

# NARSP



“To Serve — Not To Be Served”

Affiliated with NRTA and AARP

Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel



# NEWSLETTER



Summer 2019

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

Published Twice Yearly



*Penny Birky*



*Andrea Hinrichs*



*Jessica Howard*

## NARSP Scholarship Recipients Named

Penny Birky, a high school Spanish teacher, with the Adams Central Public Schools; Andrea Hinrichs, a PK-12 school counselor, with the Winside Public Schools; and Jessica Howard, a media specialist at the North and South Elementary Schools, with the Falls City Public Schools have been selected as the 2019-2020 recipients of the Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel (NARSP) Active Educator Scholarships. The scholarships in the amount of \$1000 each are awarded annually to an active educator working toward an advanced degree or endorsement in a related field of education. Usually, two scholarships are awarded each year. This year three are being awarded due to a tie in ranking the semi-finalists.

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 reviewed a total of nine-quality semi-finalist applications submitted from six of thirteen local units.

**Penny Birky** is pursuing a Master of Arts Degree in Curriculum & Instruction from Doane University. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the area of Spanish and ESL. Penny has been an educator for 22 years. The Hastings Area Unit submitted her application.

In her application, Ms. Birky stated, “The advantages of earning my Master’s degree are two-fold: the pay increase is wonderful, but I have been truly surprised at how much

I have enjoyed being back in the classroom as a student. The classes that I’ve taken address so much more than teaching content; they encourage me to build relationships, motivate my students and seek new ways to make learning a lifelong habit.”

One of Penny’s references indicated, “Mrs. Birky is the measuring stick by which fellow teachers measure and evaluate themselves. She teaches to inspire her students to do their best and even more importantly, understand the value of education and be lifelong learners.”

**Andrea Hinrichs** is pursuing a Master of Science Degree in PK-12 School Counseling and Preventive Mental Health from Creighton University. She received a Bachelor of Science degree from Wayne State College in the area of K-12 Special (Continued on Page 3)

**Board of Directors’ Annual Meeting - Grand Island - Tuesday, October 1, 2019 - 4:30 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

The focus for this column is on the words...

**some-thing** — some undermined or unspecified thing; some definite but not specified thing; person or thing of consequence

**you** — the one or ones spoken to

The words of focus have been taken from the convention theme for this year... **"There is Something for YOU!"** What might be those "somethings" for "YOU"?...being a first time convention attendee...the dinner and luncheon menus...information and think-about's gleaned from the presentations...favors at the luncheon tables...reflection and remembering those members that have passed during the past year...table conversation...renewing previous acquaintances...entertainment...the automated pancake maker at the complimentary hot breakfast for hotel guests...inspiration from the scholarship recipients...winning one of the theme baskets...meeting new friends...fellowship...the Traveling Membership plaques...monetary door prizes...the Educational Service Award recipients...how many hours of volunteer time were recorded this year by the Units...installation of new officers...the NARSP "Big Apple" Award recipient...and...the list of "somethings" continues on.

It has been two years since our last convention when the decision was made to go to the biennial convention format. Now is the time to head to Grand Island on Wednesday, October 2nd to attend our 58th NARSP Convention and make this biennial convention a very successful one. Unit leaders, plan to bring a few of your Unit members with you and organize that carpool! (or even maybe two or more) Within this issue of the Newsletter you will find more information about the convention for your review. And don't forget to mark your calendar for October 2nd to be in Grand Island as well as to mail in the completed registration form to me before September 16th! Remember...

**"There is Something for YOU!"**

...a "little bit more" — Congratulations to this years AARP/NRTA/Local Unit Community Service Awards to the following recipients: Virginia Walton, Hastings Area Unit; Don Hobbs, Lincoln Area Unit; and Jenny Gubbels, Wayne Area Unit. NARSP recognizes the volunteer efforts of these individuals 'To Serve, Not To Be Served.'

Communication was recently received that the Cass County Unit has voted to disband as of their last meeting on May 21, 2019. The Cass County Retired Educators Association, organized in 1993, can look with pride at their accomplishments and endeavors over the past 26 years in striving to enhance

the quality of life for retired school personnel in their area, promoting opportunities for local community service, facilitating fellowship among retired colleagues and maintaining their professional contacts. Best Wishes are extended into the future for the remaining Cass County Unit members!

You should have received a communication from NPERS in mid-July regarding the increase to your monthly pension check. The 2019 annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) has been determined for School, Judges, and Patrol members as authorized by Nebraska Statutes. COLA's are calculated using the consumer price index — capped at a maximum of 2.50% or 1.00% depending on plan provisions. For the year ending June 30, 2019, the CPI increase was 1.44%. As a result, retirees with a COLA cap of 2.50% will receive a 1.44% increase, and retirees with a COLA cap of 1.00% will receive a 1.00% increase. If you would have questions related to your pension, you are encouraged to contact the NPERS office. Contact information can be found elsewhere in this Newsletter.

"Thinking of You" and "Best Wishes" are extended to Leona Anderson, NARSP Community Service chair! Leona fell earlier this summer, needed hip surgery, and continues to be in the rehab faze of her recovery.

"Special Thanks" to Cathy Morgan, Hastings Unit member, for facilitating and coordinating the Community Service volunteer hours and other related community activities from the local Units in Leona's absence. Cathy's efforts are greatly appreciated!

In conclusion..."It has been wisely said that whatever many may say about the future, it is ours, not only that it may happen to us, but it is in part made by us." --Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, Founder of NRTA, 1947

### NRTA Staff

Al Campos, Director NRTA

Shelisa Ashford, DC Office

Mary Beth Dixon, Advisor

Tom Nicholls, Senior Legislative Representative



## Honoring Lillian Schultz

It is with sadness FAARSP announces that one of their centenarians died on July 9, 2019, at the age of 102. She grew up in Cortland, graduated from Cortland Public Schools and Nebraska Wesleyan University. She received her Masters Degree from Northwestern University. Lillian taught at Central School, District #50 of Gage County (south of Cortland), Milford, Tekamah and finished her career in

Fremont teaching typing and shorthand for 34 years, retiring from Fremont High School in 1980.

After Lillian retired, she enjoyed volunteering at May Museum in Fremont and traveling the world with her sister Pearl. Together they also taught English as a Second Language and a U.S. History class for those taking their citizenship test.

### 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)

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Education and ESL as well as a Master of Science in Education in the area of Special Education from Wayne State College. Andrea has been an educator for 14 years. The Wayne Area Unit submitted her application.

In her application, Ms. Hinrichs indicated, "While academically supporting students is very rewarding, the most personally fulfilling part of my job was building positive relationships with students. As a counselor I am given the opportunity to express my compassion for students as I support them in believing in their abilities and self-worth. I prioritize our school's culture as I teach admirable characteristics, including kindness, respect, and empathy. In addition to individualized academic and social/emotional consultations, I am currently establishing levels of support in the general education and intervention settings for social and emotional learning."

A reference for Andrea stated, "She engages herself in opportunities that focus on best educational practices, evidence-based interventions and positive school culture. Mrs. Hinrichs is an exemplary role model for others. When selecting a word of focus for the school year, she chose the word

'grit', and she has demonstrated just that — persevering even in times of adversity."

**Jessica Howard** is pursuing a library endorsement from the University of Nebraska-Omaha. She received a Bachelor of Science degree from Peru State College with a dual major of Elementary Education and Special Education. Jessica has been an educator for 17 years. The Southeast Nebraska Area Unit submitted her application.

In her application, Jessica noted, "This endorsement will allow me to bring library skills to the new digital age and incorporate a different look for this new generation. I have already begun implementing strategies that I have learned in my classes and have developed strong personal learning networks to explore and incorporate. I am also partnering with the public library within our community to enhance the programs they offer and extend the knowledge into a different setting."

One of the references for Jessica indicated, "She differentiates her instruction so that every student is able to achieve success and grow and gain confidence. Ms. Howard is a teacher that cares about all kids. She reaches them at a personal level and models character and leadership daily; a teacher

that students look forward to seeing in her classroom."

All three of the scholarship recipients were affiliated with numerous professional and civic organizations; showed involvement and contributions in various committees and events within their school and school district; and contributed to their local community's activities and projects.

Other Unit semifinalists included: Fremont Area Unit — Connor Eurek, Arlington Public Schools 7-12 Resource Teacher and Desirae Sindelar, Johnson Crossing Academic Center (Fremont) 6th grade Language Arts; Grand Island Area Unit — Darbe Mazour, Grand Island Northwest English, Drama, Direct Instruction Reading Coach; Hastings Area Unit — Mikayla Niederklein, Hastings St. Cecilia High School Spanish 1-4; and Lincoln Area Unit — Michelle Kiesel, Lincoln Public Schools Itinerant Resource Teacher for Gifted; and Lisa Ryba, Lincoln Public Schools — McPhee Elementary K-5 Special Education.

"Congratulations" to Penny Birky, Andrea Hinrichs, and Jessica Howard on being selected as the 2019-2020 scholarship recipients and to those individuals that were a Unit semi-finalist.

# Kell's Kolumn

Information provided by:

**Kell Smalley**

**AMBA District Manager - KS & NE**



## **Medigap Plan F no longer offered after January 1, 2020 to individuals turning 65.**

If you already have a Medigap Plan F or are considering getting a Medigap Plan F, you should be aware of the new law that went into affect on April 16, 2015.

There are several provisions in the law, but section 401 of the new law is one that you should understand. Essentially, the federal government is no longer allowing newly eligible beneficiaries to obtain a Medigap policy that covers the Part B (Medical) deductible (\$185/year in 2019).

So Plan F will no longer be available starting January 1, 2020.

### **The Good News...**

If you have Plan F already, you can keep it and will not be forced to move to another plan since this only affects newly eligible Medicare beneficiaries.

### **The Bad News...**

The Plan F premium rates will be increasing at a higher rate than the other Plans that are not impacted.

### **Why is this?**

Each plan is individually rated based on the costs (e.g. claims processed) for that particular plan. So, after 2020, when Plan F is no longer accepting new applicants, the pool of Plan F members will begin to age more so than other plans, which will drive higher proportionate claims cost and thus drive up the premiums for Plan F.

**So what should you do?** We recommend the Medigap Plan G, which has: lower premium rates than Plan F and provides all the same coverage, except for the \$147 Part B deductible.

Plan G is a great option that could save \$20-\$100+ per month when compared to Plan F, with the only additional exposure being \$185/year in Part B deductible.

### **Act Now...**

If you are healthy, it is important that you act now since you will have to go through medical underwriting in order to switch your Medicare Supplement Plan. If you wait until a later point, you risk potential health issues that could prevent you from changing your Supplement plan.

**Note-** You do not have to wait until the open enrollment period to switch from a Plan F to Plan G

**Email or call District Manager Kell Smalley for a faster response.**

Phone: 913-912-2157

Email: [kell.smalley@amba.info](mailto:kell.smalley@amba.info)



**It's a Fact! A longer a person lives, the greater chance he or she will need some type of long-term care service.**

You'll be happy to know that NARSP has endorsed a home care and recovery care insurance plan underwritten by Continental Life Insurance Company of Brentwood, Tennessee, an Aetna company. These plans are designed as a potentially affordable solution that may give you the flexibility to utilize the type of care that could be right for you and where you want to receive it.

You may want to consider and plan for healthcare costs associated with hospital stays and at home or nursing facility recovery. This insurance can:

- **Help manage your everyday expenses.**
- **Pay benefits directly to you (or a medical provider that you designate).**
- **Pay in addition to any other health care coverage you may have.**

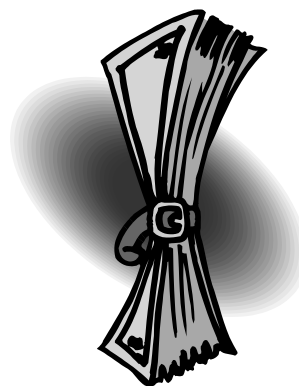
Because we care about our members, we think it's important that you review these coverage options with a licensed insurance agent from Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA).

Call AMBA today at 877.698.2782 to see how potentially affordable coverage can be.

**Email or call District Manager Kell Smalley for a faster response.**

Phone: 913-912-2157

Email: [kell.smalley@amba.info](mailto:kell.smalley@amba.info)



# Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel

# 58th State Biennial Convention

Ramada Midtown Conference Center - Grand Island, Nebraska  
Tuesday, October 1 and Wednesday, October 2, 2019

*"There is Something for YOU!"*

**\*Preliminary Schedule\***

## **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1<sup>st</sup>**

**4:30 p.m.**                      **Board of Directors' Annual Meeting Called to Order**

**5:45 p.m.**                      **Dinner Break**

**6:45 p.m.**                      **Annual Meeting Resumes**

## **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**8:30 to 9:00 a.m.**    **Registration Check-in - Coffee Available - Social Time**  
                                 **Purchase Your Tickets and Preview the Unit "Theme Baskets"**

**9:00 a.m. to Noon**    **MORNING SESSION**  
                                 **Pledge of Allegiance - Welcomes - Introductions**  
                                 **Memorial Service - Mini-Presentations from AMBA and AARP Neb.**  
                                 **Keynote Presentation - "There is no traffic jam on the extra mile"**  
                                 **Tom Johnson, Professional Speaker from Omaha**

**Noon**                      **Luncheon Invocation**

**Noon to 1:45 p.m.**    **Luncheon**  
                                 **Musical Entertainment**  
                                 **NARSP Scholarship Presentations**

**1:45 to 3:30 p.m.**    **AFTERNOON SESSION**  
                                 **Refreshment Break**  
                                 **Mini-Presentation from Board of Directors' Meeting**  
                                 **Installation of Secretary and Treasurer**  
                                 **NARSP Awards**  
                                 **Unit Community Service and Day of Service Awards**  
                                 **NARSP Membership Awards**  
                                 **Theme Basket Drawings - Monetary Door Prizes**

**3:30 p.m.**                      **Convention Feedback**  
                                 **Closing Remarks - Adjournment**

# Convention Information and Notes

Rooms at the Ramada Midtown Convention Center in Grand Island are \$92.95 per night plus applicable taxes. Up to four people are allowed to stay in one room. Call 1-800-548-5542 (Midtown 800 #) or 308-384-1330 (Local #) for making your reservations and mention the NARSP Convention block. [Avoid using the National Ramada 800 # or a Third Party # (ie. Travelocity, etc.) – you may not receive the discounted rate and NARSP will not reimburse partial payment for Board of Directors' rooms.]

**Please make your reservations for the hotel room by Saturday, August 31.** The block of rooms reserved for NARSP will be released at that time. *[PLEASE NOTE: You will be asked for a credit card to guarantee your room and when checking in to pay for incidentals that you may charge to your room as well as your room charge. Board of Directors' representatives will need to request a copy of your bill upon checkout to submit to the NARSP Treasurer for the partial reimbursement of the room.]* If you would need to cancel your room reservation, please do so by 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 30. Check-in time is 4 p.m. and checkout is 12 Noon.

The Board of Directors is made up of the NARSP Executive Board and two representatives from each local Unit (i.e. President and Vice President; Co-Presidents: President and another Unit officer or member, etc.) NARSP will also reimburse mileage for the Board of Directors. Where feasible, sharing of rooms and carpooling are encouraged. The menu, the number of meals, and

room set-up must be confirmed with the hotel catering prior to the event. **The registration deadline is Monday, September 16.** No refunds can be made for cancellations after this date.

\*\*\*\*\*

Local Units are being asked to donate a theme basket or package for convention attendees to purchase tickets in order to win the basket or package of their choosing. Raffle tickets may be purchased in a packet of 6 for \$5.00 or \$1.00 per ticket (and of course, your purchase will not be limited to just one packet...the more you purchase, the better your chances). You may wish to bring along some address labels so that you won't have to write your name on all of those tickets. Funds raised from the ticket sales will go toward the NARSP Active Educator Scholarships.

Drawings for the theme baskets/packages will take place at the conclusion of the convention. Winning one (or more) of the baskets/packages will not preclude you from being in the running for one of the monetary (\$100, \$75, or \$50) door prizes.

\*\*\*\*\*

A Preliminary Convention Schedule and Registration Form have been included in this newsletter.

\*\*\*\*\*

Casual Attire is Welcome

*PLAN TO ATTEND THE 58th STATE BIENNIAL CONVENTION*

See you in Grand Island!

## Legislation Targeting Illegal Robocalls Passes House

Citing illegal robocalls as a serious problem that places all Americans at risk of fraud, AARP has endorsed bipartisan legislation that would reduce abusive robocall practices.

The Stopping Bad Robocalls Act (H.R. 3375) is sponsored by House Energy & Commerce Committee Chairman Frank Pallone (D-N.J.), committee ranking member Greg Walden (R-Ore.) and others. The legislation was unanimously approved by the committee, and it cleared the House this month with a near-unanimous 429-3 vote.

According to an industry estimate, 25 billion robocalls have been placed nationwide so far during 2019. An AARP Fraud Watch Network survey this year found that nearly half of U.S. adults receive seven or more robocalls per week. While automated calls can serve legitimate purposes - such as medical appointment reminders or airline schedule advisories - experts say half of the calls are scams, many targeting seniors.

"AARP has a long history of fighting for protections for older Americans," said AARP Executive Vice President and Chief Advocacy and Engagement Officer Nancy LeaMond. "This bill will

help reduce illegal robocalls - a rich playground for scammers to deceive victims into paying money under false pretenses."

Under H.R. 3375, the FCC would be required to ensure that robocalls are only made with consumers' consent. Since fraudsters disguise - or "spoof" - Caller ID systems when making many of their illegal calls, the bill also requires telephone carriers to implement technology to authenticate the information displayed on Caller ID. The AARP survey found a high consumer reliance on Caller ID: U.S. adults are more likely to answer a call that appears to originate from a local area code (59%), an area code where friends or family live (44%) or an area code and telephone exchange that matches their own (36%).

The U.S. Senate passed its own robocall bill, the Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence Act, or "TRACED Act," in May. The Senate bill also received AARP's endorsement.

[article from "NRTA in the KNOW" – July 31, 2019]

# “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 2018-2019. 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 2019-2020 membership year. The honorary membership would then occur for them in 2020-2021.]

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 2019-2020 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

2019-2020 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 \_\_\_\_\_

# NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL

## Executive Board Meeting Minutes, March 26, 2019

### 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 March 26, 2019. Members present were Bob Bussmann, Executive Director; Wauneta Peterson, President; Ann Meinzer, Vice-President; Billie Bussmann, Secretary; and Wanda Samson, Treasurer; and Richard Meinzer, guest.

Wauneta Peterson called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m.

The minutes of the July 18, 2018 Executive Board Meeting were approved as printed.

The treasurer's report was accepted for financial review with a February asset balance of \$59,949.09 with a checkbook balance of \$12,072.17. A mid-year financial report was provided.

Thus far, NARSP Membership totals 985. Unit membership includes 421 paid members and 146 (85 plus) honorary lifetime members for a total of 567. NARSP State only membership includes 386 paid members and 32 (85 plus) honorary lifetime members for a total of 418.

There were no additional agenda items.

The Executive Director's Report included an update in the Cass County Unit. Bob shared they are meeting having an interim president.

AARP Nebraska provided \$25 gift cards for the leadership of NARSP. These were sent out during the month of December. All were appreciative of this generosity.

He reported there was no tax exemption of social security bill during this legislative session.

The deadline for the NRTA "With Our Youth" Program is June 15. There has been no information as yet on line. Nominations will need to be submitted online or by fax.

Mileage reimbursement amount from the IRS is 14 cents per mile for voluntary mileage in service of charitable organizations.

AMBA has added a representative for Nebraska. He is Kevin Williamson from Chapman, NE. Susan Lowery is no longer with AMBA. Robert Lee is the new Vice-President for the Western Region. Jeanie Coffey called about flood concerns here in Nebraska.

Three units had recipients of the AARP/NRTA Community Service Awards. The recipients are from the Hastings, Lincoln, and Wayne Units.

Bob installed Ann Meinzer, NARSP Vice-President.

A review of the annual 2018 Board of Directors Meeting included these notes: perhaps having a light lunch, parking was an issue, having Grand Island as the site for convention and annual meeting, and having superintendents provided complimentary associate memberships needs further discussion.

The 2019-2020 NARSP Scholarship Semi-Finalist Applications are due Friday, May 17. When the Executive Board analyzes the

scholarship applications, each board member is to rank order the entire number of applications. Discussion took place concerning a tie. Ann moved to rank order scholarship applications if there is a tie discuss and rank order again the applications. Wanda seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The Secretary of State, State of Nebraska, "Nonprofit Corporation Biennial Report" is due by April 1. There is a \$20 fee. It was presented by Bob to complete the Non-profit Corporation Biennial Report include a check for \$20. Billie so moved. Motion passed.

In 2019 the Secretary and Treasurer positions are open for election. Ann and the Nomination Committee will be finding candidates for these officer positions. At present Billie Bussmann has consented to run again for Secretary and Wanda Samson is contemplating whether she will run again.

Regarding the NARSP Newsletter this guideline was discussed. In the past it had been the protocol that each unit provide a unit report that could include three to four pictures. This then keeps the newsletter's length to around no more than 20 pages. There will be a reminder sent out to unit presidents reminding each unit to provide only three to four pictures with the unit's article.

Bob presented a preliminary outline for the 2019 Board of Directors' Meeting and Biennial State Convention. The discussion included the convention will be at the Ramada Midtown Conference Center (new name, same place); Ann's unit will again provide favors; we will again have theme baskets; and perhaps have a music group from one of the Grand Island High Schools provide entertainment along with a speaker. Also included will be speakers from AMBA and AARP, and a memorial service.

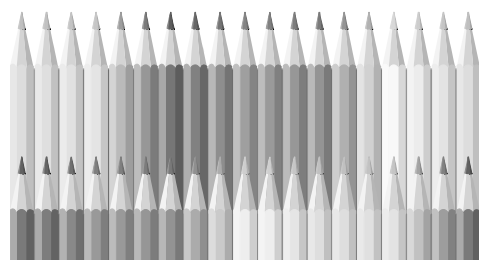
The Executive Board discussed Disaster Relief for the Nebraska floods. Ann moved and Wanda seconded a donation of \$300 to the American Red Cross.

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Billie Carole Bussmann, NARSP Secretary





***“There is Something for YOU!”***

**2019 NARSP Board of Directors’ Dinner and Biennial Convention Registration**

**October 1-2, 2019  
Ramada Midtown Conference Center  
2503 South Locust Street – Grand Island, NE  
1-800-548-5542 or 308-384-1330**

**Each individual** is requested to use this form to register for the event(s) that you plan to attend.

**Registrations need to be received by Monday, September 16, 2019.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

In an Emergency-Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Relation \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Events	Amount	Number	Total
<u>Tuesday</u> – Board of Directors’ Annual Meeting 4:30 p.m. _____ I am serving as a Unit representative. _____ I will be attending as a guest.			
<u>Tuesday</u> – Board of Directors’ Dinner 5:45 – 6:45 p.m.	\$30.00	_____	_____
<u>Wednesday</u> – Convention and Luncheon 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  (8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Registration check-in and coffee available)	\$35.00	_____	_____
<b>Late Fee after September 16, 2019</b>	<b>\$ 5.00</b>	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED</b>			<b>\$ _____</b>

**Make check payable to: NARSP**

**Mail to:** Bob Bussmann

NARSP Executive Director  
3750 Normal Boulevard  
Lincoln, NE 68506

# \_\_\_\_\_

Amt \_\_\_\_\_ Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_

*Please refer to the Convention Notes and other articles elsewhere in this Newsletter for  
Hotel Reservations and Additional Related Information.*

## “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!

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)



## Board of Directors’ Annual Meeting Agenda

The NARSP Board of Directors’ Annual Meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 1, 2019 in Grand Island at the Ramada Midtown Conference Center. (Meeting Room TBA) There will be a dinner break at approximately 5:45 p.m.

Items of consideration include:

- Minutes and Treasurer’s Report
  - Reports (Membership Community Service, Nominating Committee, AMBA, and Executive Director)
  - Unfinished Business – Continue discussion on extending NARSP Associate Membership to Nebraska Superintendent of Schools
  - Election of NARSP Secretary and Treasurer for a two-year term
  - Selection of members (from the Board) for the NARSP 2020 Nominating Committee
  - Discussion and follow-up of 2018 Annual B of D Meeting
  - Discussion on 2019 Convention and Preliminary discussion on 2021 Convention
  - Discussion on the status of the Bicentennial Cascading Fountain (aka Teachers’ Fountain) in Lincoln [Initial Project of LARTA and NSRTA]
  - Discussion and Approval of the proposed 2019-2020 NARSP Budget
- There is the potential of additional items being added to the Agenda between the printing of this Newsletter and holding the annual meeting.

## “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 7, 2020.**

# Officer Election

Election for the offices of NARSP Secretary and NARSP Treasurer will take place during the Board of Directors' Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 1, 2019.

Wanda Samson, NARSP Treasurer since 2012, has chosen not to seek re-election. Thanks and appreciation is extended to Wanda for her service to NARSP for the past seven years as treasurer and membership chair!

Billie Bussmann, Lincoln, and Nancy Johnson, Omaha, have consented to stand for election to a two-year term for Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

Billie is a member of the Lincoln Area Unit. She is a retired middle school business education teacher from the Lincoln Public Schools. All 36 years were at Pound Middle School.

Billie has served as NARSP Secretary since 2008. She has also served as Co-Vice-President and Co-President of LARSP. Since 2006, she has served as LARSP Community Service chair and in addition presently serves as LARSP Treasurer.

Billie has been treasurer of the Lincoln Education Association-Retired for the past 15 years.

Since 2004, Billie has volunteered weekly at the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools making calls to thank donors for their monetary gifts. Earlier this spring the Foundation presented Billie with the inaugural "Billie Bussmann Spirit Award". The Foundation staff created this award to celebrate, honor, and recognize her spirit, passion and career-long commitment to the work of the Foundation for LPS. Primarily for volunteers and donors, this award is a way to recognize outstanding gifts of time and treasure to the Foundation. The award is to be given no more than once a year and can be given as infrequently as every two years.

Nancy is a member of the Omaha Area Unit and has served as President of the Unit. Below you will have the opportunity to meet Nancy by picture and in her words...



## Nancy Johnson

### Omaha Area Retired School Employee Association

I have my Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Dana College of Blair, Nebraska, with my Master's Degree in Computer Education from Lesley College of Cambridge, Massachusetts. I worked for 33 1/2 years for Omaha Public School teaching mostly 2nd grade with my last few years as Computer Lab teacher and facilitator. I worked at Franklin, Corrigan and Indian Hill Elementary Schools.

I was an active member of OEA and NSEA while working and have now been an active member of OARSEA since retiring in 2006. I have held several offices, including president of this organization. I have been a member of NARSP since retiring. I have attended several NARSP Conventions and would look forward to serving on the Executive Board.

I am an active member of Kappa Kappa Iota, a professional organization for educators. I was National President from 2006-2007. I am a member of Xi Chapter and have been active on the State level holding all of the offices. I attend both State and National annual conventions.

I am active at Rejoice! Lutheran Church with altar guild, offering counter, handbell choir, helping with Wednesday evening meals, serving as an officer of the Rejoice! Women, and attending several faith groups. I am presently President of the Nebraska Synodical Women's

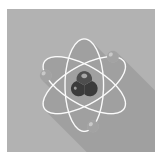
Organization (NSWO) of ELCA and have attended several of their Triennial Conventions and Gatherings of the Women of the ELCA.

I have been a member of P.E.O. for 25 years and am now an active member of Chapter EK, where I have held most of the offices.

I volunteer for many organization in the Omaha area such as Omaha Performing Arts, Film Streams, Omaha Community Playhouse, Open Door Mission, serve on the board of Lutheran Service Corps, and give platelets for the American Red Cross.

I enjoy learning and going new places. I do a lot of traveling and enjoy getting to know new people.

It is greatly appreciated that Billie and Nancy have agreed to serve NARSP as Secretary and Treasurer!!



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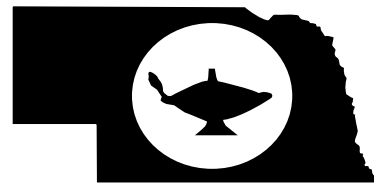
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## Susan Wiese

Susan Wiese, an honorary member of GIARSP and NARSP, celebrated her 108th birthday on May 19th. She was born and grew up in Brooklyn, New York. She

taught in a local elementary school and was working toward her doctorate when she married a man from Grand Island. In Grand Island, she became a stay-at-home mom with three daughters. In a few years she strongly desired to return to the classroom. She quickly found a position, teaching at Jefferson Elementary School in Grand Island. Later, she became

the principal at Lincoln Elementary School and Seedling Mile School, simultaneously, where she served for many years.

Susan retired in 1976, but she continued to be involved in school-related groups until transportation became a problem. She continues to live in her own home and always enjoys the May basket which is delivered to her door by one of the GIARSP members. She is held in high esteem by her family and friends for her stories, humor and perseverance.

## Spotlight on a 100-Year-Old Member



## Convention Featured Presentation

### Tom Johnson

Tom Johnson, professional speaker from Omaha, will provide the convention keynote presentation. Tom's presentation is entitled **THERE IS NO TRAFFIC JAM ON THE EXTRA MILE** Your Road Map to Live a More Productive Life.

Using real-life experiences sprinkled with humor, Tom will inspire you to live a more productive life.

The presentation will include:

**DETERMINATION** – if at first you don't succeed, you're about average. Tom will show you how to set a course, takes steps, and persist, towards achieving your goals.

**ATTITUDE** – Tom believes that your attitude in life determines your altitude in life. Tom will effectively show you how to maintain a healthy attitude on a daily basis.

**LIGHTEN UP** – in today's environment, are you taking yourself too seriously...its time to laugh at yourself. Tom will demonstrate how you can add humor to your daily routine of life.

Let Tom's message open doors for you! Coming to the NARSP Convention direct from WWM Network – Wit, Wisdom & A Whole Lot More.



  
**ASSOCIATION MEMBER**  
**BENEFITS ADVISORS**  
 800.258.7041

<http://myambabenefits.info/narsp>

**NARSP**



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**Nebraska Association Retired School Personnel**

**Financial Report**

**September 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019**

Checkbook Balance, September 1, 2018		\$5,500.11
Income		
Dues	\$10,590.00	
AMBA	<u>\$1,000.00</u>	
Total Income		<u>\$11,590.00</u>
Total Balance and Income		<u>\$17,090.11</u>
Expenditures		
Postage	\$452.48	
Printing	\$71.64	
Supplies	\$82.70	
Board Expenses		
Meal	<u>\$126.56</u>	
Total Board Expenses		\$126.56
Board of Director Meeting Exp 2018		
Awards	\$66.46	
Printing	\$91.01	
Mileage/Presidents	\$602.90	
Supplies	\$15.33	
Postage	<u>\$26.14</u>	
Total B of D Meeting Exp 2018		\$801.84
Newsletter Expenses		
Postage	\$450.39	
Printing	<u>\$1,860.50</u>	
Total Newsletter Expenses		\$2,310.89
Miscellaneous		
ASRTE Dues	\$100.00	
Fidelity Bond	\$100.00	
Scholarships	\$2,000.00	
Stipend	\$200.00	
American Red Cross Flood Disaster	\$300.00	
Secretary of State	<u>\$20.00</u>	
Total Miscellaneous Expenses		<u>\$2,720.00</u>
Total Expenditures		<u>\$6,566.11</u>
Checkbook Balance, June 30, 2019		<u><u>\$10,524.00</u></u>
Other Monies	<u>Original</u>	<u>Current</u>
US Bank		
CD (xxx4411) Matures 01-07-2021	\$6,009.35	\$6,314.94
CD (xxx7901) Matures 04-20-2023	\$10,380.30	\$11,332.24
CD (xxx0631) Matures 01-16-2021	\$10,000.00	\$10,508.53
CD (xxx0649) Matures 01-16-2021	\$10,000.00	\$10,508.53
State Farm		
CD (xxx1159) Matures 01-06-2023	\$9,280.18	<u>\$10,114.08</u>
Total CD's		<u>\$48,778.32</u>
Checkbook balance and Other Monies, June 30, 2019		<u><u>\$59,302.32</u></u>

# THANKS, THANKS, and More THANKS!

Thank you for investing in my education. I was able to take Educational Law with the money you provided. May you be blessed for your generosity!

Karen Valdez  
Hastings Middle School teacher  
2018 NARSP Scholarship Recipient



**Kell C. Smalley**  
**District Manager**  
**Cell: 913.912.2157**  
**800.258.7041 Ext. 144**  
**kell.smalley@amba.info**

**Kevin Williamson**  
**AMBA Benefits Representative**  
**308.383.3687**  
**kevin.williamson@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 2019 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 30 to be included in the memorial program.**

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

# Wayne Community Service Award

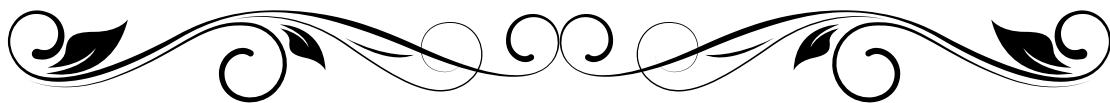


*Jenny Gubbels and Pat Jenkins-Rohde*

Jenny Gubbels is the recipient of the 2019 National Chapter and REA Community Service Award. This annual award recognizes individual members who have performed outstanding community service activities. She was chosen by the WAARSP. Jenny is a member of this group and serves as the secretary/treasurer.

She is recognized for organizing the Aspiring Young Authors Festival for many years. Every year students from Northeast Nebraska schools are chosen for their writing talents to participate in this festival. Students meet nationally and locally known authors, participate in sessions with the authors, and share their own writing piece with others. Hundreds of students through the years have been encouraged to write for a lifetime.

Jenny received her award and a special pin at the May meeting for the Wayne Area Association of Retired School Personnel. Pat Jenkins-Rohde, who began the festival 27 years ago, presented the award.



## FAARSP Outstanding Service Award



*Ruth Register*

During the July meeting Ruth Register was announced as our FAARSP Outstanding Service Award winner this year. Words written on nominations for Ruth included talented, capable and committed, active in FAARSP, aware of individual and community needs and keeping our group aware of those needs, and willing to give much of her time and resources for the betterment of our community.

Ruth began her PE teaching career at Fremont High School before moving to elementary PE. After Ruth retired from Fremont Public Schools in 2010, she joined FAARSP. She has made a huge difference not only in our group but the surrounding community. As vice president she came up with many ideas for making money for our scholarship fund and participated fully with projects. She has also been FAARSP president for several years.

Her most involved project is taking care of our Disabled Veterans. For several years she has worked tirelessly to get many items for the veterans such as soap, lotion, socks, toothbrushes, and tooth paste to name a few things. These

Christmas sacks are full and heavy and include chocolate and cards made by her Mom that members sign. For the past several years 200 bags have been assembled. FAARSP members sign up to deliver the bags to local care centers. The January meeting is used for creating Valentine cards for the same vets. Candy is collected and the cards and candy are delivered to the vets by our members.

Another activity for the last seven years is collecting money for the newly named CHAD – Combined Health Agencies Drive (formerly named Community Health Charities of NE). Under Ruth's leadership, each year the amount donated by FAARSP has increased.

Ruth also volunteers with American Red Cross at Fremont bloodmobiles by checking in donors and donating blood herself. Ruth has also volunteered for Habitat for Humanity and Salvation Army. States Ruth, "I just do what is needed when needed and where needed."

# "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. Two of the 164 articles are included for "A Look Back In Time"...

## Through the Years

Helen Parker Hanika, Falls City

*After being graduated from high school in 1913, earning nine hours of college credit in summer school, passing an examination in ten subjects, I became a teacher in a rural school.*

*This first school was a one-room frame building with double seats an old desk for the teacher, and a round coal stove. The textbooks were old; there was one large dictionary and there were a few library books. I had 33 pupils, ages five through 16, and taught all eight grades. For all this I was paid \$45 per month for nine months. I was expected to spend one night in each child's home. The worst was the night I slept with four giggly girls.*

*In 1919, after upgrading my certificate, I was hired to teach in an elementary school in Lincoln at a salary of \$700 per year. We had meetings at the building every Monday after school; the art supervisor met all new teachers each Tuesday; the penmanship supervisor met each Wednesday; and the music consultant met us on Thursday. Plan books were required every Friday; if Johnny left one school on Monday, he would have his same assignment in his new school on Tuesday.*

*After beginning college work in 1915 at Peru State, I was finally graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1922 and was hired to teach in the Kearney High School for \$1.400 per year. I had about and 100 pupils and no free periods. Of course, I was expected to take tickets, help sponsor a class, help with the junior-senior banquet all for no extra pay.*

*In 1952, I became a county superintendent. By the close of my 15 years in office, we had no textbooks with a copyright date over five years old. Every school had a new set of encyclopedias, a slide-filmstrip projector, a new globe, gas or electric heat, electric lights; each teacher had at least two years of college training, and many had degrees. What a contrast to the country school in which I first taught!*

## A Born Teacher

Alvena Geiselman, Lincoln

*Why did I become a teacher? My mother was probably right, I was a born teacher. Several times in my career I was ready to throw in the towel and train for some other field. However, I remained a teacher. Once a teacher, always a teacher! Once when I mentioned to one of my college students that I was thinking of changing my profession, he said, "What a waste; we need teachers like you."*

*When I began teaching I often heard, "Those who can, do; those who can't, teach school." It didn't jolt me; I enjoyed teaching youth.*

*I was an English teacher, and as you know, using "me" when it should be "I" frustrated me. Now the pendulum swings too far the opposite way. We get "I" when it should be "me."*

*Do I remember my students? Yes, indeed! They can be found among prominent business men and women, educators, doctors, clergymen, politicians, and homemakers.*



# NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL

## Executive Board Meeting Minutes, July 2, 2019

### 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 2, 2019. 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 12:18 p.m.

The minutes of the March 26, 2019 Executive Board Meeting were approved as printed.

The treasurer's report indicated a June checkbook balance of \$10,524. The checkbook balance and other monies as of June 30, 2019 is \$59,302.32.

NARSP Membership totals 986. Unit membership includes 422 paid members and 145 (85 plus) honorary lifetime members for a total of 567. NARSP State membership includes 368 paid members and 51 (85 plus) honorary lifetime members for a total of 419. NARSP state membership is 986. Last year the unit membership was 581 and the NARSP State membership was 334 for a total of 915. NARSP State membership has increased by 71.

NARSP membership lists and cards with last year's list are included in the membership packets sent to each unit. When sending in changes to the membership list changes in color to emphasize the changes.

No additional agenda items were indicated.

In the Executive Director's report Bob indicated that Kell Smalley, AMBA District Manager, will not be coming to convention as he will be in a wedding in South Africa. Robert Lee, Associate Vice-President for the Western Region will be attending the NARSP State Convention. The AMBA Roundup will be in November in San Antonio, TX. Bob and Billie will be attending this event.

AMBA is setting up the NARSP Website for an online AMBA payment system so individuals can pay their dues via the website. We are having them wait to set up this process until the new NARSP State Treasurer has been installed. The website will then be totally up to date.

Cathy Morgan of the Hastings Unit is collecting the state's volunteer hours and Days of Service information for Leona Anderson, State Community Service Chair, who is recovering from a broken hip.

The NRTA Advocacy Conference will be held in Washington, DC October 21 – 24. Bob Bussmann and Jan Barnason, Hastings, will be attending.

The agenda for the 2019 Annual NARSP Board of Directors' Meeting and 58th NARSP State Biennial Convention was discussed. The event will be held in Grand Island at the Ramada Midtown Conference Center on Tuesday, October 1 and Wednesday, October 2, 2019. The Board of Directors' Annual Meeting and Dinner will begin at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 1. The State Convention will begin on Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. with registration check-in. The State Convention will end at 3:30 pm. There will be a luncheon with scholarship presentations and entertainment at noon. The meeting will include keynote presentation from Tom

Johnson (motivational speaker from Omaha) a memorial service, mini-presentations from AARP, AMBA, etc. Awards will be given for Community Service, Membership, Educational Service Award, the NARSP "Big Apple" Award, and the scholarship recipients. The Secretary and Treasurer will be installed. The theme of the convention is "There is Something for YOU!"

We will again have each unit provide a theme basket to raise money for scholarships.

Susan Rodenburg, communications consultant for the Parks and Recreation Department Foundation of Lincoln, joined our meeting to provide information and to discuss the Bicentennial Teachers' Fountain. Susan indicated to the board the projects being discussed to refurbish or change what we call the teacher corner in Lincoln. There is website with a survey created by the Policy Department at UNL to complete to let Parks and Recreation know what the teachers and the community would like to have occur at the corner of 27th and Capital Parkway. Bob provided information and the history of the creation of the fountain, as well as the involvement of LARTA (now LARSP) and NSRTA (now NARSP).

The entrees for both the Board of Directors' dinner and the convention luncheon were discussed.

Room Reservations must be made by Monday, August 31. Room costs are \$92.95 plus tax. Check in time is at 4 p.m. and checkout time is at 12 noon. A complimentary breakfast buffet is provided each morning. The registration fees for the Board of Directors' dinner are \$30 and for the convention luncheon \$35.

NARSP Envelopes have been ordered.

New business began with the selection of the NARSP Scholarships for 2019-2020. There were nine applications from six units. Each board member had previously ranked the scholarship applications. Since there was a tie, there will be three scholarship recipients. Bob moved and Ann seconded the scholarship recipients will be Penny Birky from the Hastings Unit, Andrea Hinrichs from the Wayne Unit, and Jessica Howard from Southeast Nebraska. Motion passed.

Bob moved and Ann seconded to approve the Education Service Award nomination. Motion Passed. The award will be presented at the State Convention.

Bob moved and Billie seconded the nomination for the "Big Apple Award" for approval. Motion passed. The award will be presented at the State Convention.

Bob presented the proposed 2019-2020 Budget. Ann moved to accept this budget to present to the Board of Directors, and Bob seconded it. Motion passed.

Information about nominations for Billie Bussmann, Secretary, and Nancy Johnson, Treasurer, will be placed in the summer issue of the NARSP Newsletter.

The next Executive Board Meeting will be September 30 at 4 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Billie Carole Bussmann, NARSP Secretary

The following article was published Friday, July 12, 2019 in the *Lincoln Journal Star* within the “Local View” feature of the Opinion section. The status of the Bicentennial Cascading Fountain will be on the agenda of the NARSP Board of Directors’ Meeting for discussion.

## Preserve Lincoln’s Teachers Fountain

Within the last two months there have been a number of articles referencing the Bicentennial Cascading Fountain.

The Bicentennial Cascade Fountain (Teachers Fountain) has been at the corner of 27th Street and Capitol Parkway since 1978. It was the result of a collaboration between the Lincoln Area Retired Teachers Association (now Lincoln Area Retired School Personnel - LARSP), Nebraska State Retired Teachers Association (now Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel - NARSP) and Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department to commemorate the nation’s Bicentennial.

The fountain is now in a need of major renovation to keep it operating. The Lincoln Parks Foundation invites the public to share their input regarding a variety of options for repairs and improvements by completing a survey online or at Lincoln City Libraries before Aug. 1.

Frances Beechner was President of LARTA from 1976-1978 when much of the planning for and construction of the fountain took place. I would like to share some highlights from a narrative written by Mrs. Beechner that gives you some history and background on how the fountain came to be.

*At the beginning of Julius Humann’s term as LARTA president (1973-1975) the question was asked – “What contribution can LARTA make to the community for a lasting and meaningful Commemoration of the Bicentennial?” There were many suggestions; but none seemed lasting. The director Lincoln Parks and Recreation came to a meeting and presented plans for a fountain. After much discussion the membership voted to accept the fountain plans for the project. They were assured the cost would be \$50,000 to \$60,000.*

*Julius Humann was elected state presidents in the middle of his LARTA term and resigned. Henry Goebel assumed the presidency. Julius’ wife suggested that LARTA sponsor “The Festival of Tables” be held at The Cornhusker Hotel and the proceeds would start the fund. Other fundraising efforts were also explored.*

*Teachers from all parts of the state brought cookies to serve at “The Festival of Tables.” Since there was such a variety of cookies received it was suggested they be put in a recipe book and sell it to raise money. There were two printings. Another group of members chose to make a quilt and sell chances. They chose a schoolhouse pattern in colors of red, white, and blue.*

*It was a slow process to raise the money. The work could not start until the money was raised. When the \$60,000 had been reached, the cost had increased. Henry Goebel’s term ended and Frances Beechner was the next president. More fundraising efforts were put in place that included a call on the community and teachers from across the state for help. In the end, somewhere between \$90,000-\$95,000 was raised – enough for the fountain, the plaque (which lists the names of citizens honored by friends or relatives who contributed \$1,000, and to do some landscaping at the north end of the fountain.*

*By the time the fountain was finished Ely Feistner was president (1978-1980). The fountain was dedicated the summer of 1978 at a ceremony at the fountain.*

I encourage you to take the online survey. As previously noted there are a variety of options for repairs and improvements. On the survey you will note there are four options being considered – two maintain the fountain and two replace the fountain with something completely different.

Your input is needed to allow this iconic structure to remain as a tribute to Nebraska educators, past, present, and future. In the words of Humann, at the August 27, 1978 dedication - “And thus flows on their heritage of Wisdom. Like water from an ever-flowing Fountain.”

Robert L. Bussmann is Executive Director of the Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel and Past President of that organization and the Lincoln Area Retired School Personnel. He lives in Lincoln.





# THE BICENTENNIAL CASCADE FOUNTAIN

Dedicated to the Nebraska State Retired Teachers

Here stands the fountain, bold and strong and tall,  
A thing of ageless beauty, to enthrall  
All those whose souls to loveliness respond,  
And those who seek a respite from life's bond.

Its clean white forms like giant stepping stones  
Invite the soul to climb to higher planes.  
And as your eye climbs up each massive step  
You spy at last the ever-flowing spring.

And what a glorious sight it is to see  
The morning sun held fast in ev'ry drop  
Of spray as it cascades from top to pool -  
A tumbling, sparkling, splashing, laughing show!

The teachers, too, are fountains - stalwart, strong -  
Whose wisdom, like the water, endless flows.  
And how the lives of children shine and glow  
When some new truth their active minds discover!

The pioneering teachers fully knew  
That in this ever shifting, changing world,  
They must teach truths and concepts and beliefs  
That would endure as long as time shall last.

And so they stressed with never-flagging zeal  
The 3R's first, and then the Golden Rule.  
Yet still the greatest heritage they left  
Are these great, changeless and eternal Truths:

The joy of Service	- it is the heart of life;
The sublimity of Sacrifice	- it points to lofty goals;
The strength of Purity	- it gives design for living;
The magic of Beauty	- it lifts the heart and soul;
The worth of Work	- it gives to life full meaning;
The force of Love	- it drew from heav'n God's Son;
The pow'r of Truth	- it gives to life moral strength;
The lamp of Wisdom	- it lights the path of life;
The pow'r of Faith	- it overcomes the world;
And then Above all else	- a trust in God!

And thus flows on their heritage of Wisdom.  
Like water from an ever-flowing Fountain.

Julius A. Humann

Project of Nebraska State Retired Teachers and Lincoln Area Retired Teachers.  
Dedicated August 27, 1978



# UNIT REPORTS



## ~ FREMONT AREA ~

We held our March meeting in the Main Street Education Building (former Junior High Cafeteria). We were served a lunch of chili and cinnamon rolls made by the Fremont Public Schools Food Service workers. Our program was provided by the Fremont Middle School Show Choir who entertained us with a few songs.



*At a recent meeting of the Fremont Area Association of Retired School Personnel, Nancy Morris shared a story about teaching in her early career.*

Leila Hybl, the director of Keep Fremont Beautiful, thanked the group for being a member and also to get some volunteers to help set up the Eco Fair in April. Members were encouraged to sign up to work at the Friends of the Library sale in April also. 46 pounds of toilet tissue were collected and given

to LifeHouse (food pantry of Dodge County).

The group will award three \$1,000 scholarships to recent area graduates entering the education field. The extra third scholarship is available because of a committee of retired teachers who donated their time to read scholarship entries from the Charles Herbster Foundation. That foundation donates money to our scholarship fund. The members doing that include Marta Calhoun, Sally Ganem, Connie Schmeichel and Wanda Samson. The winners will be announced at the July meeting.

In May FAARSP met at St James Episcopal Church.



*Cathy Chapman presented our "Remembering a Time in the Past" story at a recent meeting of the Fremont Area Association of Retired School Personnel.*

A lunch was served by a committee from the church. Our speaker was Tina Walker, director of the Keene Memorial Library in Fremont. She displayed the plans for the library expansion project and mentioned that funds are still needed to complete it.

Wanda Samson was installed as financial director for another two year term. Members brought 77 pounds of peanut butter to be donated to LifeHouse. We signed up to furnish a snack for Habitat workers three different days this coming season. Volunteer hours were turned in for the year.

Respectfully submitted by Jo Mitteis, Public Relations

## ~ GRAND ISLAND AREA ~

The Grand Island Area Retired School Personnel meets every third Monday of September, October, (December, the second Monday) February, March, April and May in the Woodland Room of Riverside Lodge at 1:30. Our Co-Presidents Eldon Ervin and Jean McMIndes keep us up-to-date on items of concern to our members. Each meeting also includes an interesting program, thanks to Nora Lindner, Vice President -Programs.

In February, Kay Cynova, Director of Interpretive Resources at Stuhr Museum, shared the story of the move and restoration of the Peter Stuhr house. Ms. Cynova's slide show detailed the progression of the renovation and acquisition of artifacts to prepare the exhibit for its opening in 2018. The home now functions as an interpretive and educational center at Stuhr Museum in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Jay Combs, professor of geography at the University of Nebraska-Kearney, was the guest speaker in March. Professor Combs enthusiastically shared the amazing story of the discovery of a collection of glass plate negatives which tells the story of pioneer life in Hall County from the mid-1890s until the early 1920s. His slide show of some of these images illustrated how a "picture is worth a thousand words."

In April, a scholarship tea celebrated two high school seniors from Grand Island Northwest Senior High School. Heidi Lorraine Cooper and Sydney Paige Holmes were each awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. Both students will be pursuing careers in education.

Members reminisced and sang along with Pastor Curt Cooper and Janice Stuhmer as they entertained our group at the May meeting. Pastor Cooper writes his own poetry which follows the themes of family, cowboy work and faith. They call their group Prairie Echo.

Nola Oberhelman, community volunteer services chairman,

turned in a report that 19 members had contributed 3,808 volunteer hours with 717 of those being with young people.

Co-President Jean McMindes conducted a memorial service at our May meeting to honor members who passed away during this school year. They were: Judy Briggs, Billie Monnington, Jon Heinrich and Merilee Sullivan. Our group is left with one centenarian. Susan Wiese celebrated her 108 birthday in May!

Respectfully submitted by Joan Clark, Secretary

## ~ HASTINGS AREA ~

As we close out our year's agenda, we realize how beneficial HARSP is not only for our own retired members but also for the Hastings area. Our members have enjoyed informative programs along with the comraderie of fellow retired educators.

In March, Maggie Vaughn, the director of talent solutions with the Hastings Economic Development Corporation spoke about the many new development programs currently underway in Hastings and those planned in the near future. In May, Erin Lenze and Madison Schlake presented a program about the Nebraska Passport Program. All members received a passport booklet to encourage their participation in the popular Nebraska tourist program.

This year's project was the Food 4 Thought program, which operates through Hastings College. Students there prepare food backpacks each week for elementary students in Hastings. Each month our members have donated food staples for those backpacks.

Many of our members are involved in volunteering. Among the projects in which they have volunteered that relate to education are the Adams County spelling bee and acting as guides for the ESU 9 business tours.

Although not related to the Hastings area, a collection was taken at the May meeting to help provide drinking water for residents of Spencer, Nebraska. Their community was affected by the March flooding when the dam in Boyd County broke, and at the time of our May meeting, they still did not have water safe to drink.

At our May meeting, the scholarship committee announced the two area recipients of our scholarships. We also submitted the names of two teachers for consideration for the NARSP scholarship. We are proud to support the two high school scholarship winners who plan to become teachers and to encourage the two current teachers who are working on higher degrees.

May is also the month in which we hold our memorial service for departed members. Membership chair Sue Miller and Les Harms led this year's service. Those who were remembered for their dedication to education were Bernice Loskill, Caroline Whitesel, Ruth Nelson, and Ruth Ann Roberts.

Following all our meetings, there is a time for cookies and fellowship. Everyone looks forward to the time when we can visit and enjoy the friendship of others involved in the HARSP organization.

## ~ LINCOLN AREA ~

The Lincoln Area Retired Teachers met in February with Paul Yates as speaker. He presented a program; "I've Got a Name", dealing with sex trafficking in Nebraska.



*LARSP Philanthropy Presentations; pictured left to right: Pam Ford, LARSP Co-President; Pastor Tom Barber and Michele Orth, People's City Mission; Michaella Kumke, Food Bank of Lincoln Backpack Program; Bill Michener, Lighthouse; Abby Worster, Child Advocacy Center; Nicole Palmer, Friendship Home; and Jan Stamper, LARSP Co-President (Not available for picture - Gary Reber, Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools Fund-A-Need Program)*

Several organizations were recognized with philanthropic donations at our March meeting. Each group received \$300. Ninety-six boxes of tissues were collected for Elliott School as our "Day of Service" project. Snack sacks were delivered to thirteen members in various shut-in facilities.

Don Hobbs was honored at our "Community Service" meeting in April. Don was a long time member of LARSP. He served two terms as LARSP treasurer, assisted with the annual book sales for many years, and was notification chair for two years. Don was also involved in his church in a variety of ways; involved with youth within Lincoln (basketball, softball, and baseball); and Red Cross work at UNL sporting events. Don was hospitalized at Tabitha shortly before the recognition brunch and was unable to attend. Don's family attended and spoke of their memories. The occasion was videotaped for Don to enjoy at a later date. Entertainment was provided by the Lincoln Continentals, a barbershop quartet. They proceeded to Tabitha to entertain Don.

A Necrology Service honoring nine past members was conducted at our May meeting. Those honored were: Carol Clark,

Florence Dalby, Vi Douglas, Virginia Haba, Alice Hickey, Dorothy Holgren, Delores Mather, Loretta Sterns, and Gail Wishnow. Golden Apple awards were presented for their service to: Mary Logsdon, Linda Splichal, Gayle Alexander, Bette Cummins, and Laurie Lindgren.



*Scholarship Winner; left to right: Gayle Alexander, Jacey DuPont, Cheryl Frederick*

A \$1000 scholarship was presented to Jacey DuPont, a senior at Lincoln Southwest. Madilyn Rushen, another senior at Lincoln Southwest, was also the winner of a scholarship, but was unable to attend. Both students will be pursuing degrees in Education.

Viki Kugler installed officers for the 2019-21 term. Billie Bussmann will be treasurer succeeding Laurie Lindgren; Bob Bussmann will be secretary succeeding Verla Ringenberg. Verla will continue as yearbook chair.

LARSP provided centerpieces for the LPS retirement dinner held on May 8th. Pam Ford and Jan Stamper attended and handed out approximately 75 flyers to prospective members.

Our meeting location for next year has been changed to Sheridan Lutheran Church at 70th and Old Cheney.

## ~ OMAHA AREA ~

The Omaha Area Retired School Employee Association's scheduled February meeting was supposed to be Doctors without Borders, but difficulties in getting the Skype presentation set up resulted in it being postponed. Instead, Cecelia Carter, Executive Director of Omaha School Employees Retirement System, spoke to the group about current legislation and the recent articles published by the Omaha World Herald concerning the funding of the OPS pension plan. Roger Rea also reported on the many bills being considered by the legislature which might affect OARSEA members.

At our May meeting, Mary Moberg introduced our two \$1,000 scholarship winners. Both are students from Central High School. Sarah Collins will be attending the University of Nebraska at Kearney and major in



*Mary Moberg (center) presenting scholarship winners - Grace Nodes and Sarah Collins.*

elementary education. Grace Nodes will focus on special education at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.



*Connie Hill, OARSEA President, at the left, with the Country Kickers.*

The Country Kickers of America, a line dancing group, provided the entertainment at the May meeting.

Karen Mallory volunteered to be our new Courtesy Chairperson, and Vira Brooks has volunteered to be President-Elect.

Linda Hammer

## ~ SCOTTSBLUFF AREA ~

Another year has flown by, and we are taking a break from meeting in June and July. Our May meeting was election of officers. For the 2019-2020 year, Twila Griffiths will serve as president, Kent Harvey as vice-president, Maureen Reiber-Reifschneider as secretary, and Marcia Schlichtemeir as treasurer.

Carole Knaub, volunteer at the Community Ever Green House in Gering, stopped by our May 20 meeting to thank us personally for the donation to the greenhouse. Carole has devoted endless hours to revitalizing this community gardening area. She was the recipient of the 2018 Nebraska Andrus Award. We enjoyed hearing about the many projects underway with the help of many organizations. The greenhouse is a must see if you are in the Scottsbluff-Gering area.

Other programs throughout the spring were Starr Lehl sharing about the Scottsbluff Area Economic Development plans. She stressed the importance of the entire area working together to promote new businesses and development. Noelle Thompson and Jana Kehn provided us with great information on opportunities available at the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library. Noelle was the director of the library at the time but has since taken a position elsewhere. Jana is in charge of the adult reading program at the library and invited us all to attend any or all of the many activities available. Several of our members are on the library board and/or are Friends of the Library. Our own Jim McDermott updated us on legislation and happenings with NSEA-Retired, the other part

of our dual organization, at our February meeting.

We are always looking for new members so would appreciate if you have a retired teacher acquaintance in our area that you would send them our way. We meet the third Monday of each month in the community room at the Scottsbluff Runza.

Submitted by Twila Griffiths, Acting Secretary

## ~ SOUTHEAST NE AREA ~

The Southeast Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel finished our year strong with 28 members! The group meets 5 times a year in September, October, March, April and May.

At our March meeting it was decided as part of our community service to make a donation to Peru State College to help those students affected by the spring floods. A video program was also presented reviewing the paintings created by artist Todd Williams. Todd is an artist from Central City, Nebraska who was commissioned by the Nebraska 150 Foundation to create a painting capturing the essence of each of the 93 counties in Nebraska.

Our April meeting started off with a program presented by Joyce Jones. Joyce discussed the origins of the Big Garden, a community project established in 2009 in Falls City by a pastor from the First United Methodist Church. Members learned that the goal of the garden is to help create a culture of food security. Many other area churches now participate and help with this project. Our local association made a donation to this community project as well.

In May we presented a scholarship to future educator, Emma Shubert, a senior at HTRS Public School in Humboldt, Nebraska. Emma is the daughter of Scott and Nicole Shubert of Shubert,



*Photo left to right: Nicole Shubert ,  
Emma Shubert, Sharon Bogle, President  
Ann Meinzer.*

Nebraska. Emma plans to attend Peru State College and major in Early Childhood Education.

Member Glenda Nelson gave a very informative presentation about the Nebraska State Tourism Passport Program. We learned that this is a free program that has been going strong for 10 years. Falls City's own Falter Museum is included in the tour guide.

Also at the May meeting, our new slate

of officers was discussed and approved. They will be initiated at our September meeting in the Fall. Members are looking forward to State Convention in October and will provide table favors for those in attendance. Donations will also be collected for the auction baskets as well.

Our group had a total of 3154 volunteer hours to report this past year. We are so grateful for the efforts and impact our group continues to have on the members of our community.

The Southeast Nebraska group takes a break in the summer and will meet again in September! We are looking forward to adding new retirees to the group.

Respectfully submitted by Debra Harris

## ~ WAYNE AREA ~

The Wayne Area Association of Retired School Personnel meets every other month. All meetings are held at Brookdale Wayne. Members and guests have a social gathering with coffee and cookies at 9:30 a.m. before the business meeting at 10:00 with a program.

Our association has lost several members recently. We always remember them when we meet as a group with a time to share our special memories about them.

Our group has chosen a candidate from our area for the NARSP Active Educators Scholarship.

Information packets were sent out to superintendents at each of our area schools.

Our group has many hours of volunteer service. We are happy to give our time and talents to the communities where we live.

At our March meeting we travelled to Alaska. Well, not exactly, but our program took us through Alaska land ventures. Roger and Sharon Schulz of Norfolk were introduced as friends and traveling companions of Don and Pat Rohde. Pat is our Association President. Their program was titled, "An Alaskan Adventure: The Trip of a Lifetime. They shared a video of Denali as well as a video produced from the actual bus trip through Denali Park. They were able to see all 5 types of animals that live in this habitat: elk, doll sheep, white fox, moose, and many brown bears and their cubs.

The group met again in May. The Alaska presentation was continued because there was great interest to see more of the videos.

In July, the group held an indoor picnic. The meal was catered in and served at Brookdale in Wayne. This is an annual event with spouses and guests. It is a perfect opportunity to celebrate the freedom we have in this country. We acknowledge all who fought and are still fighting to keep our country the best in the world. Our freedom allows us to meet and enjoy visiting without government restrictions.

Our next meeting will be in September at the Brookdale in Wayne. We welcome all visitors.



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