



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

Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel



NEWSLETTER



Spring 2021 www.narsp.org

Published Twice Yearly

Unicameral Update

The first session of the 107th Nebraska Legislature opened on January 6, 2021. This is a 90-day session. There have been a total of 684 new Legislative Bills introduced by the Senators. There are two bills of interest to retirees that would reduce or eliminate completely state taxation of Social Security benefits.

LB 64 introduced by Senator Brett Lindstrom, Omaha, would “Change provisions relating to the taxation of Social Security benefits.” This proposed bill would phase out state taxation on Social Security over five years, reducing the income tax on Social Security benefits at a rate of 20 percent each year.

LB 237 introduced by Senator Tom Brewer, Gordon, would “Change provisions relating to the taxation of benefits received under the federal Social Security Act.” This bill exempts Social Security payments from Nebraska income tax. The exemption is indexed to adjusted gross income and is gradually implemented over 5 years. It exempts portions of Social Security from taxation based on income level.

Both of these bills were scheduled to be heard by the Revenue Committee on Thursday, February 25. Senator Lou Ann Linehan is the Revenue Committee chair. Other members include: Senators Albrecht, Bostar, Briese, Flood, Friesen, Lindstrom (Vice-Chair), and Pahls.

What might you do now? Send a note to Senators Lindstrom and Brewer thanking them for introducing these pieces of Legislation. If one of your Senators is on the Revenue Committee send them a note to support the bills and vote them out of committee. If and when sent to the floor for debate, then visit or write your Senator to support the Legislation.

You can find a wealth of information about bills, senators, committees, and the Unicameral by going to the following website <NebraskaLegislature.gov>.



BIG APPLE AWARD

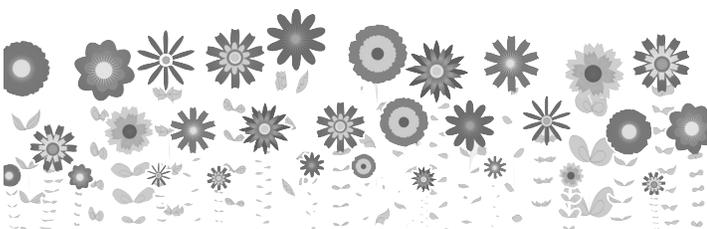
Presented to

Ann Meinzer

**With sincere appreciation for your
long-term dedicated leadership, service,
and contributions to your local unit - SE NE
Area Retired School Personnel, NARSP,
your community, and beyond.**

2020

CONGRATULATIONS, ANN!





...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...

re tire ment - an act of retiring; the state of being retired; esp. withdrawal from one's position or occupation

When one makes the decision that it's time to retire from their education vocation they wonder what they might do with their life and all the extra time they may have on their hands. Well, the extra time may not be a reality. I have heard many a person say they are busier now in retirement than when they were teaching. I have to check my calendar!

Upon retirement, each of us has made a decision as to what we might do...substitute teaching, volunteering, sewing, crafting, quilting, joining a book club or card club, childcare with the grandchildren, a small part-time job, starting your own business venture, and the list could go on with many more options. How many more times have you retired since that first retirement from the classroom?

As I reflect back on my retirement from the Lincoln Public Schools in 2003 as an elementary school classroom teacher and principal, one of the things on my bucket list was to become a member of LARSP and volunteer at their Annual Used Book Sale and as the saying goes – “the rest is history!” One thing led to another...LARSP officer positions and chairperson of committees was in the picture and in some instances a second go around with officer positions. Over thirteen years ago, NARSP came into play in serving the Association as President for four years and the volunteer Executive Director for the past nine years.

These thirteen years have provided me with numerous challenges and opportunities, which for the most part have been positive experiences. Over the past year I began contemplating when retirement might take place and felt the time has arrived. Thus, I announced at the October Board of Directors' Meeting that it was my plan to retire as the volunteer NARSP Executive Director the end of December 2021.

As noted in the NARSP Bylaws “The Executive Director position will be voluntary. The Executive Director will

work with all of the officers of NARSP and share duties and responsibilities when needed. The Executive Director will be a member of the Association of Retired Teacher Executives and attend all national ASRTE meetings when possible at his or her own expense. NARSP will pay the membership fee for the Executive Director to belong to ASRTE. The Executive Director position will be appointed by the Executive Committee.”

The Executive Board will be working on a more detailed description of the position that will be finalized later this spring. Copies will then be sent to the Unit Presidents to be shared with their membership. Feel free to contact Wauneta Peterson, NARSP President, or me with questions and/or interest about this position.

...a “little bit more” – The NARSP Executive Board has not met since the Annual Board of Directors' Meeting in October due to schedules, weather, the virus, and further restrictions. Hopefully, sometime soon in the spring a meeting, probably by conference call, will happen.

Congratulations are extended to...

...Gretchen Terpsma, Lincoln Area, and Twila Griffiths, Scottsbluff Area, for being recipients of the 2020 AARP/NRTA/Local Unit Community Service Award!

...the Norfolk Area Unit for being the recipient of both Traveling Membership Plaques for highest percentage and greatest number increase in membership!

...AMBA District Manager Kell Smalley and his wife, Leah – “It's a Boy!” – Mack Kell Smalley – born in December!

The AARP Nebraska staff continues to work from their home locations with a hope of returning to their downtown Lincoln office sometime this spring. Check out their website for the many virtual events and opportunities they have planned and are offering each month...the list is quite lengthy and geared to a variety of interests.

In conclusion...“*We all have a responsibility to remain active in retirement, to keep ourselves well informed, to cooperate with responsible public and private agencies concerned with programs and activities that will make our nation strong morally, spiritually and materially for the benefit of all Americans.*” –Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, Founder of NRTA, 1947



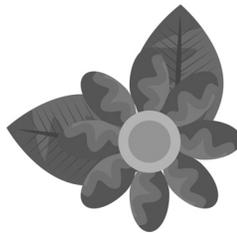
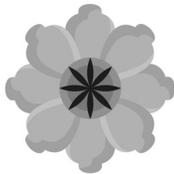
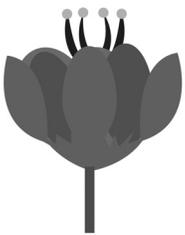
From NRTA in the Know...- New Online Volunteer Resources

Both Retired Educators Associations and AARP are known for their deep commitment to community service.

To help retired educators learn more about volunteer opportunities and causes AARP supports, AARP has launched a new online experience to help you find and compare volunteer opportunities that match your interests.

Here, you will find information about the AARP Volunteer Portal, virtual volunteer opportunities, opportunities in your community and stories from volunteers. And, more features and enhancements are coming soon!

We invite retired educators to visit <https://www.aarp.org/volunteer/> to learn more.



Announcement

The Bussmanns are announcing their retirement from NARSP Executive Board positions.

Billie has served as the NARSP Secretary for the past thirteen years. She does not plan to seek another two-year term in the upcoming elections at the Board of Directors' meeting this coming fall.

Bob announced at last fall's Board of Directors' meeting he planned to step down from the volunteer NARSP Executive Director position at the end of December 2021. Bob has served as the Executive Director for that past nine years. Prior to assuming the Executive Director position he served four years at NARSP President.

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 2020-21 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 Tuesday, August 31 to be included in the memorial program.**

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

NARSP Executive Board

Robert Bussmann,
Executive Director

Wauneta Peterson,
President

Vacant
Vice President

Billie Carole Bussmann,
Secretary

Nancy Johnson,
Treasurer

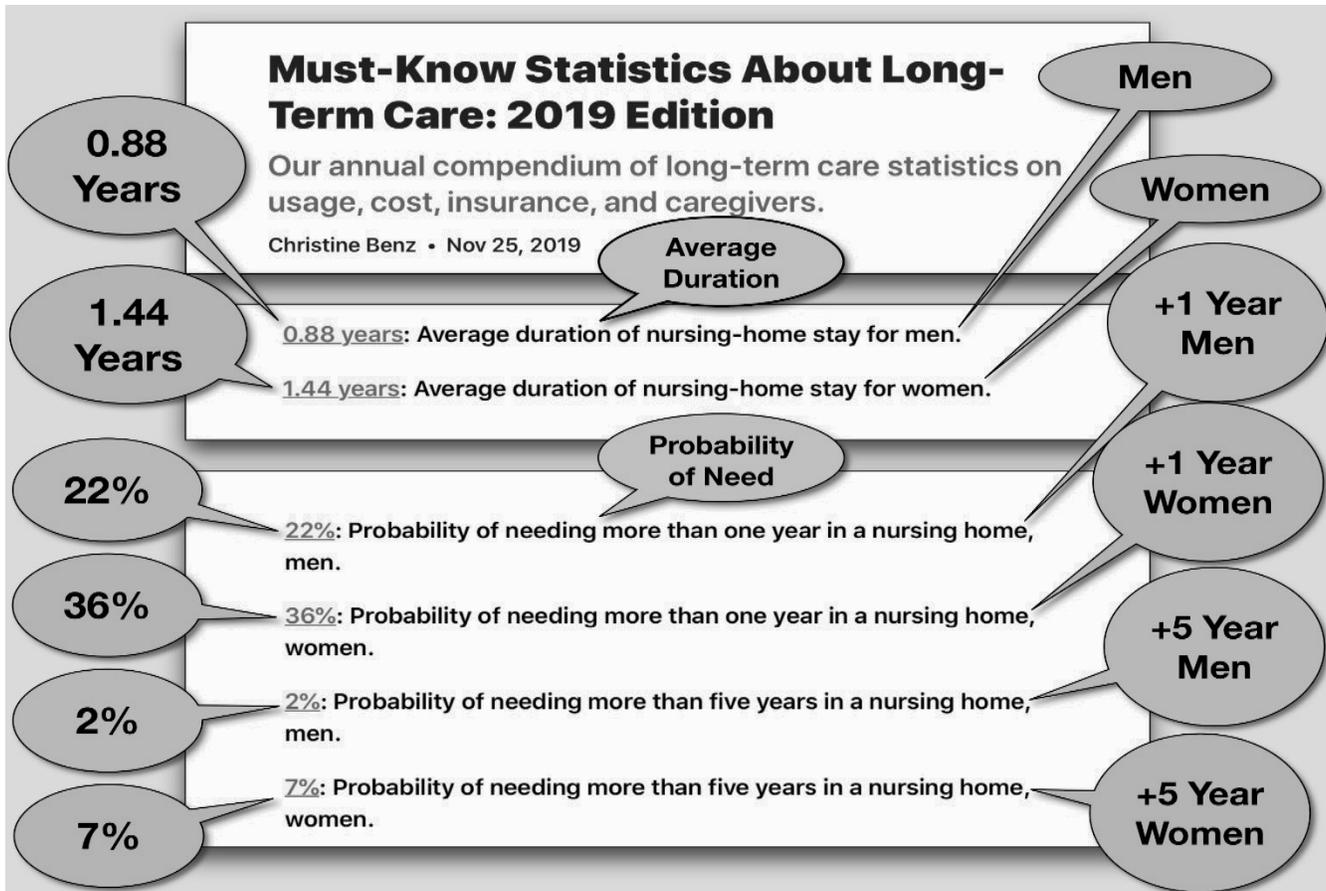
Additional officer information located on the NARSP Website:
www.narsp.org

Kell's Kolumn

Information provided by:

Kell Smalley

AMBA District Manager - KS & NE



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

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

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

- Help manage your everyday expenses.
- Pay benefits directly to you (or a medical provider that you designate).

• Pay in addition to any other health care coverage you may have.

Because we care about our members, we think it's important that you review these coverage options with a licensed insurance agent from Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA). Call AMBA today at 877.698.2782 to see how potentially affordable coverage can be.

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

Phone: 913-912-2157

Email: kell.smalley@amba.info



NEVER GO DOWN WITH THE STOCK MARKET AGAIN

GET STEADY INCOME, WITH NO DOWNSIDE RISK, WITH A FIXED INDEX ANNUITY.

If you never want to get jolted by sudden changes in the stock market, then a Fixed Index Annuity may be for you. With this annuity, your income is locked in, with a guaranteed interest rate. Plus there are multiple payout options.

Why a Fixed Index Annuity?

- » Protects your investment from downturns
- » Enjoy market gains without downside risk
- » Offers you a guaranteed interest rate
- » Provides you income for your entire lifetime
- » Access to all of your funds penalty free for Confinement, Terminal Illness and Home Health Care
- » From a highly rated carrier over 100 years old

CONTACT AN AMBA REPRESENTATIVE:

Agent Name:

Cell Phone:

Email Address:



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NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, October 28, 2020

Conference Call

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

The Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel Board of Directors meeting was held via a conference call on October 28, 2020. Members on the call were Bob Bussmann-Lincoln Unit, Executive Director; Billie Bussmann-Lincoln Unit, NARSP Secretary; Wauneta Peterson-Lincoln Unit, State President; Nancy Johnson-Omaha Unit, State Treasurer; Connie Hill-Omaha Unit, President; Vira Brooks-Omaha Unit, Vice-President; Ann Meinzer-Southeast Nebraska Unit, President and State Vice-President; Jan Stamper, Lincoln Unit, Co-President; Pam Ford-Lincoln Unit, Co-President; Pat Jenkins Rhode=Wayne Unit, President; Jenny Gubbels-Wayne Unit, Secretary/Treasurer; Karen Myers-Hastings Unit, President; Twila Griffiths-Scottsbluff Unit, President; Marcia Schlichemier-Scottsbluff Unit, Treasurer; and Kell Smalley, AMBA. Units not represented include: Beatrice, McCook, and Norfolk.

Wauneta Peterson, President, called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. All people on the conference call were introduced. Ann Meinzer served as parliamentarian.

The meeting began with a memorial service remembering those members who had passed away during the previous year. Their unit representatives read the names of each member.

The October 1, 2019 minutes were approved as printed.

Nancy Johnson, State Treasurer reported an August checkbook balance of \$9,886.03. The checkbook balance and other monies as of August 31, 2020 is \$59,748.13. The report will be filed for financial review. There are three CDs due that Nancy will check on for renewal.

Nancy reported the NARSP Membership totals 945. Unit membership includes 540 members and 405 NARSP State members. Four units increased membership, four units decreased membership and five stayed the same.

Bob indicated Cathy Morgan has collected all the volunteer hours from the units once again for this year. Units will be mailed their certificates for volunteer hours and recognition of their Day of Service activities. The hours are 38,070 of which 7,197 is for With Our Youth for a total monetary value of \$1,035,504.

Ann Meinzer, Nominating Committee Chair presented Wauneta Peterson for president and no one for vice-president for the 2020-2022 two-year term. Wauneta asked for nominations from those on the conference call for these two offices. There were none.

Kell Smalley, District Manager, shared information from AMBA. He indicated that our new state membership has increased from 95 to 126.

Bob presented the Executive Director report which included a directory of the presidents, noting that three units are inactive including Mullen, Columbus and Grand Island, indicating in the mailing a Local Unit President Checklist, a review of newsletter

guidelines, legislative updates, sharing the AMBA website for NARSP will now allow membership renewals via the website, and to send unit directories to Bob as Executive Director and Wauneta as President.

We thank AMBA for providing a website for our association.

Bob shared information concerning the Cascade Fountain. He thanked units for their donations. The state units raised several thousand dollars. Individuals or unites can purchase bricks for \$250 to be displayed in the fountain area.

It was indicated that Nancy should check and see if any of the individuals in the inactive units wish to be NARSP members.

Under unfinished business the 2019 Convention Survey/Feedback was discussed. It appears disbanding the convention and perhaps going to a Zoom meeting may be the best way to proceed.

Under new business there needs to be a nominating committee. It is hoped three individuals will step up for this committee.

Wauneta Peterson was elected president. The office of Vice-President remains vacant.

The proposed NARSP Convention Resolution was introduced to discontinue the NARSP State Convention and hold a NARSP Board of Directors' Annual Meeting either during the month of September or October at a date, time and location to be determined by the NARSP Executive Board. Bob moved and Jan Stamper seconded that this resolution be adopted. Motion passed.

With the adoption of the convention resolution, the NARSP Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules will need to be changed and updated. These proposed changes were presented and approved.

Bob presented the NARSP Proposed Budget for 2020-2021. It was approved.

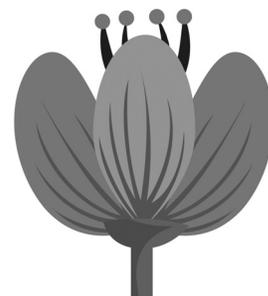
The NARSP Awards were presented. The Norfolk unit received both traveling plaques for the unit that increased most in numbers and the unit with the highest percentage of increased.

Wauneta Peterson was installed as NARSP State President.

Bob shared some concluding remarks until we meet again in 2021. Bob also announced he plans to retire as NARSP Executive Director on December 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 2:11 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Billie Carole Bussmann
NARSP Secretary



NARSP Membership

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

All retired teachers, administrators, school personnel and support staff are invited to join our organization 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 NARSP 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 Scholarships

This is the 12th year for the NARSP Active Educator Scholarship program. Two scholarships of \$1,000 each for the 2021-2022 academic year will be awarded to an active educator that is working on an advanced degree or endorsement.

Applications are available from the local Unit President. The deadline for submitting an application is April 9, 2021. Units will then select a semi-finalist application to forward onto the NARSP Executive Board for consideration. The board will make the selection of the two scholarship recipients.

If you would know of an active educator in your area that is working on an advanced degree or endorsement, encourage them to make an application for the scholarship.

Look forward to the Summer Issue of the NARSP Newsletter for the announcement of the scholarship recipients.

“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!



“Spring Ahead!!”
Daylight Savings Time
begins on
Sunday, March 14

NARSP 

**Remember to
LIKE us on**



www.facebook.com/NRTA.NE

Nominations Sought for NARSP Awards

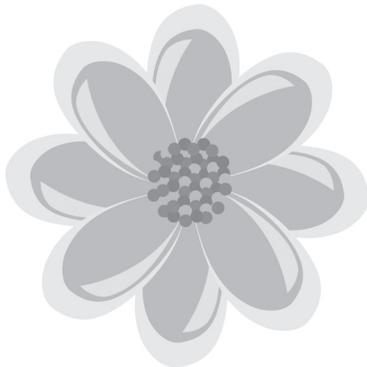
NARSP has two annual awards, the “Big Apple” Award and the “Educational Service” Award, that are given to recognize individuals for their efforts in the community and/or unit or on behalf of retired school personnel.

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), Connie Benjamin (2019), and Ann Meinzer (2020).

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 Monday, May 3, 2021. 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.



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




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 Monday, May 3, 2021. (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"...

"Blizzard of '58"

Irene Marquette Fry, North Platte

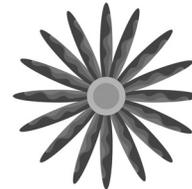
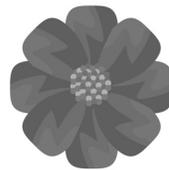
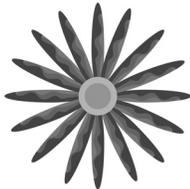
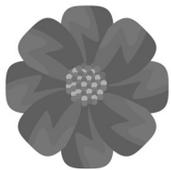
While I was teaching near North Platte, we had the great blizzard of '58, one of our most frightful experiences. The school was about three miles out, and when the snow and wind began, the parents started coming for their children. The principal did not dismiss school since no word had come to do so.

Then the telephone was shut off, the electricity went out, and two teachers were there with a dozen or so children that hadn't been picked up. The superintendent was concerned as

he knew we were more isolated from the residential section than were the other schools. When he got there, two school board members and the physical education teacher were already there. They decided that the children should line up and take hands to go out, led by the board members. The teachers were to get into the Superintendent Oak's car and leave our cars there. The physical education teacher came with us to point the way. He grabbed a towel from the kitchen to wrap his head, as he had to lean out the window to tell the way, so we wouldn't land in the ditch. Even telephone lines were hidden in the snow, so there was no way of seeing the highway. The blizzard was raging.

Supposing all was organized, we left before the children. As it happened, they couldn't make it, so the board members and children stayed all night in the school. They had to work the furnace manually every fifteen minutes to keep the school warm. Drapes were pulled down and used for covers. I had candles for science so they used them for light. A parent, who was a quarter of a mile from the school, brought food down on his tractor. The home across the road was offered, but all were safer in the school building.

We would have spent the night with the children, too, if we had known. I spent the night with the other teacher, Mrs. Ethel Shiley, as I lived a mile further west in North Platte than she.



NRTA Staff

Al Campos, Director NRTA

Shelisa Ashford, DC Office

Mary Beth Dixon, Advisor

Jasmine Vasques, Senior Legislative Representative



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



The news articles for the Summer Issue of the NARSP Newsletter are due by Friday, July 9, 2021.

Cascade Fountain Update

As you know, in January 2020 the Lincoln Parks Foundation announced a \$1.6 million campaign to renovate the aging fountain and the surrounding plaza into a special place for all to visit and honor educators across the state. Throughout 2020, mainly due to the pandemic's impact on the supply chain, the cost of both materials and labor associated with utilities construction increased. Updated cost estimates show a 20-30% increase for utility related work as compared to the original project estimate.

With the new cost estimate, endowment, campaign expenses and contingency, the campaign goal was adjusted to \$1,815,000. With overwhelming interest in this project and the generosity of donors during a pandemic, the new goal has been reached with support from more than 250 donors!

Lincoln Parks and Recreation will open the project for bids in February 2021. With this new timeline, the renovated Cascade Fountain will be dedicated in the spring of 2022 when bubbling returns.

With the new construction timeline, the deadline to participate in the Cascade Honor Roll Brick Program has been extended. Anyone who purchases a \$250 brick by March 1, 2021 will be able to see their brick installed in the plaza at the dedication in 2022. Cascade Honor Roll will continue to exist as a permanent program of Lincoln Parks Foundation after March 1, 2012. Bricks will be placed annually, like the similar tribute programs at Sunken Gardens, Hamann Rose Garden, Veterans Memorial Garden, etc.

Donations are still being accepted for the Cascade Fountain Campaign. Information can be found by going to the following website: <LincolnParks.org/Cascade>.



Community Service Report for 2020

Until the corona virus shut down the nation, the members of NARSP were very active volunteering in their communities. Some interesting volunteer projects included donating platelets on a regular basis, providing gift sacks for disabled veterans and for shut-ins, providing food and personal products for students and families in need, cleaning a cemetery, sewing for Orphan Grain Train, and of course, the usual times spent helping at churches, hospitals, libraries, schools and various community events. Last year, NARSP members were busy with flood cleaning activities. This year many have been volunteering to sew masks for medical personnel and others.

Thank you to all the Units that have sent in their reports. I know that due to the corona virus that you had other things on your mind other than turning in Community Service hours. Your efforts are very much appreciated. Community Service hours turned in this year show the impact of the corona virus and will undoubtedly show an even greater impact in next year's report. These are the results that have been turned in:

With Our Youth Hours: 7,197

Total Volunteer Hours: 38,070

Value of these hours: \$1,035,504.00

Reporting Units, accordingly, received certificates for the total Community Service hours and certificates for With Our Youth and Day of Service/Special Projects if they were included in their report. Nine Units submitted reports.

[Special Thanks and Appreciation to Cathy Morgan, Hastings Area Unit, for compiling the volunteers hours and submitting the Community Service Report]

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



NARSP DECEASED MEMBERS 2019-2020

BEATRICE

Marie Jones
Wilma Sawyer

FREMONT

Janet Blomendahl
Bev Greunke
Marian Johnson
Marain Kline
Margaret Mary McGath

GRAND ISLAND

Robert Jones
Pollyanne Meyer
Bea Southard
Stanley Urwiler
Susan Wiese

HASTINGS

Marilyn Ahrens
Rita Jaworski

Elaine Lamski
Dixie Tripe

LINCOLN

Beverly Ashley
Geraldine "Gerry" Cox
Dorothy Dunning
Cheryl Frederick
Harold Edwards
Alice Hickey
Don Hobbs
Dr. Lois I. Johnson
Wanda Lancaster
Sharon Kay Michaelson
Laurel Muff
LaDonna "Ann" Powers
Carol M. Reed
Carol Seng
Dorothy "Dottie" Vfqain
Helen Weber
Linda Windle-Michel

NORFOLK

Gene Kincanon

OMAHA

Ruth Randall Benson
Virginia Clausen
Donald Ellis
Nancy McCormick
Thelma Padilla
Alfred "Fred" Pisasale
Laura Powers
Rose Shay

SCOTTSBLUFF

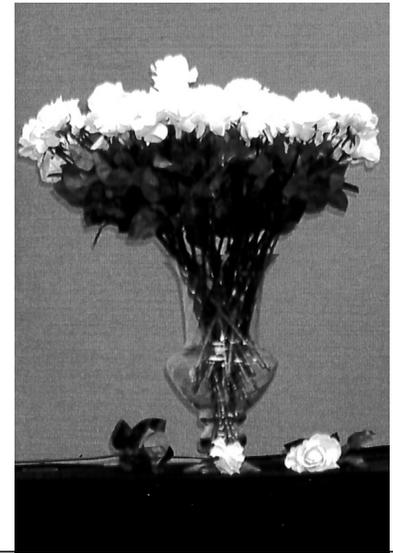
Dean "Kent" Harvey
Karon Harvey

WAYNE

Mary Lou George
Gertrude M. Vahlkamp

NARSP STATE

Leslie Corr, Eagle
Frank Henry Dupris, Lincoln
Fay Gillham, Gretna
Virginia A. Pinker, Omaha
Frank A. Polumbo, Sr.,
Bellevue



***Continue
to...***



WASH YOUR HANDS

SOCIAL DISTANCING

WEAR YOUR MASK

***Check into Vaccination Clinics Scheduled for
Your Community/Area***

Request for Nominations

Officer positions up for election at the Board of Directors' Meeting this coming fall are Secretary and Treasurer. Both positions are for a two-year term (2021-2023).

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

Treasurer Duties – The Treasurer shall deposit all funds in the name of the Association. In addition, the Treasurer shall: be bonded; receive and keep a record of all money paid into the Association; issue a receipt, if requested, to each unit treasurer for any monies paid into the State Treasury; assist units in their efforts to recruit new members, retain current members, and review past member (including AMBA/state only members; collect dues and

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

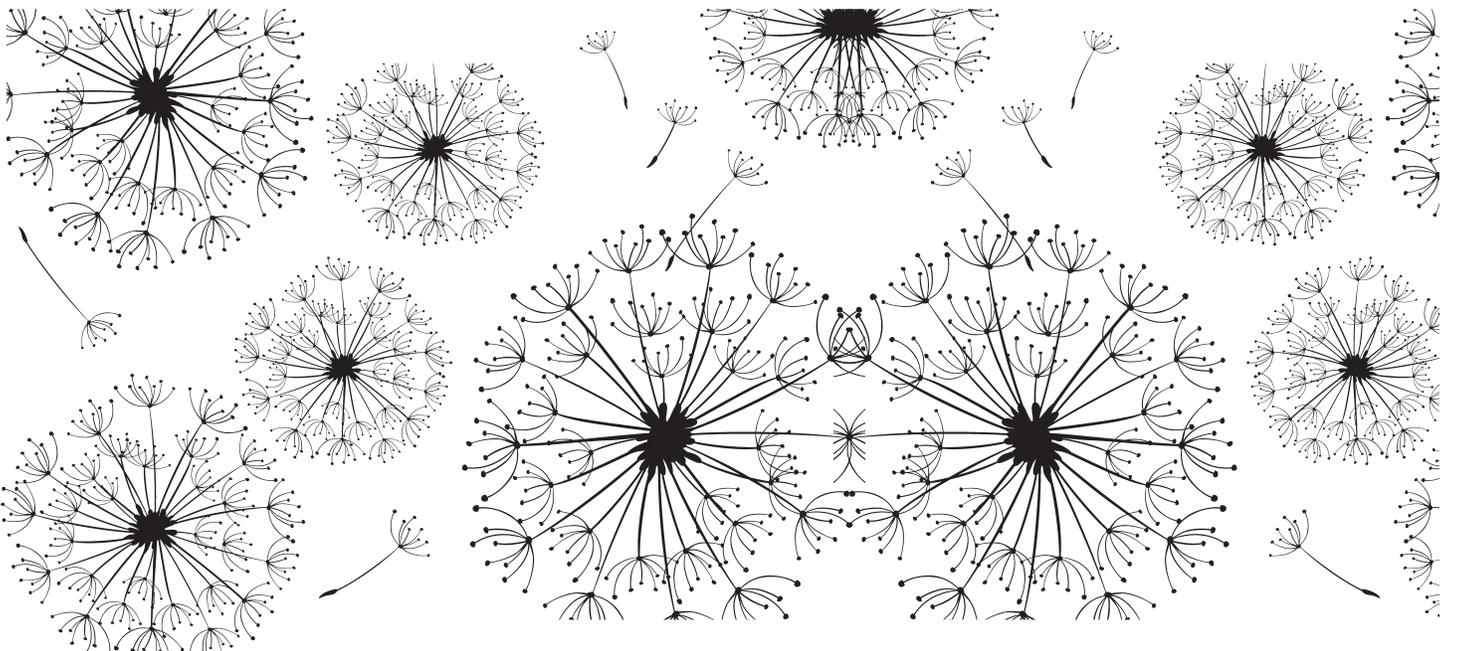
Individuals need to consider serving in these very important officer positions...that includes past Local Unit officers. Self-nomination or submitting the names of potential nominees will be greatly appreciated. In the words of Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus – “To Serve – Not To Be Served”...yes, it is time to “step up to the plate” NARSP members! Forward your suggestions to Wauneta Peterson, NARSP President, or Bob Bussmann, NARSP Executive Director, prior to June 1, 2021.

NARSP Vice-President Vacancy

Presently, there is a vacant position for the office of NARSP Vice-President. The term would be for the remainder of 2021 through 2022. The Vice-President office is not an automatic move into the President position when the term is completed. With this vacancy, an individual would be an appointment by the Executive Board for the term.

The Vice-President shall assume all the duties of the President in case of a vacancy or incapacity of the President. The Vice-President may also have additional duties as assigned by the President and/or assigned by the Bylaws such as a committee chairperson.

This position would be a great opportunity for a NARSP member “to serve” the Association. Again, self-nomination or submitting the names of potential candidates would be appreciated. Forward your suggestions to Wauneta Peterson or Bob Bussmann.



UNIT REPORTS

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

~ FREMONT AREA ~

The Fremont Area Association of Retired School Personnel has had a very unusual time as COVID has made FLEXIBILITY the word for the year.

Our May and July general meetings were cancelled for the health concerns of our membership. We love all our members and want to keep them our number one priority.

Projects and activities all continued except we were on plan B, if you know what I mean. Our financial donation for CHAD by the membership were all through the mail this year. FAARSP has increased its donation to the Combined Health Agencies Drive for the eight years we have been involved. We have gone from \$395.00 in 2013 to \$16,720.10 in 2020. You can't beat the hearts of these members♥♥.

Our donation of food and paper products from our meetings was changed. No meeting, no donations—wrong. We held three drive thru dates this last summer and our latest was in January. The need of our LifeHouse/Low Income does not stop so we find ways to continue our support.



Beth Radtke, left, and Andy Bongiovanni help put donated supplies into the van from members who participated in the Drive Thru this last Fall.

We did work out arrangements with our host church sites for our September and November general meetings. We had special rules for those who chose to attend. Chairs were spaced with no

tables, and masks were required. No lunch was served and no food was allowed. People were not allowed to touch anyone. The meeting was kept to the shortened agenda of an hour. All went great.



Cindy Tranmer presents Vernelle Werblow her awards for being selected as FAARSP's winner of the 2020 Outstanding Service Award for her work in the association and community. Carol Martin looks on after announcing the winner. Not pictured from the committee is Rhoda Holstein.

The September meeting was very important as we were finally together to elect our President and Communication Director which was six months late. Old officers kept things going until we had a meeting to vote. Ruth Register was re-elected President and Linda Betkie was newly elected Communication Director. We look forward to Linda joining us on the board. Her enthusiasm is great. We also presented our Outstanding Service Award for FAARSP and the community. Our 2020 winner was Vernelle Werblow. What an asset to our association.

At the November meeting our newly printed membership calendars were ready to be picked up by the members. FAARSP members also donated enough money to again purchase ten holiday meals for the community project. We thank Norma Register for heading up this drive.

With COVID, our veterans' Christmas bag packing and delivery had to be totally changed also. To minimize the contact with the supplies, Ruth and Norma Register packed the 100 bags. Members wrote on the Christmas cards and they were dropped off at a designated site to then be added to the bags. Arrangements had to be made with each of the nine care centers for



Wanda Samson, financial director of FAARSP accepts the money needed for 10 of the community Holiday Meals for the needy in Fremont. Member Norma Register headed up the project for the association.

delivery. The bags were placed outside their main door and a call was made to the contact person to tell them the bags were there. Members sure missed all the personal contact with the vets. A big hug, holding their hand and listening to their stories.

Our January meeting was

anceled. As we are used to changes this year, our members again made the veterans' valentines at home and dropped them off at a designated site to be packed with their chocolate candies and cookies. Thanks to all the members who did fantastic work on the cards. A special thank you to Fremont High School student council for doing the chocolates again this year for these two veterans projects and Parker's Cookies for donating the cookies for them also. Well, by the time you read this our Valentines Veterans project will have been smoothly completed.

Members continue to collect used stamps that are sent to Stamps for the Wounded. These stamps are used for therapy and hobbies for the veterans.

This new year we all can be thankful that we made it to the new year as safe as can be. Now we roll up our sleeves as it is time to start our work all over again. Thank you FAARSP members. We love you all ♥♥♥.

Submitted by
Ruth Register
President-FAARP



LifeHouse staff member helps Ruth Register unload over 50 back packs as part of FAARSPs donation of school supplies for needy kids to start the new school year.

~ HASTINGS AREA ~

By strictly following our health district's guidelines, we were able to host our annual membership luncheon in July. It was held in the Hastings Middle School cafeteria which provided ample

space for social distancing. The catered lunch was served in individual boxes, and the ice cream for dessert was provided by the meeting's speaker, Donna Bieck. She spoke about her recently-opened Special Scoops ice cream shop which provides employment opportunities for adults with special needs. Michelle Kimle also spoke briefly to inform us about the Hastings Middle School pantry, our project for this year.

Also present were our two scholarship recipients, Brooke Aspen of Hastings High School and Jacob Haight of Sutton High School. They shared their goals as they plan their careers in education.

Our September meeting was held at the new E.S.U. #9 building. Drew Harris, the director of E.S.U. #9, spoke about how schools in the area were handling decisions related to the Corona virus pandemic. Jackie Ediger, also from E.S.U. #9, spoke about volunteer opportunities at the unit.

We were not able to hold a meeting in November because of the virus, and our January meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. With vaccinations now becoming available, along with a lower infection rate in our health district, we are hoping to soon resume our regular meeting schedule.

~ LINCOLN AREA ~

The LARSP Unit chose to cancel general meetings until September. Hopefully, we will be able to have a board meeting late spring via email, if necessary.

We are hoping to reconnect with members by encouraging telephone and/or phone calls to other members. We are asking members to send valentines to "shut-ins" who have been past recipients of "snack sacks" and others.

Bob and Billie Bussmann have consented to serve as secretary and treasurer for another year.

We are planning to recognize Gretchen Terpsma as the recipient of our Community Service award in the fall. Other usual activities: Past President's Brunch, Philanthropy presentations, Necrology services, and quilt raffle are all being rescheduled for next year.

Submitted by
Jan Stamper

~ SCOTTSBLUFF AREA ~

The Scottsbluff Area Retired School Personnel (SARSP) has been on hold for almost a year now. We are hoping by the fall of 2021 we will be able to meet again.

Treasurer Marcia Schlichtemier and President Twila Griffiths represented our group as they joined the ZOOM annual meet-



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Unit Reports (cont.)

ing. They enjoyed hearing the reports and the ceremony honoring those who have passed away this past year. Since the COVID pandemic began, our own group has lost three members and one friend who often attended. We were greatly saddened by the passing of both Kent and Karon Harvey who have held offices continuously over the years and were such a vital part of our organization. We also lost Leona Carlson who at 93 was amazing. She had just recently given up driving. Vern Fegler, husband of member Evelyn Fegler, was a frequent guest of our group. We will miss his friendly smile.

Karon and Kent were recipients of the Chapter & REA Unit Community Service Award in the past. Their last action with our group was to nominate Twila Griffiths for the 2020 award. This award was received this summer and will always be a reminder of the changes COVID has brought to our older population and volunteerism.

We appreciate the work of Bob Bussmann and the other officers and board members who are working diligently to keep things going during these difficult times.

Twila Griffiths
President SARSP

