NARSP

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

Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel

# NEWSLETTER

Spring 2025 www.narsp.org Published Twice Yearly

## NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL
## Board of Directors Annual Meeting Minutes, September 26, 2024
### Aldersgate Methodist Church - Lincoln, NE

The Annual Board of Director's Meeting of the Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel (NARSP) was held on September 26, 2024 at the Aldersgate Methodist Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. Members and guests present were: State President Wauneta Peterson from the Lincoln Unit, State Vice-President June Bowers from Southeast Nebraska, Secretary Vira Brooks from Omaha, Treasurer Nancy Johnson from Omaha, former Executive Director Bob Bussmann and Billie Bussmann from Lincoln Co-newsletter Editors, Community Service Chairperson Cathy Morgan from Hastings, Beatrice Unit President Marjorie Brubaker, Hastings Unit President LaVila Van Boening, Legislative Chair Jan Barnason, Lincoln Unit Past President Pam Ford, Lincoln Unit Lynne Nelson-Dixon, Lincoln Unit Treasures Laurie Lindgren, Lincoln Legislative Chairperson and NRTA Liaison Pat Etherton, Omaha Unit President Connie Hill, Omaha Unit Vice-President Vira Brooks, AMBA Representative Jessica Helms, AARP Representative Jina Ragland, past NARSP Secretary Lois Mills and Guest Speaker, Colby Coash, Author and Legislature Associate and Executive Director.

A catered box lunch from Hy Vee was provided, and attendees engaged in conversations during the initial segment of the meeting.

Guest Speaker, Colby Coash was introduced by June Bowers, Vice-President. His advocacy for students' well-being enables him to effectively work with classroom-related bills. Nebraska state bills and national views highlight the growing distrust in public school education. (Stemming from extremists' far-reaching ideas). The emphasis on reading in education has led to substantial investments, amounting to millions of dollars, in assessing schools' success through the use of Educational Service Units (ESUs) and reading coaches. Colby is a published Author, whose book can be purchased on Amazon, he also has books with him.

AARP, representative Jina Ragland, gave attendees Packets (which included Advocacy Report and phone stand). Jina provided updates on the Nebraska Legislature. 48 candidates (get to know your senators); short session – 60 days 597 bills (of which 196) were approved by the Governor. Regarding rural communities, intergenerational development is continuing along with small pilot programs. The packet includes information on tax credits for caregivers' out-of-pocket expenses. LB 937 was passed (additional information in care giver brochure). Other items discussed: Scams i.e. gift cards, right to property predatory practices, crypto currency and voter ID.

AMBA representative, Jessica Helms shared family related testimony. She discussed the benefits of AMBA relative to Retired Educators' pensions, social security and recovery care. Medicare, Medicare Supplements, Traditional health insurance may not cover these services, NARSP has partnered with AMBA members reap benefits of being with AMBA. An accurate email address for Jessica is provided on the forms.

President Wauneta Peterson called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m., welcomed attendees, and introduced officers and guests. We formally pledged allegiance to the flag and sang "God Bless America," with accompaniment by Wauneta. It was announced that a quorum was present. No further items were added to the agenda.

The annual memorial service for the 20 deceased members was subsequently conducted. Unit Presidents or Representatives placed a white rose in a vase and solemnly announced the names of the members from their respective units who had passed away during the past year.

The secretary's minutes of the Executive Board Meeting were approved as published. Executive Board Meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska

Treasurer Yearly Financial Report – Nancy Johnson

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Mark Your Calendar for Thursday, September 25th!**

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

**Unit Presidents will receive Registration Info in August**



# Wauneta's Notes

Nebraska the Good Life! We are fortunate that we have not had to deal with tornadoes, hurricanes and wild fires as they have in other parts of the country. According to legend, the groundhog saw his shadow on February 2, 2025, so we should be experiencing six more weeks of winter. The snow and cold weather is here.

Scholarship applications have been mailed to all Unit Presidents. Next year we plan to have this information on-line. Two applications are allowed for each Unit to submit. They are due April 10, 2025 to your state president, Wauneta Peterson.

Nominations are due for the "Big Apple" award and the "Educational Service" award by May 1, 2025. Members can nominate anyone in their local unit that you believe has made the biggest difference in the lives of retired school personnel.

Our newly appointed newsletter editor, Verla Ringenberg, passed away in December. Verla was a long time cancer survivor. We are searching for a new newsletter editor. There are three people interested in this position. Bob and Billie Bussmann have offered to help get this newsletter in the mail. Thanks Bob and Billie for your continued support.

Cathy Morgan has had surgery and is recuperating in Omaha. Be sure to send your community volunteer hours to her at camorgan823@gmail.com which is due June 15, 2025.

Please inform Nancy Johnson of deaths in your unit. nancy.johnson5@cox.net or 402-330-8649

Let us hear about your Community Service Awards or any other interesting activities happening in your unit.

Keep warm, stay healthy and keep moving. Happy Spring!

Wauneta Peterson
NARSP President
402-483-1648

## "Remember the Spotlight"

Do you have a centenarian in your local Unit that is a member of NARSP or a member that will be reaching that milestone in the very near future? Plan to submit an article about that individual along with their picture to Jeri Lorenz at Copy-cat Printing & Signs for inclusion in a future issue of the NARSP Newsletter so the "Spotlight on a 100-Year-Old Member" can be turned on! Mail to 365 N Broadwell Ave, Grand Island, NE 68803 or Email to jeri@copycatprinting.com

## NARSP
## Executive Board

*Vacant*
Executive Director

Wauneta Peterson
President

June Bowers
Vice President

Vira Brooks
Secretary

Nancy Johnson
Treasurer

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

*(Continued from page 1)*

- Checkbook balance as of September 26, 2024: $21,227.20
- CDs value: $51,624.09
- Total balance: $72,851.29

Nancy will renew certificates of deposit (CDs) as they reach maturity.

Jan Barnason from the Legislation Committee interviewed local candidates, including Dan Osborn. Jan requested our participation in voting. The yearly membership report for Hastings 2024-2025 has been submitted.

Cathy Morgan, the NARSP Community Service Chair, has an incorrect email listed in the newsletter. The following units submitted their reports: Beatrice, Fremont, Hastings, Lincoln, Omaha, Southeast Nebraska. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the value of a volunteer hour is $33.49. Therefore, the total worth of volunteer hours from June 1st – May 31st amounts to $1,295,996.02. NARSP members contribute their time at churches, various organizations, and other entities.

NARSP Active Educator Scholarships Recipients: Congratulations to Amy Spilker, a 16-year educator and Second Grade Teacher at Holmes Elementary School with Lincoln Public Schools. Lynne Nelson-Dixon, LPS Unit President will deliver the Award to Amy.

Stacey Hofaker, a 29-year educator and Elementary Special Education Teacher at Harvard Public School, will receive her award at her school. Each recipient was awarded $1,000.00. Detailed information can be found in the newsletter. There were seven outstanding applications. Thank you 'Educators' for your dedication to our students.

The "Big Apple" Award is presented to an individual who has made significant contributions and efforts to improve the lives of retired school personnel within the unit, community, and state. Bob Bussmann presented the recipient of the 2024 award, NARSP President Wauneta Peterson, recognizing her many years of dedicated service. Thank you, President Peterson, and Sincere CONGRATULATIONS!

Nominations for President and Vice President: 2024-2026

- President: Wauneta Peterson
- Vice President: June Bowers (submitted by June Bowers)

Unfinished Business – James Johnson investigated the reduction of prescription costs and noted that the prescription card is no longer valid.

Nominating Committee: Connie, Margie, and June. It was moved and seconded that these names be accepted, and the motion was carried.

Elections of President and Vice President

The Educational Service Award was given to the following: Mrs. Amber Swartz and Trish Thacker and fifth grade students of Central Elementary in Kearney, Nebraska for their pen pal relationship with the retirees. Ryan Little and Deb Eirich for their coordinating efforts as Senior Services Leader of PSAC. The Senior Pen Pal program is an exemplary example of an intergenerational connection between seniors and students from Central Elementary School. The Peterson Senior Activities Center for their involvement in the Senior Pen Pal Program with the fifth-grade students from Central Elementary School.

Co-editors of the newsletter, Bob and Billie Bussmann, have served in this role for the past three years. Bob was the editor during his nine-year tenure as the NARSP Executive Director, and Billie assisted when needed during her terms as NARSP Secretary. Bob provided information about the newsletter and executive director positions, as well as the "Remember the Spotlight" segment. Units with centenarian members are encouraged to submit articles and pictures.

Units and individuals are requested to regularly inform Nancy Johnson, NARSP Treasurer, of members who have changed addresses or passed away. Additionally, notify Nancy of names that should be removed from the mailing list. Anyone who has ever been a NARSP member can be included in the Memorial Service.

Verla Ringenberg has been appointed as the new Editor of the newsletter. She will be departing on a trip soon.

Nancy Johnson - Budget

The 2024-2025 NARSP Proposed Budget was mailed to each person attending the conference. The proposed budget was approved for 2024-2025

Bob Bussmann formally installed Wauneta Peterson as President and June Bowers as Vice-President. Congratulations!

President Wauneta informed Unit Presidents that information will be mailed out shortly. Thank you to each attendee for your participation. The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Humbly Submitted (pending corrections)

Vira Brooks - NARSP Secretary




NARSP

**Remember to LIKE us on**

Find us on: facebook

**www.facebook.com/NRTA.NE**

# Message from MJ

Information provided by:

**MJ Woodall**

Are you concerned with the cost of care at home, an assisted living facility, or a nursing home and how it might impact your nest egg? Unfortunately, Medicare, Medicare Supplementals and traditional health insurance may not cover these services. Your Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel (NARSP) has partnered with us, AMBA, to bring benefit options directly to you.

Too often, we need to prepare for events that seemingly happen overnight and lead to extended care at home, an assisted living facility, or a nursing home. Some examples include:

- Arthritis
- Heart Disease
- Stroke
- Diabetes
- Osteoporosis
- Cancer
- Alzheimer's or another cognitive disorder

About 70% of seniors will need some type of long-term care. These services range from a long-term care facility, home care, assisted living, or nursing home.

I encourage you to learn more about this important coverage. To request information and find out if you are eligible, simply click the link below:

https://connect.amba.info/A07363

Or reach out to me at 414.750.6575.

MJ Woodall
Field Market Leader

## Your AMBA Contacts For NARSP Are...



**MJ Woodall**
**Field Market Leader - Midwest**
**NE, IA, MN, WI and Upper MI**
**@getAMBA.com**
mj.woodall@amba.info
414.750.6575



**Jessica Helms**
**Benefits Representative for Nebraska**
**Omaha, NE**
402.894.2088
jessica.helms@getamba.com

# GUIDE TO YOUR NARSP MEMBER BENEFITS

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL
to serve not to be served

### Dental & Vision Plans
Flexibility and Freedom are the words best described when it comes to your Dental and Vision plans. Easy-to-use, broad coverage and discounts with a wide range of providers.

### Long-Term Care
A Long-Term Care insurance policy can ease the financial burden on your loved ones helping to protect your life savings and reduce the stress on your spouse and children.

### Cancer, Heart, Stroke, Accident, and Disability Insurance
Benefits paid directly to you. You select the benefit level that best suits your needs.

### Tax-Deferred Asset Protection
Tax-deferred accumulation of interest for qualified or non-qualified funds with the ability to participate in market gains. No underwriting required.

### Short-Term Care/Home Health Care
A Home Care policy can allow you to choose where you recover and offset the costs of care not covered by traditional health care. The choice of your home, assisted living facility, or the nursing home should be yours.

### Medicare Solutions
Medicare Supplement plans not only help pay for additional eligible expenses not paid by Original Medicare, they provide the freedom for you to use your own physician, specialist, and medical facility.

### Whole Life
With no premium increases, or reduced coverage due to age or health once issued, this policy can help protect your family from the high cost of final expenses.

### Hospital Indemnity
A supplemental hospital indemnity insurance policy could be a smart financial decision for other hospital expenses including extended hospital stays, emergency room visits, ambulance transportation and more.

## GET YOUR BENEFITS NOW!

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

**MJ Woodall**
**414.750.6575 | mj.woodall@getAMBA.com**

# YOUR INSIGHT TO SAVINGS

POWERED BY PASSPORT® CORPORATE
myAMBAdiscounts

## THOUSANDS OF SAVINGS OPPORTUNITIES!

myAMBAdiscounts

myAMBAdiscounts gives membership even more value.
Explore thousands of savings opportunities in dining, event tickets, clothes, health, travel & many other discounts nationwide.

## ADDITIONAL MEMBER DISCOUNTS:

### Start Hearing, Inc.

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

For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact us at 888.200.5701 or visit us online at www.starthearing.com/partners/AMBA.

### Connect America Medical Alert Service

Cell phones are good for keeping connected to family and friends but they're no substitute for a medical alert service. Connect America offers significant discounts on small, discreet medical alert devices that give you access to emergency response 24/7 with just the press of one help button.

For more information, contact Connect America at 800.404.5869 or visit www.connectamerica.com/amba.

BENEFITS MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH 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.**

Updated 02/2024

# NARSP Membership

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

All retired teachers, administrators, school personnel and support staff are invited to join our organization as active members.

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

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

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

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

**NARSP Newsletter Editor**
**Vacant Position**
**Contact Wauneta Peterson for more information or interest**

# *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 2023-24 Memorial Service Program. **If you have not already done so, names of members who have passed since the last memorial service need to be submitted to Nancy by Saturday, August 31 to be included in the memorial program.**

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

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

# Officer Elections

Officer positions up for election at the NARSP Board of Directors Annual Meeting this coming fall are Secretary and Treasurer. Both positions are for a two-year term of 2025-2027. These two officer positions are elected in odd numbered years.

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

# 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), Connie Benjamin (2019), Ann Meinzer (2020), Billie Bussmann (2021), and Wauneta Peterson (2024).

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: Wauneta Peterson, NARSP President, P.O. Box 82227, Lincoln, NE 68501 by Monday, May 19, 2025. If you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to call at 402-483-1649 or e-mail at wvpeterson2@gmail.com.

## NRTA Staff

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

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

## 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**

Find us on: facebook

# 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: Wauneta Peterson, NARSP President, P.O. Box 82227, Lincoln, NE 68501 by Monday, May 19, 2025. (You may make copies of this form for other members to use.)

## Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel
## Financial Report
## January 2025

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Checkbook Balance | December 31, 2024 | | **$ 24,924.59** |
| Income | | | |
| Dues | | $ 465.00 | |
| | | $ 30.00 | |
| | | $ 495.00 | |
| Online dues | | $ 199.64 | |
| | | $ 694.64 | **$ 694.64** |
| Expenditure | | | |
| Checkbook Balance | January 31, 2025 | | **$ 25,619.23** |

Other Monies

| US Bank (15%) | Original *Renewed | Current |
|---|---|---|
| CD (4411) matures 12-07-2025 | $ 6,009.35 | $ 6,504.89 |
| *CD (7901) matures 03-20-2028 | $12,457.48 | $12,490.28 |
| CD (0631) matures 12-16-2025 | $10,000.00 | $10,824.62 |
| CD (0649) matures 12-16-2025 | $10,000.00 | $10,824.62 |
| State Farm moved to US Bank | | |
| *CD (6961) matures 11-06-2027 | $10,972.55 | $11,005.52 |
| Total CDs | **$49,439.38** | **$ 51,649.63** |
| | **January 31, 2025** | **$ 77,254.90** |

**The news articles for the Summer Issue of the NARSP Newsletter are due by Tuesday, July 1, 2025.**

# NARSP DECEASED MEMBERS 2023-2024

**FREMONT**
Kathy Cahill
Sara Person
Vernelle Werblow

**LINCOLN**
Marian Bender
Verl Flack
Jeri Hand
Sandra Quathamer
Florence Strobel

**OMAHA**
Marjorie Bock
Arlene Holly
Charles"Chuck" Krumme
Eunice Levisay
Josephine Link
Joanne Lubberstedt
Cheryl McAndrews
Edith "Edie" McCaw
Mary Moberg
Sharon Thomsen

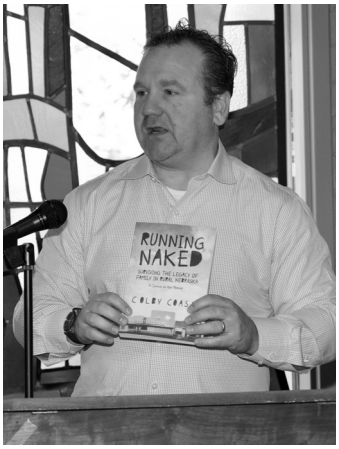
**SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA**
Marie Parsons

**NARSP STATE**
Sherman Hirsch, North Platte





*The Memorial Service for our departed members had their name called and a white rose was placed in the vase by a representative from each of the Units.*




*Colby Coash, Author and former Nebraska State Senator*



*Jina Ragland, Associate State Director, Advocacy and Outreach, AARP Nebraska*



*Jessica Helms, AMBA Benefits Representative for Nebraska*

# "Highlights from the Annual Meeting held in Lincoln on September 26th"




*Bob and Billie Bussmann were presented an expression of thanks by President Wauneta Peterson for serving as co-editors of the NARSP Newsletter for the past three years.*



*Units reporting Community Service hours, With. Our Youth hours, and Service Projects were presented certificates.*



*NARSP Executive Board — Vira Brooks, Secretary; Wauneta Peterson, President; June Bowers, Vice President; and Nancy Johnson, Treasurer. Wauneta and June were re-elected to serve for the 2024-2026 term.*




*NARSP Community Service Chair, Cathy Morgan (center), reported the number of volunteer hours recorded by the Units and their total value.*




*Wauneta Peterson was presented the NARSP "Big Apple" Award for her many years of dedicated leadership, contributions, and continued service as NARSP President, as well as, to her local Unit, her community, and beyond.*

# UNIT REPORTS

**Active Units include…Beatrice Area, Fremont Area, Hastings Area, Lincoln Area, McCook Area, Omaha Area, and Southeast Nebraska Area**

## ~ BEATRICE AREA ~

We had a speaker from the Homestead National Historical Park for our July meeting. Amber Kirkendall is a Park Ranger, a Volunteer Coordinator, and Homestead Park Guide. She shared some of the activities that are open to visitors as they come to the park. A solar car challenge was taking place the week she was at our meeting.

Beatrice hosted the One-Room Schoolhouse during the Gage County Fair in July. We had 210 visitors sign in from 23 towns in Nebraska and several states.

In September, Mindy Lubeck, from Make a Wish, was our guest. She works to help create life-changing wishes for children that have severe health issues, like cancer. They have about 25 wishes granted daily around the world. The Nebraska Chapter was founded in 1983, and 3100 wishes have been granted since they started. Referrals are made by doctors and are done on their web site. The entire family is included in the wish.

Our speakers in November were from the KOLN-KGIN weather team, Bill Rentschler and Carmelo Lattuca. They visit schools and other groups to explain about forecasting the weather for Nebraska and what some of the terms mean. They help warn us about severe weather conditions like heavy winds, hail, and tornadoes, and when to seek shelter.



*Jason Moore on Recycling*

Our January speaker was Jason Moore, who oversees Beatrice's Waste Management. His emphasis was about recycling and what is acceptable to recycle. Cardboard, paper, cans, and plastics can be put in the household recycling containers or taken to the recycling bins downtown. They are gathered up at the recycling center and sent by semis to Lincoln for sorting. Anything that is not acceptable is removed and thrown away at that time. The only plastics they keep are those that have a 1 or 2 in the triangle. Anything that can go in the microwave or has been heated, like from a fast-food place, is not acceptable,

Marjorie Brubaker,
President BARSP

## ~ FREMONT AREA ~

FAARSP is thriving with 95 members and growing! Here's a recap of our activities since the new fiscal year began…

In December, we delivered nearly 100 gift bags filled with cookies, chocolates, word search books, and more to nine care centers in Fremont. This effort, coordinated by past president Ruth Register and her mother, Norma, was supported by members who delivered the bags and honored the veterans. Special thanks to Mrs. DeMuth's class from the Learning Center for collecting and donating chocolates for the bags. We will repeat this effort in February for Valentine's Day. The visits have been a highlight, with music provided by flutist Joe Shafer.




*Johnny Halladay a veteran and member of the Fremont Area Association of Retired School Personnel is shown receiving his Quilt of Valor during the January meeting.*

Our September meeting at First Congregational Church included a Sunny D and school supplies drive for local students. We also held a memorial ceremony honoring the late Kathy Cahill, Vernelle Werblow, and Sara Person, whose families joined us for the occasion.

Additionally, FAARSP showcased our volunteer work at the Fremont Mall Craft Fair on September 14 with a booth featuring picture boards of our projects. Visitors enjoyed spotting their favorite teachers. Many thanks to the members who helped staff the booth!



*The Fremont Area Association of Retired School Personnel has five veterans who are also members of the association. RJ Riggs, Johnny Halladay, Al Martinez, Larry Marvin and Bob Kroenke all help Johnny celebrate with their quilts.*

At our November meeting at United Methodist Church, members picked up the new membership guide, coordinated by Ruth Register. Secretary Shonda Shirley

updated us on the CHAD campaign, which included contributions to area health agencies and our scholarship fund.

We also celebrated Veterans Day, honoring our five veteran members with gifts and music. Thanks to Ruth for coordinating this meaningful event.

In October, FAARSP and CHAD hosted a free kidney screening at Methodist Church. Additionally, Shonda applied for 501(c)(3) status for FAARSP, which was approved in December! This designation allows members to make tax-deductible contributions to our scholarship fund.

FAARSP members participated in bell ringing for the Salvation Army at Hy-Vee in December, raising $303—a new one-day total! In January, we celebrated members' birthdays with cake and ice cream at St. James Episcopal Church and donated Kleenex to the Care Corps/LifeHouse program. Ongoing donations include toilet paper, peanut butter, cereal, pasta, and sauces.

This year, we joined the Quilts of Valor program, presenting handmade quilts to veterans David Bade and Johnny Halladay. David's quilt was presented to him in the ICU on November 26, shortly before his passing on Thanksgiving Day. Johnny's quilt was presented at our January meeting, where Linda Hermesch shared the history of the program and performed the National Anthem. Four other veteran members brought their quilts for display.

We wish all members continued good health and happiness in 2025. Thank you for your dedication to FAARSP and our community!

Submitted by
Marta Calhoun

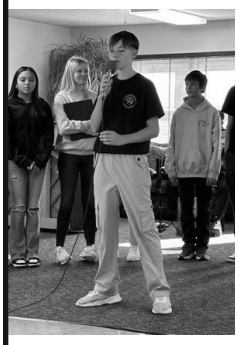


*A group picture was taken of FAARSP members after their January meeting.*

## ~ HASTINGS AREA ~

HARSP members meet in January, March, May, September, and November. We install new officers and hold a memorial service if needed at our May meeting. In July, we have a luncheon. New area retirees are invited as our guests to this luncheon as a means of recruiting new members. We are proud to present two scholarships each year to high school seniors who are planning to go into the field of education at the luncheon also. We encourage members to pay dues in July and August so that our yearbooks with meeting dates, hosting responsibilities, and membership list can be handed out at the September meeting. All meetings have a short business meeting (except the luncheon) and interesting or informative programs. FELLOWSHIPING is the highlight of each meeting!









*Students from Hastings Middle School performed several patriotic songs at our November meeting.*

## ~ LINCOLN AREA ~

The Lincoln NARSP unit kept busy this past summer and fall.

Our quilt group donated two quilts. One, in honor of a former member Betty Dasenbrock, was auctioned as part of a fundraiser for The Carol Joy Holling Camp. It raised $450. The other was a Quilt of Valor, given to Billy Dieckman, the son-in-law of one of our members. The moving ceremony was held at the Auld Pavillion in Lincoln's Antelope Park.

Our Community Service hours were presented to Lincoln City Councilman, Tom Beckius, in the form of a facsimile check for $795,119.58.



For over 25 years, we have participated in the Holiday of Trees, an event held the week after Thanksgiving. Our tree was decorated with items members donated for the Lincoln Art Bus. Many children will enjoy the art

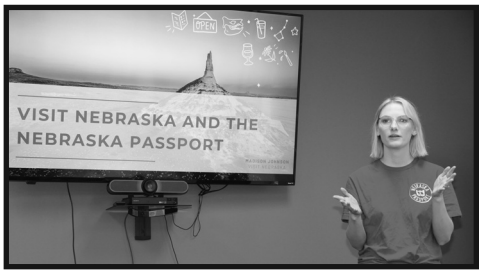


canvases, colored pencils and crayons, paint brushes, and beads throughout the year. Over 400 items were donated by members.



We did some technical items too, such as adjusting the By-Laws and raising the amounts we give charities and scholarships.

For fun we added a Quiddler group and a "monthly" road trip. The trips were to Ashland for the Nebraska Holiday Passport and to Omaha to visit the new Joslyn Art Museum.




Lynne Nelson-Dixon,
Lincoln President

## ~ OMAHA AREA ~

The Omaha Area Retired School Employees Association started our fall meetings on August 29th with Loma Lindstrom from NRTA (AARP National Retired Teachers Association) who shared information about Tax-Aide which is a program to help people fill out their tax forms. Volunteers are needed to fill three areas of service: Counselors, Client Facilitators, and Technology Coordinators. She was assisted by Paula.

We also had our Memorial Service at the August gathering led by Karen Mallory. Remembered members were Marjorie Bock, Arlene Holly, Charles "Chuck" Krumme, Eunice Levisay, Josephine Link, Joanne Lubberstedt, Cheryl McAndrews, Edith "Edie" McCaw, Mary Moberg, and Sharon Thomsen. Also remembered were Elmer Crumley and Cara Riggs who were not OARSEA members but long-time principals for Omaha Public Schools.



*Dr. Nichelle R. Horton-Brown, M.D. from Endeveren Family Medicine Clinic*

Attendees enjoyed playing Pokeno, and everyone ended up with a prize whether they won or not.

At our October meeting, Dr. Nichelle R. Horton-Brown, M.D. who runs the Endeveren Family Medicine Clinic shared the 7-Factor Formula which is a guide to living with vitality. The seven factors are stress management, sleep, making social connections, avoiding risky behavior, physical activity, good nutrition, and routine health maintenance (vaccines, screenings, and advanced care planning). Dr. Horton-Brown's philosophy is to treat everyone like family.

We elected officers. Gwen Foxall is our new president and Nancy Johnson is our new vice president. Linda Hammer will remain our secretary and treasurer.

Jina Ragland, AARP's Associate State Director of Advocacy, reviewed the structure of Nebraska's legislature and how it functions. Several of the bills passed last session were particularly important for Nebraska citizens over 50. She briefly explained several of those bills but emphasized LB937 which provides a nonrefundable tax credit for out-of-pocket costs incurred by an unpaid family caregiver for a limited set of services. This will take effect on January 1, 2025. She also mentioned some bills that will receive attention in the 2025 session.



*Jina Ragland, AARP's Associate State Director of Advocacy*

OARSEA member Roger Rea reported that the transfer of our pension system from OSERS to NPERs was completed prior to the September 1st deadline. He also reminded everyone to check to see if their Medicare Part D policy was still the best for their situation.



*Roger Rea, OARSEA's retirement expert*

Connie Hill and Vira Brooks, out going president and vice president, were thanked for their years of service.

Our December meeting featured the musical duo of Jocelyn and Nate Bray. Both are ministers who do a great deal of community service which includes finding musical instrument to give away. They played and sang several songs with OARSEA members occasionally joining in.

We look forward to our February

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*Jocelyn and Nate Bray*

meeting when Beth Robbins, Chief Experience Officer of The Stephen Center, will expand our knowledge about the organization which partners with individuals, families, and the community to overcome homelessness, substance abuse, and mental health concerns. We will collect donations to help their cause.

Linda Hammer

## ~ SOUTHEAST NE AREA ~

On behalf of the Southeast Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel, Happy 2025! This group had a very busy fall. We welcomed 4 new members to our association and we now have 31 members! In September we invited Lucas Froeschl, Edge director, to speak about changes coming to this area. Lucas' mom is member Gail Froeschl. Lucas gave an informative presentation and discussed efforts to increase housing, work force, and child care availability.

President Bowers lead a memorial program to honor Marie Parsons and June Hayward, who passed away this year. She also gave a shout out to member Sharon Bogle who was awarded the Richardson County Woman of the Year.

Members traveled to Humboldt, Nebraska for our October Meeting. Following the business meeting members were given a tour of the Humboldt Auditorium, seeing current renovations and learning about future plans. This was followed by a visit to the Cancer Garden to view the beautiful fall colors.

Members continue to give of their time, talents and donations to further benefit the students, community, and especially future teachers. "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has" - Margaret Mead.



*Lucas Froeschl and Gail Froeschl.*

Respectfully submitted by Deb Harris, Secretary