



“To Serve — Not To Be Served”

Affiliated with NRTA and AARP

Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel



# NEWSLETTER



Spring 2020 [www.narsp.org](http://www.narsp.org)

Published Twice Yearly

## Cascade Fountain Awaits Restoration

*“Like the water of a fountain flowing endlessly on, the work of a teacher affects eternity.”*  
--commemorative plaque at Cascade Fountain, South 27th Street and Capitol Parkway

Nearly 42 years after it was built, Lincoln Parks Foundation and the Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department are leading a capital campaign to raise \$1.6 million to restore Cascade Fountain to its original iconic stature.

Affectionately known as “Teachers Fountain” and located at South 27th and Capitol Parkway in Lincoln, Cascade Fountain is the result of a five-year planning and fundraising effort initiated by the Lincoln Area Retired Teachers Association in 1973 to commemorate the nation’s Bicentennial and to honor Nebraska teachers.

Campaign leaders included retired teachers Hazel Smith, Helen Miller, Francis Beechner and Julius Humann of Lincoln and Mildred Moore of Grand Island. Multiple fundraising appeals and activities took place across the state, including the “Festival of Tables” which the Lincoln association sponsored at the Cornhusker Hotel to raise money by selling or showing off everything from peanut butter cookies to fine china. More than 1,000 people contributed to the original effort, with 60 giving \$1,000 or more.

Retired teachers celebrated when Cascade Fountain was finally built in 1978. Designed by park planner Larry Group in the style of well-known landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, it quickly became a popular Lincoln icon, attracting visitors of all ages.

But now, after 42 years, Cascade Fountain is showing its age and is in desperate need of repairs. Serious maintenance issues exist, and outdated electrical and mechanical systems need to be replaced. When the fountain was originally built, the idea of an endowment was not part of the strategy for the Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department.

The \$1.6 million campaign will provide for the rehabilitation and refurbishment of the fountain and for related site improvements,



as well as for an endowment for ongoing repair and replacement to sustain Cascade Fountain and surrounding grounds in the future.

Project components include:

- Update and repair fountain infrastructure
- New plaza with seating and picnic areas
- Respite area for quiet reflection
- Greater access to trails and area amenities
- Event space for parties, community gatherings, outdoor weddings
- Permanent donor recognition
- Educator recognition opportunities
- New fountain and site lighting
- Improved landscaping

The vision includes creating a beautiful destination in the popular Antelope Park Triangle, which also includes the nationally-acclaimed Sunken Gardens, Rotary Strolling Garden, Hamann Rose Garden, and Lincoln Children’s Zoo.

*(Continued on page 3)*



## ...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...

**de ci sion - n 1: the act or result of deciding esp. by giving judgment 2: promptness and firmness in deciding :DETERMINATION**

In the summer of 2017 a postcard survey was sent to NARSP members in local units to get their thoughts and opinion on future NARSP State Conventions. Attendance and convention costs were an overriding concern. There was a survey return percentage of 52.9% with the following results:

- Continue to hold a yearly NARSP Convention – 6%
- Hold the NARSP Convention every other year – 36%
- Discontinue holding a NARSP Convention – 31%
- No opinion – 25%
- No preference marked – less than 1%

Cards returned indicating member had passed – less than 1%

During the NARSP Board of Directors' Annual Meeting on October 10, 2017 the survey results were reviewed and the future of conventions was discussed. Each member of the board was asked to give their input into the issue. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to hold the NARSP State Convention every other year with next year (2018) having a Board of Directors' Meeting followed by a State Convention in the following year (2019).

For the purpose of comparisons of past conventions:

- 2016 – 41 attendees – net loss of \$5,014.64
- 2017 – 44 attendees – net loss of \$4,244.60
- 2018 – Board of Directors' meeting only
- 2019 – 35 attendees – net loss of \$2,469.85

On the feedback/survey from the NARSP Biennial Convention there was the following question – “What direction or consideration would you give the NARSP Board of Directors regarding future conventions? Many thoughtful comments were provided ranging from – “I enjoy the conventions, so personally, I would like to see them continue. However, I think the decision should be made based on financial records.” to “Just an annual meeting!”

This coming fall (2020) at the Board of Directors' Annual Meeting (date/location has yet to be determined) will have the convention issue on the agenda to **make a decision** for the future.

...a “little bit more” – The NARSP Executive Board has yet to meet since the fall due to schedules, weather, illness, the virus, and restrictions. Hopefully, sometime soon in the spring a meeting will happen.

Speaking of the virus lots of related decisions are impacting the “whole wide world” and lots of terminology has become a part of our vocabulary...COVID 19, coronavirus, pandemic, no dining in – it's carry-out, drive through or delivery, no larger group than 10 can meet, shelter-in-place, social distancing (that's 6 feet apart), 15 days to slow the spread...stay healthy, be safe, and wash your hands and wash your hands and wash your hands!

Remember to be **Counted – Census 2020**...you should have received information via mail to complete the process...every person counts in many ways. Make sure you're part of the count.

The NARSP Active Educator Scholarship Applications are due to the local units on Friday, April 10. Semi-finalist applications from the local units are due to be submitted to me by Friday, May 15.

Featured in this issue of the newsletter is information about the Cascade Fountain in Lincoln aka The Teachers Fountain and the campaign to raise funds to restore and revitalize this iconic structure dedicated to honor educators. I would encourage you to visit the website: [lincolnparks.org/cascade](http://lincolnparks.org/cascade). There is also a short video to view on the website. In the near future additional information will be sent to the unit presidents. When the Executive Board meets NARSP will consider making a donation to this project. I would urge each unit as well as individual members to consider making a donation. NRSTA, now known as NARSP, was involved in the early stages of the fountain project that included a donation, which is noted on the Commemorative Plaque at Cascade Fountain.

Information just received from AARP/NRTA that the Chapter and REA Community Service Awards distribution has been delayed due to challenges with the current work environment. The awards will be distributed in early May.

In conclusion...*“The human contribution is the essential ingredient. It is only in the giving of oneself to others that we truly live.”* –Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, Founder of NRTA, 1947

## Cascade Fountain Awaits Restoration

(Continued from page 1)

The campaign received a big boost when Lincoln Parks Foundation Board of Directors voted to distribute \$500,000 from the Community Challenge Grant Fund to Cascade Fountain. The Community Challenge Grant Fund, which was started at the Foundation by the City in October 2018, provides seed funding for major parks repair and replacement projects.

Lincoln Parks Foundation is collaborating with education organizations in Nebraska including Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel (NARSP), Lincoln Area Retired School Personnel (LARSP), Nebraska State Education Association-Retired, Lincoln Education Association, Lincoln Public Schools Foundation and Nebraska Council of School Administrators, which have provided input and will help get the word out to their constituencies.

"We want to restore Cascade Fountain and improve the surrounding plaza area for everyone and future generations to enjoy. We need private support to bring it back to its former glory and to add popular amenities to the area," said Maggie Stuckey, Executive Director of Lincoln Parks Foundation.

There are several ways to support the campaign including naming opportunities of the new amenities around the fountain. All donors contributing \$1,000 or more will be permanently recognized at the Cascade Fountain site. Lincoln Parks Foundation is also working on a donation program to "honor your favorite teacher" that will be announced this spring.

Checks can be made payable to Lincoln Parks Foundation with "Cascade" in the memo and sent to: Lincoln Parks Foundation, 3131 "O" Street, Suite 301, Lincoln, NE 68510. Two-year commitments are being accepted, with final payment due in late 2021.

Please check out all the details of the campaign and watch an inspiring video at: [LincolnParks.org/cascade](http://LincolnParks.org/cascade).

A private 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization, Lincoln Parks Foundation has a successful track record of private-public partnerships with the Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department. Since 2002, it has collaborated with volunteer leaders and private donors to provide more than \$22 million for parks and recreation projects which improve Lincoln's quality of life for residents and visitors.

--contributed by Susan Larson Rodenburg

## \*REMINDER\*

It would be appreciated if local Units and individuals would regularly notify Nancy Johnson, NARSP Treasurer, of the name(s) of NARSP members who have changed addresses or passed away. This will help with keeping an updated membership/ mailing list as well as a listing of the necrology for the 2019-20 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 Nancy by Monday, August 31 to be included in the memorial program.**

Nancy Johnson  
NARSP Treasurer  
12777 "A" Street  
Omaha, NE 68144  
or [Nancy.Johnson5@cox.net](mailto:Nancy.Johnson5@cox.net)

## NARSP Executive Board

Robert Bussmann,  
Executive Director

Wauneta Peterson,  
President

Ann Meinzer,  
Vice President

Billie Carole Bussmann,  
Secretary

Nancy Johnson,  
Treasurer

Additional officer information located on the NARSP Website:  
[www.narsp.org](http://www.narsp.org)

What's the difference between a teacher and a train?

The teacher says "spit your gum out" and the train says, "chew, chew!"

Why did the music teacher need a ladder?

To reach the high notes!

Why was the cross-eyed teacher fired?

Because he couldn't control their pupils.

# Kell's Kolumn

Information provided by:

**Kell Smalley**

**AMBA District Manager - KS & NE**



## Three Major Highlights of The SECURE Act

### 1.) Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) Will Start at Age 72, Not Age 70 ½

Starting January 1, 2020, you will need to start withdrawing money from your traditional IRAs and employer tax deferred accounts such as 401(k)s, 403(b)s, and 457s at age 72, a change from the current withdrawal requirement of age 70½. If you turned age 70½ in 2019 (born prior to July 1, 1949), you will still need to take your RMD for 2019 no later than April 1, 2020. If you are currently receiving RMDs (or should be) because you are over age 70½, you must continue taking these RMDs. Only those who will turn 70½ (born on or after July 1, 1949) in 2020 or later may wait until age 72 to begin taking required distributions.

### 2.) You Can Contribute to Your Traditional IRA After Age 70½

Beginning in the 2020 tax year, the new law will allow you to contribute to your traditional IRA in the year you turn 70½ and beyond, provided you have earned income. You still may not make 2019 (prior year) traditional IRA contributions if you are over 70½.

### 3.) Inherited Retirement Accounts

Upon death of the account owner, distributions to non-spouse individual beneficiaries must be made within 10 years. The current rules that allowed a non-spouse IRA beneficiary to "stretch" required minimum distributions (RMDs) from an inherited account over their own lifetime (and potentially allow the funds to grow tax-free for decades) has been eliminated. The rule applies to inherited funds in a 401(k) account or other defined contribution plan as well. There are exceptions for spouses, disabled individuals, and individuals not more than 10 years younger than the account owner. Minor children who are beneficiaries of IRA accounts also have a special exception to the 10-year rule, but only until they reach the age of majority. If you've already inherited a stretch IRA, rest easy. The changes from the bill that close loopholes that allowed stretch IRAs applies to beneficiaries of someone who dies after the end of 2019.

## AMBA is now offering the Ameritas FlexMark Select to NARSP Members

FlexMark Select is built on a foundation of choice and flexibility. You can choose your retirement path and switch



directions if needed. Choices include:

- Diverse interest crediting strategies, including fee options for greater earnings potential.
- Ability to choose which Guaranteed Lifetime Withdrawal Benefit meets your retirement objectives.
- Multiple ways to access your funds, including annual 10% penalty-free withdrawals; one-time emergency access to an extra 10%; and surrender charge waivers for confinement, home health care, and terminal illness.

Plan your future on your terms!

Basic GLWB Income Rider. Part of planning for the future is ensuring that you can experience the retirement of your choice without running out of money. The Basic Guaranteed Lifetime Withdrawal Benefit (GLWB) Rider, included with your FlexMark Select annuity at no additional cost, allows you to:

- Turn on a retirement income stream while your annuity continues to earn interest.
- Enjoy a steady income stream that you are guaranteed not to outlive, even if your accumulation value depletes to zero.
- Focus on enjoying retirement in the way you intended

## STANDARD & POOR'S

A+ (Strong)\* for insurer financial strength. This is the fifth highest of Standard & Poor's 21 ratings. Visit the ratings section of [www.ameritas.com](http://www.ameritas.com) for Standard & Poor's Full Analysis Report.

A.M. BEST A (Excellent)\* for insurer financial strength. This is the third highest of A.M. Best's 13 ratings. Visit the ratings section of [www.ameritas.com](http://www.ameritas.com) for Best's Rating Report.\* Ameritas Mutual Holding Company's rating by Standard & Poor's and A.M. Best includes Ameritas Life Insurance Corp. and Ameritas Life Insurance Corp. Of New York.

Since 2016 AMBA has enrolled active & potential members in to the NARSP endorsed Medicare Supplement plans, saving members collectively over \$200,000. There's no obligation, so why not see what benefits and discounts are available to you? To learn more, call AMBA at 1-866-684-5267 or visit [narsp.org](http://narsp.org) and click on benefits.



# Welcome Todd!

Connie Benjamin retired the end of November after 19 years as AARP Nebraska State Director.

Announced as the new Nebraska State Director is Todd Stubbendieck. His first day was December 2. Todd is a Nebraska native with more than twenty years of leadership and public policy experience. He began his career on Capitol Hill as a Legislative Assistant for U.S. Senator Bob Kerrey and then spent 13 years as U.S. Senator Tim Johnson's Legislative Director and Deputy Chief of Staff. Following Senator Johnson's retirement, Todd became the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Legislative Affairs at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). In 2017, Todd, his wife and their two boys moved back to Nebraska, and Todd became the Chief Operating Officer of a large long term care facility in Omaha.

Todd's impressive breadth of policy expertise and his successful efforts to build bipartisan coalitions and relationships to pass legislation on Capitol Hill will be a huge asset to our AARP advocacy work in Nebraska. Additionally, Todd's experience prioritizing issues and building integrated advocacy campaign plans will be extremely valuable as he and the AARP NE team make decisions about how to best focus their efforts. Finally, as someone who grew up in a small town in rural Nebraska, Todd is excited to work with AARP Nebraska staff and volunteers to enhance AARP's impact, visibility and engagement efforts across communities.

NARSP extends a Welcome to Todd!

## Job Opportunity for NAEP

Westat, one of the world's leading providers of educational research, is administering the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) study for the U.S. Department of Education. We are working to hire temporary field staff nationwide to administer the study to fourth- and eighth-graders in sampled schools.

NAEP has often been called the gold standard of assessments because it is developed by a renowned group of assessment and content specialists, education experts, and teachers from around the nation. We at Westat believe some of the best people to administer these assessments are retired educators, given their years of valuable experience working in schools.

I am available to answer any questions you may have about the process. I am sure your members will welcome this paid opportunity to contribute their knowledge and skills to this most valuable study of American education!

For more information about NAEP, visit: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>

To learn more about Westat, Inc., visit: [www.westat.com](http://www.westat.com)

Nisha Patel, NAEP Outreach Coordinator

[NAEPOpportunities@westat.com](mailto:NAEPOpportunities@westat.com)

## NRTA Staff Update

Jasmine Vasquez has joined the NRTA as a Senior Legislative Representative. Previously Jasmine was on the AARP Government Affairs team where she oversaw advocacy for federal tax and financial consumer protection issues. There, she led advocacy on the fiduciary rules and medical expense deduction.

"Retired educators provide an important voice to financial security issues at both the local and federal levels," Jasmine said. "I'm excited to leverage my policy experience to help Retired Educators Associations (REAs) across the country advance their legislative priorities in state capitols and in Washington, D.C."

Jasmine came to AARP with a legislative and regulatory background.

Jasmine follows Tom Nicholls, who has served as NRTA's primary legislative contact for retired educators for the past six years. Tom is moving to the AARP Government Affairs team where he will work on Social Security issues.

"We're appreciative of Tom's commitment to helping retired teachers across the country advocate for financial security and other key issues," said Al Campos, NRTA director. "REAs know they can count on our NRTA team to help navigate the legislative process, including threats to their pension and healthcare benefits. Tom has been a champion for retired teachers, and Jasmine is poised to further strengthen NRTA's advocacy collaboration with REAs," Al explained.

# NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL

## Annual Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes, October 1, 2019

### Ramada Midtown Conference Center, Grand Island, NE

### Ambassador Meeting Room

The Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel Board of Directors meeting was held in Grand Island, NE on October 1, 2019. Members present were Bob Bussmann-Lincoln Unit, Executive Director; Billie Bussmann-Lincoln Unit, NARSP Secretary; Wauneta Peterson-Lincoln Unit, State President; Sally Ganem-Fremont Unit, Representative; Wanda Samson-Fremont Unit, treasurer and State Treasurer; Eldon Ervin-Grand Island Unit, President; Jean McMIndes-Grand Island Unit, Co-President; Connie Hill-Omaha Unit, President; Vira Brooks-Omaha Unit, Vice-President; Ann Meinzer-Southeast Nebraska Unit, President and State Vice-President; Richard Meinzer-Southeast Nebraska Unit, Representative; June Bowers-Southeast Nebraska Unit, treasurer; Jan Stamper, Lincoln Unit, Co-President; Pam Ford-Lincoln Unit, Co-President; Jenny Gubbels-Wayne Unit, Secretary/Treasurer; David Scribner-Hastings Unit, President; LaVila VanBoening-Hastings Unit, Vice-President; Nancy Johnson-Omaha Unit, guest; Robert Lee-AMBA AVP, Western Division, guest; and Kevin Williamson AMBA Benefits Representative for Nebraska, guest. Units not represented include: Beatrice, Columbus, McCook, Mullen, Norfolk, and Scottsbluff.

Wauneta Peterson, President, called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m. All people present were introduced. Ann Meinzer served as parliamentarian.

The September 25, 2018 minutes were approved as printed.

Wanda Samson indicated the state dues forms are due October 15. The 2019-2020 membership cards were sent to each unit. If you need additional membership cards, do let Wanda know. Do indicate those members who are 85+. The red font is notice of changes. Send via email as this helps in sending back information. Please give mileage and lodging forms to her before you leave the convention and checks will be mailed to you. Mileage will be based on the IRS volunteer per mile allotment and one-half of the room will be reimbursed. The 2018-2019 yearly financial report was distributed. The treasurer's report indicated a September checkbook balance of \$8,568.75. The checkbook balance and other monies as of August 31, 2019 is \$57,539.68. The report will be filed for financial review.

Wanda reported the NARSP Membership totals 945. Unit membership includes 416 paid members and 146 (85 plus) honorary lifetime members for a total of 562. NARSP State membership includes 337 paid members and 46 (85 plus) honorary lifetime members for a total of 383. AMBA membership has increased by 70 since January. No dues were received from Mullen, as they requested to be placed on inactive status, and the Cass County Unit has disbanded. Last year the unit membership was 567 and the NARSP State membership was 419 for a total of 986. NARSP State

membership has decreased by 41. The unit that increased most in numbers and the unit with the highest percentage of increased will be announced at tomorrow's convention and presented with the traveling plaques.

Wanda reminded individuals to check NARSP Facebook where you login facebook.com/NRTA.NE and to let Janet Kletke jkletka@q.com know any information for posting to share with others. Do check Facebook for ideas and to stay connected.

Bob indicated that Leona Anderson was recovering and Cathy Morgan has collected all the volunteer hours from 10 units for this year. Units will be presented with certificates for volunteer hours and recognition of their Day of Service activities on during the convention. The hours are 45,308 for Community and 8,417 for With Our Youth for a total monetary value of \$1,152,182.40.

Ann Meinzer, Nominating Committee Chair presented Billie Bussmann for secretary and Nancy Johnson for treasurer for a two-year term. Wauneta asked for nominations from the floor for these two offices. There were none.

Kevin Williamson of Grand Island is the AMBA Benefits Representative for Nebraska was introduced along with Robert Lee, AMBA AVP for the Western Division. Robert shared how AMBA benefits expand every year. The NARSP website is being designed so that there can be on line membership application and payment. Contacts can also be made on Facebook to AMBA, as retirees are a growing market. Members need to be made aware of all the AMBA discounts.

Bob presented the Executive Director report which included giving a new copy of the Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules, a Local Unit President Checklist, asked for any changes to the President List and to send unit directories to Bob as Executive Director and Wauneta as President.

Because no one wanted to be an officer, many members were older and illness the Cass County Unit has disbanded. Marge Pearson of the Mullen Unit is in a care facility. They do not want to disband at this time so the unit is classified as inactive.

Bob Bussmann and Jan Barnason will be attending the NRTA Advocacy Conference the end of the month. The Nebraska Breakfast is not available this year so they plan to visit the hill in D.C. and deliver information to our Representatives and Senators.

Bob and Billie Bussmann will attend the AMBA Roundup in November in San Antonio.

The Executive Director's report included convention attendance, Board of Directors' Dinner/Meeting is 20 and Convention/Luncheon is 35; and no scholarship recipients will be attending the State Convention Luncheon tomorrow. Each has written a thank you letter that will be shared.

The annual memorial service will take place during the convention. The unit presidents or a unit representative will place the rose in the vase for each of their deceased members.

The State Convention will be biennial with the Board of Directors meeting every other year.

Unfinished business included the discussion of extending NARSP Associate Membership to Nebraska's Superintendents of Schools where they could take advantage of AMBA benefits. Perhaps this would be a way to bring more members into our state membership. Eldon moved and Dave seconded we leave it up to the units to check with superintendents in their areas to see if they wished to become an associate member. There would be no dues for the superintendents.

The Annual Meeting recessed for dinner.

The meeting reconvened at 6:56 p.m. with a follow-up discussion concerning the 2020 Board of Directors' Meeting in Lincoln and future meetings. Should this be a drive in and leave with a one-day event? Where would the meeting take place? Perhaps the Governor's Mansion or a church would be a location. There was concern about metered lots with various locations. Some garages had reached capacity and were not available,

New business included selecting the nominating committee for 2020. The committee members are Ann Meinzer, Pat Jenkins-Rhode, and June Bowers.

The election of the NARSP Secretary and Treasurer for the two-year term, 2019-2021 with installation tomorrow at the convention took place. Both were elected unanimously.

Bob shared the 2019 Convention with a brief overview. This was followed with a discussion of the 2021 Convention with the consideration of can we have the convention in a day.

Bob updated everyone on the status of the Bicentennial Cascading Fountain in Lincoln indicating this was initially a project of LARTA and NSRTA. He shared the history as well as fundraising. It will be important for NARSP to give a donation to this project.

Bob presented the 2019-2020 Budget. Bob moved on behalf of the Executive Board approval of the budget. The budget passed.

Announcements included we will meet in the Grand Room for the morning meeting with lunch in the Royal Room. Pam Ford of the Lincoln Unit would appreciate receiving any personal items you do not use in your room for the Personal Product Care Project the Lincoln Unit is doing for baskets to those in need in Lincoln. There will be a basket for these in the meeting room.

There is a complimentary breakfast for hotel guests. Checkout is at 12 noon. Theme baskets/Packages need to be brought to the Meeting Room tomorrow morning by 8:30 a.m. Raffle tickets will be on sale at the registration table and from Billie or Wauneta during breaks.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully 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 2019-2020 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: Nancy Johnson, 12777 "A" Street, Omaha, NE 68144.

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), State Senator Brett Lindstrom (2018), and Connie Benjamin (2019).

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.

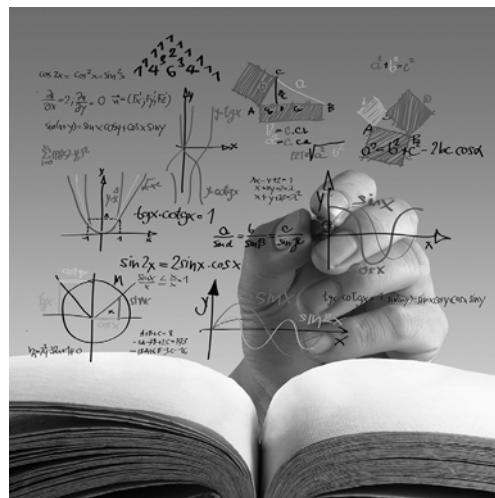
The “Educational Service” Award is given to a NARSP member that in retirement keeps education alive, embodies the mission of NARSP, and continues to serve the Association and/or their local Unit in an unassuming way.

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 Friday, May 1, 2020. 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).

What do you say to comfort a grammar teacher?  
They're, there, their.

Why did the teacher write on the window?  
Because the lesson needed to be clear.

What is a math teacher's favorite sum?  
Summer!



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)



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



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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

**Nominee’s Name** \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ **“Big Apple” Award**

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

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

Nomination forms need to be mailed to: Robert L. Bussmann, NARSP Executive Director, 3750 Normal Boulevard, Lincoln, NE 68506 by Friday, May 1, 2020. (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"...

## "Changes"

Elva Mumma, Superior

There have been many changes in the teaching profession from the time I began teaching in a rural school in 1920 to the time I retired from teaching in 1964.

In 1920 I taught in a one-room building with a large hall for wraps and storage. We had a floor furnace, telephone, organ, and cave.

In 1964 we had a lovely stage in a new grade school building, with beautiful curtains and backgrounds.

My first year I had 30 pupils in nine grades; my last year I taught only music, in kindergarten through the twelfth grade, having vocal classes every day in the grades. We had a kindergarten

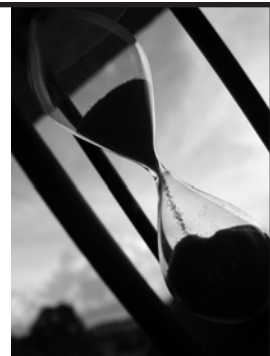
rhythm band and a junior band. In vocal music we had an operetta of 250 voices every year, girls' and boys' glee clubs, mixed choruses, triple trios, and quartets. Bands included a marching band and a concert band.

I progressed from a salary of \$900 a year to \$4500, from carrying a sack lunch to having lunches in as pleasant dining room, from doing my own janitor work to having the services of a paid custodian.

Progress in transportation is evident too. In 1920 the main means of transportation was by horse and buggy over plain dirt roads. I even was taken to school in a lumber wagon when it was bitter cold or stormy. In 1964, cars were common, and many children were brought to school by busses.

Through all these changes I have loved teaching because I like to feel needed, and teaching has helped me to keep up with changes taking place in the world. It is a special thrill to see some of my pupils taking responsible positions in the word and to know that I play a small part in their successes.

[Editorial Note – Move ahead a little over five plus decades and a few changes are presently upon us...universities and colleges closed for the remainder of the semester...K-12 classes cancelled or closed until further notice...on-line classes and instruction...chrome books...Zoom...home schooling is the new schoolhouse...parents faced with becoming their children's teacher...no operetta or other concerts this year...and the list could go on and on. One wonders what thoughts Elva Mumma would have today?]



## NRTA Staff

Al Campos, Director NRTA

Shelisa Ashford, DC Office

Mary Beth Dixon, Advisor

Jasmine Vasques, Senior Legislative Representative



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kell.smalley@amba.info



**Kevin Williamson**  
AMBA Benefits Representative  
308.383.3687  
kevin.williamson@amba.info

**The news articles for the Summer Issue of the NARSP Newsletter are due by Friday, July 10, 2020.**

# YOUR MEMBER GUIDE TO ASSOCIATION BENEFITS



## Long Term Care Insurance

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

## Dental & Vision Plans

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

## Medicare Supplement Plans

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

## Cancer, Heart, Stroke, Accident Insurance

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

## Annuity

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

## Final Expense Whole Life & Guaranteed Acceptance Life Insurance

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

## Medical Air Services Association (MASA)

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

## American Hearing Benefits (AHB)

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

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

## DID YOU KNOW?

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800.258.7041

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



Benefits made available through



# THANKS, THANKS, and More THANKS!

Dear Fellow Educators and members of NARSP,

I regret so much not being able to attend the luncheon to accept the NARSP scholarship and hope that you don't take my absence as a lack of gratitude. On the contrary, I am so very grateful for this award and extremely surprised and humbled to have even been named a finalist!

As I stated in my application, I am pursuing a master's degree in Curriculum and instruction from Doane University, and am currently half way there! This scholarship not only blesses me as it eases the financial burden a little, but it also gave me great encouragement and affirmation as I work to complete my degree. I thanks you so much for awarding this annual scholarship to help so many educators reach this goal, and I thank you so much for choosing me this year! I want the committee to know that I take the coursework seriously and am truly striving to become a better teacher every year! I will be applying the scholarship towards my tuition costs this spring.

With warmest regards,

Penny Birky, Adams Central Public Schools Spanish Teacher



*Penny Birky receives her NARSP Scholarship certificate in her classroom at Adam Central.*

Good afternoon,

I would like to send my sincere appreciation to the NARSP and everyone who made this scholarship possible! As I pursue my graduate degree in School Counseling and Preventive Mental Health through Creighton University, I am enlightened to know there are individuals who believe in my potential to make a difference in the lives of today's youth. Your investment in my career allows me to make a greater impact on education.

I send my heartfelt gratitude, and thank you,

Andrea Hinrichs, Winside Public Schools Counselor

NARSP attendees,

I would like to graciously extend my sincere appreciation for receiving the NARSP scholarship. I apologize for not being with you all today, but I hope this letter will explain a little of my personal goals and gratitude in my absence.

It is truly an honor to be one of the recipients chosen. I have been an educator for 17 years in various roles, and last year I made the decision to extend my love of literacy and accept the position of media specialist within our district. It is rewarding to see all the students K-5th grade and spark the love of literacy within them. It is my goal to empower students and educators to view the library as an indispensable resource and to challenge all to be curious, critical, and creative thinkers. I want to encourage and prepare students to be life-long learners. Furthermore, I want to develop partnerships within our community to foster a community of learners in this information-driven world.

With this position, I am working towards my library endorsement through the University of Omaha and will graduate Fall of 2020. These classes are further preparing me in this new role. As a single parent of 3, this scholarship allows me some financial assistance. It is greatly appreciated and an honor to be a recipient and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Respectfully yours,

Jessica Howard, Falls City Elementary Media Specialist

A very "Special Thanks" to the Southeast Nebraska Unit for providing the individual table favors at the Convention Luncheon. The red apples filled with a variety of chocolates were definitely a "sweet hit".

Convention Attendees

Thank You for the marble apple. It will serve as a lasting reminder of my seven years on the NARSP Board.

Wanda Samson, Outgoing NARSP Treasurer

I recently attended the NARSP Convention in Grand Island. I enjoyed all the activities on Wednesday. The salad luncheon was great. What a surprise, my name was drawn as a recipient of a door prize. Thank you very much for the check for \$100.00.

I appreciate the opportunity to be a member of GIARSP and NARSP. Thank you!!

Velma Fehr, Grand Island Unit member





## Arlene Heimer

Arlene Heimer was born October 2, 1919 near Hebron, Nebraska. She was the oldest of six children. She attended a one-room country school and then went to Hebron High School graduating in 1936. She attended college at Peru State for 2 years and two summers. She began teaching in a rural school between Hebron and Humboldt in 1938.

She taught there 2 years. She then obtained both her bachelor's and master's degree at UNL.

Arlene taught a total of 43 years. She taught in Chester, Potter, Beatrice, and Aberdeen, South Dakota before moving to Lincoln. She began her teaching career in Lincoln teaching at Sheridan elementary in 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. She concluded her teaching years at Prescott where she mainly taught 4th grade.

Arlene has enjoyed traveling to Europe and England. She also enjoyed reading until her eyesight began to fail.

Arlene never married, but has 13 nieces and nephew who take good care of her. She has outlived all of her younger siblings. She lives at Eastmont Towers, 6305 "O" Street, #506 in Lincoln. She enjoys company and visiting.

## Spotlight on a 100-Year-Old Member



## Rachel (Sass) Lay

Rachel (Sass) Lay was born August 30, 1919, in Scribner, Nebraska. She graduated from Scribner High School in 1936 and attended Wayne State Teachers College for two years where she studied elementary education. While teaching third grade in Ogallala, she met her husband Albertus who was a math and science teacher and a coach. They were married in 1942. Rachel's other teaching jobs included teaching for three years in a rural Cumings County school, serving as a substitute teacher for ten years in the Fremont Public Schools, and finally as a substitute teacher in the Hastings Public Schools from 1980 to 1988. Until recently she did volunteer work at the Mary Lanning Hospital in Hastings. In addition to being a member of the Hastings Area Retired School Personnel, she is a member of an extension club, the Presbyterian Women, and the YMCA.



## Georgia (Wilkenson) Bishel

Georgia (Wilkenson) Bishel was born in Grand Island, Nebraska, on October 10, 1915. She attended elementary school and junior high in Grand Island; her family moved to Brewster, Nebraska in 1932. She graduated from high school there in 1936, just one of five in her class. After hearing about scholarships offered by the Montgomery Ward Company, she applied for and was awarded two scholarships to Wayne State College. As a freshman, she worked in the cafeteria, but she had to drop out her sophomore year due to illness. However, she returned and graduated in 1941 with a B.A. in Education. Following graduation, she taught all eight grades in a rural school in Burt County, then fourth grade in Ogden, Iowa, for a year and a half. After visiting her sister in Washington, D.C., she

decided to move there and worked for the FBI. She married her husband John in 1945, and they moved to Hastings in 1963. Since there were no teaching jobs available, she substituted for one year, after which she was hired full time and taught at Longfellow Elementary until 1984. She is a 50-year member of Delta Kappa Gamma in addition to being a longtime member of the Hastings Area Retired School Personnel. She enjoys reading, working on her computer, and volunteering.

What do you get when you cross a teacher and a vampire?  
Lots of blood tests.

Why wasn't the geometry teacher at school?  
Because they sprained their angle!

# YOUR

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## ADDITIONAL MEMBER DISCOUNTS

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

### **Rental Car Discounts**

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

### **Road Scholar**

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

### **Cruise & Vacation Benefits**

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*Not all products are eligible.*

### **Dell Computer Discounts**

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### **Nationwide Pet Insurance**

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

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

7.18

# NARSP DECEASED MEMBERS 2018-2019

## BEATRICE

Audrey Faxon  
Louise Frederick  
Evelyn Fossenberger  
John Korsland  
Zoe Louton  
Jo Ramsey  
Delores Vogt

## CASS COUNTY

Alyce Green

## FREMONT

Deanna Freitag  
Bonnie Havekost  
Lillian Schultz  
Norma Jean Thompson

## GRAND ISLAND

Judy Briggs  
Jon Heinrich

## HASTINGS

Berniece Loskill

## LINCOLN

Carol Clark  
Florence Dalby  
Violet "Vi" Douglass  
Alice Hickey  
Dorothy Holdren  
Dolores Mather  
Loretta Sterns  
Gail Wishnow

## OMAHA

Alice Erftmier  
Eileen Harrell  
Evelyn Holtz  
John Jensen  
Owen Knutzen  
Diane Lux  
Nancy Matsukiis

Nancy McCormick

Joan Reynolds  
Judith Swamper  
Josephine Valazek

## SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA

Lillian Keyes  
Karen Radatz

## WAYNE

Irene Burbach  
Caroline Peterson

## NARSP STATE

Bonnie Goodman,  
Nebraska City  
John Parrish, Falls City  
Sylvia Yoder, Lincoln



*NARSP Board of Directors' Meeting, Wauneta Peterson (far right) presiding.*



**E-BOOKS**



**AWARD**

*NARSP Board of Directors' Meeting*



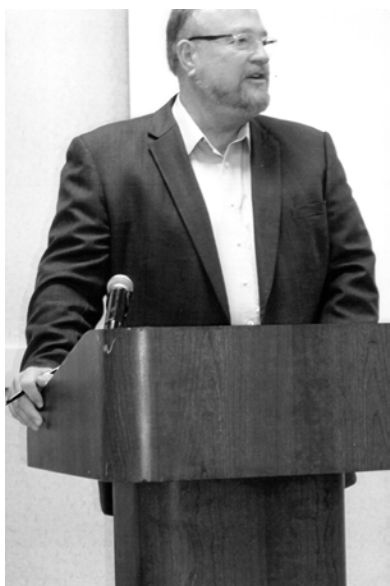




*NARSP Board of Directors' Meeting*



*Board of Directors' Dinner*



*Welcome from Brad Mellema  
representing the Grand  
Island Tourism and Visitor's  
Bureau.*



*General Session of the 58th Biennial State Convention.*



*"AMBA Membership Benefits" presenta-  
tion by Robert Lee, AMBA Regional Vice  
President.*

*"Update from AARP Nebraska" presentation by  
Connie Benjamin, NE State Director.*



*"AARP Update" continued by Dave Hol-  
mquist, NE State President.*





Keynote presentation "There Is No Traffic Jam on the Extra Mile" by Tom Johnson.



Luncheon - "Special THanks to the Southeast Nebraska Area Unit for providing the luncheon favors of red apples filled with chocolates!"



KNOWLEDGE



The "chef salad and muffin" were a huge hit!



"NARSP Big Apple Award" presented by Bob Bussmann, Executive Director, to Connie Benjamin for her advocacy on behalf of seniors for the past nineteen years.

## Have you joined us on Facebook yet?

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

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

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

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





*Wauneta Peterson presents NARSP Scholarship Certificate for Penny Birky to David Scribner, Hastings Area Unit.*



*Wauneta Peterson presents NARSP Scholarship Certificate for Andrea Hinrichs to Jenny Gubbels, Wayne Area Unit.*



*Bob Bussmann, Executive Director, presents NARSP Educational Service Award to June Bowers, Southeast Nebraska Area Unit, for her many contributions to her unit as well as the Falls City community.*



*Wauneta Peterson presents NARSP Scholarship Certificate for Jessica Howard to June Bowers, Southeast Nebraska Area Unit.*



*Bob Bussmann, Executive Director, presents NARSP Educational Service Award to Wanda Samson, Fremont Area units, for her many contributions to her unit, service as NARSP Treasurer, and the Fremont community.*

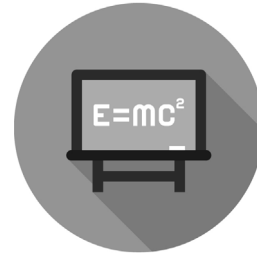


*Cathy Morgan, Hastings Area Unit, coordinated the Community Service volunteer hours and Day of Service activities and announced the NARSP totals for 2018-2019.*





*Betty Aadland, Hastings Area Unit, displays the number of volunteer hours and the dollar amount of service.*



#### STUDY



#### DISTANCE EDUCATION



*Units received certificates for their community service volunteer hours, "With Our Youth" hours, and Day of Service projects.*



#### HISTORY

*Wanda Samson, NARSP Treasurer and Membership Chair, presents the Membership Traveling Awards for the greatest increase in the number of state members as well as the greatest percentage increase in state membership to Sally Ganem, Fremont Area Unit.*



*Ann Meinzer, NARSP Vice President, installed Billie Bussmann, Lincoln, as NARSP Secretary and Nancy Johnson, Omaha, as NARSP Treasurer.*



*Monetary Door Prizes winners included, Vira Brooks, Omaha Area Unit, \$75.00; Velma Fehr, Grand Island Area Unit, \$100.00; and Paul Weinert, SE NE Unit (Falls City), \$50.00.*

## NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL Executive Board Meeting Minutes, September 30, 2019 Ramada Midtown Conference Center, Suite 142, Grand Island, NE

The Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel Executive Board meeting was held at the Ramada Midtown Conference Center in Grand Island on September 2019. Members present were Bob Bussmann, Executive Director; Wauneta Peterson, President; Ann Meinzer, Vice President; Billie Bussmann, Secretary; and Wanda Samson, Treasurer.

Wauneta Peterson called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

The minutes of the July 2, 2019 Executive Board Meeting were approved as printed.

The treasurer's report indicated a September checkbook balance of \$8,568.75. The checkbook balance and other monies as of August 31, 2019 is \$57,539.68.

NARSP Membership totals 945. Unit membership includes 416 paid members and 146 (85 plus) honorary lifetime members for a total of 562. NARSP State membership includes 337 paid members and 46 (85 plus) honorary lifetime members for a total of 383. No dues were received from Mullen, as they requested to be on inactive status. Last year the unit membership was 567 and the NARSP State membership was 419 for a total of 986. NARSP State membership has decreased by 41.

With a pending change in treasurer, the credit card needs to change over to Nancy Johnson. Bonding will also need to be in Nancy's name. A letter will need to be written to the bank for Nancy. Bob will need the date for the transition letter.

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 added.

In the Executive Director's report Bob indicated he had contacted Kyle Hoyt, a former scholarship winner, to see if he knew how to contact Margery Pearson. Kyle returned Bob's call. She is in a care facility where Bob was able to talk to Marge. The Mullen Unit does not want to quit and when Marge is able she will contact the members that are 85+. Marge wants all communication sent to her.

We had an AMBA Lunch and Learn Presentation in Lincoln with an overview and focus on MASA. The first meeting was cancelled due to a funeral. There were four in attendance at the meeting where Kevin Williamson presented the information.

The NARSP website is being updated with the help of Robert Lee. There are many nice features being added to the website. Robert and Kevin will be coming to the NARSP State Convention.

Both McCook and Norfolk have new presidents.

The NRTA Advocacy Conference will be held in Washington, DC October 21 – 24. Bob Bussmann and Jan Barnason, Hastings will be attending. The AMBA Round Up will be in San Antonio in November and Bob and Billie Bussmann will attend.

In unfinished business Bob discussed NARSP Newsletter Guidelines. The board discussed the length of the newsletter and the number of pictures each unit submitted. It was noted that descriptions below pictures are repeated within the article. It was also noted some units submit numerous pictures as well as obituaries. These individuals are recognized at our NARSP State Convention. Bob will send out a memo to indicate the reduction of repeated information and limiting the number of pictures each



unit submits.

It is encouraged that units submit an AARP/NRTA/Local Community Service Award individual or couple.

The NARSP Scholarship recipients will not be attending the Convention Luncheon. They have written thank you letters that will be read at the luncheon.

Bob gave a convention update that included registration, the order of events and presentations, and a copy of the program. There will be 20 at the Board of Directors' Meeting and 33 at the convention.

Bob and Billie shared an update on the status of the Bicentennial Cascading Fountain. The fountain update will be discussed tomorrow at the convention for funds that could be contributed for its renovation.

Under new business Bob discussed the unit officer information Forms for 2019-2020. Wanda shared the membership figures for each unit. The awards will be presented tomorrow at the convention.

The agenda for the Board of Director's Annual Meeting was reviewed. Thoughts on the

State Community Service Chair/Committee were discussed.

The next Executive Board Meeting will be sometime in January or February.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Billie Carole Bussmann, NARSP Secretary

## **NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL 58th State Convention**

**Ramada Midtown Conference Center, Grand Island, NE**

**Wednesday, October 2, 2019**

The 58th biennial NARSP State Convention convened at 9:00 a.m. on October 2nd, with Wauneta Peterson, NARSP State President, presiding. The Grand Island Unit hosted the event. The theme of the convention "There is Something for YOU!"

Bob Bussmann began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Brad Mellema representing the Grand Island Tourism and Visitor's Bureau welcomed us to the city and thanked us for holding our meeting in Grand Island. He shared Fonner Park, the Nebraska State Fair, Harvest Days, Heartland Shooting Park, the 4-H Shooting Center and Harvest of Harmony are the many events hosted in Grand Island. He presented their marketing of Grand Island with postcards ready to mail to any one from our convention and gave each of us some post cards to send to our family and friends.

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

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

Bob Bussmann, Executive Director, served as leader for the memorial service. Each unit president or representative placed the roses in the vase as each of their members who had passed away was recognized. The Memorial Service honored 39 members.

The convention attendees welcomed Robert Lee and Kevin Williamson from AMBA. They presented information on a new Home Health Care Insurance as well as MASA. We can find out more information about benefits on the website NARSP.org as well

as Facebook. Robert and Kevin were thanked along with AMBA for providing our NARSP Website. Both Robert and Kevin will be available at the AMBA table to answer questions and provide additional information.

Connie Benjamin, State AARP Director and Dave Holmquist, State AARP President presented a recap of all the events and information concerning AARP. Working with the Nebraska Legislature Telehealth, the Pharmacy Benefit and Fairness Act, Access to Long Term Care, Medicaid improvements, Manage Care, Caller ID Spoofing all received attention and winning legislation. Other priorities AARP is working on includes creation of an annual tax credit for Nebraskans providing care in their on home for loved ones, paid sick and safe leave unemployment benefits for care givers, high speed internet and surprise billings of health care. Connie and Dave were thanked for their presentation as well as for providing the information and handout materials.

Wauneta announced the location of the restrooms in the Atrium area and that during the 20 minute break Individuals would be able to purchase raffle tickets.

Bob introduced the keynote speaker, Tom Johnson. Are you a driver or a passenger? Do you lead your life or are you a follower? Only you can stop yourself. Through humor and information; attendees learned that through goals of determination; a good attitude; a sense of humor; and not taking things too seriously, an individual can enjoy a positive life. Life is filled with wit, wisdom and motivation. Tom was thanked for sharing his motivational and entertaining presentation of "There is No Traffic Jam on the Extra Mile."

As lunchtime approached, the Southeast Nebraska Unit was thanked for providing the luncheon favors of apples filled with treats. Before the attendees moved to the Royal Room for the

Plated Luncheon, Bob Bussmann provided the invocation.

Bob Bussmann presented the NARSP “Big Apple” Award to Connie Benjamin State AARP Director. Connie has been center of AARP activities for 19 years. Her knowledge and wisdom she has shared with us during our conventions has been invaluable. She is a definite advocate for retired teachers and retirees all over the state of Nebraska. When making the decision to recognize Connie with the “Big Apple” Award we had no idea she would be retiring. We wish her the very best in her retirement.

At the luncheon Wauneta presented information about the “Big Apple” Award and NARSP Scholarships. This is the tenth year that NARSP has awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 to an active educator pursuing studies for an advanced degree or endorsement. This year three scholarships were awarded.

There were nine semi-finalists from six local units that were reviewed by the NARSP Executive Board. The first recipient this year was Penny Birky, a Spanish teacher of 22 years with the Adams Central Public Schools. She is pursuing a Master of Arts Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Doane University. The Hastings Area Unit submitted her application. Penny’s thank you letter was read. Wauneta read and presented the certificate to David Scribner, Hastings Unit.

The second recipient was Andrea Hinrichs, who has been an educator for 14 years, is presently a PK-12 school counselor with the Winside Public Schools. She is pursuing a Master of Science Degree in PK-12 School Counseling and Preventive Mental Health from Creighton University. The Wayne Area Unit submitted her application. Following the reading of her thank you letter, Andrea’s certificate was presented to Jenny Gubbels, Wayne Unit.

The third recipient was Jessica Howard, a media specialist at the North and South Elementary Schools with the Falls City Public Schools. She is pursuing a library endorsement from the University of Nebraska in Omaha and has been an educator for 17 years. Following the reading of her thank you letter, June Bowers, Southeast Nebraska Unit was presented her certificate.

Concluding the scholarship recognition for 2019-2020, Penny, Andrea, and Jessica were sent well wishes with their continuing graduate studies. Information packets and applications for the 2020-2021 NARSP Active Educator Scholarships will be sent to the Unit Presidents in January 2020.

This concluded our luncheon and presentations.

Remember to purchase your raffle tickets for the theme baskets now, which will be your last chance to put your name in for one of the baskets you would like to win. We will meet shortly in the Grand Meeting Room.

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

Ann Meinzer, NARSP Vice-President installed the Secretary Billie Bussmann, Lincoln Unit and Nancy Johnson, Treasurer, Omaha Unit. Each will be serving a two-year term.

Bob presented the NARSP “Educational Service Award to June Bowers, Southeast Nebraska Unit for her continued dedicated service to her unit including the offices she has held, as well as the

community of Falls City.

A second “Educational Service Award” was presented to Wanda Samson for her contribution to the Fremont Unit, serving as NARSP Treasurer, and involvement in the Fremont Community. Wanda also received an onyx apple in appreciation for her seven years of service as treasurer,

The Community Service and Day of Service Awards were presented to the units. The members from the Hastings Area Unit facilitated these awards. The units contributed 45,308 hours for a monetary value of \$1,152,182.40.

Units receiving “Day of Service” Recognition and/or Community Service or “With Our Youth” awards included Beatrice, Cass County, Fremont, Grand Island, Hastings, Lincoln, Norfolk, Omaha, Scottsbluff, Southeast Nebraska, and Wayne.

Wanda Samson presented the NARSP membership awards. Fremont received the plaque for greatest increase in members and Fremont received the plaque for the greatest percentage of increase. Sally Ganem accepted the awards.

Before all of the drawings the announcement included reminding people to complete their convention feedback survey and leave it on the bank registration table.

The raffle of theme baskets raised \$336 for scholarships. They were won by: Betty Aadland-Hastings Unit, “The Lantern Leads the Way into Fall”-Hastings Unit; Wauneta Peterson-Lincoln Unit, Pam Ford-Lincoln Unit, Nancy Johnson-Omaha Unit “Gently Read Books!”-Grand Island Unit; Dave Scribner-Hastings Unit “Go Big Red Huskers/Nebraska”-Lincoln Unit; Billie Bussmann-Lincoln Unit “Husker’s Yard Sign”-Lincoln Unit; Jenny Gubbels-Wayne Unit, “Waay Off Your Diet”-Omaha Unit; Jean McMindes-Grand Island Unit, “SE Nebraska Homemade”- Southeast Nebraska Area Unit; Cathy Morgan-Hastings Unit, “Entertainment for YOU”-Lincoln Unit; and the Fremont Area Unit donated \$25 to the scholarship fund. Billie, Wauneta, and Bob facilitated the drawings. Thanks to all the units that donated baskets.

This year for the drawing the monetary door prizes each person whose name is drawn will pick an envelope. Inside that envelope will be the monetary amount of their prize. The winners were as follows: Paul Weinert-Southeast Nebraska Unit, \$50; Vira Brooks Omaha Unit, \$75; Velma Fehr-Grand Island Unit, \$100.

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

Convention feedback surveys were completed.

Convention was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

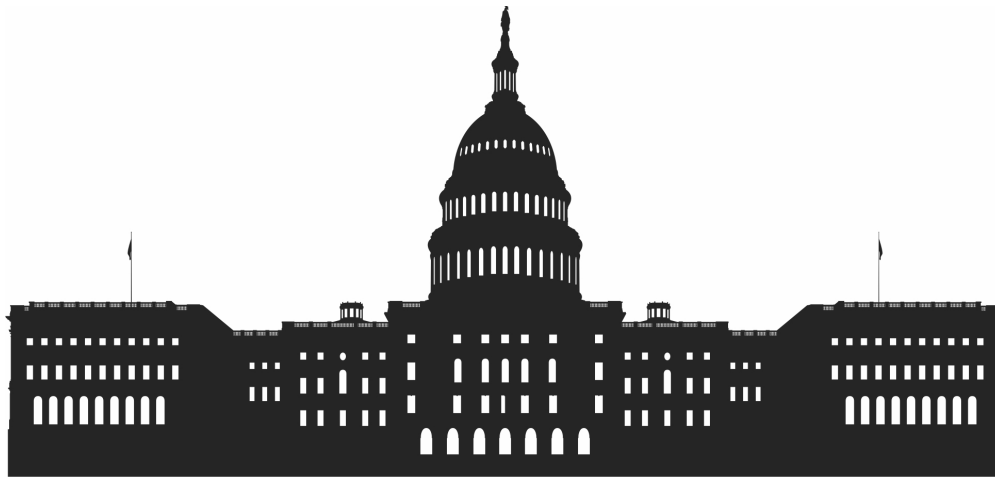
Respectively submitted,

Billie Carole Bussmann

NARSP Secretary



**LEARN TO THINK**



## NRTA Advocacy Conference

### “Jan and Bob go to Washington”

Retired Educator Association (REA) leaders from across the country convened in Washington, D.C. for NRTA’s National Advocacy Conference to hear from a host of experts on important state and federal legislative matters and to collaborate and advocate on policy issues that are a top priority for retired educators.

Representing Nebraska were Jan Barnason, Hastings and NARSP Legislative Committees and Bob Bussmann, NARSP Executive Director.

The biennial event kicked off in late October with a welcome reception for REA leaders, followed by two full days of presentations, dialogues, and collaboration.

The conference was an opportunity for retired educators to hear from and have conversations with experts on topics including: The Federal Legislative Climate and Outlook, The Federal and State Retirement Security Landscape, New Resources to Support Public Pension Advocacy, The High Costs of Prescription Drugs, Elder Financial Exploitation, Pension Advocacy Engagement, The Race for the 2020 Elections, AARP Priority Prescription Drug Bills, and Effective Messaging on Public Pension Issues.

REA leaders then mobilized and visited Capitol Hill in force on the afternoon of day two to provide their views on issues important to their retired educators – from pensions to prescription drugs. Jan and Bob made visits to each of Nebraska’s House of Representatives members and U.S. Senate members. In each of the offices they had an opportunity to visit with a staff member and provide them with a packet of information about NARSP, pensions, and the costs of prescription drugs.

The conference concluded with an evening dinner and reception. Morie Pierce Smile, AARP Vice President with the Office of Community Engagement, expressed appreciation for each REA leader’s commitment in serving their communities at both the local and federal levels.

NRTA thanked all of the REA leaders for traveling to Washington, D.C. to attend the conference and to collaborate with one another and AARP staff on issues that improve the lives of retired educators.

“Together, we are stronger,” said Al Campos, NRTA Director.

Where does a math teacher eat dinner?  
At a multiplication table!

What do you call a music teacher with problems?  
A very trebled man.

How does a math professor propose to his fiancé?  
With a polynomial ring!

# AMBA Roundup 2019

AMBA Roundup 2019 was held in early November in San Antonio, Texas. The conference theme was PREPARE FOR THE BEST. NARSP representatives Bob and Billie Bussmann joined sixty-four other AMBA partner associations for the two-day event that provided an opportunity for fellowship, learning, and imagination.

Roundup 2019 provided wide-ranging discussions on the Association Industry and leadership best practices. Sessions tackled such issues as benefits, marketing, data, membership, recruitment and retention, association leadership, and more.

Three keynote presentations highlighted the Roundup.

--Mike Abrashoff – *Navel Commander – New York Times Best Selling Author – Leadership and Teamwork Expert* Mike Abrashoff is at the center of one of the most remarkable modern-day stories of organizational transformation. At the age of 36, the Navy selected Mike to become Commander of USS Benfold. At the time he was the most junior commanding officer in the Pacific Fleet – on a ship that was plagued by low morale, high turnover, and abysmal performance evaluations. Few thought that the ship could improve – yet 23 months later the ship was ranked #1 in performance – using the same crew. People were amazed and the lesson was clear – leadership matters and culture is everything. Mike is clear, “I didn’t turn the ship around – my crew did that. What I did was to reinvent my leadership style and create an environment where they felt safe, empowered and supported.”

--Jean Hargrave – *Author – Consultant – Nation’s leading behavioral authority and body language expert* Body language expert Jan Hargrave teaches you the ways in which your body communicates to the world around you. As the nation’s leading behavioral authority and body language expert, Ms. Hargrave provides you with the skills you need to “read” your family, your associates, your customers, in fact, everyone around you. Nonverbal communication--Body Language--

--often communicates a different message from the spoken word. Jan proves with her contagious warmth, wit, and humor that there is a method, and style, to success. Bring your body, your curiosity, your sense of humor and learn what your body—and the body of others—is communicating to the world.

Joseph Gabriel “Gabe” Sonnier – *janitor to principal to AMBA – “it’s not how you start; but, how you end”* Gabe Sonnier is a 1979 graduate of Leonville High School. He received his associate degree in General Studies from Louisiana State University at Eunice in 2006, Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education in 2008 from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and master’s degree in Educational Leadership in 2012 from Arkansas State University. He had been employed by the St. Landry Parish School District at Port Barre Elementary School for over 36 years; 27 of those years as a custodian. In November 2013, he was appointed Principal at Port Barre Elementary. His inspiring educational journey and success (or as he would put it, GOD’S story) has attracted local, national and international media attention. He has been featured on television stations and newspapers across Louisiana. Mr. Sonnier retired from the St. Landry Parish School district in 2017. He did not want to remain idle; therefore, he went on to work with a number of organizations serving people. Not being quite satisfied with the efforts he asked God to provide him with the opportunity to serve people on a grander scale. God sent AMBA. Mr. Sonnier has been employed with the company for over one year and professes this will be his second and final retirement.

AMBA can’t help but reflect on how much has happened since the last Roundup. Many groups are experiencing record levels of membership. New methods of marketing, retention, and growth have been discovered. AMBA is particularly proud of a special milestone they are closing in on – 150,000 recruited memberships!



## Nebraska Association Retired School Personnel 2019 Convention

|                      |            |             |
|----------------------|------------|-------------|
| Income               |            | \$1,525.00  |
| Expenditures         |            |             |
| Awards               | \$62.06    |             |
| Food                 | \$1,276.00 |             |
| Printing             | \$308.78   |             |
| Mileage              | \$359.21   |             |
| Prizes               | \$225.00   |             |
| Hotel Rooms          | \$1,174.46 |             |
| Speaker Expenses     | \$500.00   |             |
| Supplies             | \$90.34    |             |
| Total Convention Exp |            | \$3,995.85  |
| Net Loss             |            | -\$2,470.85 |



**Nebraska Association Retired School Personnel**

**Financial Report**

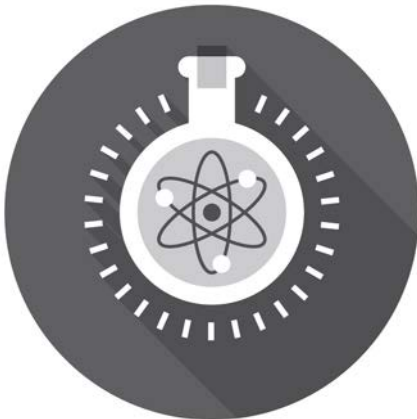
**September 1, 2019 to January 31, 2020**

Checkbook Balance, September 1, 2019 \$8,607.99

|                                 |                    |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                   |                    |
| Dues                            | \$7,375.00         |
| AMBA                            | \$1,000.00         |
| Registration                    | \$1,525.00         |
| Baskets                         | \$336.00           |
| Other                           | \$35.00            |
| <b>Total Income</b>             | <b>\$10,271.00</b> |
| <b>Total Balance and Income</b> | <b>\$18,878.99</b> |

|                                     |                    |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Expenditures</b>                 |                    |
| Postage                             | \$183.62           |
| Printing                            | \$0.00             |
| Supplies                            | \$112.33           |
| <b>Board Expenses</b>               |                    |
| Mileage                             | \$0.00             |
| Meal                                | \$110.35           |
| <b>Total Board Expenses</b>         | <b>\$110.35</b>    |
| <b>Convention Expenses</b>          |                    |
| Awards                              | \$62.06            |
| Food                                | \$2,237.14         |
| Printing                            | \$308.78           |
| Mileage/Presidents                  | \$359.21           |
| Prizes                              | \$225.00           |
| Rooms                               | \$213.32           |
| Speaker                             | \$500.00           |
| Supplies                            | \$90.34            |
| <b>Total Convention Expenses</b>    | <b>\$3,995.85</b>  |
| <b>Miscellaneous</b>                |                    |
| ASRTE Dues                          | \$0.00             |
| Fidelity Bond                       | \$0.00             |
| Scholarships                        | \$3,000.00         |
| <b>Total Miscellaneous Expenses</b> | <b>\$3,000.00</b>  |
| <b>Total Expenditures</b>           | <b>\$7,402.15</b>  |
| Checkbook Balance, January 31, 2020 | <b>\$11,476.84</b> |

|  |                 |                    |
|--|-----------------|--------------------|
| <b>Other Monies</b>                                  | <b>Original</b> | <b>Current</b>     |
| <b>US Bank</b>                                       |                 |                    |
| CD (xxxxx11) Matures 01-07-2021                      | \$6,009.35      | \$6,370.34         |
| CD (xxxxx01) Matures 04-20-2023                      | \$10,380.30     | \$11,497.50        |
| CD (xxxxx31) Matures 01-16-2021                      | \$10,000.00     | \$10,600.71        |
| CD (xxxxx49) Matures 01-16-2021                      | \$10,000.00     | \$10,600.71        |
| <b>State Farm</b>                                    |                 |                    |
| CD (xxxxx59) Matures 01-06-2023                      | \$9,280.18      | \$10,249.59        |
| <b>Total CD's</b>                                    |                 | <b>\$49,318.85</b> |
| Checkbook Balance and Other Monies, January 31, 2020 |                 | <b>\$60,795.69</b> |



**DISCOVER**



**ONLINE EDUCATION**

**Nebraska Association Retired School Personnel**

**Financial Report**

**September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019**

Checkbook Balance, September 1, 2018 \$5,500.11

|                                 |                    |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                   |                    |
| Dues                            | \$12,015.00        |
| AMBA                            | \$1,000.00         |
| <b>Total Income</b>             | <b>\$13,015.00</b> |
| <b>Total Balance and Income</b> | <b>\$18,515.11</b> |

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| <b>Expenditures</b>                       |                   |
| Postage                                   | \$454.38          |
| Printing                                  | \$109.13          |
| Supplies                                  | \$341.54          |
| <b>Board Expenses</b>                     |                   |
| Meal                                      | \$238.54          |
| <b>Total Board Expenses</b>               | <b>\$238.54</b>   |
| <b>Board of Director Meeting Exp 2018</b> |                   |
| Awards                                    | \$66.46           |
| Printing                                  | \$91.01           |
| Mileage/Presidents                        | \$602.90          |
| Supplies                                  | \$15.33           |
| Postage                                   | \$26.14           |
| <b>Total B of D Meeting Exp 2018</b>      | <b>\$801.84</b>   |
| <b>Newsletter Expenses</b>                |                   |
| Postage                                   | \$892.60          |
| Printing                                  | \$4,349.09        |
| <b>Total Newsletter Expenses</b>          | <b>\$5,241.69</b> |
| <b>Miscellaneous</b>                      |                   |
| 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                        | \$20.00           |
| <b>Total Miscellaneous Expenses</b>       | <b>\$2,720.00</b> |
| <b>Total Expenditures</b>                 | <b>\$9,907.12</b> |

Checkbook Balance, August 31, 2019 \$8,607.99

|                                 |                 |                    |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| <b>Other Monies</b>             | <b>Original</b> | <b>Current</b>     |
| <b>US Bank</b>                  |                 |                    |
| CD (xxx4411) Matures 01-07-2021 | \$6,009.35      | \$6,330.58         |
| CD (xxx7901) Matures 04-20-2023 | \$10,380.30     | \$11,379.12        |
| CD (xxx0631) Matures 01-16-2021 | \$10,000.00     | \$10,534.73        |
| CD (xxx0649) Matures 01-16-2021 | \$10,000.00     | \$10,534.73        |
| <b>State Farm</b>               |                 |                    |
| CD (xxx1159) Matures 01-06-2023 | \$9,280.18      | \$10,152.53        |
| <b>Total CD's</b>               |                 | <b>\$48,931.69</b> |

Checkbook Balance and Other Monies, August 31, 2019 \$57,539.68

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# UNIT REPORTS



## ~ BEATRICE AREA ~

The Beatrice group continues to meet on the fourth Wednesday of every other month at Valentino's at noon. After a buffet meal, we have the program and then our business meeting.

We had four active members pass away by the time for our memorial tribute in May, and three other members moved out of town. Fortunately, three new members have joined.

Members continue to volunteer throughout the community by being blood donors, helping at the Public Library, the Senior Center, VFW Auxiliary, American Legion, and church groups. We also monitor a one-room schoolhouse during the Gage County Fair so families can see what schools used to look like in the past.

One of the programs was an American Field Service exchange student from the Czech Republic, Maggie Soltysoua. She felt her classes at home were more difficult with college like schedules, but the students did not get a choice over what they took. English is the second language to the Czech and is required from third grade through high school. Sports are not a part of the school activities, so she was surprised and pleased by the extent of school spirit exhibited by the students in Beatrice. She participated in volleyball, dance, and soccer at BHS.

Another program involved going to visit The Villa. Jolene Huls and Laura Rideout gave the program on this facility of independent retirement. The rooms are leased, lawn care and snow removal are provided, and storage is available. Hospital meals are provided if requested but each living unit has its own kitchen. One and two bedrooms are available with all utilities and appliances included in the rent except for TV and telephone. The Handibus can be used for transport if the resident does not have a car. Two scholarship winners were announced at this meeting, Shayden Bayliss and Zach Hoffman, who are both going to attend University of Nebraska at Lincoln and study Elementary Education.

Doris Martin, Executive Director of the Beatrice Education Foundation and Program Director of the After School Program, was another guest speaker. The After School Program is held at three schools every afternoon until six o'clock. Those students receiving free and reduced lunches attend free and others pay either \$10 a day or \$40 per week. Each day the students receive a snack, then homework, and fun activities that will enhance their learning. Volunteers from the community come on Wednesdays and share information about their job or trade. This program allows the students to have something to keep them active and safe till their parent comes to pick them up.

Jackie Nielsen, Assistant Superintendent of Beatrice Public Schools, presented information on the curriculum and testing

within the school district. The fundamentals and basics required for students to succeed is still being taught. The state's standards have made the curriculum more rigorous. Beatrice has a pre-school program for three and four-year olds. More than 95% of students entering kindergarten have had preschool experiences.

Members have contributed 901 volunteer hours this year. Our volunteering is down because we have fewer members that are still able to get out and help.

Submitted by Marjorie Brubaker, President of BARSP

## ~ 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.

Wanda Samson of the Scholarship committee introduced the three winners of the \$1,000 scholarships. They were: Drew Pennington, Ross McMahon and Madison Moore all of Fremont High School. All plan to major in education in college. Ruth Register was awarded the Outstanding Service Award for 2019-2020.

Rosie Vogt and Mary Saggau presented the total count on volunteer hours this past year. Members performed more than 300 student hours and over 4000 community hours of volunteer work.

Members signed up to serve brunch to Habitat for Humanity workers over the next few months. Members were reminded that we would be packing the Christmas bags for (DAV) Disabled Vets in August. 102 pounds of spaghetti sauce and pasta were given to the food pantry by members at this meeting.



*Cindy Tranmer presented the "Remembering a Time in the Past" at a recent meeting of the FAARSP.*

Our September meeting was at First Congregational Church with a lunch served by a committee from the church. Our guest speaker was Kevin Kavan, Fremont Public Schools security coordinator. He discussed the changes that have been made in the school system to update security measures.

A memorial service was held for four members

who died in the last year. Sign up sheets were available for delivering treats to all of the schools in the area. It was announced that the group collected enough money during the last year's drive



*Wanda Samson, left accepts the money collected this year from Norma Register for the Salvation Army Holiday Meal Program. FAARSP collected enough to pay for 10 families.*

to support ten families in the Salvation Army holiday meal program.

Members signed up to deliver the Christmas bags to the various homes in the area for Veterans. A full trunk load of school supplies were delivered

to the Summer lunch program at the Presbyterian Church for placing in back packs this coming school year.

The November meeting was held at United Methodist Church with a lunch served by a committee from the church at noon. 116 pounds of cereal were donated by members to be taken to the Dodge County food pantry. A silent auction raised \$144. Half of the money will go to the scholarship fund and the rest to the Salvation Army Holiday meal fund.

The program was presented by Jan Lutz and Jan Pebley, local coordinators for the Make a Wish Foundation. \$400 was collected at the meeting to be donated to this great cause. Ruth Register announced the final donation amount for the Combined Health Agencies Drive this year amounted to \$11,066 from this group. This set another record for giving to this cause.

Our 2019-2020 directories were passed out. This year we have a calendar with all of the pertinent information inside about our group.

In January, the group had a birthday potluck at Calvary Methodist Church to celebrate all of the group's birthdays for the year. Members decorated Valentines throughout the meeting to be given to local veterans in February. Parker's Custom Cookies will furnish cookies to be added to the cards this year.

Kyle Jensen gave a talk on the importance of giving blood. The group has considered sponsoring a blood drive this coming year. 48 boxes of facial tissues were delivered to the food pantry after the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Jo Mitteis, Public Relations

## ~ GRAND ISLAND AREA ~

Members always look forward to September's "Back- to-School" meeting. This September, new members were treated

to a delicious salad supper in the Woodland Room of Riverside Lodge. Judy Williams introduced Alice Torpin who shared stories and poems of growing up in a large family in Merrick County. Members enjoyed her skillful poetic articulation of the influences of the one-room country school, the little white Baptist Church and her family in her stories and poetry. Alice has written a book, *ROOTS OF MY RAISIN'* and donates the proceeds of her sales to the quilt division of the Merrick County Museum

Nora Lindner, Vice President for Programs, always finds the most interesting and educational programs. In October, Craig Hand who owns Howard's Jewelry Store in Grand Island shared some interesting history of his family and how he learned the art of gemology through practical education from one grandfather who was a blacksmith and the other a watchmaker. Craig's father opened his business 72 years ago, and Craig has continued the tradition of the honest, artistic craftsmanship of his father. Craig also was involved in the restoration and preservation of the Grand Theater. It operates with only one paid employee and all others are volunteers. The success of the theater has allowed area students to earn community service hours, and the theater offers a scholarship for volunteer students.

Six chapter members attended the 58th State Biennial Convention at the Ramada Midtown Conference Center in Grand Island on October 1 and 2, 2019. The chapter was awarded Certificates of Appreciation for total hours volunteered and for the "Day of Service" activity when "goodie bags" are delivered to shut-ins.

In December, Christmas was celebrated with a Christmas tea. Walnut Middle School's show choir delighted the members with their performance.

At each meeting, Linda Dahlstrom accompanies our singing of a patriotic song and we recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Co-Presidents Eldon Ervin and Jean McMIndes share items of interest concerning members. Judy Williams, chairperson of the legislative committee, keeps us up to date on legislative matters and AARP membership benefits. Nola Oberhelman, Community Volunteer Services chairperson, encourages us to keep track of volunteer hours and reminds us that volunteering comes from the heart. Doris and Vern Rempe faithfully keep our finances in order and handle the several scholarship accounts.

These meetings provide a wonderful opportunity for all to continue to connect and re-connect with former colleagues and meet new friends..

Submitted by Joan Clark, Secretary

## ~ HASTINGS AREA ~

The Hastings Area Retired School Personnel meets every other month, and we feel fortunate for our continued good turnouts for every meeting. Our members are loyal, and their attendance much appreciated.



Our most well-attended meeting is the membership luncheon meeting in July. We invite all newly-retired school personnel to be our guests for this meeting, along with our scholarship recipients and their parents. This year's theme was "Kool-Aid Days," which is an annual celebration in Hastings. Susan Spady, a celebration representative, presented the program about Kool-Aid Days' history followed by an audience participation quiz about Kool-Aid trivia. A highlight of the presentation was the appearance of the famous Kool-Aid Man.

We gained six new members at this meeting and enjoyed hearing from our scholarship recipients as they shared their college plans and goals of becoming teachers.

The scholarships we award are funded by volunteers who work at the Adams County Fair each year. We are glad that we have members who are willing to work at one of the food booths preparing and serving the food so we can aid deserving students who plan to become future educators.

In September, Michael Moritz of the National Weather Service, shared interesting information about the Service and weather forecasting. In November, Liz Chamberlain of the South Heartland District Health Department, spoke about preventing falls. Our January program was on the topic of drugs, given by Jason Ackles who formerly worked with the Adams County drug enforcement and the FBI.

We elected a new secretary in September, Jeannie Woods, while Donna Dill was elected to continue as treasurer.

President Dave Scribner, along with seven other members, attended the NARSP convention in Grand Island in October.

We realize the importance of good nutrition as part of helping students learn better, so we are again sponsoring Food4Thought as our project this year. It provides backpacks of food on weekends for children who might otherwise go hungry without additional help.

We look forward to future meetings where we learn of volunteer opportunities, enjoy good programs, and enjoy our time together.

## ~ LINCOLN AREA ~

By our September meeting all officers for the 2019-2020 year had been installed. Pam Ford and Jan Stamper are continuing as co-presidents for the year and Bob Bussmann is the secretary and Billie Bussmann will serve as treasurer until 2021.

Jonathan Burlison presented a very informative program, "Welcome to Medicare" at our September meeting. This included information on SHIP (Senior Health Insurance Information Program) and changes in Medicare for the coming year.

Honorary memberships were presented to: Marilyn Peterson, Phyllis Chambers, Donna Lightbody, Frank Mills, Betty Dasenbrock, and Willie Shafer.

Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird was presented with a facsimile

check for LARSP volunteer hours for the past year. LARSP volunteer hours totaled 19,251 hours which equaled \$489,552.93 in value. Of that 6,126 hours were spent with youth and 13,125 were community service hours.

"Can You Make a Noise" cans were distributed among tables for members to contribute change to add to our scholarship fund. This practice will be continued monthly.

Since we have many travelers in our organization, we also started collecting toiletries and other personal care items that we receive at hotels/motels. These will be assembled into packages to be distributed to various organizations that provide for the needy.

Information about "Lancaster Rural Transit" was presented by Mitch Sump at our October meeting. It was a very informative program explaining expanded services for public transportation at a low cost for many.

Snack sacks were delivered to eleven shut-ins in October.

Penny Clark gave a most informative program, "Long Term Care Ombudsman" which advocates for the rights of elders and protection from abuse in November.

Our Outreach Group collected towels and sheets for The People's City Mission at our December meeting.



*Mayor Gaylor Baird receives facsimile check from Billie Bussmann, Community Service Chair.*



*Sewing for Babies Tree (left to right): Billie Bussmann, Jeanne Butcke, Pam Ford, Jan Stamper, Gretchen Terpsma, Judy Strand*

Items were collected for the tree which we decorated for the "Holiday of Trees." This year we chose to decorate with items to be donated to "Sewing for Babies", a group which sews and assembles layettes for babies. These layettes are then given to various groups who help needy families.

Our tree was fully decorated with 270 items (bibs, hats, onesies, mittens, toys, towels, etc). We also provided 9 boxes of fabric and some cash.

Scott Anderson, UNL trombone professor, entertained us with



many Christmas selections on his trombone in December.

At our upcoming March meeting a number of agencies and organizations with a focus on children and youth will each be presented a philanthropic donation of \$300. Among those receiving monies include: Cedars Youth Opportunity Center, Child Advocacy Center, Friendship Home, I've Got a Name, Lighthouse, and Willie's Underwear Project.

Gretchen Terpsma was named to receive the Community Service award next April 6, which is also her birthday.

This year we have 198 paid LARSP members, 93 NARSP members, and 56 honorary members (85+).

## ~ NORFOLK AREA ~

Norfolk Area Retired School Personnel met May 18, 2019. Following the meeting at the Norfolk Senior Citizen's Center, members went to Mercy Meals and packed 144 bags of food to be shipped abroad to feed 864 children.

At the July 20 meeting, Rev. Caretta of the Orphan Grain Train spoke on the work of OGT. Money was given by the group to send school supplies to places where needed abroad.

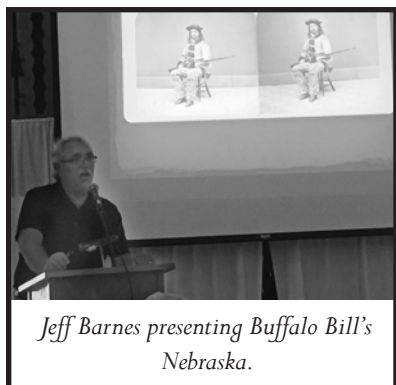
New officers were elected at the September 21 meeting.

At the November 23 meeting, members donated items and packed Christmas gift bags for 33 residents at the Norfolk Veteran's Home (28 men and 5 women) that the staff at the Home designated as those who do not have family to provide gifts for them at Christmas.

The AARP/NRTA award for hours members have donated to the community was announced. It was decided to do a press release and picture for the area newspapers, indicating the number of hours (1959) donated in the community and those working with youth (185).

Jenny Gubbels announced she will be doing the Aspiring Young Author's Festival again this year at Wayne State College.

Submitted by Donna Rector, Secretary



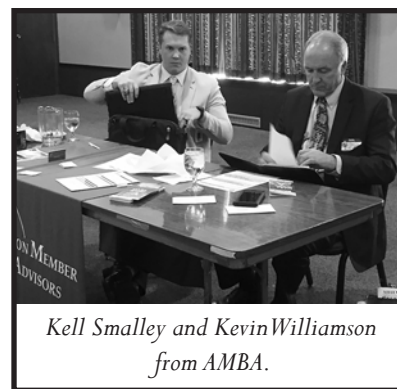
*Jeff Barnes presenting Buffalo Bill's Nebraska.*

## ~ OMAHA AREA ~

The Omaha Area Retired School Employee Association's August meeting featured Jeff Barnes from Humanities Nebraska who presented Buffalo Bill's Nebraska. We also held our annual memo-

rial service for 11 former members.

At our October meeting, Kevin Williamson and Kell Smalley shared information about AMBA benefits which are available to NARSP members. We also learned about MOSAIC, a whole-person healthcare network reaching across 11



*Kell Smalley and Kevin Williamson from AMBA.*



*Kara Covrig and Nick Betterson from MOSAIC.*

states which provides support to more than 4,500 people. Services empower people with disabilities, mental and behavioral health needs and autism, as well as aging adults to live their best life. Nick Batterson and Kara Covrig were the representatives from MOSAIC.

The German Society group Sangerchor entertained us at our December meeting with German and English seasonal songs.



*Sangerchor*

We are looking forward to our February meeting which will feature a presenter from New Cassel Retirement Center who will talk about their program called HUGS. We will also collect articles for the Nebraska Humane Society which is our community service project this year. This is in addition to our usual donations to either our scholarship fund or the Food Bank.

Submitted by Linda Hammer

## ~ SCOTTSBLUFF AREA ~

Greetings from your Western Nebraska colleagues—Scottsbluff Area Retired School Personnel. We enjoy reading about each of your activities and members. Here is what is happening out west!

What a wonderful time we had visiting with Senator John Stinner, our state senator from District 48! We always look forward to his updates on the Unicameral in a "Fireside Chat" manner. We are so thankful for all his work on our behalf in the legislature.

It is always fun to learn about the history of our country and state. We especially appreciated when our vice president/program chairwoman Karon Harvey shared her research and information on the Orphan Train. She had descendants who were brought to the Midwest as part of this movement. Not only did she give us good information about the Orphan Train, but she also told about the trail her research led her to travel.

Gering school board member, Mary Winn, is a retired teacher who is now serving her district in a different capacity. In true teacher style she gave us a quiz about the duties of a school board member. It was quite revealing that our perceptions and the truth were not always the same.

David Wolf, a former student of some of our members and the curator of the Legacy of the Plains Museum, encouraged us to volunteer as he told about the museum. He became curator in July of 2019 of this "world class museum" to use his words. It is a wonderful place to see if you happen to be visiting the Scottsbluff/Gering area.

We have had good attendance at our fall meetings. The third Monday of each month in the Conference Center of the Scottsbluff Runza at 11:00 a.m., you will find us enjoying a presentation taking care of business, and visiting as we enjoy a good Runza lunch. Please join us if you are out this way and encourage any retired school personnel you might know from the area to do the same.

Twila Griffiths, SARSP President

## ~ SOUTHEAST NE AREA ~

Greetings and happy 2020 from the Southeast Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel! We welcomed four new members this fall and we now have a total of 31 members! Our



*NARSP Scholarship:  
Jessica Snethen and Ann Meinzer.*

group continues to meet at the Richardson County Museum in Falls City. Meetings are held in September, October, March, April and May. We generally gather for a wonderful luncheon followed by a business meeting and program.

At our September gathering, new officers were installed. Glenda Nelson led the installation of our new

officers: Ann Meinzer will again serve as President, Jan Thompson is Vice President, Deb Harris is Secretary and June Bowers is our Treasurer. President Meinzer keeps our group updated on state convention and reported that five members were able to attend this year. The September program consisted of a memorial service honoring the memory of three dedicated teachers that had passed.

In October, we were excited to present a NARSP scholarship award to Falls City educator Jessica Howard. Jessica is pursuing a library endorsement from the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Local scholarship ideas we also discussed as members look forward to awarding a new high school graduate this May who is planning to be a classroom teacher in the near future.



*(left to right) Ann Meinzer, Deb Harris, June Bowers, and Jan Thompson.*

At each meeting, members share their opportunities to volunteer and serve in their communities. It was noted that the overall NARSP group has donated 45,308 hours of volunteer service this past year. If members were paid \$25.43 per hour this would add up to \$1,152,182.44! President Meinzer reminded us all about the importance of volunteering when she shared this quote: "we can change the world one child at a time"

whether working or volunteering. One of our SNARSP members was recently honored at state convention with the Education Service Award for her commitment to education through volunteering. Congratulations to June Bowers!

Following the business meeting, our group was honored to have Barb Parish, a docent and member of the Richardson County Museum, present a program about interesting and educational day trips that are fairly close to our part of the state.

In 2020, we look forward to our spring meetings where we can visit and share ideas on more ways to serve our communities! May you all be blessed in this new year!

Respectfully submitted by secretary Debra Harris

## ~ WAYNE AREA ~

The Wayne Area Association of Retired School Personnel meets every other month at the Brookdale in Wayne. There is a social gathering with coffee and cookies at 9:30 a.m. followed by a business meeting and program at 10:00 a.m.

In September the program was, "What WAARSP Says." There is a popular game show called What America Says. It was very entertaining to set up our own game show based on this model.



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In preparation for the state convention, one part focused on the words for the convention theme, "There is something for you!"

We were represented at the state convention in October by Jenny Gubbels, our secretary and treasurer. She gave a report at our November meeting to keep us informed.

In November twelve members attended our meeting. The group visited about our members who were not present, and how they are doing. Our current membership is six, but we have twelve additional honorary members for a total of eighteen. Our average age is 87 years young! That does not mean that we sit around in rocking chairs. We racked up 1,767 regular volunteer hours and 125 hours of volunteering with children. We also gained several new members or honorary members in the past year.

Pat Jenkins-Rohde presented the program entitled "Book Review of Reminisce, Vintage Forever, Food Fads and Fun". Many interesting items were displayed and lively discussions followed. Each person shared what collections they keep because three items in the same group equals a collection. This step back in time was fun and enjoyed by all.

Alice Rohde presented the group with a challenge at the beginning of the meeting. She brought an antique item that was given to her by a volunteer at the last school where she taught. Although there were many good guesses about what this item

was, it remained a mystery until the closing of the meeting. It was a pencil sharpener used in classrooms over a hundred years ago. One small saw like blade beneath the polished wood did the sharpening work as you moved the pencil across. Imagine the work it took to sharpen your pencil!

The group does not meet in January. The next meeting will be March 2, 2020 at the Brookdale in Wayne at 9:30 a.m. Guests are always welcome.

With great sadness, we have a member who will no longer be a part of our group. Mary Lou George, at age 88, died peacefully January 3 surrounded by family and friends following a brief battle with leukemia and stomach cancer. Mary Lou saw the best in everyone and lived to serve God by serving people. She found joy in teaching and learning throughout her life. Mary Lou taught in Neola, Iowa, Lincoln, Nebraska, Fairfield, Iowa, Tucson, Arizona, Columbus, Nebraska, Wayne, Nebraska, and finally as a substitute teacher at Winside, Nebraska for more than twenty years after her retirement. During her career, she taught every age group from Kindergarten through college. Mary Lou also volunteered with the American Red Cross, Child Disaster Services, Nebraska Critical Incident Stress Management, Nebraska Family Caregiver Coalition and Nebraska Family Caregiver Support Northern Area Advocacy Board. Mary Lou was a fifty year Eastern Star member, Winside American Legion Auxiliary Unit, Winside Museum Board and many other community activities.