



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

Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel



# NEWSLETTER



Spring 2019 [www.narsp.org](http://www.narsp.org)

Published Twice Yearly

## NRTA In The Know:

### AARP to Congress: Lower Prescription Drug Prices

Top executives from seven of the nation's largest drug companies recently testified before a U.S. Senate Finance Committee hearing on the high cost of prescription medications.

One by one, leaders of the drug manufacturers blamed runaway retail prescription drug retail prices on the rebates they say they must pay to pharmacy benefit managers and insurance plans. Otherwise, they say drug makers run the risk that their products will not be included on the lists of medicines covered by Medicare Part D prescription drug and private insurance plans.

The pharmaceutical company executives also refused to guarantee that they would make their products more affordable to American consumers by lowering their list prices.

AARP weighed in, releasing the following statement from Executive Vice President and Chief Advocacy & Engagement Officer Nancy LeaMond.

"The pharmaceutical industry refused today to take responsibility for out of control drug prices and the harm it is causing older Americans, patients, and family caregivers. Americans continue to pay the highest brand-name drug prices in the world, and prescription drugs cannot work if people cannot afford them. Too many Americans are being forced to choose between paying for the medicines they need to stay healthy and paying for food or rent.

"We were heartened by today's hearing, in which both sides raised important questions about companies' profits, advertising and pricing practices. AARP reiterates our call for action on policy solutions that actually lower drug prices instead of simply shifting costs around within the health care system. To do that, we must deal directly with the root cause of high drug prices: price gouging by drug companies.

"We are eager to work with the President and Congressional leaders from both parties to enact meaningful bipartisan policies to help lower drug prices and their related costs."

Learn more about the prescription drug price issue [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org).

[Article provided by NRTA: AARP's Educator Community]



*Our thoughts have been with our NARSP members and their local communities that have been impacted by the extreme snow and ice storms and flooding throughout our state this month. The first half of March has definitely "come in like a lion"...let's hope the remainder of the month will be "more like a lamb."*



## *...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 word...

**spring -- n -- 1 a: the (meteorological) season between winter and summer comprising in the northern hemisphere usu. the months of March, April and May or as reckoned astronomically extending from the March equinox to the June solstice b: a time or season of growth or development 2 : the act or an instance of leaping up or forward**

Snow, snow, and more snow – when will winter end? According to legend if the groundhog doesn't see its shadow on February 2 we shouldn't be experiencing six more weeks plus of winter. As the saying goes "spring ahead" and we move our clocks forward one hour to begin daylight saving time. Did you notice in the definition above that there are two springs – meteorological and astronomical?

Spring is also a time when many of our Units have some traditional events, activities, and happenings...

...some Units will be honoring an individual with the AARP/NRTA/REA Unit Community Service Award to recognize the meaningful work and volunteerism carried out by a member of your Unit – National Volunteer Week is April 7-13 – Congratulations to this year's recipients

...on the agenda for some Units will be a spring service project...collecting designated items to be given to a community agency, pantry, or school..."thinking of you" cards and/or May baskets delivered to shut-in members, veterans, and residents at care facilities...it might even be popcorn and other special treats delivered to staff lounges in your local schools

...election of new officers and selection of committee chairs and members occur within many Units during this season...have you stepped forward to volunteer and serve as an officer, committee chair, or committee member – Leadership opportunities abound!

...the selection and announcement of scholarship recipients given by a local Unit to a graduating high school senior planning to pursue a degree in the field of education

...former education colleagues within your community

will be retiring...sharing information about your Unit as well as NARSP will take place in many forms to add to your membership...if a special event or meeting is planned, you might make a personal contact to invite that new retiree and indicate you will drive them to the meeting or event...you might even choose to honor that individual by giving them a retirement gift of a paid membership for the upcoming 2019-2020 membership year

...many Units also recognize the memory of those members that have passed during the membership year...an opportunity to remember the contributions the members have made to your Unit and community

...it is not too early to begin making plans for members of your Unit to attend the upcoming Biennial State NARSP Convention in Grand Island on Wednesday, October 2nd at the Ramada Midtown Conference Center...the Annual Board of Directors' Meeting and Dinner will be on Tuesday, October 1st.

Spring is definitely a time or season for growth or development (and I would also add recognition and reflection). Members and Units continue "To Serve - Not To Be Served."

Hopefully, we will be seeing crocus, daffodils, and tulips soon!

...a "little bit" more – Friday, April 12 is the deadline for local Units to receive applications from their area for the NARSP Active Educator's Scholarship. Semi-finalist application(s) selected by the local Unit need to be submitted to me by Friday, May 17. Again, this year there will be two scholarship recipients selected by the NARSP Executive Board.

Nominations are being accepted for the NARSP "Big Apple" Award and the NARSP Educational Service Award. Background information and a nomination form for either award can be found elsewhere in this issue of the NARSP Newsletter. Nomination forms need to be sent to me on or before Wednesday, May 1.

In conclusion...*"Just for today we will be unafraid. Especially we will not be fearful of enjoying what is beautiful, and we believe that, as we give to the world, so the world will give to us."*

--Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, Founder of NRTA, 1947

**Nebraska Association Retired School Personnel**  
**Financial Report**  
**September 1, 2018 to January 31, 2019**

Checkbook Balance, September 1, 2018			\$5,500.11
Income			
Dues		\$8,220.00	
AMBA		\$1,000.00	
Total Income			<u>\$9,220.00</u>
Total Balance and Income			<u>\$14,720.11</u>
Expenditures			
Postage		\$352.60	
Printing		\$0.00	
Supplies		\$21.05	
Board Expenses			
Mileage	\$0.00		
Meal	\$0.00		
Total Board Expenses			<u>\$0.00</u>
Annual Board of Directors' Meeting Exp.			
Awards	\$66.46		
Printing	\$115.46		
Mileage/Presidents	\$602.90		
Supplies	\$26.14		
Total Ann. BOD's Meeting Expenses			<u>\$810.96</u>
Miscellaneous			
ASRTE Dues	\$100.00		
Fidelity Bond	\$100.00		
Scholarships	\$2,000.00		
Total Miscellaneous Expenses			<u>\$2,200.00</u>
Total Expenditures			<u>\$3,384.61</u>
Checkbook Balance, January 31, 2019			<u><u>\$11,335.50</u></u>
Other Monies	<u>Original</u>	<u>Current</u>	
US Bank			
CD (xxxxx11) Matures 01-07-2021	\$6,009.35	\$6,276.13	
CD (xxxxx01) Matures 04-20-2023	\$10,380.30	\$11,217.04	
CD (xxxxx31) Matures 01-16-2021	\$10,000.00	\$10,443.96	
CD (xxxxx49) Matures 01-16-2021	\$10,000.00	\$10,443.96	
State Farm			
CD (xxxxx59) Matures 01-06-2023	\$9,280.18	\$10,019.55	
Total CD's			<u>\$48,400.64</u>
Checkbook Balance and Other Monies, January 31, 2019			<u><u>\$59,736.14</u></u>

## \*REMINDER\*

It would be appreciated if local Units and individuals would regularly notify Wanda Samson, NARSP Treasurer, of the name(s) of NARSP members who have changed addresses or passed away. This will help with keeping an updated membership/ mailing list as well as a listing of the necrology for the 2018-19 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 Saturday, August 31 to be included in the memorial program.**

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

### 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**

# NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL

## Annual Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes, September 25, 2018

### AARP Office, Suite 201, Meeting Room, Lincoln, NE

The Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel Board of Directors' Annual Meeting was held in Lincoln, NE on September 25, 2018. Members present were Bob Bussmann-Lincoln Unit, Executive Director; Leona Anderson-Hastings Unit, State Community Service Chair; David Scribner-Hastings Unit, President; Billie Bussmann-Lincoln Unit, NARSP Secretary; Wauneta Peterson-Lincoln Unit, State President; Ruth Register-Fremont Unit, President; Beth Radtke-Fremont Unit, Representative; Patricia A. Jenkins Rohde-Wayne Unit, President; Mary Lou George-Wayne Unit, Representative; Wanda Samson-Fremont Unit, treasurer and State Treasurer; Connie Hill-Omaha Unit, President; Nancy Johnson-Omaha Unit, Representative; Jan Stamper-Lincoln Unit, Co-President; Pam Ford-Lincoln Unit, Co-President; Karen Indra-Norfolk Unit, President; Fran Rohrich-Norfolk Unit, Representative; Twila Griffiths-Scottsbluff Unit, President; Ernie Griffiths-Scottsbluff Unit, Representative; Kell Smalley AMBA District Manager; and Connie Benjamin AARP Nebraska. Ann Meinzer, NARSP Vice-President was unable to attend. Units not having representation in attendance included: Beatrice, Cass County, Columbus, Grand Island, McCook, Mullen and SE Nebraska.

Wauneta Peterson, President, called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m. A Quorum was declared. All people present were introduced.

Bob Bussmann presided over the memorial service. Roses were placed in the vase by each unit for the member(s) of their unit who has passed away this past year.

The October 10, 2017 minutes were approved as printed.

Wanda Samson indicated the state dues forms are due October 16. The 2017-2018 membership cards were dispersed to those units in attendance. If you need additional membership cards, do let Wanda know. Please give mileage forms to her and she will mail the check to you. The 2017-2018 yearly financial report was distributed. The report will be filed for financial review.

Connie Benjamin presented information about AARP that included improving livability within Nebraska communities, an emphasis on our Vets, expanding caregiver supports, increasing fraud prevention awareness, and enhancing the leadership skills of people 50+. When speaking about caregiving legislation has been signed permitting registered nurses to practice to the full extent of their licenses in assisted living facilities. This will allow older residents to receive care without having to hire additional costly help or leave the facility for care.

There will be an AARP shredding event in Omaha.

Kell Smalley, AMBA District Manager, shared a Power Point presentation on the AMBA benefits and discounts. This included supplemental health insurance, home health insurance, AMBA discounts, as well as many other areas of benefit to the membership.

Leona Anderson, State Community Service Chair, indicated volunteer hours were down from last year. She indicated the total volunteer hours for NARSP were 55,463 for an equivalent dollar value of \$1,339,986.08. Units will receive certificates including certificates for "With Our Youth", six units for being Unified Units. The folders also include the Nomination for the Annual Chapter and REA Unit Community Service Award. Wauneta and Leona presented a facsimile check to AARP Nebraska that was accepted by Connie Benjamin.

Wanda reported on the membership totals for 2017-2018. Nine units decreased in membership, two units stayed the same and three units increased their membership. There are 581 unit members and 339 NARSP State members for a total of 920 NARSP members.

For the 2018-2019 membership year five units have turned in their dues for 190 unit members and 156 NARSP State members for a total of 346.

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

Ann Meinzer, chair of the nominations committee, sent a report indicating Wauneta Peterson for President and Ann Meinzer for Vice-President for a two-year term. There were no additional nominations.

Bob Bussmann, Executive Director, gave his report. He indicated the president checklist, needed directory information; Cass County needs officers, the green sheet evaluation form, and the Unicameral Update with sign up for information. He shared information for the NARSP scholarship that will be received by units in January.

There was no unfinished business.

Bob presented the budget at which time there was a request by Ruth Register to reorder the agenda. Discussion followed. A vote was taken and the reorder of the agenda did not pass. Ruth Register moved to place the budget on hold and add an additional item until the end of new business. Motion passed.

Nancy Johnson, Pat Jenkins Rhode, and Ann Meinzer agreed to serve on the nominating committee fir 2018-2019.

President Wauneta Peterson and Vice-President Ann Meinzer were elected by acclamation for 2018-2020.

The proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws began with Article V changing to the State Convention being held every other year. Ruth Register indicated conventions are worthless and no need to have one. Discussion followed. A decision was made at the Board of Directors' meeting at the last convention to have the convention every other year. This decision has not been totally put in effect. Motion passed.

Bylaws Article IV include changes to the installation of officers. In even years the installation will be at the conclusion of the annual



meeting. In odd years the installation will be during the convention. Discussion followed. Ruth Register indicated she thought the pairing of office elections President/Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer should be paired differently. The proposed change passed.

Under Standing Rules the meetings information was updated to meet having a State Convention every other year. This motion passed.

For mileage and hotel remuneration it was proposed that the mileage be paid as indicated by the IRS rate for driving service for charitable organizations, meal and registration costs would be the individual's responsibility; fifty percent of hotel room costs for member of the Board of Directors would be covered; and full room costs for the Executive Board. Discussion followed. When voting on the above the motion all proposed changes passed. Ruth Register requested that the minutes reflect this vote was not unanimous.

Bob presented information for the State Convention in 2019. Discussion focused on returning to Grand Island and available space in Hastings. The convention will be in September or October. Bob will look into options.

Discussion occurred to extend NARSP Associate Membership to Nebraska's Superintendent of Schools. There are 200 school districts in Nebraska. Since time was a factor, Bob indicated for individual thoughts to be indicated on the feedback sheet concerning this issue. Discussion would be continued on this item at the 2019 meeting.

Bob presented the 2018-2019 Budget on behalf of the Executive Board with a recommendation for approval. Motion passed.

Under the additional agenda items Ruth Register proposed the Executive Director not be able to vote. Discussion followed. This item would need to be presented as a proposed change to the President or to the Executive Director. It then would need to be presented and acted upon by the Board of Directors' at the Annual Meeting. The proposed amendment would need to be published in the NARSP Newsletter prior to the annual meeting.

The NARSP "Big Apple" Award will be presented to Senator Brett Lindstrom, Omaha, at a later date. He was not able to attend this meeting.

Dave Scribner distributed the Community Service Awards.

Wanda presented the Traveling Plaques to the Fremont Unit with the highest increase in number of state memberships and the McCook Unit for the greatest percentage increase in state membership.

Wauneta presented the NARSP Scholarship Certificates to Jan Stamper and Pam Ford-Lincoln Unit for Brittni Peltz of Malcolm. Dave Scribner-Hastings Unit received the certificate for Karen Valdes of Hastings.

Bob Bussmann installed Wauneta Peterson as President. Ann Meinzer will be installed at a later date.

Attendees were reminded to give Wanda their Mileage Forms. Feedback sheets were asked to be completed and left on the tables.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Billie Carole Bussmann

NARSP Secretary

## NARSP Membership

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

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

Possibly you have not renewed your NARSP membership or you might know of past members that have not renewed their membership for 2018-2019 year or local members that would still like to join NARSP. Membership dues and/or renewals are still welcomed and can be submitted to NARSP State Treasurer: Wanda Samson, 1636 N. Clamar Avenue, Fremont, NE 68025.

A membership application form may be downloaded from the NARSP website: [www.narsp.org](http://www.narsp.org).

### "Remember the Spotlight"

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

**NARSP** 

**Remember to  
LIKE us on**



**[www.facebook.com/NRTA.NE](http://www.facebook.com/NRTA.NE)**

# Nominations Sought for NARSP Awards

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

The “Big Apple” Award is given to a person(s) who has made the biggest difference in the lives of retired school personnel. Past award recipients include: State Senator Gail Kopplin (2007), Mark Intermill (2008), Leona Anderson (2009), Bob Kuhn (2010), Don and Marilyn Leighton (2011), Bob Bussmann (2012), Gwynne Kuhn (2013), Adams County Convention and Visitors Bureau (2013), Roger Rea (2014), Jeri Lorenz (2015), Marjorie Pearson (2016), Janet Hibbs-Jones (2017), Paul Weinert (2017), and State Senator Brett Lindstrom (2018).

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

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

Do you have such an individual in mind that fits the description for either of these awards? If so, please complete the nomination form for either of these awards that is included in this issue of the “NARSP Newsletter”. Nomination forms need to be mailed to: Robert L. Bussmann, NARSP Executive Director, 3750 Normal Blvd., Lincoln, NE 68506 by Wednesday, May 1, 2019. If you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to call at 402-488-3231 or e-mail at [RBUSSMANN@neb.rr.com](mailto:RBUSSMANN@neb.rr.com).

## Mark Your Calendar!

The dates have been set for the **2019 NARSP Board of Directors’ Annual Meeting and the Biennial State Convention** at the Ramada Midtown Conference Center (previously known as Midtown Holiday Inn and Hotel Grand Convention Center) in Grand Island. This would be the time to begin “planting the seed” with your members to plan on attending the convention.

**Tuesday, October 1, 2019 - Boards of Directors’ Meeting and Dinner**  
**Wednesday, October 2, 2019 - Convention and Luncheon**

More detailed registration and program information, as well as lodging reservations, will be included in the Summer Issue of the NARSP Newsletter.



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)



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

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

**Your Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee’s Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Local Unit (if applicable)** \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ **“Big Apple” Award**

\_\_\_\_\_ **“Educational Service” Award**

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

Nomination forms need to be mailed to: Robert L. Bussmann, NARSP Executive Director, 3750 Normal Boulevard, Lincoln, NE 68506 by Wednesday, May 1, 2019. (You may make copies of this form for other members to use.)

# "A Look Back In Time"

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

## *"School Without Children"*

Eunice Louise Preston, Lincoln

Through blinding snow  
The horses found the schoolhouse  
Dad built the fire  
Piled wood and coal along the wall

Whatever you do stay inside  
Until I come for you  
The horses snorted as they headed for home

I hope no children come  
I must get the room ready  
I swept the floor last night  
I can put some assignments on the blackboard  
Those bookshelves should be straightened  
I will write some plans for next week  
Only nine o'clock!  
I wonder if this will be like

The big blizzard when Mother was  
a teacher

Ten o'clock  
I wish the children were here  
No I don't  
How would they get home  
Stuff the stove – the floor is cold  
No – don't do that  
What if the fuel had to last all night

Is it still snowing  
It's impossible to tell  
The windows are covered with frost and snow  
Eat just one sandwich  
Might need the others later

Ice crystals make lovely patterns  
Along the cracks in the floor  
My overshoes keep my feet warmer

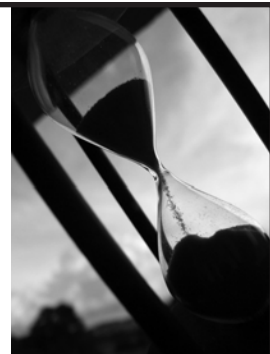
I wonder what those big boys do  
When they stay in the barn at recess  
I hope baseball can start soon  
Surely the clock hands aren't moving  
I wonder what college will be like next year

Only two o'clock!

WHAT'S THAT

Sled runners – horses snorting  
An icy blast comes through the opened door  
Dad's whiskers are white  
He banks the fire

I climb in among the blankets  
And heated bricks  
The horses take us home



## **NRTA Staff**

Al Campos, Director NRTA

Shelisa Ashford, DC Office

Mary Beth Dixon, Advisor

Tom Nicholls, Senior Legislative Representative

I have checked the books from January 1, 2018 to  
December 31, 2018 and have found them to be in order.

Andrea Bongiovanni

3-21-2019

**The news articles for the Summer Issue of the  
NARSP Newsletter are due by Monday, July 8, 2019.**



# YOUR GUIDE TO ASSOCIATION MEMBER BENEFITS



## Long Term Care Insurance

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

## Dental & Vision Plans

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

## Medicare Supplement Plans

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

## Cancer, Heart, Stroke, Accident Insurance

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

## Annuity

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

## Final Expense Whole Life & Guaranteed Acceptance Life Insurance

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

## Medical Air Services Association (MASA)

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

## American Hearing Benefits (AHB)

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

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

## DID YOU KNOW?

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

800.258.7041

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



Benefits made available through



# YOUR

## PASSPORT TO SAVINGS

# myAMBAdiscounts



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**PASSPORT<sup>®</sup>**  
CORPORATE

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



Activate your myAMBAdiscounts membership in just these 3 easy steps!

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

**Enroll today and start saving!**

## ADDITIONAL MEMBER DISCOUNTS

### La Quinta Inn & Suites Discount

15% discount at select locations nationwide.  
800.531.5800 | [www.LQ.com](http://www.LQ.com) | Code: AMBA

### Rental Car Discounts

Avis: 800.331.1212	<a href="http://www.avis.com">www.avis.com</a>	Code: AWDIF G725000
Budget: 800.527.0700	<a href="http://www.budget.com">www.budget.com</a>	Code: (BCD) X825500
Hertz: 800.854.2210	<a href="http://www.hertz.com">www.hertz.com</a>	Code: GDP# 1860886

### Road Scholar

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

### Cruise & Vacation Benefits

You will receive a 4% vacation reward on the base fare of your trip and will also have access to special bonus offers on a monthly basis.  
866.577.9487 | [www.cruiseandvacationbenefits.com/AMBA](http://www.cruiseandvacationbenefits.com/AMBA)

### Orlando Employee Discounts

Save up to 35% on Your Orlando Vacation!  
877.413.3657 | [www.orlandoemployeediscounts.com](http://www.orlandoemployeediscounts.com) | Code: AMBA

### myAMBA dining.com

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

### 1-800-FLOWERS

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

### Apple

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

### Dell Computer Discounts

800.257.4711 | [www.Dell.com/mpp/amba](http://www.Dell.com/mpp/amba) | Code: GS530005355836

### Nationwide Pet Insurance

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

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

7.18

# NARSP DECEASED MEMBERS 2017-2018

## BEATRICE

Donna Knoche

## COLUMBUS

Esther Mohnsen

## FREMONT

Wanda Brabec

Gen Christensen

Carol Halladay

## GRAND ISLAND

Edith Pinkston

Patricia Seehan

Wilma Hotz

Ruth McClurkin

## HASTINGS

Barbara J. Frei

Betty Torghele

Ruth Schuck

Richard Hawes

Carolyn Whitesel

## LINCOLN

Colleene Allen

Lorene E. Behrends

Marian E. Bender

Genevieve "Joan" Huffer

Richard "Dick" Kincaid

Josephine "Jozie" Sheffield

## MULLEN

Marion Isom

## NORFOLK

Fred Egley

## NORTH PLATTE

Arlene Sukraw

## OMAHA

Patricia Burford

Marty Gault

Lillian Hoefner

Arlene Irely

Doris Olson

Ellen Parker

Jacqueline Pospisil

Yvonne Rushlau

Jesse Sutton

Kathleen Thomsen

## SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA

Fern Schawang

## WAYNE

Gail Godbersen

## NARSP STATE

Shirley M. Equall



*NARSP Board of Directors' Annual Meeting held on Tuesday, September 25, 2018 in Lincoln at the AARP Nebraska Offices.*



*Jan Stamper and Pam Ford, Lincoln Area Co-Presidents, accepted from Wauneta Peterson, NARSP President, the NARSP Active Educators Scholarship certificate for Brittini Peltz, Elementary Title I Reading teacher with the Malcolm Public Schools.*





*Connie Benjamin, AARP Nebraska State Director, provided an overview of AARP's initiatives, programs and events within the state.*



*Unit Representatives included: Leona Anderson and David Scribner, Hastings Unit; Pat Jenkins Rhode, Wayne Unit; Twila and Ernest Griffiths, Scottsbluff Unit.*



*Karen Indra, Norfolk Unit; Connie Benjamin, AARP Nebraska State Director; Fran Rohrich, Norfolk Unit.*



*Kell Smalley, AMBA District Manager for Nebraska and Kansas, highlighted benefits and discounts available through membership in NARSP.*



*Beth Radtke and Ruth Register, Fremont Unit; Connie Hill and Nancy Johnson, Omaha Unit; Jan Stamper and Pam Ford, Lincoln Unit; and Kell Smalley, AMBA District Manager.*



*Bob Bussmann, NARSP Executive Director, presented the 2018 NARSP "Big Apple" Award to State Senator Brett Lindstrom, Omaha, "With sincere appreciation for his past, present, and ongoing efforts in seeking tax relief legislation on behalf of Nebraska's retirees, especially retired school personnel."*



David Scribner, Hastings Area President, accepted from Wauneta Peterson, NARSP President, the NARSP Active Educators Scholarship certificate for Karen Valdes, Hastings Middle School Explore Reading teacher.



Ruth Register, Fremont Area Unit President, receives the NARSP Traveling Membership Plaque for the greatest increase in the number of state members from Wanda Samson, NARSP Treasurer and membership chair. [It was announced the McCook Area Unit received the plaque for the greatest percentage increase in state membership.]



Wauneta Peterson, NARSP President, and Leona Anderson, NARSP Community Service chair, presented a facsimile check to AARP Nebraska in the amount of \$1,339,986.08 for the 55,463 volunteer hours reported for 2017-2018. Connie Benjamin accepted the check.

## THANKS, THANKS, and More THANKS!

Words of "thanks" are extended to the AARP Nebraska Staff for hosting the NARSP Board of Directors' Meeting this past fall. The hospitality, use of the meeting room, and providing the refreshments was greatly appreciated!

NARSP Board of Directors

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NARSP,

I just wanted to thank you again for the Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel Scholarship! I am truly so honored and grateful. Being able to take a class this semester and not having the financial responsibility of it is wonderful. I appreciate the Association's support of active educators, like myself. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Brittini Peltz

## "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!

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# UNIT REPORTS



## ~ FREMONT AREA ~

The Fremont Area Association of Retired School Personnel met in July at Trinity Lutheran Church in Fremont. A salad luncheon was served by the members of the Katie the Comfort dog team from the church.



*Laura Schnoor of the Fremont Area Association of Retired School Personnel pick her number on the split the pot activity. This is used to help support the associations scholarship fund. The association will give out three 1,000.00 scholarships this year.*

The Scholarship committee introduced the winners of three scholarships offered to recent graduates who plan on majoring in education in college. They were: Franchesca Garcia and Autumn Johnson from Fremont High School and Jaycen Timm from Logan View High School.



*Vernelle Werblow gets checked in at a recent meeting with Wanda Samson, financial director.*



*Beth Radtke left and Norma Register right, surprised staff at North Bend schools with treats to say thank you for everything they do for our children*

Kortnie Williams, coordinator of the local Meals on Wheels program was the guest speaker. She talked to the group about who is able to use the service and that they are always in need of drivers.

President Ruth Register discussed the 6th annual Community Health Charities giving campaign. Members are encouraged to

donate to this cause. 136 pounds of pasta and sauces were donated by members to be taken to the food pantry, now called Life House.

In September the group was served a lunch at the First Congregational Church in Fremont. Jody Horner, President of Midland University was the speaker. She discussed



*Jan Wolfe looks over her donation sheet as Ruth Register, president answers a question for her. FAARSP has been large supporter of Community Health Charities of Nebraska for the last six years.*



*Mary Jane Thulin can't believe all the school supplies that members donated at their September meeting. Supplies will be used through out the community.*

some of the college's goals and talked about their community outreach type programs. Members brought six big boxes full of school supplies and 33 back packs to be given out at the food pantry.

Sheets were sent around for members to sign up to deliver treats to all area schools and to deliver the 100 hygiene and candy bags packed

in August to 11 area nursing homes for Veterans. Another 100 bags will be sent to other parts of the state for delivery to Veterans' homes. It was



*Vernelle Werblow of FAARSP shares special and caring time with a veteran. The Fremont unit works hard to make sure these special people are never forgotten.*



*Rhoda Holstein, Ruth Register, Sandra Hansen and Sandy Terry work during the meeting to pack bags of candy to go with the cards being made. They will be delivered to the veterans in the Fremont area care centers.*





*Large groups of veterans gather at Fremont area care centers to be part of the 200 Christmas bags given away each year to our heroes. Fremont unit works with the DAV chapter to thank our veterans for their service and wishing them happy holidays.*

estimated that each bag had about \$60 worth of goods in it.



*The Fremont unit and members of the Fremont DAV move around the room thanking the vets for their service and wishing them happy holidays.*



*FAARSP and the Disabled American Veterans have had a great relationship for many years. Ruth Register president of FAARSP is pictured with RJ Riggs of the DAV*



*Fremont unit members gather with Disabled American Veteran representatives for a picture after spending time listening to and talking to the veterans in a Fremont area care facility during their Christmas bag delivery.*



*Some of the hundreds of Christmas bags packed and given out to the veterans in Fremont area care facilities and VA homes in Nebraska.*



*Fun was had by all as Sandra Hansen and Sharon Carlson help a veteran go through his Christmas bag to find the most important item "the chocolates".*



*FAARSP members Cindy Tranmer and Marilyn Shanks share a light hearted moment with a veteran during the 2018 Christmas bag delivery program.*

A memorial service was held for those members who died during the last year. They were Wanda Brabec, Gen Christensen and Carol Halladay. It was announced that enough money had been collected to sponsor nine families in the Salvation Army Christmas Meal Drive.



*Members of Fremont Area Association of Retired School Personnel participate in their memorial service which recognized the three members lost this last year.*

In November we met at First Methodist church and enjoyed a meal served by a committee from the church. Dan Moran, dual bilingual teacher at Washington Elementary in Fremont was the guest speaker. The school is in the fourth year of operating one classroom in both Spanish and English each day in four grade levels kindergarten -3rd grade this year. They hope to have the program expanded so that 4th grade is included during the next school year.

Michelle Grossman, executive director of the Community Health Charities thanked the members for the \$9,015 that was



*Wanda Samson left and Norma Register right, present Becky Lowry with a check for 9 holiday meals. Norma spearheads the collection of change during meetings for the project.*



*Nola Cox and Cindy Tranmer pick up their new membership books at the November meeting.*

## ~ GRAND ISLAND AREA ~

Newly retired members were welcomed in September at a “back to school” salad supper in the Woodland Room at Riverside Lodge. Nora Lindner, Vice-President, introduced Dr. Robin Dexter, Assoc. Superintendent of the Grand Island Public Schools, who spoke about the Summer School Lunch Program and No Kids Hungry Plan. She also explained the “Grab and Go” breakfast at Senior High and the “Back Pack Program” which provides food for three meals and two breakfasts for needy families. Much is being done by the public schools with community support to see that children are receiving nutritious meals throughout the year. Newly retired members shared positive comments about these programs. At each meeting, Co-Presidents Eldon Ervin and Jean McMindes always share items of interest concerning members, and Nora Oberhelman, Community Volunteer Services chairperson, encourages us to keep track of volunteer hours. She often delights us with her wit as she shares “tid bits” related to volunteer activities.

Thanks to Nora Lindner, Vice President, we continue to have interesting and educational programs. In October, Ken School, the conductor of the Stolley Park Railroad shared some history about the beginning of the railroad at Stolley Park and some heart-warming stories about the passengers and their deep appreciation of the ride on the Stolley Park train. Hours, special events and other information can be found on the Stolley Park Railroad Facebook page. Judy Williams, Legislative chairperson, reported on several items of interest to members concerning legislation, healthcare plans and how to find help with questions about these items.

In December, members celebrated with a Christmas tea. Barr Middle School’s 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades Show Choir performed for us. To our delight, they then personally interacted with us in a “sing along.”

GIARSP meetings afford us the opportunity to continue to connect and re-connect with former colleagues and friends, to have informative and interesting programs, to keep up with legislative issues and to give back to our community by volunteering. Our unit feels it is also very important to encourage young people to become educators and to support them by awarding scholarships each year. We are grateful to Co-treasurers Doris and Vern Rempe who diligently keep the records for all business activities and scholarship accounts.

Submitted by Joan Clark, Secretary

## ~ HASTINGS AREA ~

Food. Fun. Fellowship. HARSP had them all when we held our annual membership dinner meeting in July. As usual, the meeting was well attended. Thirteen newly-retired area teachers were invited as our guests, and all thirteen became new members. Also



*FAARSP members took a group picture to celebrate the good news that they had donated over \$9,000.00 to Community a Health Charities of NE for their 2018 campaign.*

donated by FAARSP in the sixth annual drive. 111 pounds of cereal were donated at this meeting. Members signed up at the meeting for a day of bell ringing for the Salvation Army kettle drive.

Wanda Samson, financial and membership director announced that we had 106 members this year. This gave us a state award for best increase in numbers.

We met in January at Calvary Methodist Church and had a potluck. The meal was preceded with members decorating 100's of Valentines and filling candy bags for delivery to area Veterans. 42 pounds of facial tissues were collected to be given to Life House food pantry.



*Fremont Area Association of Retired School Personnel volunteered to ring bells for the Salvation Army during this years holiday season. Members ringing during their shift are Annette Rasmussen and Annette Holtam.*



*Cindy Tranmer and Annette Holtam of the Fremont Area Association of Retired School Personnel work at one of the tables to make valentines for veterans in care centers in the Fremont area.*



*Wanda Samson, Ruth Register and Mary Jane Thulin officers of the Fremont Area Association of Retired School Personnel serve up cake and ice cream during their January meeting. Everyone's birthday is celebrated during that meeting each year.*

This is the meeting where we celebrate all of the birthdays with decorated cakes and ice cream. Two special ladies were mentioned. Honorary members Lillian Schultz and Vlasta Kavan each celebrate 102 years of age in 2019.

Respectfully submitted by Jo Mitteis, Public Relations



invited as guests were our two scholarship recipients, Lauren Canady of Hastings High School and Coree Lipowsky of Sandy Creek High School, and their parents. Both girls shared their future educational and teaching career plans. Lori Cox, the executive director of the Nebraska State Fair, presented an interesting program that included how Grand Island became the new site for the Fair, how it has developed and grown since its move, and future plans for improving the Fair experience.

At our September meeting, Julie Ochsner presented a program on the Quilts of Valor. Julie works extensively with the Adams County 4-H and with local elementary schools to promote this project. The quilts are presented to service members and veterans touched by war to provide them with comfort and healing. This project has grown into a state project. To date, 613 quilts have been given to veterans. No veterans happened to be present at the meeting, but three members whose sons had served or were currently serving in the military were each presented a quilt to pass on to them.

Representatives from the Mary Lanning Foundation spoke at the November meeting, sharing information about the Foundation and its projects. It was an entertaining and interesting presentation, mixing music with information. Members were especially interested in a current project that will aid the pediatric rehabilitation facility.

HARSP has chosen to support the Food 4 Thought program this year. This is a Hastings College program initiated in 2007 by a group of education students who saw a need for providing food for elementary students who qualified for free and reduced meals. It's similar to many backpack programs already used in schools and provides food for students over the weekend. Our members will donate food items at each meeting throughout the year to help with this worthwhile program.

Our members have been hard at work volunteering in various ways. A number of our members worked at an Adams County Fair food booth in July. This is a project we have been involved with for quite a while. The money earned helps support our scholarship program.

With the mid-term elections, there were quite a few opportunities for our members to help with candidate forums. Others again helped with Ag Safety Day. We also decorated a tree for Christmas at the Hastings Museum.

Throughout the new year, HARSP hopes to continue to serve our area as we have during the past year. Everyone knows that teachers are willing helpers wherever a need may arise.

## ~ LINCOLN AREA ~

Our new year started in September with co-president, Pam Ford, and vice-president, Gretchen Terpsma, being installed.

Elfi Lee, who grew up in Germany/Poland during WWII, gave a very interesting presentation of her life experiences. She also spoke of her book, "Watching Over Me" which chronicles her and her family during those disastrous times.

Sarah Genoways from the Lincoln Police Department gave an informative program on "Fraud and Scams" concerning seniors at our October meeting.

Snack sacks containing fruit and goodies were delivered to fourteen members who are unable to attend our meetings.

Six past presidents were honored at our November Past Presidents' Brunch. They were: Frank Mills, Bob and Billie Bussmann, Ruth Ann Lyness, and Viki Kugler. A donation was given to the LARSP scholarship in their honor. Entertainment was provided by a delightful Lincoln Ukulele Group.



(L to R) Frank Mills, Bob Bussmann  
Ruth Ann Lyness, Billie Bussmann, Viki Kugler, and Wauneta Peterson

Seven members helped decorate a tree for the Heritage Leagues 64<sup>th</sup> Holiday of Trees. Decorations for the trees were variety of 521 different art supplies donated by our members. They were then given to the Lincoln Arts Council. They were later distributed to Elliott School.



(L to R) Billie Bussmann, Gretchen Terpsma, Jeanne Butzke, Pam Ford,  
Judy Zabel, and Jan Stamper.



A philanthropic gift was sent to Lakeview School which enabled them to take their fourth graders to the Durham Museum in Omaha to enrich their Nebraska studies.

Doris Wiens entertained at our December meeting. She shared many humorous stories and also, provided accordion accompaniment as we sang Christmas carols.

Our outreach group gathered sheets and towels to be distributed to the City Mission.

Don Hobbs was chosen to receive the Community Service award at our April meeting.

At our January meeting, Lora Curry, a former client at Fresh Start, spoke on her journey from being homeless to becoming a case manager at Fresh Start (a group home for homeless women struggling with drugs and/or alcohol addictions). She, also, explained "The Daisy Store" which is affiliated and provides low-cost clothing for the clients.

## ~ NORFOLK AREA ~

Norfolk Area Retired School Personnel met March 17, May 19, July 21, September 19, and November 17, 2018.

A foreign exchange student attending school in Battle Creek, NE gave the program at the March meeting.

At the September meeting members brought school supplies to be given to the Lincoln School in Norfolk, which houses the Montessori program, the pre-school and the special needs pre-school. Donuts were delivered to the staff, as well.

For the November meeting, members brought treats and small gifts to fill Christmas gift bags for 35 members of the Norfolk Veterans' Home – 24 men and 11 women chosen by the Veterans' Home staff as those who might not be receiving other Christmas gifts.

## ~ OMAHA AREA ~

The Omaha Area Retired School Employee Association's August meeting featured Darrel Draper from Humanities Nebraska doing his *Teddy Roosevelt, Rough Rider President* presentation. It was certainly realistic and riveting. Connie Hill was installed as president for the 2018 - 2020 term. Rose Sheehy and Linda Hammer consented to continue their treasurer and secretary duties.

The October 25 meeting presenter was Brandon Sak from the Bethlehem House, a 12-bed maternity home which



*Darrel Draper as Teddy Roosevelt*



*President Connie Hill with Brandon Sak, thankful for all the donations brought by OARSEA members for Bethlehem House.*

baby items to give to Bethlehem house.

The Northwest High Choral Choir, directed by George Getty, provided our entertainment for our December meeting.

Linda Hammer

## ~ SCOTTSBLUFF AREA ~

The Scottsbluff Area Retired School Personnel celebrated the beginning of a new year with a picnic in August. Nearly twenty members attended and enjoyed good food and a night of catching up with one another. Carole Knaub, winner of the 2018 Nebraska Andrus Award, was our speaker in September. Carole has worked as a volunteer to revitalize the Community Ever Green House in Gering. Her enthusiasm and Master Gardening skills have been instrumental in keeping this valuable asset for the community open.

In October our group had an on-site meeting at the Legacy of the Plains Museum. The weather did not cooperate as an early snow storm arrived; however, eight members enjoyed a guided tour of the museum with Director Amanda Gibbs.

State Senator John Stinner is always a welcome speaker/advocate of our group. We were given a sneak preview of the upcoming legislative session when he spoke at our November meeting. We are grateful for his representation in the state legislature and all the work he does for the people of Nebraska.

After our Christmas break we enjoyed a program by beekeeper Ernie Griffiths. Keeping these pollinators alive and well is important for all of us. Future programs include member Jim McDermott talking about Lobby Day and legislative issues. Scottsbluff City Manager Nathan Johnson will share with the group as will Noelle Thompson, Director of the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library. Then it will be time for election of officers and summer



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break. What a fun and exciting year!

Twila Griffiths, SARSP President

## ~ SOUTHEAST NE AREA ~

The Southeast Nebraska Area of Retired School Personnel (SNARSP) currently has 28 members that regularly attend our five annual meetings. Our group meets in September, October, March, April and May. We generally begin our meetings with a delicious lunch that allows members time to reconnect with former colleagues and friends. Following lunch, we begin all meetings with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

At our September meeting, our President shared that our group has logged over 3000 volunteer hours this past year. If members were paid for these hours, it would equal about \$76,000! Members actively serve in our community in a variety of ways which includes such activities as tutoring, delivering meals on wheels, and serving on many boards. During this fall meeting, members also read and reviewed our current bylaws. Key points of membership were discussed which include the opportunity to join fellow retirees in local activities, maintain

professional contacts, and keeping current on educational and social issues.

The program spotlight for fall involved asking members to share a history of their teaching careers and what kept them going. It provided some interesting insight into how members became teachers and how they have impacted their community, family and students.

Due to circumstances we were not able to meet in October this past fall. When we meet in March we will have a very interesting program that will include celebrating Nebraska's birthday. Members will also vote on donating to the local food bank as a part of our community service. We plan to discuss recruiting new members when teacher's in our area retire. Prospective members are contacted and given a brochure about the many benefits of joining SNARSP. Offering a scholarship to a new high school graduate will be a topic of discussion. We will also be seeking candidates to apply for the State NARSP Active Educator Scholarship, as these applications will be due soon.

Also in March a new slate of officers will be discussed so that they can be voted upon in April and be ready to take office at our May meeting.

Submitted by Debra Harris