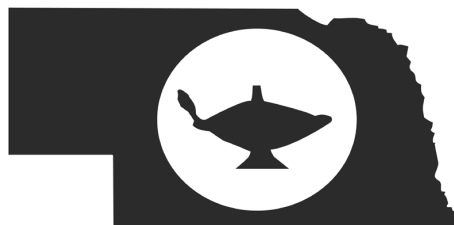
Annual dues - \$15.00 (September 1 - August 31)  
Please make checks payable to NARSP

\_\_\_\_\_ New Member      \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal      \_\_\_\_\_ Associate Member

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Received on \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# YOUR MEMBER GUIDE TO ASSOCIATION BENEFITS



## Long Term Care Insurance

AMBA will build a policy to match your needs. You select the daily benefit amount, elimination period, and benefit period which best suits your needs for care. The policy features include no prior hospital stay and no waiting period for pre-existing conditions.

## Dental & Vision Plans

Freedom to use any dentist and no network required. Routine cleanings and exams are part of the plan and there are no referrals required for specialty care. Vision Service Plan (VSP) is the largest national eye care company. VSP offers one-stop shopping and discounts for all your eye care needs.

## Medicare Supplement Plans

This plan offers the freedom of choice to select the doctors, hospitals, and clinics that members want, and they will never be cancelled because of age or health.

## Cancer, Heart, Stroke, Accident Insurance

Benefits paid directly to you. Members select the benefit level that best suits their needs.

## Annuity

Tax-deferred accumulation of interest, guaranteed competitive interest rate, multiple payout options, and a nursing home waiver.

## Final Expense Whole Life & Guaranteed Acceptance Life Insurance

Members can have peace of mind knowing that their premiums are guaranteed never to increase and their coverage is guaranteed never to decrease.

## Medical Air Services Association (MASA)

MASA is dedicated to providing life-saving emergency assistance from home or while traveling. The coverage is designed to protect members against catastrophic financial loss when emergencies arise.

## American Hearing Benefits (AHB)

AHB offers members a complete hearing evaluation, warranty on digital technology aids in any style, loss and damage protection, and batteries with a complete benefit package.

[americanhearingbenefits.com/partners/amba](http://americanhearingbenefits.com/partners/amba)  
888-200-5701 | Discount code AMBA

## DID YOU KNOW?

Your association has partnered with Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) so that you have access to exceptional member benefits. Are you wondering if certain benefits are right for you? Contact us for a free benefits review!

800.258.7041

[myambabenefits.info/narsp](http://myambabenefits.info/narsp)



Benefits made available through



# YOUR

## PASSPORT TO SAVINGS

# myAMBAdiscounts



Powered by  
**PASSPORT**  
CORPORATE

myAMBAdiscounts gives your association membership even more value. Explore thousands of savings opportunities on dining, event tickets, clothes, health, travel and many other discounts nationwide!



**To activate your free myAMBAdiscounts membership, follow these 3 easy steps!**

- 1 Go to [myAMBAdiscounts.com](http://myAMBAdiscounts.com) and enter your email.
- 2 Enter activation code - **ambasavers**
- 3 Register your basic information and sign-up for email alerts.

**Enroll today and start saving!**

## ADDITIONAL MEMBER DISCOUNTS

### La Quinta Inn & Suites Discount

15% discount at select locations nationwide.  
800.531.5900 | [www.LQ.com](http://www.LQ.com) | Code: AMBA

### Rental Car Discounts

Avis: 800.331.1212	<a href="http://www.avis.com">www.avis.com</a>	Code: AWD# G725000
Budget: 800.527.0700	<a href="http://www.budget.com">www.budget.com</a>	Code: (BCD) X925500
Hertz: 800.654.2210	<a href="http://www.hertz.com">www.hertz.com</a>	Code: CDP# 1860896

### Road Scholar

First-time Road Scholar participants are eligible for either a \$200 gift certificate good toward any international adventure or a \$75 gift certificate good for any North American Adventure.  
[www.roadscholar.org/AMBA](http://www.roadscholar.org/AMBA)

### Cruise & Vacation Benefits

You will receive a 4% vacation reward on the base fare of your trip and will also have access to special bonus offers on a monthly basis.  
855.577.9497 | [www.cruiseandvacationbenefits.com/AMBA](http://www.cruiseandvacationbenefits.com/AMBA)

### Orlando Employee Discounts

Save up to 35% on Your Orlando Vacation!  
877.413.3557 | [www.orlandoemployeediscounts.com](http://www.orlandoemployeediscounts.com) | Code: AMBA

### myAMBA dining.com

Powered by [restaurants.com](http://restaurants.com), myAMBA dining.com offers members discounts at over 18,000 restaurants nationwide. When members use this discount they get the best deal for every meal!  
[www.myAMBA dining.com](http://www.myAMBA dining.com)

### 1-800-FLOWERS

Members save 15% at 1-800-FLOWERS when they call or shop online!  
Code: AMBA

### Apple

1-800-MY-APPLE | Code: AMBA  
<http://store.apple.com/us/go/epstore/amba>  
*Not all products are eligible.*

### Dell Computer Discounts

866.257.4711 | [www.Dell.com/mpp/amba](http://www.Dell.com/mpp/amba) | Code: GS530005355936

### Nationwide Pet Insurance

Get a 5% discount on new pet insurance policies:  
[www.petinsurance.com/amba](http://www.petinsurance.com/amba)

*Some benefits not available in all states. Association membership required to obtain benefits. Some associations have made a special benefits website available to their members. Register at [myAMBAbenefits.info](http://myAMBAbenefits.info).*

7.18



# NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL

## Executive Board Meeting Minutes, April 20, 2018

### The Green Gateau, 330 South 10th Street, Lincoln, NE

The Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel Executive Board meeting was held at The Green Gateau in Lincoln, NE on April 20, 2018. Members present were Bob Bussmann, Executive Director; Wauneta Peterson, President; Billie Bussmann, Secretary; and Wanda Samson, Treasurer. Kell Smalley, AMBA District Manager, Kansas City, KS and Chelsea Mason, AMBA Benefits Representative, Omaha, NE were guests.

The meeting began with the executive board sharing information about NARSP with the AMBA District Manager and the AMBA Benefits Representative. Kell then shared a Power Point Presentation about the AMBA organization and the benefits offered to NARSP members.

Wauneta Peterson called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m.

The minutes of the October 9, 2017 Executive Board Meeting were approved.

The treasurer's report was accepted for financial review with a March asset balance of \$56,593.49 with a checkbook balance of \$8,926.20. The convention financials indicate a loss of \$4,244.60. There is a CD coming due and it was suggested to renew it at the highest interest rate for perhaps five years. A financial review for the 2017 fiscal year has been completed.

Thus far, NARSP Membership totals 931. Unit membership includes 426 paid members and 147 (85 plus) honorary lifetime members for a total of 573. AMBA only membership includes 321 paid members and 37 (85 plus) honorary lifetime members for a total of 358. There has been an increase of 161 AMBA membership over last year.

There were no additional agenda items.

Bob reported visiting the Cass County Unit. He shared communication from Alabama and Louisiana newsletters.

He reported that LB 738 passed the legislature. There will now be a cost of living increase in non-taxed monies received by retirees.

The deadline for the NRTA "With Our Youth" Program is June 15. The 2018-2019 NARSP Scholarship Semi-Finalist Applications are due Friday, May 18. This year when the Executive Board analyzes the scholarship applications, each board member is to rank order the entire number of applications.

Mileage reimbursement amount from the IRS is 54.5 cents per mile. This is an increase of one cent over 2017. It is 14 cents for voluntary mileage in service of charitable organizations.

Bob gave a recap of the AMBA Roundup. He included handouts of Roundup Answers for Roadmap to Successful Membership, A Roadmap for Growth, and Understanding Nonverbal Communication.

It was suggested that free membership be given to superintendents in school districts across the state. This would perhaps help increase local and state membership as well as gives NARSP a broader awareness.

In the future Bob suggested we use the phrase "NARSP State Members" versus "AMBA Only Members" in identifying those

members not belonging to a local Unit.

Other items Bob mentioned were The Hotel Grand Conference Center has changed its name to The Ramada Midtown Conference center. The Bicentennial Teacher Fountain (aka The Cascading Foundation) in Lincoln may need money to maintain its functioning. An endowment fund for maintenance was not established back in the 70's when the fountain was constructed. Perhaps NARSP could explore and discuss an emeritus member 90+ to replace the 85+ honorary memberships.

The local Unit Community Service Awards will be given to individuals in the following Units this spring: Scottsbluff, Fremont, Hastings, Lincoln, Grand Island, and Omaha.

Bob gave feedback from the State Convention. The majority of the convention surveys reflected a very positive response from the attendees. This included the NARSP Board of Directors' Annual Meeting, the NARSP Convention, and the speakers. A tally of the theme baskets was presented.

Bob presented a work copy for the NARSP Board of Directors' Annual Meeting in September or October that would begin at 12:30 p.m. It was indicated the AARP office would be a possibility for the location of the meeting. There would be no meal, but light refreshments. For those coming from a very long distance there would be mileage and lodging. We would have a memorial service, brief presentation by AARP, AMBA, etc. There would be minutes and a treasurer's report and reports by the Executive Director, membership and volunteer hours. The items of business would include nominations/election, proposed changes in the constitution, bylaws and standing rules, a nomination committee, and 2019 Convention planning. There would be awards for community service, membership, The Education Service Award, NARSP "Big Apple" Award and presentation of the Active Educator Scholarships. We would have installation of officers and adjourn at 3:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Bob is considering a representative from each Unit would place the roses in the vase for their members that passed when the necrology list is read.

The Nomination Committee will be seeking officers for President and Vice President for 2018-2020. At present Wauneta Peterson and Ann Meinzer have consented to run again for President and Vice President respectfully. The nominating committee will present these names. Nominations will be asked from the floor at the Board of Directors' Meeting.

There was a preliminary discussion on the proposed updates to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules. Any proposed changes would be presented and voted on at the annual meeting.

The next Executive Board meeting will be in mid to late June.

The meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Billie Carole Bussmann, NARSP Secretary

# Officer Election

Election for the offices of NARSP President and NARSP Vice-President will take place during the Board of Directors' Annual Meeting in Lincoln on Tuesday, September 25, 2018.

Wauneta Peterson, NARSP President for the past two years, and Ann Meinzer, NARSP Vice-President for the past two years, have consented to stand for re-election to a new two-year term.

Wauneta Peterson is a member of the Lincoln Area Unit. She retired from the Lincoln Public Schools as a teacher of physical education and health. Wauneta has been actively involved in LARSP. She has served two terms as secretary, vice-president, and two separate terms as president of the Unit. She also served as the LARSP Book Sale chair for ten years and now serves as the chair of the Financial Review committee. Prior to her term as NARSP President, Wauneta served as NARSP Vice President for four years.

Ann Meinzer is a member of the Southeast Nebraska Area Unit. She retired from the Falls City School system having taught in kindergarten through grade six. She presently serves as president of the local Unit and has served in that capacity in the past. Ann was first elected NARSP Vice President in 2008 and served for two terms prior to not seeking re-election. She is actively involved in the Richardson County Museum and operates a catering service through the museum. The Southeast Nebraska Area Unit has the opportunity to meet at the museum and be served Ann's "cuisine" at their meetings.

Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

## Board of Directors' Annual Meeting Agenda

Items of consideration during the Board of Directors' Annual Meeting to be held at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 25, 2017 in Lincoln at the AARP Nebraska Office Meeting Room include the following:

- Memorial Service
- Minutes and Treasurer's Report
- Reports (Executive Director, Membership, Community Service, and Nominating Committee)
- Brief Presentations (AMBA and AARP Nebraska)
- Selection of members (from the Board) for the NARSP 2019 Nominating Committee
- Election of NARSP President and Vice-President
- Discussion and Approval of the proposed 2018-2019 NARSP Budget
- Discussion and Approval of the proposed changes to the NARSP Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules
- Discussion on expanding NARSP Associate Membership to Nebraska Supt. of Schools
- Preliminary Discussion on 2019 State Convention
- Awards Presentation ("Big Apple" Award, Membership, Community Service, and Scholarship)
- Installation of Officers

Adjournment is targeted to be at 3:30 p.m.

There is the potential of additional items being added to the agenda between the printing of this Newsletter and holding the annual meeting date.

## "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

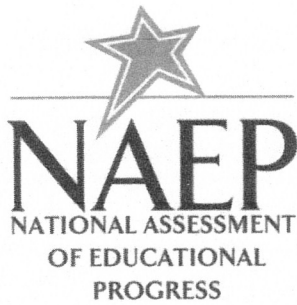
Do you need help getting on?

You can ask questions from [wanda.samson@gmail.com](mailto:wanda.samson@gmail.com) or [jkletke@q.com](mailto: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](http://www.facebook.com/NRTA.NE)



**The news articles  
for the Spring  
Issue of the NARSP  
Newsletter are due  
by February 8, 2019.**



### **Temporary Job Opportunities: Assessment Administrators**

We are seeking motivated individuals who are committed to excellence and have experience working in schools with students. Westat is recruiting for the 2019 **National Assessment of Educational Progress**, also known as **NAEP** or **The Nation's Report Card**, for the **National Center for Education Statistics**, which is part of the **U.S. Department of Education**.

The position involves conducting assessment sessions with 4th-, 8th-, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students using touch-enabled tablets in participating schools across the country. You will work on a team of 2-4 people. This opportunity is ideal for retired educators.

Your duties will include:

- Administer assessment sessions using tablets in schools;
- Prepare the room and set up equipment;
- Check student attendance and read directions aloud to students;
- Monitor the assessment sessions using NAEP tablet;
- Answer student questions using prepared guidelines;
- Collect assessment materials when the assessment is complete;
- Ensure quality control is achieved; and
- Assist in packing assessment equipment.

Westat provides complete paid training, paid time and mileage reimbursement for local driving to and from schools, weekly paychecks with direct deposit, and opportunities for advancement based on performance.

Qualified applicants must:

- Be available to work 20 to 30 hours a week, during daytime hours, when work is available, from January 28 to March 8, 2019; and
- Complete required components of training, including an online course to be completed independently, and a one-day in-person meeting during January 2019.
- Be willing to complete background check requirements, including an FBI fingerprint check;
- Have access to telephone service with a long distance calling feature;
- Have access to computer, broadband Internet connection, and personal, private email account;
- Have a valid (current) driver's license that is not under suspension and regular access to an insured, reliable vehicle to travel to and from schools; and
- Have a high school diploma or GED.

The following criteria are preferred:

- Prior experience working in an educational setting or working with students;
- Prior experience working in a team environment;
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills;
- Strong interpersonal skills;
- Basic computer proficiency;
- Self-motivated, organized, flexible, and detail-oriented;
- Willingness to travel overnight, if necessary; and
- Be willing and able to lift and carry up to 50 pounds (which included technical equipment) and be able to climb stairs if needed with or without reasonable accommodations.

This opportunity is a part-time, temporary position with limited benefits. For more information, visit [www.workNAEP.com](http://www.workNAEP.com) and provide your name and email. We will contact you with a link to our online application when it is available. **Online applications will be accepted beginning in July 2018.**

For more information email [NAEPreruit@westat.com](mailto:NAEPreruit@westat.com)

WESTAT  
EOE



# PROPOSED 2018 UPDATES and REVISIONS to the NARSP

## CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

The annual meeting of the Association shall be held in September or October. Special meetings may be called by the President or the Board of Directors when deemed necessary.

#### PROPOSED

*The annual meeting of the Association shall be held in September or October. In even years the annual meeting will be held as a stand-alone meeting. In odd years the annual meeting will be scheduled with the NARSP Convention. Special meetings may be called by the President or the Board of Directors when deemed necessary.*

## BYLAWS

### ARTICLE IV - TERMS OF ELECTED OFFICERS

**Section 1.** The elected officers of the Association shall be the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. They shall serve a two-year term and may be elected for additional terms. The President and Vice President shall be elected in even years during the annual meeting. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected in odd years during the annual meeting.

**Section 2.** The newly elected state officers shall be installed during the convention following the annual meeting. They will assume their duties following their installation.

#### PROPOSED

*Section 2. In even years the newly elected state officers shall be installed at the conclusion of the annual meeting. In odd years the newly elected state officers shall be installed during the convention following the annual meeting. They will assume their duties following their installation.*

## STANDING RULES

### MEETINGS

1. The state convention and workshops may be attended by anyone interested in education and the welfare of retired school employees.
2. Conventions and workshops are to be planned by the President and/or the Executive Director with approval of the Executive Board. Since NRTA and/or AARP provides partial funding for the workshops, the NRTA Liaison and/or the AARP State Director shall be consulted as appropriate. The workshops may be incorporated into the day's program of the state convention. The time, place, and budget shall be determined by the Executive Board.
3. The Board of Directors as the governing body of the State Association would meet on the day prior to the convention

for the annual meeting. The general business (i.e. proposed bylaw changes, election of officers, presentation/approval of the yearly budget, reports, and other related issues) of the association would be conducted, discussed, and voted upon.

#### PROPOSED

1. *The state convention held in odd years may be attended by anyone interested in education and the welfare of retired school employees.*
2. *Conventions are to be planned by the President and/or the Executive Director with approval of the Executive Board. Since NRTA and/or AARP provides partial funding for the workshops, the NRTA Liaison and/or the AARP State Director shall be consulted as appropriate. The workshops may be incorporated into the day's program of the state convention. The time, place, and budget shall be determined by the Executive Board.*
3. *The Board of Directors as the governing body of the State Association would meet in odd years on the day prior to the convention for the annual meeting. The Board of Directors would have a stand-alone annual meeting in even years with the time and place to be determined by the Executive Board. The general business (i.e. proposed bylaw changes, election of officers, presentation/approval of the yearly budget, reports, and other related issues) of the association would be conducted, discussed, and voted upon*

### MILEAGE AND HOTEL REMUNERATION

1. Provide mileage, when applicable, to all Executive Board Meetings and Board of Directors' Meetings.
2. Mileage is to be computed at the IRS-AARP current rate



subject to executive board approval.

3. Provide all meal costs and registration fees that are a part of the meetings and State Convention for Executive Board members.
4. Provide hotel room costs in those rooms reserved for the Executive Board at Board of Directors' Meeting and State Convention.
5. Provide hotel room costs for Board of Directors at Board of Directors' Meeting and State Convention, based on sharing rides and rooms when possible and utilizing the block of rooms reserved by NARSP.

#### PROPOSED

1. *Provide mileage, when applicable, to all Executive Board Meetings and Board of Directors' Meetings.*
2. *Mileage is to be computed at the IRS current rate (driven in service of charitable organizations) subject to Executive Board approval.*
3. *All meal costs and registration fees that are a part of the meetings and State Convention would be the individual responsibility of Executive Board members and members of the Board of Directors.*
4. *In odd years the association would reimburse fifty percent of hotel room costs for members of the Board of Directors based on sharing rides and rooms when possible and utilizing the block of rooms reserved by NARSP. The association would provide full hotel room costs for members of the Executive Board.*
5. *In even years when there would be a stand-alone annual meeting of the Board of Directors the association would reimburse fifty percent of hotel room costs for specific board members. The Executive Board would make such a determination of those board members based on meeting location and travel distance.*

## Livable Communities

How livable is your community for retired educators? Retired educators can engage in the AARP Livable Communities initiative. The goal of the program is to ensure communities across the country are suitable for people of all ages and life stages. In many places, that's not the case.

A Livable Community is safe and secure, has affordable and appropriate housing, diverse transportation options, and supportive community features and services. When these conditions are in place, it enhances personal independence and health while engaging residents in an area's civic, economic and social life.

AARP offers many ways for retired educators to engage in Livable Communities efforts, either on a specific issue like transportation planning, or a comprehensive approach through the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities.

One in three Americans is age 50 or older. Is your community a great place for people of all ages? By 2030, one out of every five people in the United States will be 65 or older. Will our community be ready? Plan to visit often the website: <AARP.org/livable>.

Because livable communities work generally takes place at the local level where many decisions are made about community design, development and infrastructure, much of AARP's work is derived from the community and implemented by AARP state staff and volunteers.

[article from "NRTA in the Know" – July 10, 2018]



## GIARSP Community Service Award

Grand Island Area Retired School Personnel nominated member Nora Lindner as a candidate for AARP's service award. We were pleased to learn she was selected.

Robert Bussmann, Executive Director of Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel commented, "Of the fourteen local NARSP Units, Nora was one of six recipients of the 2018 Community Service Award". He also summarized the reasons for her nomination and the many hours she has dedicated in volunteer service within the local Unit and throughout the community and beyond. He especially noted her involvement with Thrift Shop Projects.

Nora, who is currently serving as program chair of GIARSP, has a fifty-year history of service in her church. She has served offices in Alpha Delta Kappa, and she has been the first woman chair of the Archer Credit Union board. Among other activities, Nora is a Teammate mentor, a volunteer at the State Theater in Central City, NE, and is writing grants for the proposed Merrick County Museum. Her most outstanding volunteer effort was her work in the Women's Auxiliary of Central City's Litzenberg Hospital. As president of the unit, she supervised the unit's thrift store which serves the community and produces the income to support the hospital's needs. In the past three years, Nora's volunteer hours total 2118.



# LARSP Community Service Award



The Lincoln Area Retired School Personnel (LARSP) recognized Rosalee Nagele earlier this spring at a brunch held in her honor. She was the 23rd recipient of the Community Service Award from AARP/NRTA (National Retired

Teachers Association) and LARSP.

Doris Wiens, last year's recipient, presented the award. The theme for the brunch was "Roses for Rosalee." As part of the program the Male Chamber Singers and a Barbershop Quartet from Lincoln Northeast High School provided a variety of vocal musical selections.

Rosalee Nagele was an elementary school teacher in the Lincoln Public Schools for 33 years. She taught at Belmont Elementary School. Prior to coming to Lincoln she taught in a number of locations within Nebraska.

Since her retirement Rosalee has stayed actively involved within the community and in a variety of areas at church including being a lead usher. Rosalee has assisted annually with the LARSP Book Sales and has served several years as chair of the Finance Committee. She is also a member of the LEA-R Board. She has served as officers of P.E.O. and the Thursday Morning Lecture Group.

Rosalee is a fifty-year member of the T.T.T. Society. She has served as an officer in all offices at the local level as well as the state president. A project of T.T.T. has been to send young girls finishing fourth grade to summer camp. Members shop to provide for the clothing and all needed articles for camp. Transportation to and from camp is provided. To keep in contact with the girls after camp, a number of activities are planned throughout the year.

In addition to family visits, other interests for Rosalee have included playing in several bridge groups and travel. Through the years, she has traveled to all of the fifty states and thirty-seven foreign countries.

In the words of Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, founder of the National Retired Teachers Association – "To Serve, Not To Be Served" – Rosalee Nagele's continued community service and involvement definitely reflects this quote.

# HARTA Community Service Award



Nancy Breault was the Hastings chapter's Community Service Award recipient this year. She was honored because of her love and dedication to young people.

Nancy began her teaching career with the Hastings Public School system as a first-grade teacher at Morton Elementary School, a position she held for her

entire 34 years of teaching. After retirement, Nancy has continued to substitute teach in Hastings and in the surrounding schools of Blue Hill, Doniphan, and Adams Central. She has chosen to now substitute only in kindergarten, first, and second grades.

The Service Award commended her for her work at Blue Hill following a tragic school bus accident. She was at Blue Hill as a substitute the morning that one of the school's buses had an accident with another vehicle on its morning pick-up route. Two students were killed in the accident, one an elementary student and one an older student.

Nancy immediately volunteered to fill in any classroom where a teacher might feel needed to be elsewhere to deal with the aftermath of the bus accident. She was especially commended for her work with individual students who needed support dealing with the accident. She provided support and consolation to hurting students.

On a lighter note, Nancy was also honored because of her long-time Halloween celebration. Nancy enjoyed her Morton students who would trick-or-treat at her house. She decided to make their visit to her home special, so she and her husband Steve created a haunted house over 30 years ago. It further evolved into a haunted tunnel which includes, among other frights, a zombie room that students walk through on their way to her house and the goodies she has for them. Her entire family was involved in the project, and she remembers that sometimes her daughter would create a graveyard in the backyard to add to the Halloween fun. This project always took shape the night before Halloween, so there was quite a bit of work to be done in just a short time.

Last year, Nancy's husband passed away, and she didn't feel she could create the haunted tunnel and house without him. Her sons-in-law, along with Nancy's sisters and brothers-in-law, all pitched in to again create the special Halloween project. Nancy notes that she always has all the kids sign their names when they visit her haunted house. The project has become a big deal because last she recalled that around 450 kids/parents visited on Halloween night. Some of her former first-grade students are now returning with their children.

She's always happy about the fun she provides for the community children, but it's just as much fun for her as she visits with the young people and their parents. Her care and compassion continue to affect the community even as a retired teacher.

# "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"...



## The Way It Was...

Ruth Caldwell, Fremont

*When I began teaching in 1925, no modern conveniences were found in rural schools. On dark days I was able to see only if I sat by a window. This was also great if the day was hot. On cold days the window seat was the wrong place to be. Then the children huddled around the stove in the middle of the room among the coal buckets.*

*Some schools were fortunate enough to have a well on the school ground. A bucket of water was placed in the hall with a dipper in it. In winter the water froze. Many schools had no well on the ground, so the teacher brought water if she had a way to bring it. Sometimes children went for a cream can of water. I can still hear the empty cream can banging as it rolled down the ravine. We were careful with water use.*

*Each desk had a sunken inkwell, which was filled from a quart supply bottle. The inkwell had a sliding metal cover. Those wells became miniature garbage cans for dead flies, apple seeds, erasings, and small papers. Finally, the odor demanded they be cleaned out. Pen holders had steel pen points, which were inserted when writing was to begin. If they weren't cleaned afterwards, they rusted. Everyone used a blotter over freshly written work so it wouldn't smear. Ink had to be carried home to keep it from freezing.*

*Dinner pails were empty gallon or half gallon syrup or lard pails with lids. Lunches were simple, but children saved some for walking home time.*

*Usually there were two outside toilets, which, by law in later years, had to have screens in front of the doors.*

*When the teaching day was done, the building had to be cleaned. The seats were all fastened to the floor so sweeping with a broom required some thought if I was going to have a clean room when I was finished. When the wooden floors got too dusty, sweeping compound was used. Sometimes it was left on a whole day. The floor was also oiled to help keep down the dust. Someone had to bring in coal, haul out ashes, and burn the trash.*

*Teaching all eight grades with large enrollments under these conditions for \$65 a month was one thing, but trying to get my warrant signed sometimes took almost another month.*

*This is the way it was and I survived.*

## "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!

# NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL

## Executive Board Meeting Minutes, July 17, 2018

### The Green Gateau, 330 South 10th Street, Lincoln, NE

The Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel Executive Board meeting was held at The Green Gateau in Lincoln, NE on July 17, 2018. 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 1:10 p.m.

The minutes of the April 20, 2018 Executive Board Meeting were approved as printed.

The treasurer's report was accepted for financial review with a June checkbook balance of \$6,935.17. The checkbook balance and other monies as of June 30, 2018 is \$54,805.82.

Thus far, NARSP Membership totals 915. Unit membership includes 432 paid members and 149 (85 plus) honorary lifetime members for a total of 581. NARSP State membership includes 297 paid members and 37 (85 plus) honorary lifetime members for a total of 334. Last year the unit membership was 625 and the NARSP State membership was 204 for a total of 829. NARSP State membership has increased by 130.

No additional agenda items were indicated.

In the Executive Director's report Bob shared the letter AMBA sent out to retirees. Through the Freedom of Information Act, AMBA has been able to obtain names and addresses of Nebraska retirees. This has helped inform Nebraska retirees of the benefits of AMBA. There has been no news from Kell Smalley, AMBA District Manager as to the replacement for Chelsea Mason, AMBA Benefits Representative, Omaha, NE.

Bob provided an update on Leona Anderson, State Community Service Chair, who has been ill. Cathy Morgan from the Hastings Unit is collecting the volunteer hours and Days of Service information.

AARP is no longer having RAN meetings throughout Nebraska. The RAN meetings will shift to building and supporting local volunteer community teams throughout Nebraska with designated CAT leaders.

Under unfinished business Bob presented the proposed draft revisions of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules. The changes involve implementing the yearly meeting with a Board of Directors' meeting and in odd years a State Convention. Also included in the revisions are changes in payment for meals and room accommodations as well as for mileage for both meetings. All of these changes are to save money to keep NARSP solvent for the future. They will be voted on at the Board of Directors' meeting in September.

The agenda for the 2018 Annual Meeting was discussed. The meeting will be held in Lincoln at the AARP office in the conference room beginning at 12:30 pm Tuesday, September 25, 2018. The meeting will end at 3:30 pm. Light refreshments will be served. The meeting will include a memorial service, potential brief presentations from AARP, AMBA, etc. The minutes and treasurer's report will be given along with reports from the Executive Director, membership

and volunteer hours. The items of business will be the nomination and election of President and Vice-President, changes in the Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules, appointment of a nomination committee, and brief planning for the 2019 State Convention. Awards will be given for Community Service, Membership, the NARSP "Big Apple" Award, and the scholarship recipients. The President and Vice-President will be installed.

It was discussed to perhaps make Nebraska Superintendents of Schools Associate Members of NARSP. This will be a discussion item at the Board of Directors' Meeting.

New business included the discussion of the NARSP scholarship applicants for 2018-2019. There were 12 applicants from the units. Each board member ranked all 12 candidates. Totals were added and the top two candidates were the recipients. It was moved by Ann and seconded by Wanda to accept the top two applicants. Motion passed. The scholarship award winners are Brittini Peltz of Malcom, NE a Title I Reading teacher submitted by the Lincoln Unit and Karen Valdes of Hastings, an explore reading teacher submitted by the Hastings Unit.

No names were submitted for the Educational Service Award. Bob presented information for the NARSP "Big Apple" Award. There was consensus agreement on the recipient with Wanda moving for approval and Wauneta seconding the motion. The motion passed. This award will be presented at the annual Board of Directors' meeting.

Bob presented the proposed 2018-2019 Budget. Bob moved to present this budget to the Board of Directors and Wanda seconded it. Motion passed.

The summer issue of the NARSP Newsletter will be printed later in August due to the later date for this Executive Board Meeting and the inclusion of information about the active teacher scholarship.

The next Executive Board Meeting will be in early 2019.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully 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](http://npers.ne.gov)





# UNIT REPORTS



## ~ BEATRICE AREA ~

The Beatrice Area Retired School Personnel meets on the fourth Wednesday of every other month at noon in the Terrace Room at Valentino's Restaurant in Beatrice for lunch, a program and the business meeting. Our business meetings keep us apprised of notable activities in the Legislature as well as health issues, local events and presentations; such as the awarding of two 2017 BARSP scholarships for \$500 each. Recipients were Whitely Kleveland and Keenan Ruh. Both are graduates of Beatrice High School.

The program offerings remain the highlight of our meetings. They bring us a wide variety of interesting and informative topics. This past year the programs tended to deal mainly with educational topics. One program dealt with after-school projects organized by Beatrice Public Schools. These involve hands-on activities as well as tutoring. Another presentation told of a program aimed at preschool children needing guidance in educational and social learning. Not involved with the Beatrice Public Schools are two other programs of interest to the group. One involves the Mother-to-Mother Ministry which provides support for mothers in the form of necessities as well as as social and educational opportunities for their children.

Another novel program dealt with a source of educational opportunities for children that is sponsored by our local Beatrice

Community Players. The local theater which has been staging live entertainment here for 42 years has been expanding its initial schedule of three shows a year to the present schedule of ten. This is due to the development of outreach and educational programs which offer theater arts experiences to students. One after-school program is for students in grades 5 to 8 who practice on days with shortened school schedules. They were able to present two shows this year. Another involves students ages 8 to 15 who practice during the summer and present a show in July.

One other informative presentation by a Ranger from the local Beatrice Homestead Monument first dealt with the coming, rare eclipse which would draw thousands of visitors to the area. He then turned to the topic of country schools and of the role they played in the blizzard of 1888 which hit while the schools were in session.

The topic of country schools was also the focus of another presentation where the presenter spoke about the coming conference of the Country School Association of America, which would have its annual meeting in Beatrice June 17, 18, and 19. They would have three days of workshops and presentations on rural education and schoolhouse preservation. She requested that help from members of the group would be appreciated. Several of our teachers volunteered to help during the conference when men and women who taught in, or attended one-room schools from as far away as New York and California gathered to learn about this area of Nebraska. One venue for the activities was the one-room schoolhouse on the local fair grounds where our members monitor the one-room schoolhouse annually for five days during the Gage County Fair.

Our members continue to be involved in community interests. A wide variety of organizations is served by our teacher volunteer hours. This past year the combined volunteer hours totaled 1519 hours, valued at \$24.69 per hour.

During the May meeting a memorial service for a deceased past member was given for Zelda Stevens, a former English teacher at Beatrice High School.

Zoe Louton, Public Relations

## ~ FREMONT AREA ~

The Fremont Area Association of Retired School Personnel met in March at the Main Street Education Building. (Old Junior High Cafeteria). Chili and cinnamon rolls from the olden days were served to about 40 members and guests. Sixty pounds of toilet tissue were collected and delivered to the Low Income



*Attendees of the of the Country Schools Association of America held their annual conference in Beatrice in June. Here they are learning about the history of the schoolhouse located on the Gage County Fairgrounds.*





*Sally Ganem, center, served on a committee of former educators who read the applications for college scholarships offered by the Charles W. Herbster Foundation. The pay the committee received was donated to the Fremont Area Association of Retired School Personnel. FAARSP was able to give out an extra \$1000 scholarship this year for a total of three to incoming college freshmen interested in education as a major.*

*Pictured with Ganem are Mary Jane Thulin, left, and Wanda Samson.*



*Reverend John Ashley from the Presbyterian Church in Fremont spoke to the group about the success of the Summer Lunch Program offered to ages 1-18 in its 7th year. Volunteers and money are always welcome to keep this program going from May 29-August 8.*

Ministry for distribution.

Our program was presented by Rev. John Ashley of the Presbyterian Church of Fremont. This is the location of the Summer Lunch Program for ages 1-18. It is in its 7th year of operation. 47,000 meals have been served to over 3000 kids. After the meal, the kids have the opportunity to participate in enrichment programs offered by Head Start, Fremont Public Schools and The Hope Center for Kids. Food totes are available for weekend use.

Over 1600 backpacks have been given out at the end of the summer for those kids who participated on a regular basis. FAARSP voted to donate \$500 to help purchase supplies for the backpacks.

Officers were elected for the upcoming year: Ruth Register-President; Wanda Samson- Financial Director; Communication



*Mary Jane Thulin presents Carol Martin with the 2018 Community Service Award for her work as historical coordinator for many years.*



*New FAARSP officers elected at May meeting. From left are Wanda Samson financial director, Ruth Register president, Mary Jane Thulin and Kathy Cahill as communication coordinators.*



*David Rangleloff, Al Martinez and R J Riggs from the Disabled American Veterans Joseph Bales Chapter spoke to the FAARSP membership about new programs available to Vets in Nebraska. FAARSP is a supporter of the vets through the Christmas Bag program and Valentine's packages*





*Rosie Vogt swears in Ruth Register as the new president of FAARSP at their May meeting.*

Co-Directors- Kathy Cahill and Mary Jane Thulin; Scheduling Co- Coordinators- Jan Kruse and Jan Wolfe; Historical Coordinator – Carol Martin; Publicity Coordinator – Jo Mitteis; Volunteerism Coordinator – Sally Ganem

In May FAARSP met at St. James Episcopal Church with a lunch served by a committee from the church. New board members and coordinators were installed. Peanut butter was collected and delivered to the Low Income Ministry.



*New president, Ruth Register shows support for our service partners DAV. David Rangleloff, Al Martinez and RJ Riggs are pictured with Ruth.*

Members from the Joseph Bales Disabled American Veterans group spoke to the group on what is being done to help service men and women returning home adjust to life back home. Fremont has a new Veterans' Memorial Park that was explained to the group and how people could support it. FAARSP was also thanked by the veterans for all of the goodie bags that have been delivered to the care centers, veteran homes and hospitals around the state for Christmas and Valentine's Day.

Respectfully submitted by Jo Mitteis Publicity Coordinator

## ~ GRAND ISLAND AREA ~

Thanks to Nora Lindner, Vice President - program chairperson, we continue to have very informative and educational programs. In February, Leah Brown and Ashton Stuart, a mother and daughter team spoke about their long journey to find a diagnosis and

subsequent help for Ashton's dyslexia. Their diligent search had a very rewarding outcome.

The speaker in our March meeting was Melissa Kometscher. She is the Grand Island Salvation Army representative who leads 40 Nebraska Counties in their fight against Human Trafficking. She shared about the magnitude of the problem. She said that Highway I-80 seems to be a popular route for those who prey, on young people especially, and drag them into the net of forced sex or slave labor.

In April, twenty outstanding students from Walnut Middle School, members of the 7th and 8th grade Show Choir, entertained us by performing show tunes from movies of several past decades. Matt Eschliman and Colin Sandall are co-directors of the choir. Accompanist is Ruth Moore.

A \$1,000 GIARSP scholarship was awarded to Jacqueline Ortega Garcia of Grand Island Central Catholic School.

Our May meeting, the final one for this school year, featured Lisa Simmonds of Primrose Retirement Home. She spoke about the social, physical, and psychological benefits of Pet Therapy.

Vice President Jean McMIndes conducted a memorial service to honor six members of GIARSP who passed away during this year: Max Cates, Norman DeHarde, Wilma Hotz, Ruth McClurkin, Edith Pinkston, and Pat Sheehan. Edith was 104 at the time of her passing. This reduced our centenarian membership by one-half. Susan Wiese had her 107th birthday in May.

Nola Oberhelman installed the following officers for the 2018-2019 school year: Co-Presidents Eldon Ervin and Jean McMIndes, Vice President Nora Lindner, Secretary Joan Clark, Co-Treasurers Doris and Vern Rempe.

Submitted by Velma Fehr

## ~ HASTINGS AREA ~

HARSP is fortunate to have a loyal membership. Our meetings are always well-attended. Members enjoy having an opportunity to reconnect with former colleagues and friends at each meeting. Another reason may be the interesting and informative programs we have had. Bad weather kept us from meeting in January, but in March Kate Wilson spoke about the Adams County Teen Court and Diversion Services which provides juvenile offenders an opportunity to develop behaviors to help them from reoffending. In May, Kayla Nelson spoke about sex trafficking. Our members were mostly unaware of the extent of trafficking in our state, especially along the I-80 corridor.

In March, membership chair Sue Miller led our memorial service for departed members. Those remembered were Iona Bump, Mary Land, Barb Frei, Ruth Schuck, Harvey Penning, Dick Kincaid, Betty Torghele, and Dick Hawes.

Scholarship winners, Lauren Canady of Hastings High School

and Coree Lipowsky of Sandy Creek High School, were announced in May. They and their families will be our guests at the July membership luncheon.

Election of president and vice president was also held in May. Dave Scribner was elected president, and LaVila Van Boening was re-elected vice president. Past president Barb Shriver presided at their installation.

Nancy Breault was presented with this year's Community Service Award. Her two daughters surprised her by attending the award presentation.

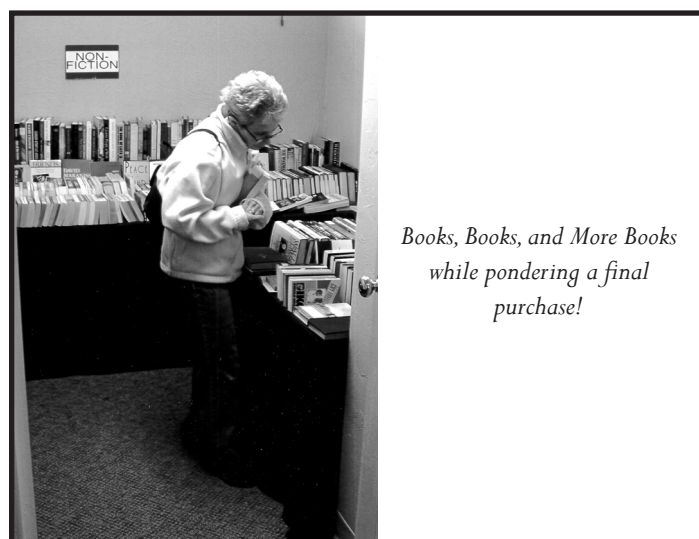
HARSP members have continued to bring food and personal items to each meeting for the Hastings High School food pantry. This has a worthwhile project which has had an important impact on many local students.

Our July meeting is one that is always eagerly looked forward to — the annual membership luncheon. We look forward to adding new retirees to our number.

## ~ LINCOLN AREA ~

After thirty-nine years of LARSP Used Book Sales, the final book sale was held for nine days in March with more than 5,000 books being sold. Over the years the profits have gone toward scholarships and philanthropic endeavors. The ongoing costs for book storage, rental costs for tables and space, and space location presented a challenge to having the profits of early years. It was also becoming more difficult for members to move and lift heavy boxes of books. At the end of the final sale, many books were donated to a variety of Lincoln organizations and centers.

At our monthly meeting in March the annual Philanthropy Presentation took place with representatives from the Child Advocacy Center, Clinic with a Heart, Lighthouse, Lincoln Education Association "Harvest of Books", Lincoln Parks and Recreation, and Mourning Hope.



*Books, Books, and More Books  
while pondering a final  
purchase!*



*From left to right: Billie Bussmann, LARSP Co-President; Carly Woythaler-Runestad, Mourning Hope; Paige Piper, Child Advocacy Center; Angela Boule, ClinicWith a Heart; Bill Michener, Lighthouse; Rita Bennett, Lincoln Education Association; and Holly Lewis, Lincoln Parks and Recreation.*

Each organization was the recipient of a \$300 check presented by Co-President Billie Bussmann. Each shared information about their organization or program and how the donation will be utilized.

As a service project for the month of March, members donated 479 single rolls of toilet tissue that were given to the People's City Mission.

April gave us the opportunity to honor Rosalee Nagele as the recipient of this year's Community Service Award. [see separate article in the Newsletter about this event]

Many individuals were celebrated, honored, or memorialized at the May meeting. Scholarships in the amount of \$1000 each were presented to Michela Tongish, Lincoln North Star High School, and Ne Zee, Lincoln High School. Each recipient shared the field of education they plan to pursue, which college or university they plan to plan to attend, and the reasons they aspire to become teachers.

The LARSP "Golden Apple" Award was presented to Jeanne Butzke. This award gives special recognition to a LARSP member who has demonstrated exemplary service to our organization.

The "Friend of LARSP" Award was presented to Milo Butzke, Eric Bengston, and Lew Sherry. This award gives special recognition to a non-LARSP member (individual or organization) who has demonstrated exemplary service or who had a notable contribution to our organization. Each was recognized for their contributions to the book sales.

Loretta Sterns stepped down after twenty-two years, as the LARSP Chaplain. Loretta was given the title of LARSP Chaplain, Emeritus and presented with an engraved crystal apple.

Special Committee Recognition was extended to the following

members: Gladys Dederman, Becky Hutchison, Wauneta Peterson, Pam Ford, Gerry Cox, and Greg McClure. Each received an engraved crystal apple.

Co-Presidents Bob and Billie Bussmann conducted the annual LARSP Memorial Service, accompanied by Gwen Tilley on the piano. Billie placed a white rose for each of the deceased members in a vase, while Bob shared information about each of the following: Coleene Allen, Lorene Behrends, Richard 'Dick' Kincaid, Genevieve 'Joan' Huffer, Josephine 'Jozie' Sheffield, Marian E. Bender, and Joe D. Meehan.

LARSP "Snack Sacks" with cookies, fruit, and snacks were taken to 16 members who are shut-ins. Members that delivered the sacks spent a short time visiting with each recipient.

Bob and Billie Bussmann attended the Lincoln Public Schools Retirement Dinner at the Lincoln Country Club to provide information about LARSP and NARSP memberships to new re-



*Vice President Connie Hill with the Salvation Army's Federico Vicente.*

## ~ OMAHA AREA ~

The Omaha Area Retired School Employee Association's February meeting was postponed until March because of weather conditions, but the program was certainly worth re-scheduling. Federico Vicente from the Salvation Army shared a powerpoint on Human Trafficking in Nebraska, which involves both sexual and labor trafficking. Over 900 individuals have been known to have been trafficked in Nebraska. OARSEA members brought items to donate to Carole's House of Hope which is an organiza-



*The scholarship recipients and LARSP Scholarship Committee members include: Kate Baker and Barb Hetcko, committee members; Michela Tongish, Lincoln North Star High School; Ne Zee, Lincoln High School; and Cheryl Frederick, committee member.*

tions. LARSP provides a free first-year local membership to new retirees. LARSP also provided a geranium plant as a centerpiece at each table.

Viki Kugler, Past President, presented outgoing Co-Presidents Bob and Billie Bussmann with an engraved desktop clock in thanks for their service.

New Officers for 2018-2020 include: Co-Presidents Jan Stamper and Pam Ford and Vice-President Gretchen Terpsma.

LARSP takes a meeting break during the summer months. The first meeting of the membership year will be on Monday, September 10 at Eastridge Presbyterian Church.



*Vice President Connie Hill with Denise Gaines from Carole's House of Hope. They are standing next to the donations brought by OARSEA members.*

tion designed to provide hope and healing for mothers and their children through innovative programs and services that promote self-sufficiency and independence. They work with up to 16 women aged from 19 to 26 who have no more than two children under the age of 10 who need a place to transition to a more posi-





*The picture shows President Nancy Johnson presenting a certificate and a pin to Rose Sheehy.*

tive life situation.

The entertainment at our May meeting was the Burke High Jazz Band. Mary Moberg announced that Pieter Vargo, a Bryan High senior, was being awarded our \$1,000 scholarship. He will be attending Peru State to study art education. We were disappointed that he had a prior commitment and could not attend our meeting.

We also were pleased to learn that Rose Sheehy was awarded the AARP/NRTA/Local Community Educational Service Award for 2018.

## ~ SCOTTSBLUFF AREA ~

Scottsbluff Area Retired School Personnel finished the year strong with an average of twenty members attending each of the last three meetings. Our February meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. In March we heard about the excitement at the Western NE Regional Airport as Administrator Darwin Skel-



ton told us about the increased boardings and dependability of the new carrier. Then in March Amanda Gibbs talked about the events and activities of the Legacy of the Plains Museum. Some of our members are volunteers there, and they would always welcome more.

We celebrated Sandy Harrach receiving the 2018 Chapter and REA Unit Community Service Award by going out for lunch as a group. Nearly twenty of us enjoyed getting together at Prime Cut on May 29 to present Sandy her award and congratulate her. Sandy volunteers at the Legacy of the Plains Museum, the Midwest Theater, the Lied Public Library, and several others places. She serves as the secretary and one of the treasurers for our retired school personnel group. Congratulations, Sandy!

Our group had a total of 2,610 volunteer hours to report this past year. We are so thankful for each and every one and their efforts to help others. This is a picture of Sandy Harrach receiving her award. Pictured with her are officers from last year--left to right Karon Harvey, Kent Harvey, Twila Griffiths, Janet Gardner, Marcia Schlichtemeir and recipient Sandy Harrach.

Submitted by Twila Griffiths

## ~ SOUTHEAST NE AREA ~

The Southeast Nebraska Area of Retired School Personnel usually meet five times a year, this spring we were only able to meet in March and May.

In March we had a guest speaker, Dominique Banks, who is the Family Development Associate for the Richardson County SENCA office. Ms. Banks gave a very informative presentation about how she works to serve our area through such events as food distribution, holding town hall meetings, teaching money and poverty awareness classes, and coordinating assistance for rent, utilities, and the job application process. As a community service, our unit annually donates to the food bank.

We were happy to learn that member Elizabeth Dunn received a NARSP certificate recognizing her 100th birthday! Also, our local members were commended for their volunteer time in the community. President Meinzer awarded a certificate to members Glenda Nelson and June Bowers as they had the top hours.

Our May meeting is always enjoyable as we host our scholarship winner at a luncheon and present a \$500 scholarship. This year's winner was Aeden Gyhra of rural Steinauer. She is a 2018 graduate of Pawnee City High School and plans to continue



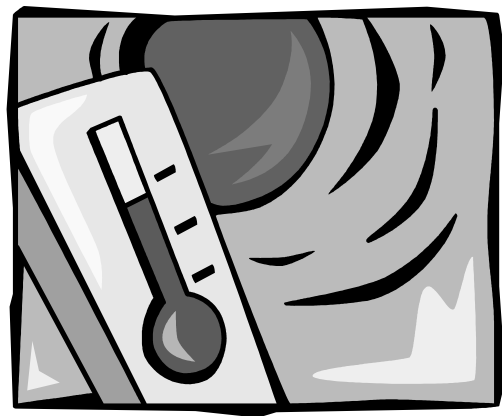
her education at Northwest Missouri State University and major in Early Childhood Education.

Also in May we were pleased to welcome Karen Mezger as a guest speaker. Karen is the guidance counselor at HTRS school and shared her knowledge of embroidery and flag making. She gave a very informative talk about her father-in-law's business called the Albert Frei Embroidery Company back East. She also discussed the making of the flag and what the colors symbolize.

Members are looking forward to our next meeting in September, 2018!

## ~ WAYNE AREA ~

The Wayne Area Association of Retired School Personnel is a small but mighty unit meeting every other month except in the winter. The following is a brief synopsis of our activities from September of 2017 through July of 2018. At our September meeting Pastor Judy Carlson presented a program on "The Secret Code in Quilts" that took the slaves to freedom. The significance and meaning of each quilt block was explained. In October three members of our group traveled to Grand Island to attend the 57th NARSP Convention. We were happy to volunteer to conduct the Memorial Service honoring deceased members of the past year. Veteran's Day was observed during our November Meeting by having 2 local citizens present. Brad Wieland, our local Veterans Service Officer introduced retired Judge Robert Ens, a Vietnam Veteran. Judge Ens displayed several memorabilia items during his presentation significant to his service in Vietnam. Our March meeting was a tasteful one. Those present enjoyed tasting different flavors of popcorn that are made locally in a new business in Wayne called "Aquapop". It is sold via the internet with customers from all over the United States. Discussion was held in regard to the pride that our community feels recognizing young adults starting new and varied entrepreneur businesses as well as serving in civic leadership roles. We also forwarded to state the application we had received for the NARSP Scholarship. In April several members joined Jenny Gubbels in her responsibility for organizing and making all of the arrangements with Wayne State College to host the 26th annual Young Author's Festival. At our May meeting Charles Maier presented a program entitled "Observations". He was quoted as saying "As we age we need to look back to see where we've been". "Among the readings he presented were: "Sandhills Satisfaction", "The Ragged Old Flag", and "Cowboys Real America". Charles also shared patriotic poems and readings at our annual 4th of July Picnic held at Brookdale Wayne on July 2nd. Our group is going to present a display flag to Brookdale Wayne in appreciation for their sharing their facility for our meetings. It is a blessing to be able to conduct our meetings there; they are very gracious greeting us with coffee and cookies each time and then providing a delicious lunch at a very reasonable price.

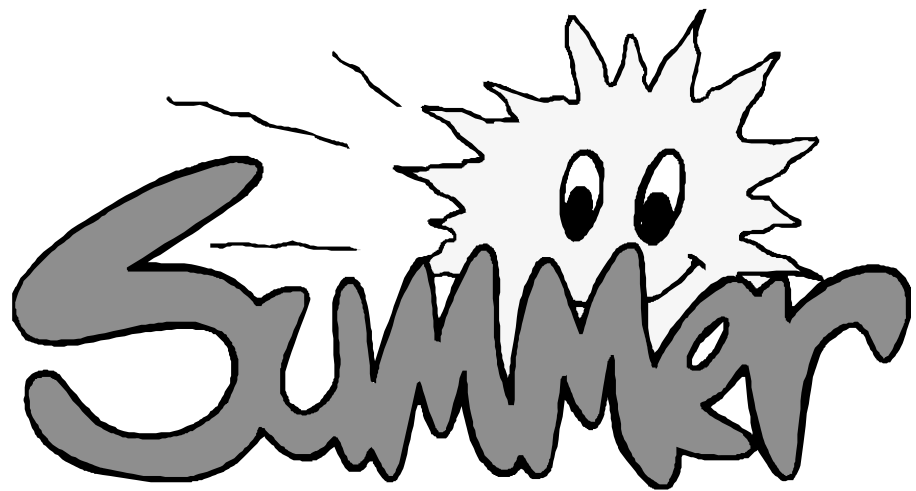






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