



“To Serve — Not To Be Served”
Affiliated with NRTA and AARP

Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel



NEWSLETTER



Summer 2023

www.narsp.org

Published Twice Yearly

NARSP Scholarship Recipients Named

The recipients of the 2023-2024 NARSP Active Educator Scholarship are: Meg Gratupp who is a 10-12 English teacher at Norris High School and Brittany Vinchattle who is a 7-9 English Language Arts/Reading teacher in the Wakefield Community Schools. Ms. Gratupp is pursuing a Master’s Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Doane University. Mrs. Vinchattle is enrolled in the Master of Science in Education—School Counseling PK-12 program at Wayne State College.

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 and around the communities of the local units.

The NARSP Executive Board received eight quality semi-finalist applications this year for review.



Meg Gratupp has been an educator for four years. She has a Bachelor of Science in Secondary English Education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is now a teacher in the high school from which she graduated. In addition to her English classes she also teaches differentiated composition and theatre. Ms. Gratupp is a member of the Norris Association of Educators. She serves on a

number of school committees, as well as, the School Improvement Team. She is involved in her church and serves as a youth group leader.

In her application Meg stated, “I am pursuing a Master’s Degree in Education for Curriculum and Instruction because I want to be a

better educator for my students. Student success is the cornerstone of why I teach, and I want to do everything to help students achieve. In order to do this, I must continue to improve and hone my craft; thus, I decided to pursue an advanced degree in order to improve my skills and be a lifelong learner for the betterment of my students’ education. They deserve the best education, and I want to do everything I can to ensure they get what they deserve.”

One of Meg’s references noted the following, “When we are proud to call ourselves educators and work in a field of colleagues who are dedicated to the service of others, it is the rare teacher like Ms. Meg Gratupp which exemplifies what it means to be truly invested in the development of young people. As an educator, Meg dedicates her time and energies into developing her students’ to think critically, fostering curiosity, and nurturing a desire to be lifelong learners. ...and one short letter is far from adequate to describe the caliber of teacher the students of Norris have in her.”

A colleague shared the following about Meg, “Not only is she a team player with sound ideas for the various committees she serves on, but she has built relationships with some of our toughest students and continues to be a strong advocate for making sure all learners thrive to the best of their abilities. Even students who do not have her as a teacher know who she is because she takes the time to greet them, ask questions, and make them feel a part of our school community.”

The Lincoln Area Unit submitted Meg’s semi-finalist application.

Brittany Vinchattle has been an educator for eleven years. She has an Undergraduate Degree-Secondary Education – ELA and a Master of Arts – Reading. Both degrees are from the University of Nebraska-Omaha. She has taught in the Omaha Public



Mark Your Calendar for Thursday, September 28th!

NARSP Annual Board of Directors’ Meeting - Aldersgate Methodist Church - 84th and South Streets, Lincoln - Lunch at 11:30 a.m. - Concluding by 4:00 p.m.

Unit Presidents will receive Registration Info in August



Wauneta's Notes

It is time to come together to take care of business, renew old friendships, make new friends, learn something new and to have FUN!

Save Thursday, September 28, 2023, for our conference. The location is 84th and South Street in Lincoln, NE. Aldersgate Methodist Church is on the west side of the street with easy parking in the lot and everything on one level.

Lunch will start at 11:30 a.m. and our meeting will continue until 4:00 p.m. Registration, food choices and officers list will follow in August.

Volunteer hours need to be sent to Cathy Morgan (morgan1968@charter.net) 402-469-4642.

Names of deceased members are to be sent to Nancy Johnson (nancy.johnson5@cox.net).

Hope you are receiving rain, some of our crops have dried up.

Stay healthy, safe and keep moving!

Wauneta Peterson
NARSP President

(Continued from page 1)

Schools and Lewis Central Community Schools. She has served on building and district leadership teams at her current school district and the previous district. Outside of school Brittany has volunteered her time to teach Sunday School and Vacation Bible School.

In her application Brittany noted, "From the beginning of my career until now, one thing has remained steadfast: my desire to improve the overall wellbeing of my students. Initially, I thought that I could do this through engaging lessons and a passion for the content. I quickly realized that that wasn't enough, as some students were being left behind due to reading deficits. This led me to my first Masters Degree in Reading. While I have loved teaching English and Reading, and helping students find a passion for both, in recent years I have felt called to focus my attention on the emotional wellbeing of students. So, two years ago, I began my journey to become a school counselor. I have always been told that I have a natural ability to build relationship with others, particularly students, which is why I was a fit for an At-Risk classroom in my former district. In that role, I was able to nurture students, and support them in their classes, while really striving to get them to graduation and beyond.

A reference stated, "She has been a source of positivity for her colleagues as well as our students. Mrs. Vinchattle's valuable experience has been an asset to our district leadership team. She is a highly collaborative person and puts the needs of students first.

One of the first things you would notice about Mrs. Vinchattle is her character and integrity. She holds herself to high standards and models this for everyone around her. Mrs. Vinchattle has proven that she has the desire and passion to provide a high level of care for our students."

A school colleague noted the following; "Brittany does a fantastic job of building relationships with her students. She listens to what they have to say and takes a genuine interest in their lives. Because of this, she has built a safe community in her classroom where students feel comfortable to participate in class and take risks. Brittany finds ways to support students who might be struggling to be successful in her classroom."

The Wayne Area Unit submitted Brittany's semi-finalist application.



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 as active members.

Associate membership is available to a spouse of an active member; to any individual who is interested in and subscribes to the purposes of NARSP; and to active school personnel within three years of retirement.

Yearly dues are \$15.00 for both active and associate members.

There are a number of options available for payment of your dues. Unit members will continue to pay your annual dues through your local treasurer. There are three options that can be found on the NARSP website www.narsp.org. -- download and complete the membership form and mail your check to the address noted on the form; by credit card for your annual membership; and by credit card with automatic annual renewal.

If you would have questions about your membership, please feel free to contact Nancy Johnson, NARSP Treasurer and Membership Chair at 12777 "A" Street, Omaha, NE 68144 (E-mail – nancy.johnson5@cox.net)

NARSP Newsletter

Co-Editors

Bob and Billie Bussmann
RBUSSMANN@neb.rr.com
bbuss@neb.rr.com
(402) 488-3231

NARSP Executive Board

Vacant
Executive Director

Wauneta Peterson,
President

June Bowers
Vice President

Twila Griffiths
Secretary

Nancy Johnson,
Treasurer

Additional officer information located on the NARSP Website:
www.narsp.org

REMINDER

It would be appreciated if local Units and individuals would regularly notify Nancy Johnson, 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 2022-23 Memorial Service Program. **If you have not already done so, names of members who have passed since the last memorial service need to be submitted to Nancy by Thursday, August 31 to be included in the memorial program.**

Nancy Johnson
NARSP Treasurer
12777 "A" Street
Omaha, NE 68144
or Nancy.Johnson5@cox.net

NARSP



Remember to LIKE us on



www.facebook.com/NRTA.NE

Message from MJ

Information provided by:

MJ Woodall

AMBA District Manager - WI, MN, IA, NE & Upper MI



**Are you concerned
about sudden
changes in the
stock market that
could impact
your investments?**

We can help.

Did you know you can protect a portion of your investments with a product that offers upside potential with no downside market risk?

In addition, you can receive Tax-Deferred growth on your long-term gains which means all interest earned is compounding tax-free until withdrawn.

Benefits Include:

- Market gains while protecting from downturns
- Receiving guaranteed income for your entire lifetime
- Investing qualified or non-qualified funds
- Enhancing liquidity to access your account balance
- Protecting your investments by never losing money
- Offering guaranteed interest rates
- Tax-deferred growth
- A+ rated by Standard and Poor's, a carrier who you know and trust

Since there is no obligation, what do you have to lose in learning how to protect your investments?

Let's talk:

MJ Woodall, District Manager
414.750.6575





Vernelle Werblow

Vernelle Werblow does not need a spotlight to shine. She has her own wonderful glow about her that shines all the time. Vernelle retired in 1985 after 20+ years of instructing her students in music. Ten rural schools in Nebraska

were blessed to have Vernelle in their school.

Vernelle joined Fremont Area of Retired Teachers in 1985 and served as its president from 1989-1991. She has hosted many meetings at her church for the now Fremont Area Association of Retired School Personnel. She was named FAARSP Outstanding Service Award in 2020.

Spotlight on a 100-Year-Old Member



Her smile and sense of humor are always welcome in pressure situations. FAARSP salutes Vernelle Werblow, long time association member, for all she has done through the years. Vernelle was honored as a GOLD member at the FAARSP May 2023 meeting. Happy 100th birthday Vernelle on November 26, 2023 from all your friends and colleagues.



ANNOUNCEMENT AMBA Contact for Nebraska

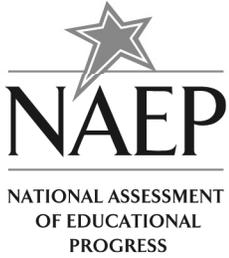
MJ Woodall
District Manager

WI, MN, IA, NE, & Upper MI
mj.woodall@amba.info
414.750.6575



“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 Jeri Lorenz at Copycat Printing & Signs for inclusion in a future issue of the NARSP Newsletter so the “Spotlight on a 100-Year-Old Member” can be turned on! Mail to 365 N Broadwell Ave, Grand Island, NE 68803 or Email to jeri@copycatprinting.com



NAEP is hiring

What is NAEP?

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), often called The Nation's Report Card, is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what students in public and private schools in the United States know and are able to do in various subjects. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, NAEP has been conducted since 1969 and is often considered the "gold standard" in large-scale assessments.

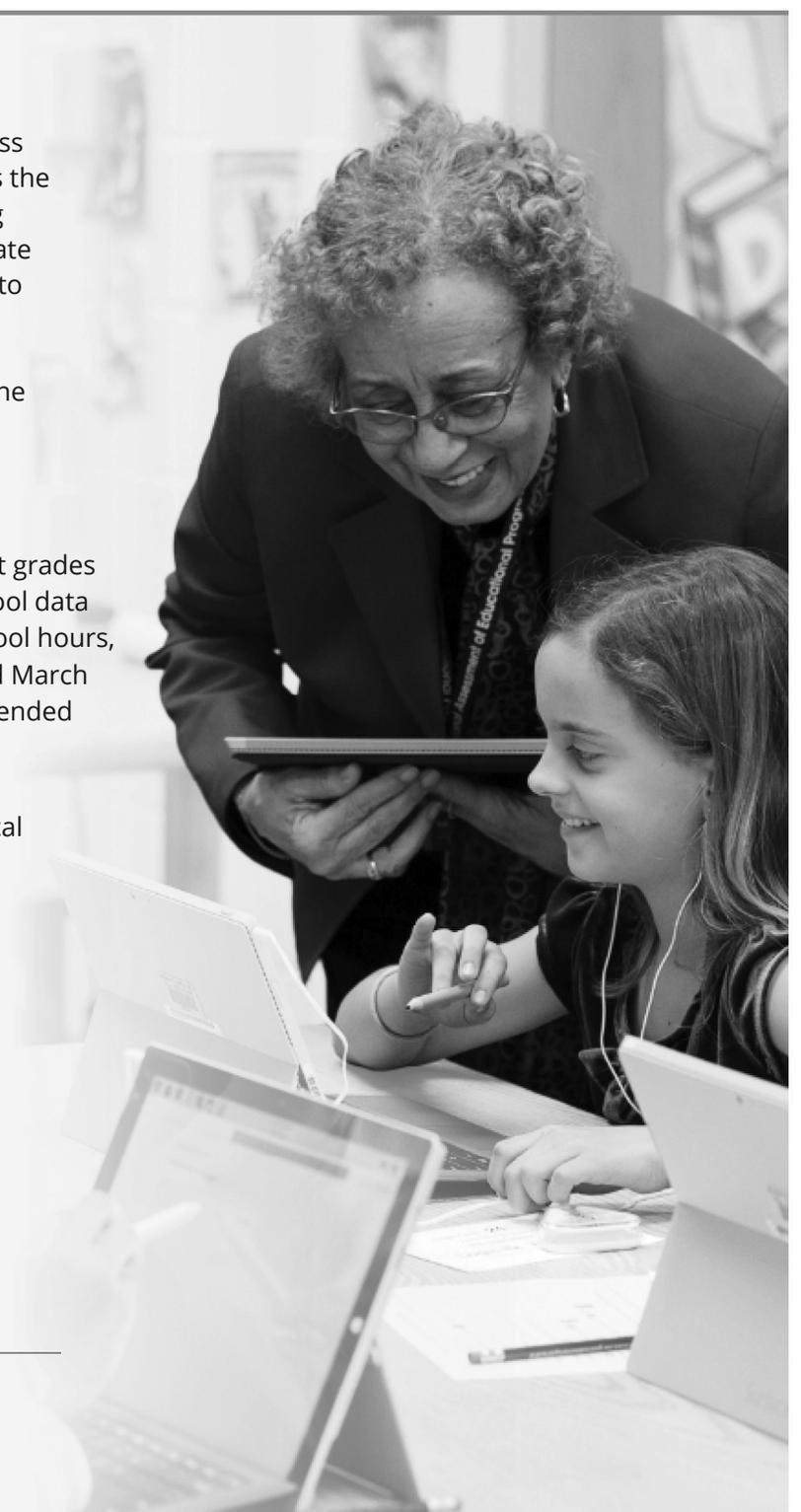
In-school data collectors

NAEP needs staff to conduct the assessments at grades 4, 8, and 12 for the NAEP 2024 program. In-school data collectors must be available to work during school hours, when work is available, between January 29 and March 8, 2024. The data collection window may be extended due to weather or other delays. Staff receive

- Paid training
- Paid time and mileage reimbursement for local driving from home to schools and back
- Weekly paychecks (with direct deposit)

Candidates should

- Be detail-oriented
- Be able to work in a team environment
- Have good communication skills
- Be comfortable working with technology
- Be a U.S. citizen and willing to complete a background check, including FBI fingerprinting
- Enjoy working in schools (prior education or research experience is a plus)



For more information visit
www.WorkNAEP.com

NARSP Annual Board of Directors' Meeting

The Annual Board of Directors' Meeting will take place on Thursday, September 28, 2023, 11:30 a.m. CDT at Aldersgate Methodist Church, South 84th and South Streets, in Lincoln, Nebraska.

- A box lunch will be provided each attendee
- For voting purposes each Unit is allotted two representatives (President & Vice-President; Co-Presidents; President & another Unit Officer/Committee Chair/or/Member)
- NARSP Committee Chairs and interested NARSP State Members are welcome to attend
- Carpooling is encouraged; mileage will be paid
- Estimated Meeting Conclusion, on or before 4:00 p.m.
- More information and registration will be sent to the Unit Presidents in August; additional questions contact Wauneta

Peterson, NARSP President

Tentative meeting agenda items of consideration will include:

- Memorial Service for Departed Members
- Presentations and Reports
- Selection of members (from the Board) for the 2024 NARSP Nominating Committee
- Election of NARSP Secretary and Treasurer for 2023-2025 (Installation of the same)
- Approval of the proposed 2023-2024 NARSP Budget
- Awards

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

Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel Financial Report January 31, 2023 - June 30, 2023

Checkbook Balance	January 31, 2023	\$ 18,180.86
Income		
Dues	\$ 225.00 February	
	\$ 75.00 March	
	\$ 90.00 April	
	\$ 60.00 May	
	\$ 60.00 June	\$ 510.00
Online dues	\$ 85.56 February	
	\$ 228.16 March	
	\$ 171.12 April	
	\$ 356.50 May	
	\$ 213.16 June	\$ 1,054.50
Total Income		\$ 1,564.50
Expenditure		\$ 19,745.36
2030 Postmaster	\$ 588.88	
2031 CopyCat Printing	\$1,405.96	
Check 2032 Copy Cat	\$ 117.91	
Total Expenses	\$ 2,112.75	\$ - 2,112.75
		\$ 17,632.61
Other Monies		
US Bank	Original	January
CD (4411) matures 12-07-2025	\$ 6,009.35	\$ 6,485.40
CD (7901) matures 04-20-2023	\$10,380.30	\$12,381.84
CD (0631) matures 12-16-2025	\$10,000.00	\$10,792.19
CD (0649) matures 12-16-2025	\$10,000.00	\$10,792.19
State Farm moved to US Bank		
CD (6961) mature 01-06-2023	\$ 9,280.18	\$10,972.55
Profits for this period (\$ 103.01)		\$51,527.18
Checkbook Balance and Other Monies - June 30, 2023		\$69,159.79

Submitted by Nancy Johnson Treasurer

Have you joined us on Facebook yet?

If not, you are missing out. On this page you will find postings such as:

- Local area meetings (contact wanda.samson@gmail.com with information for your unit)
- Posts that are informative for retired individuals
 - Humorous posts
 - and much more

Do you need help getting on? Contact wanda.samson@gmail.com to get help.

www.facebook.com/NRTA.NE



GUIDE TO YOUR NARSP MEMBER BENEFITS



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.



Home Health Care Insurance

This policy is designed as an affordable solution that helps give you the flexibility and freedom to utilize the type of care that's right for you – in your very own home.



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.



Medicare Solutions

Medicare doesn't provide all the coverage you need and can lead to high out-of-pocket costs such as deductibles, co-insurance and co-pays. That's where a Medicare coverage plan comes in.



Cancer, Heart & Stroke, Accident, and Disability Insurances

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



Final Expense Whole Life & Guaranteed Acceptance Life Insurance

Members can choose plans that protect their families now and at the end of life. Easy issue and Traditional plans available.



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.



Annuity

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



Start Hearing, Inc.

Start Hearing, Inc. 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.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call us at 1-800-200-5701 or visit www.starhearing.com/partners/AMBA



Hospital Stay Coverage

A plan designed to help protect members' savings and security for the future. This insurance can help offset the cost of deductibles, co-pays, and unexpected or additional expenses incurred but not covered by other insurance plans.

GET YOUR BENEFITS NOW!

With Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel (NARSP), you have access to exceptional member benefits. Are you wondering if certain benefits are right for you? Contact us for a free benefits review!

MJ Woodall 414-750-6575

| mj.woodall@amba.info



"A Look Back In Time"

"1954"

The year is "1954"...and...Dwight D. Eisenhower was President...Elvis Presley's singing career began...mass polio vaccination in children started...Brown vs. Board of Education at the U.S. Supreme Court...whiffle ball bat was invented...the words "under God" were added to the Pledge of Allegiance...a gallon of gas cost 22 cents...First Class postage was 3 cents...19 cents for a loaf of bread...and...NSRTA was organized.

NSRTA was the acronym for the Nebraska State Retired Teachers Association with affiliation with the National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA). NRTA is AARP's Educator Community. Shortly before as well as there after smaller groups identified as Units began to organize around a community or area throughout the state. To be more inclusive, in 2003 the association changed its name to the Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel (NARSP). All retired school employees were welcome to join the association. At a highpoint Nebraska had thirty-four local Units. Presently, there are only eight active Units as listed below along with their year of becoming organized.

Omaha Area – 1950	Lincoln Area – 1951
Beatrice Area – 1961	Hastings Area – 1961
SE NE Area – 1968	McCook Area – 1971
Fremont Area – 1973	Wayne Area – 1975

One may ask why a Unit might become inactive and disband. The reason(s) vary and are unique to the Unit and its community and area. Over the years there are probably four common themes in all of the Units that disbanded...

...Unit membership becomes more senior and fewer in numbers

...present new retirees have a tendency to not be joiners

...members are not willing to accept leadership positions within the Unit

...meeting locations within the community and/or area.

Listed in alphabetical order with year of becoming organized and year of becoming disbanded...

Ainsworth Area – 1974-2013
Cass County Area – 1993-2019
Columbus Area – 1970's-2020
Grand Island Area – 1965-2020
Mullen Area – 1975-2019
Norfolk Area – 1971-2022
Nuckolls County Area – 1974-2009
Ogallala Area – 1973-2011
O'Neill Area – 1978-2008
Scottsbluff Area – 1973-2022
Wahoo Area – 1975-2004
York Area – 1972-2005

Listed in order of the year they disbanded; no information was available for the year of becoming an organized Unit...

Oakland-Lyons Area – 1994
Sidney Area – 1994
Arapahoe Area – 2000
Valentine Area – 2000
Nebraska City Area – 2001
South Sioux City Area – 2002
Fairbury Area – 2003
Saline County Area – 2004
Blair Area – 2005
Broken Bow Area – 2005
Guide Rock Area – 2005
Gothenburg-Heartland Area – 2008
Kearney Area – 2008
North Platte Area – 2017



1954 ~ 70th ~ 2024



**The news articles for the Spring Issue of the
NARSP Newsletter are due by Friday, February 2, 2023.**

Officer Elections

Officer positions up for election at the Board of Directors' Annual Meeting this coming fall are Secretary and Treasurer. Both positions are for a two-year term (2023-2025).

Secretary – The Secretary shall attend all meetings called by the President. In addition, the Secretary shall: keep the minutes of all meetings of the Association; keep a record of all motions; have available for reference at all meetings, a copy of past minutes, Constitution and Bylaws of the Association and a list of officers and chairpersons; submit a copy of the minutes of each meeting to the President as well as for publication in the respective issues of the NARSP Newsletter; and maintain permanent, dated copies of the Constitution and Bylaws.

Treasurer – The Treasurer shall deposit all funds in the name of the Association. In addition, the Treasurer shall: be bonded; receive and keep a record of all money paid into the Association; issue a receipt, if requested, to each unit treasurer for any monies paid into the State Treasury; assist units in their efforts to

recruit new members, retain current members, and review past member (including AMBA/state only members); collect dues and membership lists from the units; receives dues from AMBA/state only members; maintain as accurate up-to-date membership list; keep on file a list of the banks in which the monies are kept and provide a copy to the President and the Executive Director; prepare monthly financial reports and present them to the President and the Executive Director for approval; request that all bills submitted for payment be accompanied by a receipt; keep on file all vouchers for five (5) years; provide a financial report for publication in the NARSP Newsletter; and keep a yearly record of all members and provide a copy to the President, Executive Director, Newsletter Printing/Mailing Company, and AMBA.

Forward your suggestions for either position to June Bowers, NARSP Nominating Committee chair, at bowersjunem@yahoo.com.



**ASSOCIATION MEMBER
BENEFITS ADVISORS**
800.258.7041
<http://myambabenefits.info/narsp>

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



NRTA Staff

Al Campos, Director NRTA
Mary Beth Dixon, Advisor
Adam Goldberg, Senior Legislative Representative
Noelle Carter, Program Associate

In Memory

Mildred J. Boyd from Omaha passed away on July 23, 2023 at the age of 103.

After teaching English for decades for the Omaha Public Schools system, Mildred retired at the age of 65. Her love of being in the classroom didn't stop at retirement. Mildred continued until the age of 92 to help students obtain their GED.

Mildred served as state president of NSRTA for four years from 1992-1996.

Mildred is survived by a daughter and her grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren. NARSP extends an expression of sympathy to the Boyd family.



UNIT REPORTS



Active Units include...Beatrice Area, Fremont Area, Hastings Area, Lincoln Area, McCook Area, Omaha Area, Scottsbluff Area, Southeast Nebraska Area, and Wayne Area

~ BEATRICE AREA ~

We meet every other month throughout the year at the Beatrice Senior Center. In January our guest was Michael Sothan, Executive Director of Main Street Beatrice. He told us about the history of our town and what kinds of businesses Beatrice started with. Then he shared how the Mom and Pop stores changed to department stores and the malls took away business from downtown. Now the smaller specialty shops are coming back and apartments are in the upper parts of the stores. He reminded us of all the different activities held downtown to invite shoppers to come to Main Street.

In March, our guest speaker was Chief of Police John Hickman, who told us about different scams that are used to prey on the older generation. He said that if you receive any phone calls asking for personal information from your bank, social security, etc. do not give it to them. These institutions will not call you, but send you a letter. Hang up and call your bank to see if they had actually tried to reach you.



Chief of Police John Hickman

Our guest speaker in May was Mayor Bob Morgan. His mother had been a teacher and he had taught in Lincoln before coming to Southeast Community College in Beatrice. He visited with us about some of the changes he is working on in the community. We also honored members of BARSP who had passed away the past year: Carol Schulz, Pat Wallman, and Verneal Dodge.

Our scholarship winners were recognized at our July meeting. Eli Delhay from Freeman School is going to Hastings for Elementary Education and Digital Media and Graphic Design. Abigail Trantham from Beatrice is heading to University of Nebraska at Kearney to become a Secondary English teacher and have a minor in Spanish. Members had signed up to help at the one-room

schoolhouse situated at the Gage County Fair. Everyone hosted visitors that came into the schoolhouse during their two-hour time slot. Visitors signed in with their names and where they were from. Some even had family members that had attended or taught in a one-room school.

Sent by President Marjorie Brubaker

~ FREMONT AREA ~

After lunch at the March meeting, Jan Kruse presented the short story. Carlo Rinaldi, of the Arthritis Foundation of Nebraska was the speaker.

Shonda Shirley CHAD coordinator, announced that FAARSP had made the increase in their donations for the 10th straight year pushing the 10 year total to over \$90,000.00.

David Bade was welcomed as a new member. Glad to have you with us David. This being an odd year, our financial director was up for election. Wanda Samson was nominated and re-elected to the office. Nola Cox, one of the associations past presidents performed the installation after the election.

Wendy Brenner is again crafting the item to be donated to the "Bridge" Holiday Auction. FAARSP continues to support LifeHouse/Low Income with donations at both general meetings and drive thru programs.

Nomination forms are due to Ruth Register by June



Linda Betkie on the left, receives a plaque from Ruth Register president of FAARSP for all the work she has done the last 3 years and her computer skills. Linda totally updated projects, membership history and the 50 years of history of the association.



Wanda Samson, financial director of FAARSP accepts the \$700.00 in donations collected by Norma Register committee chair for the Holiday Meals Fund. With 2 extra meals donated with association funds, that brings the number of holiday meals donated to 16 for this holiday season.

1st for FAARSP Outstanding Service Award. Members at the meeting could pick up their new red 50th anniversary tote bags. A Chamber Coffee was being scheduled for June 16 from 9:00-10:00. At the May meeting the membership will honor their twelve Gold members who are 85+ with a special program.

FAARSP members met for their May meeting. A program to honor our twelve Gold members who are 85+ was presented. Members of the



Sharon Carlson was presented the 2023 FAARSP Outstanding Service Award for Her work with the community and association. Barbara Kay Royuk represented the selection committee in the presentation of the award.

2023, 50th anniversary class are Vernelle Werblow, Bob Kroenke, Lylas Guthrie, Norma Register, Rhoda Holstine, Nola Cox, Marilyn Shanks, Larry Marvin, Marilyn Kock, Marian Rohloff, Kathy Murphy and Mary Jane Thulin. Thanks to Johnny Halladay, Sharon Carlson and Cathy Chapman for helping with the presentations. Escorts were Bev Thomsen, Beth Radtke, Barbara Kay Royuk, Laree Skelton, Janet Kletke, Nancy Meier, Carol Martin, Nancy Morris, Jan Wolfe, Cindy Tranmer, Shonda Shirley and Sandra Hansen. Linda Betkie took lots of great pictures which were made into personal collages for each Gold member. President Ruth Register praised the Gold class of 2023 for their character and all their work to make the association a strong part of the community.

Odetta Wacker and Cheryl Ferguson spoke to the group about the summer back pack program. This is a big challenge in our community and FAARSP members help with donations each year.

Members were asked to bring baked goods for the Chamber Coffee to help celebrate the association 50th anniversary of community service.

The July meeting is our scholarship and awards meeting. Two \$1,500.00 scholarships were awarded. Emmalee Sheppard of Fremont High school was awarded the education scholarship and Wyatt Willnerd of Logan View High school was presented the trade school scholarship. This was our first scholarship ever awarded for a Trade scholarship. Sharon Carlson was selected as FAARSP Outstanding Service Award. A well deserving member.

Linda Betkie was presented an award for her dedicated work on several organizational projects the last three years. Carol Martin, historian, was thanked for all her work over the years in keeping track of our activities. Sandra Hansen thanked the members of the 50th anniversary committee for their hard and faithful work this year. Shonda Shirley announced to the membership that FAARSP has been chosen to receive the Combined Health Agencies Drive CHAD



Ruth Register listens as Shonda Shirley from CHAD(combined health agencies drive) announces that the Fremont Area Association of Retired School Personnel has been selected to receive CHADS Partner in Health Award at their annual meeting August 24th. FAARSP has raised over \$90,000.00 in 10 years for CHAD health charities.



Nola Cox, Sandra Hansen, Janet Kletke, Linda Betkie, Bev Thomsen and Carol Martin are members of the 50th anniversary committee who worked hard all year to produce activities for the association to honor our members and 50 years of community service. In June they arranged a Chamber of Commerce Coffee so community members could come visit with us.

Partners in Health Award to be presented at their annual meeting in August.

The State of the Association Address was given by president Ruth Register. This is the second year this has been done to keep the membership up on all happenings.

The Holiday Meals Fund chair, Norma Register reported that the donation for 16 Holiday Meals goal has been met for this year and we are now working on next years goal. Ruth Register reported the need for more men's handkerchiefs and chap stick for veterans Christmas bags.



Several members volunteered to help with the ESU #9 bus tours.



At our May meeting our Gold Members 85+ as of this year were treated to a special honors program. 8 of the 12 members were present. Members were escorted down the room making stops to be presented a rose, then special made medal and finally their certificate. They were treated like royalty which they are.

It was noted that FAARSP will host a kidney screening in October. More information will be coming out. Next CHAD giving campaign will begin in September. Members were asked to sign up for the school they want to get thank you treats to staffs of 25 schools this year. Well as you can see we are a very busy and thankful association.

Submitted by
Ruth Register, president
FAARSP



Marsha Sukup leads the memorial service.

~ HASTINGS AREA ~

HARSP (Hastings Area Retired School Personnel) meet on the fourth Monday of even numbered months to enjoy a brief meeting, a program, snacks, and great fellowship. Programs this past year included a message from Ryan Phinney, son of our Vice President Sue Phinney, about child abuse investiga-

tions. Wendy Gwennup presented a very informative program about early childhood services and programs in Adams County.

In May our new officers were installed and a memorial service was held to honor Georgia Bishell, Pat Prochaska, and Ruth Krull who all had passed away this past year.



A serving committee provides treats for each meeting.

We reach out to our community in many ways. Last year we continued to help with a project called Laundry Love. Laundry supplies and money were collected at each meeting and given to the Episcopal Church which oversees the Laundry Love Project. Our altruism project for the upcoming year will be food and money for the Hastings Food Pantry.

We look forward to our annual July Luncheon when we invite the new retirees in our area to eat with us and learn about HARSP. We also recognize our scholarship winners at this luncheon.



VP Sue Phinney and her son, Ryan.

Wendy Gwennup presenting a program.

~ LINCOLN AREA ~

The winter and spring months for the Lincoln Area Retired Personnel branch of NARSP were focused on helping and honoring members and our philanthropic endeavors. We started the year with the director of OLLI (Oscher Lifelong Learning), Bob Michl, speaking to us about staying active and involved in learning. In February, Karla Frese from Home Care Partners of NE gave the members tips on preventing falls.

The philanthropic goal of LARSP is to help fund Lincoln organizations that focus on helping children, academically, emotionally, and physically. Each received a \$300 check.



Pictured here are five of our six recipients. From left to right: Paul Yates - I've Got a Name, Pam Dinneen - Mourning Hope, Destiny Burkett - Brave Be Child Advocacy Center, Met Gallager - Willie's Underwear Project and Bill Michener - The Lighthouse.

A representative from Harvest of Books was unable to attend.

In April, we celebrated the years of the volunteerism of LARSP member and former LARSP President, Jan Stamper with a Community Service Award Brunch in her honor. Music was provided by "Three Chords and a Cloud of Dust". The room was filled with music, family, friends and fun.



Lynne Nelson-Dixon presented Jan Stamper her certificate for her award.

In May, we focused on those starting college with scholarships, those struggling with homelessness and those who have passed away.

For our spring project, we collected personal care items for the homeless students in Lincoln. Nearly 500 items were collected that could easily be put into a backpack.

One of our \$1000 Scholarship winners was Kylie Hansen, pictured here with her mother and Scholarship chairman, Gayle

Alexander. The other winner was Rema Al Neamah. Both attended Lincoln East High School.

This year we lost eight members who were honored with white roses at the Neurology Service.



~ OMAHA AREA ~

Our February 23, 2023, meeting was postponed due to weather, but we still had good attendance at our meeting on March 3rd when 37 enjoyed a meal together at the our usual meeting place at the German American Society. Paw Htoo shared information about Restoring Dignity, an organization that works with refugees,

helping them to establish homes and learn how to function here in the United States. She also shared details about her own journey from a refugee camp to Omaha. She happily accepted the many donations of personal products and items needed to furnish refugee homes that we brought for the organization.



Debra Schmidt, AMBA Benefits Advisor, also shared information on the many benefits offered by AMBA which are available to NARSP members. They include dental and vision plans, insurances, medicare supplements, medical air services, and discounts



President Connie Hill, Restoring Dignity representative Paw Htoo, and Vice President Vira Brooks happily viewing the many donations brought by OARSEA members.



*Debra Schmidt, AMBA
Benefits Advisor*

on car rentals, flowers, computers, and cruise and vacations. We were happy to have her become a member of OARSEA.

The first event of our April meeting was the announcement that Linda Hammer, our secretary and treasurer, was given a 2023 Chapter and REA Unit Community Service Award in appreciation of her outstanding service to AARP and her efforts to improve her community.

She was given a certificate, flowers, and a desk plaque. She is pictured with President Connie Hill.

The highlight of the night was the introduction of Jayla Cannon, one of our \$1,000 scholarship winners. She attends North High, is quite active in school organizations, and is Senior Class President. Her mother, Monica Gunn, and her father, Jaron Cannon, accompanied her.

Our other \$1,000 scholarship winner, Alyssa Betancourt, was unable to be present. She is a student at South High and currently ranks 24th out of 625 seniors.

During the meeting, it was shared that members had reported 793 volunteer hours last August, 884 hours in October, 1860 in February, and 2183 tonight for a total of 5720 so far this year.

President Connie also showed a powerpoint of pictures of members who had attended an earlier meeting and passed around



*Linda Hammer with President
Connie Hill.*



Mother Moniki Gunn, President Connie Hill, scholarship winner Jayla Cannon, and father Jaron Cannon



Women's Praise Dance Team of St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church. Membership Chair Pat Falkner-Lewis is the dancer at the right side.

scrapbook pages she had made. She gave members copies of their pictures.

Pat Falkner-Lewis gave a brief history of the Women's Praise Dance Team of St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church, followed by a performance of the group to the song God is Good. Everyone enjoyed the performance.

Plans are being made for next year's activities which will start at our general meeting on August 24, 2023, at the German-American Society at noon.

~ SOUTHEAST NE AREA ~

****Printers Note: In the Spring issue of the newsletter, we had a mix-up on our end and printed the wrong unit report for the Southeast Nebraska Area. Deb has worked most of the missing article into this newsletter's report and we sincerely apologize for the mistake.****



June Bowers presents a scholarship to Angela Embretson. Southeast Nebraska Area Retired Teachers Association.

Hello in 2023! The Southeast Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel is happy to report we are back to our usual routine of meeting several times a year. We currently have 32 members supporting this organization.

In September, we awarded our NARSP Scholarship to Angela Embretson. Mrs. Embretson is a preschool teacher in Falls City Public Schools. She is currently studying for her master's degree in order to "help chil-

Unit Reports *(continued)*

dren and their families move forward in positive ways for a better future.” She is working with Concordia University in Seward to earn a Curriculum and Instruction degree emphasizing “Trauma and Resilience”. President June Bowers presented a certificate to Ms. Embretson.

In October, we invited 2 guest speakers associated with the AMBA (Association Member Benefits Advisors) to inform us of the many benefits available to our group through this agency. Benefits include dental, vision, long term care, additional health insurance, etc. A question and answer session was held following their presentation.

In March, our organization was visited by the Curriculum Coordinator for Falls City Public Schools, Megan Robeson. Ms. Robeson discussed various aspects of her position and the process of school improvement as well as various grants and partnerships the school is working towards.

In May, we were delighted to honor Mallory Branek with our local scholarship. Mallory graduated from Pawnee City Public Schools and will attend the University of Nebraska at Omaha majoring in Early Elementary Education and Special Education. Mallory was accompanied by her school counselor.



Southeast Nebraska retired teachers association, scholarship winner. Left to right, Trudy Fankhauser, winner; Mallory Branek; Sharon Bogle; Lisa Blecha, Pawnee City Public Schools Counselor

Group members donate their time and talents through volunteering in the community. Members regularly track their hours and we are off to a great start in 2022-23 with nearly 1000 hours! Also, annually we collect and donate to a scholarship for a high school student heading to college to pursue a teaching degree.

We wish you a healthy and happy Summer!

Submitted by Deb Harris, Secretary