



“To Serve — Not To Be Served”

Affiliated with NRTA and AARP

Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel



NEWSLETTER



Spring 2022 www.narsp.org

Published Twice Yearly

Thank You

With much thanks and appreciation for the desktop clock recently presented to me in recognition of my nine years of service as NARSP Executive Director. It has been a pleasure to serve the Association in this position as well as the prior four years as NARSP President.

The famous quote of Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus definitely comes to mind...“*To Serve - Not To Be Served*”...thanks, again!

Bob

Community Service Report for 2020-2021

Statistics show that volunteering not only helps others and supports communities, but it also tends to help the volunteers. It is good for ones physical and mental health. It also provides the volunteer with the opportunity to develop relationships with the people they help or with those whom they volunteer with.

Even the pandemic did not keep NARSP people from benefiting from the experience of volunteering. Granted, our hours are fewer this year. That was expected. Still 23,743 hours were turned in. These hours, valued at \$28.54/hour, translated in savings to \$677,625.22.

Volunteering activities included many hours of church related work. New opportunities arose with the pandemic and those who picked up groceries or ran errands for others or got people to appointments clocked many hours. Many were sewing masks for hospital personnel and others.

Until we conquer COVID 19, may you continue to reach out in the spirit of volunteerism when and where you can. More importantly, may you all stay safe and healthy.

[Editorial Note - Thanks to Cathy Morgan from Hastings, NARSP Community Service Chair Pro Tem, for compiling the volunteer hours from the local units and submitting this report]

Nebraska Primary Election
Tuesday, May 10
Remember to
VOTE!





Wauneta's Notes

Hope you are staying warm and well. So far our winter weather has been cool but not much moisture.

As you recall, Bob Bussmann informed NARSP over a year ago he was stepping down as of December 31, 2021 as Executive Director. No one has offered to take the position. Are there any of you willing to be a Co-Executive Director? Having two people could ease the pressure and responsibility of the position. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please call me 402-483-1649 or email wvpeterston2@gmail.com.

Bob and Billie Bussmann have volunteered to be Co-Newsletter Editors for the year 2022. Thank you Bob and Billie for filling this vacancy!

Because of COVID, many of you have not been meeting. Continue to find ways to be creative and communicate. We need to let the public know who we are and what we do.

Wauneta Peterson
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 2021-22 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 Wednesday, 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

Vacant
Executive Director

Wauneta Peterson,
President

June Bowers
Vice President

Twila Griffiths
Secretary

Nancy Johnson,
Treasurer

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

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 Scholarships

This is the 13th year for the NARSP Active Educator Scholarship program. Two scholarships of \$1,000 each for the 2022-2023 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 8, 2022. 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 Jeri Lorenz at Copycat 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



"Spring Ahead!!"
Daylight Savings Time
begins on
Sunday, March 13

NARSP 

**Remember to
LIKE us on**



www.facebook.com/NRTA.NE

Kell's Kolumn

Information provided by:

Kell Smalley

AMBA District Manager - KS, NW MO & NE



Medicare Update-

Here are some highlights of the most impactful changes to Medicare in 2022:

Medicare Part B premium is going up by \$21.60 to \$170.10

The annual deductible for all Medicare Part B beneficiaries is \$233 in 2022, an increase of \$30 from the annual deductible of \$203 in 2021

With inflation being at all-time highs and increases to Medicare, now is a good time to review you Medicare benefits through NARSP/AMBA.

Did you know Medicare with a gap plan will only cover up to 100 days of facility care?

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

Fact: 75% of adults over the age of 65 will need some type of home health or facility care in their lifetime.

You'll be happy to know that NARSP has endorsed a home care and facility care insurance plan underwritten by Aetna. 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).

Email or call District Manager Kell Smalley for a information and prices tailored to your needs.

Phone: 913-912-2157

Email: kell.smalley@amba.info

Unicameral Update

The second session of the 107th Nebraska Legislature convened on January 5, 2022. This is a 60-day session projected to conclude on April 20. They will be halfway through this legislative session on February 23.

During the first session, Senator Brett Lindstrom, Omaha, introduced LB 64 that reduced taxation of Social Security income in Nebraska over several years with the intention of eliminating it entirely in tax year 2030. LB 64 passed on a vote of 41-0 and was signed into law by Governor Pete Ricketts.

Senator Lindstrom introduced LB 825 this session. This bill would speed up the phase out of state taxation of Social Security income. Passage of this new piece of legislation would result in a 100 percent exemption in tax year 2025.

The Revenue Committee heard testimony on January 19. The committee voted 7-0 to advance LB 825 to general file. The first round of debate took place on January 25 with lawmakers voting 42-0 to advance the bill to select file. (Select File is the second stage at which a bill is considered by the entire Legislature. Bills on Select File may be amended, returned to committee, indefinitely postponed or advanced to Final Reading.) At the present, a date is uncertain when consideration will take place in this phase of the process.

The process is still not complete. If you haven't contacted your state senator about this bill, please do so. If you have already made contact...thank you...you may want to make a friendly contact to let them know you are still interested in seeing the tax on Social Security benefits eliminated.





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: Kell Smalley

Cell Phone: 913-912-2157

Email Address: kell.smalley@amba.info



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NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, September 29, 2021

Sheridan Lutheran Church - Lincoln, NE

The Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel Annual Board of Directors meeting was held at Sheridan Lutheran Church on September 29, 2021. Members present 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; June Bowers-Southeast Nebraska Unit-President, State Vice-President; Pam Ford-Lincoln Unit, Co-President; Pat Jenkins Rhode=Wayne Unit, President; Jenny Gubbels-Wayne Unit, Secretary/Treasurer; Karen Myers-Hastings Unit, President; LaVila Van Boening-Hastings Unit, Vice-President; Twila Griffiths-Scottsbluff Unit, President; Ernie Griffiths-Scottsbluff Unit, member; Cathy Morgan-Hastings Unit, NARSP State Community Service Chair Pro Tem; Shirley "Pat" Straight-Wayne Unit, member; and Todd Stubbendieck, AARP Nebraska State Director. Units not represented include: Beatrice, Fremont, McCook, and Norfolk.

The meeting began with a sack lunch catered by Hy-Vee at 11:45 a.m.

Wauneta Peterson, President, called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. with a welcome and introductions. She declared a quorum present.

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 and placed a white rose in a vase.

Billie Bussmann, Secretary read the correspondence from Clarissa Ross, scholarship recipient. The October 28, 2020 minutes were approved as printed.

Nancy Johnson, State Treasurer reported a September 24, 2021 checkbook balance of \$8,755.12. The checkbook balance and other monies as of September 24, 2020 is \$59,394.44. The report will be filed for financial review. There are three CDs due that Nancy will check on for renewal.

Todd Stubbendieck, AARP State Director, shared that the Social Security Exemption of some benefits from state income tax passed. They are working on broadband high speed internet for the state, family care givers who provide 199 hours of care can collect Social Security and unemployment insurance, and lowering prescription drug prices. They are conducting meetings via Zoom and interactive calls. Hopefully in the near future people can meet in person. Candidates for office interviews were made for information only.

Kell Smalley, AMBA Regional Representative was unable to attend. Bob Bussmann gave Kell's report. Kell is available to give presentations on AMBA Benefits at unit meetings. Do see the website for NARSP on AMBA. An individual can renew or join NARSP on line. One can renew with a credit card yearly or automatically. There will be a trifold brochure to hand to retirees that will be sent out later. A ten-year contract has been signed with AMBA.

Nancy reported the NARSP Membership totals 573. Not all

units have turned in their dues and membership lists as they are not due until October 15. Three units increased membership, three units decreased membership and four stayed the same from the 2020 membership.

Cathy Morgan, NARSP Community Service Chair Pro Tem, presented the volunteer hours and Days of Service awards. The hours are 23,743 for a total monetary value of \$677,625.22.

Wauneta Peterson presented the NARSP Active Educator Scholarship certificates to the units the scholarship recipients were nominated. There were 18 total applications and 7 semifinalists. Darcy Bake nominated from the Wayne Unit had her certificate presented to Pat Jenkins Rhode. Clarissa Ross nominated by the Falls City Unit had her certificate to June Bowers.

Bob Bussmann presented Nancy Johnson for nomination for treasurer and no one for secretary for the 2021-2023 two-year term. Wauneta asked for nominations.

Bob presented the Executive Director report which included a copy of the NARSP Constitution and Bylaws, education of teachers from the late 1800's from Anna Meinser, directory of the presidents, NARSP newsletter guidelines, legislative updates, the NRTA zoom meeting in October with Jan Barneson and Bob participating, and to send unit directories to Wauneta as President.

There was no unfinished business.

The nomination committee was selected with June Bowers as chair and Twila Griffiths and Connie Hill as committee members.

Nancy Johnson was elected treasurer. There was discussion concerning the position of secretary. Twila Griffiths indicated she would serve as secretary.

The Executive Director and Newsletter Editor Positions were discussed. No decisions were made and both positions remain open.

Bob presented the NARSP Proposed Budget for 2021-2022. Added was a \$200 stipend for the Newsletter Editor position. It was approved.

The NARSP Awards were presented. The Beatrice unit received both traveling plaques for the unit that increased most in numbers and the unit with the highest percentage of increased. Cathy Morgan and Pat Jenkins Rhode received the "Educational Service" Award. Billie Bussmann was presented the "NARSP Big Apple" Award. Bob Bussmann was presented an inscribed clock for his nine years of service as NARSP Executive Director.

June Bowers was installed as NARSP State Vice-President. Twila Griffiths installed as secretary and Nancy Johnson installed as treasurer.

No information has been received on nominations for the NRTA/AARP Community Service Awards. Unit Presidents will be sent information when received.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Billie Carole Bussmann
NARSP Secretary



Georgia Bishel

Georgia Bishel is a member of the Hastings Area Retired School Personnel (HARSP). Although she is not able to attend meetings like she'd like to, she always responds by email to any correspondence that the group sends out. At 103, she is not intimidated by technology.

On July 17, 2021 Georgia was awarded the Dr. Vladimar Kucera Award at the South Central Nebraska Czech Festival. She received that award for her contributions in promoting and reserving the Czech heritage.

Spotlight on a 100-Year-Old Member



Elizabeth Dunn

Elizabeth Dunn has been a member of SNARSP since 1984. She turned 104 years young January 1, 2022. She began teaching at the age of 16 and earned a teaching degree at Peru State College. Elizabeth retired from Falls City Schools where she was a kindergarten teacher.

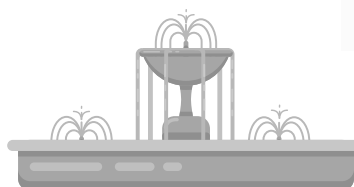
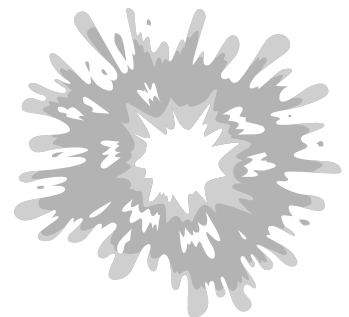
Cascade Fountain Update

The fencing and screening that surrounded the area of the Cascade Fountain has been removed. The base of the fountain and surrounding pool has been downsized.

Enhanced lighting during the holidays focused on the fountain structure.

The refurbishing project continues...new walkways and concrete areas have been laid...pallets of pavers and bricks have arrived...strands of lighting are hanging over the plaza area...spacing for trees, landscaping, and rocks are noted...and...with much more to come.

A ribbon cutting celebration and dedication of the refurbished Cascade Fountain (aka Teacher's Fountain or Bicentennial Fountain) and its beautiful surroundings is scheduled to take place at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 2 at the southeast corner of South 27th Street and Capitol Parkway in Lincoln.



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), and Billie Bussmann (2021).

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 2, 2022. If you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to call at 402-483-1649 or e-mail at wypeterson2@gmail.com.



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



NRTA Staff

Al Campos, Director NRTA

Mary Beth Dixon, Advisor

Adam Goldberg, Senior Legislative Representative

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



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



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

Your Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ **E-mail** _____

Nominee’s Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Local Unit (if applicable) _____

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

_____ **“Big Apple” Award**

_____ **“Educational Service” Award**

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

Nomination forms need to be mailed to: Wauneta Peterson, NARSP President, P.O. Box 82227, Lincoln, NE 68501 by Monday, May 2, 2022. (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"...

"A Broken Rule"

May Morrissey, Fremont

One day while teaching a rural school with all eight grades, I became very disturbed at the many interruptions during class period and decided to do something about it.

I told the pupils I wouldn't answer any questions while I was having a class, which lasted only ten or fifteen minutes; and if anyone raised his hand during that time, he would remain in the room at recess.

Not long after making this rule, I noticed Sharon, a little girl in the back seat, who never caused any trouble or raised her hand during class, looking up to me and raising her hand slightly, then dropping it, but seeming very nervous. Rules are rules, but some how I knew Sharon must have a reason, so I stopped the class and asked if she really had a question.

She said, "Yes, there's a big snake crawling in the door."

I grabbed the stove poker and rushed back there, and the snake made its departure. I then explained that Sharon wouldn't be punished as she had a very good reason for raising her hand and in such cases it was excusable.

"Lasting Memories"

Marjorie Smith, Wahoo

What profession can be more satisfying, exciting, interesting, and harder work than teaching children? Every morning you say to yourself. "What will happen today that is new and different?" I preferred children in the fourth grade, for they are old enough to help themselves, yet not old enough to be critical, but just outspoken and honest. As the saying goes, "Out of the mouths of babes come words of truth."

I began my teaching career in a country school where I became acquainted with Donnie. He was in the fifth grade and having some difficulty with fractions. I had tried several approaches. This day we were at the old slate blackboard, and I was drawing pictures, trying to illustrate fractions to him. Finally, I drew a circle and divided it into sections.

Impatiently I remarked, "Donnie, don't you see a fraction is a part of a whole?"

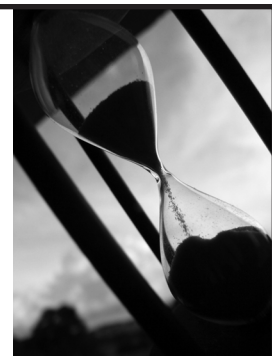
Very solemnly he answered, "Teacher, I don't see a hole."

"Pens"

Jo Miller, Fremont

During the 31 years in the same junior high classroom I observed an evolution of pens. First, steel pens inserted in penholders were furnished if needed. But most pupils used fountain pens. They tried to keep bottles of ink in their lockers only to have them crash to the floor, resulting in a mess of glass fragments and a pool of ink to be cleaned up. Then the custodian built a rack on top of the Univent for each pupil's bottle of ink. Squirting ink across the aisles was a pastime for a few.

Then came cartridge pens and very imperfect ballpoint pens. The former enabled fidgety fingers to create quite messy situations and the latter could be constructed into quite effective peashooters. After many years the ballpoint pens became an efficient means of written communication to the degree that problems with pens disappeared.



**The news articles for the
Summer Issue of the
NARSP Newsletter are due
by Friday, July 8, 2022.**

**Nebraska Primary Election
Tuesday, May 10
Remember to
VOTE!**



Officer Elections

Officer positions up for election at the Board of Directors' Meeting this coming fall are President and Vice-President. Both positions are for a two-year term (2022-2024).

President –The President shall represent the Association as its official voice to the members and to the public. In addition, the President shall:

- preside at all meetings of the Association and Board of Directors
- be the Ex-Officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee
- keep a mailing list of all members, newly elected state and local officers and state chairpersons.
- direct that two or more newsletters be issued yearly
- visit local units and keep them informed on education, political and social activities for the welfare of all members.
- appoint special committees as needed
- appoint, with the approval of the Executive Board, the Standing Committee Chairperson listed in Article VII and the Parliamentarian in Article IX

Vice-President –.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.

The Vice-President office is not an automatic move into the President position when the term is completed. Forward your suggestions for either position to June Bowers, NARSP Nominating Committee chair, from Falls City.

Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel Financial Report October 2021 - January 2022

Checkbook Balance October 1, 2021 \$ 8,797.16

Income

Dues	\$ 4,335.00	
Online dues	\$ 541.88	
Scholarship Donation	\$2,500.00	
Total Income		<u>\$ 7,376.88</u>
		\$16,174.04

Expenditure

Postage	\$ 41.15	
Supplies	\$ 90.76	
Awards	\$ 68.53	
Mileage	\$ 208.30	
Refund	\$ 30.00	
Board Meeting	\$ 500.68	
Total Expenditures		\$ 939.42

Checkbook Balance January 31, 2022 \$ 15,234.62

Other Monies

US Bank	Original	Current	
CD (4411) matures 01-07-2021	\$ 6,009.35	\$ 6,441.80	1.49%
CD (7901) matures 04-20-2003	\$10,380.30	\$11,712.07	2.47%
CD (0631) matures 01-16-2021	\$10,000.00	\$10,719.62	1.49%
CD (0649) matures 01-16-2021	\$10,000.00	\$10,719.62	1.49%
State Farm moved to US Bank			
CD (1159) mature 01-06-2023	\$ 9,280.18	\$10,425.74	2.27%
		Total CDs	\$ 50,018.85

Checkbook Balance and Other Monies January 31, 2022 \$ 65,253.47

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



Why Now Is the Time to Get A Long-Term Care Policy



When it comes to buying homeowners or car insurance, many of us don't hesitate. But if you think about it, the odds of needing nursing home care at some point may be higher than losing your house to fire or totaling your car.

There are two main reasons why people put off buying a Long-Term Care policy. One, who wants to think of themselves as becoming dependent on others or needing a nursing home somewhere down the

road? Two, many people assume that Medicare will cover the cost.

Unfortunately, the first assumption isn't realistic, and the second isn't real. First, it is increasingly normal that, as we age, we need additional support. Second, Medicare is limited to long-term care coverage. To protect your family and your finances, buying a Long-Term Care policy now is the smart thing to do. Buying a Long-Term Care policy now gives you the assurance you're covered if and when the time comes that you do need the help.

Here's what a Long-Term Care policy can do for you:

1. It helps you maintain your financial independence, so you won't have to rely on family members.
2. It helps you protect your assets and preserve your children's inheritance.
3. It makes long term care services affordable, such as home health care and custodial care.
4. It not only pays for nursing home care if needed, it also helps give you more options than other than nursing home care.
5. It can help preserve your standard of living.

A Long-Term Care policy from your association and AMBA lets you choose everything from your daily benefit amount, as well as your elimination and benefit period. This policy has no requirement for a prior hospital stay, no waiting period for pre-existing conditions, and no premium increases with age. Plus, this policy pays in addition to any other insurance you already have.

Ask a skilled AMBA agent if a Long-Term Care policy, endorsed by your association, is right for you. **Request a FREE Benefits Review with an AMBA field agent at www.amba-review.com or call 866-615-4063 Mon-Fri 8am-5pm CT.**

NARSP DECEASED MEMBERS 2020-2021

BEATRICE

Louise Frederick

FREMONT

Bev Greunke
Ruby Hartmann
Vlasta Kavan
Marian Kline
Cheryl Lamb
Virginia Livingston
Karen Moore
Alma Totusek

GRAND ISLAND

Bernie Terman

HASTINGS

June Bentz
Glenda Crick Kress
Ruth Nelson

Jim Nemetz

Ruth Schmer

LINCOLN

Ann Marie "Amy" Birky
Louise Matson
Nancy O'Brien
June Reta
Mary Louise Schroer
Dr. Ralph Thorpe

OMAHA

Betty Aufenkamp
Ruth Randall Benson
Phyllis Duncan
Joe Hanna
Anna Bea Hazen
Jean Rastede
Rose Sheehy
Virginia Stewart

NORFOLK

Ruth Bierman
LaRene Knopasek

SCOTTSBLUFF

Alice E. Reuter

SOUTHEAST NE

Bernice Kopetzky

WAYNE

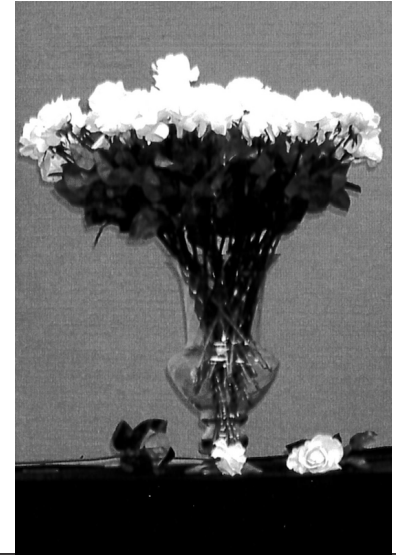
Dolores Erwin
Bill Wilson

NARSP STATE

Lois M Bane,
Fort Collins CO
Glenda Mining, Lincoln
Richard Nabity,
Grand Island

John D. Parrish,
Falls City

Virginia A. Pinker, Omaha
Glenn A. Ray, Bayard



"Highlights from the Annual Meeting held in Lincoln on September 29th"



The Memorial Service for departed members had their name called and a white rose placed in the vase by a representative for each Unit. Pam Ford represented the Lincoln Unit.



Connie Hill and Vira Brooks (hidden by the roses) represented the Omaha Unit.



Todd Stubbendieck, AARP NE Director, shared some information about his background as well as carrying on the work of AARP Nebraska during COVID and plans for the future.



Cathy Morgan from the Hastings Unit and serving as NARSP Community Service chair Pro Tem reported a total of 23,743 volunteer hours for 2020-2021.



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



The NARSP Active Educator Scholarship for Dacia Beyke was presented by Wauneta Peterson, NARSP President, and received by Patricia Jenkins Rohde, Wayne Unit President.



The NARSP Active Educator Scholarship for Clarissa Ross was presented by Wauneta Peterson, NARSP President and received by June Bowers, SE NE Unit President.



Bob Bussmann, Executive Director, presented Billie Bussmann with the NARSP Big Apple Award for her thirteen years of dedicated leadership, service and contribution as Secretary of NARSP, as well as, to her local Unit, her community, and beyond.



Bob Bussmann, Executive Director, presented Cathy Morgan with the NARSP Educational Service Award for serving as the NARSP Community Service chair Pro Tem, as well as, serving the Hastings Unit in numerous capacities.



Bob Bussmann, Executive Director, presented Patricia Jenkins Rohde with the NARSP Educational Service Award for serving as President of the Wayne Unit for a decade. She has continued to make the Wayne Unit a viable association for retired educators in Northeast Nebraska.



Wauneta Peterson, NARSP President, presented Bob Bussmann with an engraved desktop clock for his service the past nine years as NARSP Executive Director. Bob retired on December 31.



The following were installed as NARSP Officers: June Bowers, Falls City, Vice-President; Twila Griffiths, Scottsbluff, Secretary; and Nancy Johnson, Omaha, Treasurer.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Beatrice Area Unit for being the recipient of both of the Membership Traveling Plaques for increase in number of members and the greatest percentage increase!

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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 ~

FAARSP met for its general meeting at noon September 8th at the Congregational Church. Social distancing and masks were required and members brought their own sack lunches. In order to ensure greatest safety for members, the meeting was kept at a 75 minute maximum.

While members were eating, Brad Dahl of FPS spoke to the members about the upcoming school bond issue. School board member Jon Ludvigsen also helped supply information and answer questions.

Shonda Shirley talked to the members who were there about the importance of the CHAD giving campaign as being an investment for the future. CHAD represents 23 top charities in the state. FAARSP has had eight straight years of increased giving. Justin Daughtery of the Autism Action Partnership talked about the commitment of Fremont schools to the Circle of Friends program and their relationship with CHAD.

The annual memorial service for members who had passed away this year was held. Wanda Samson presided over the cere-



FAARSP honored our six members who are veterans during our November meeting. Veterans pictured are from left are Russell Robinson, Al Martinez, Larry Marvin, Bob Kroenke, Johnny Halladay and RJ Riggs. These are our HEROES.

mony with members participating at designated times. Members lost were Alma Totusek, Vlasta Kavan, Ruby Hartmann, Cheryl

Lamb, Virginia Livingston and Karen Moore.

School supplies collected at the September meeting were donated to the Presbyterian Church for the summer lunch backpack program. The next drive thru was held October 13th from



Because of the continued Covid problem, members of FAARSP were not able to visit rooms of the veterans in this care facility with their Christmas gift bags. Members stopped quickly for a picture with the bags to be delivered by care center staff. Pictured are Beth Radtke, Ruth Register, elf-Norma Register and Cindy Tranmer.

3:00-4:30 at Norma Register's house. The item collected was pasta sauce for the Low Income. November general meeting item was cereals.

Norma Register, holiday meal coordinator, thanked the members for their donations this year to make the increase number of holiday meal possible. FAARSP rose to the silver level with 13 meals provided. Ruth Register, DAV coordinator, reported that everything was ready for the Christmas

deliveries to veterans in care centers. Volunteers stepped up to make the scheduled deliveries. Shonda Shirley, CHAD giving campaign coordinator, updated everyone on how the giving campaign was going and the importance of returning their giving envelopes. Carol Martin, historical coordinator, brought one of the historical books she puts together for the organizations viewing.

Members of the association who are veterans were thanked for their service as Patriots Day was coming up. Veterans Larry Marvin and Bob Kroenke were in attendance and thanked for their service to our country and association. Members were encouraged to get their COVID vaccination and flu shots.

FAARSP last January 2021 was asked by the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) to help with a historical project which involved the preservation of the history of the DAV Chapter 18 of Fremont. After 8 1/2 months of hard work, the DAV was gifted the finished project by the FAARSP.



Wendy Brenner finds Bob Kroenke one of the associations veterans to say thank you for your service at the November meeting. Six FAARSP members are veterans.

The final project was six volumes containing the 65+ years of history of the DAV Chapter 18 of Fremont to be preserved for future generations. Three DAV 18 commanders were in attendance to receive the gift: Russell Robinson, RJ Riggs and Al Martinez. Association members who finished working on the project were Linda Betkie, Sandra Hansen, Laree Skelton and Ruth Register.

The Fremont Area Association of Retired School Personnel met for their November regular meeting at the United

Methodist Church. The Methodist Church volunteers under the leadership of Sandra Hansen, served the group lunch. Members were feeling somewhat normal after so many changes because of COVID. The health and safety of everyone was still number one factor. Lt. Ed Watts was the speaker, helping the seniors navigate through all the scams targeting seniors. It was very informative and necessary.

FAARSP honored the 6 veterans that are members of the association. Ruth Register led the group through a short program honoring their 6 heroes for Veterans Day. Association veterans Bob Kroenke, Larry Marvin, Johnny Halladay, RJ Riggs, Al Martinez and Russell Robinson all received special gifts.

Sally Ganem set up the schedule for bell ringers this year on November 13th from 2-6 p.m. at HyVee. Ruth Register filled the schedule with volunteers. Thank to Sandra Hansen, Linda Betkie, Mary Saggau, Kris Olson, Dave and Sue Strong, Laree Skelton and Norma Register for ringing this year.

Ruth Register provided updates on the veteran Christmas bags and the process for deliveries this year. Thank you treats will be delivered to 22 local and area schools



Wanda Samson financial director on the left and Norma Register on the right surround Lt. Amber of the Salvation Army. FAARSP members were able to reach the silver level by providing funds for 13 holiday meals this year. Norma Register holiday meals coordinator gathers the funds during the year to make this contribution possible as a service to the community.

in appreciation for what they do. Deliveries were made between after Thanksgiving and March. Members picked up their new activity and informational calendar before leaving. Register thanks FAARSP members for all they have accomplished during another trying year and wished them happy holidays.

February brought us to another drive thru for the Low Income Valentines along with chocolates and cookies were delivered to the veterans as per the instructions of COVID rules. Thanks to all the members who volunteered their time to make deliveries both Christmas bags and valentine goodies. Thanks to the dedicated members who make the short trip to each of the drive thru times that make them a success.

March will bring election of officers for FAARSP. president and communication director positions will be up for election. Because of the deadline for this article I can't report on the results of the election until next issue

From all of us in FAARSP country to all of you stay healthy, happy and continuing to do one of the most important jobs—VOLUNTEER.

Submitted by
Ruth Register
President-FAARP

~ HASTINGS AREA ~

The Hastings Area Retired School Personnel (HARSP) has been fortunate to meet regularly and safely during these covid times. Vice President LaVila VanBoening has arranged for many interesting programs at our meetings. In September we heard from Jeff Randell about his work with youth at the Hastings Middle School and with teen girls at the Regional Center.

November's program was given by Judy Aspen on her work with The Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Meals on Wheels,



Members enjoy a meeting program.



Membership Chairs, Marsha Sukup and Karen Christensen greet members as they arrive and give them an opportunity to purchase tickets for our Split the Pot. Half of the money collected goes to help with our meeting room rental.

and the Foster Grandparent program. January brought a report from Angela LaBouchardiere on her work at Western Alternative Corrections. She also brought along a client who spoke on his experience with the program. We look forward to our March meeting which will include a program by Wendy Keele who works with teen parents at Hastings High School. In May we will honor members lost this past year and enjoy hearing about the Hastings Middle School's garden.

Our altruism project this year has been to collect money, laundry soap, and dryer sheets or fabric softener for a program called "Laundry Love". To date we have collected around 900 items and well over \$200 to assist this program. "Laundry Love" is a mission project that member Marsha Sukup's church has developed. On a certain Saturday of each month, workers and supplies are taken to a specific laundromat in town. Many people in Hastings



Friends--old and new--enjoy the fellowship time before and after each meeting.

and the surrounding area have been helped by this project.

Our Scholarship Committee is in the process of notifying schools in the area about the opportunity to receive our annual scholarship awards.

~ LINCOLN AREA ~

The Lincoln branch of NARSP began having meetings as of September 2021.

Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird spoke and recognized our volunteer hours at our first meeting. We had accumulated a total of 15,183 hours which equates to a contribution of \$433,322.82.



Past Community Service: Rosalee Nagele from 2018 (left); Don Hobbs 2019 has passed; Gretchen Terpma 2020 (right).

Golden Apple awards were presented to Judy Strand and Barb Hetcko for their hours committed to our scholarship committee. Members of the custodial staff of Sheridan Lutheran received our "Friends of LARSP" award.

Gretchen Terpsma was honored with the Community Service Award for 2020 at a brunch in October. Rosalee Nagele presided at the presentation as she was the 2018 recipient. Kudos to Gretchen for making it to the ceremony after being recently hospitalized.

Past Presidents were honored with a coffee at our November meeting. Six past-presidents were able to attend.

Stuffed animals were collected to decorate the tree for the



Past Presidents Recognition.

*Back Row: Viki Kugler, Wauneta Peterson, Billie Bussmann.
Front Row: Bob Bussmann, Ruth Ann Lyness, Frank Mills.*

“Holiday of Trees” event sponsored by the Heritage League. One hundred forty-seven animals were then presented to Haxby’s Bears. They are then donated to organizations and first-responders who deal with childhood trauma.

The drawing for the quilt assembled by our LARSP quilting group was held in November. Sam Sharp was the lucky recipient of the library themed quilt/wall hanging. Proceeds of \$740 raised by the raffle will be donated to our scholarship fund.



Tree Decorators

L to R: Billie Bussmann, Jeanne Butzke, Pam Ford, Jan Stamper, Mella Kincaid, Judy Strand.

In December, we honored past members of our group at a necrology service. Twenty-three members were remembered for 2019-20 and 8 members in 2020-2021.

Gretchen Terpsma and Doris Weins entertained us with Christmas music and laughter for our monthly program.

Our January meeting featured Melissa Ripley and “Second-Chance Pups”, a rescue program for dogs that are chosen and trained by inmates at the state penitentiary. After nine weeks of training, the dogs are available for adoption. Many are adopted by veterans suffering from PTSD.

Our January board meeting was a conference call due to covid. We decided to cancel our February meeting because of present health restrictions. Hopefully, we will be able to restart in March.

~ OMAHA AREA ~

Our August 26, 2021, meeting was our first gathering since February 27, 2020, and it was so nice to see so many friendly faces. We listened intently as Cecilia Carter, the Executive Director of the Omaha School Employees’ Retirement System (OSERS), reviewed the passage of Legislative Bill 147 which will result in the transition of the Omaha Public Schools retirement system to the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement System. We learned about the various stages of this momentous change.



OARSEA President Connie Hill with David James at the store run by Partnership 4 Hope.

We conducted our memorial service for the members who had passed away since August 2019.

Our scheduled speaker was unable to attend because of contact with someone who had tested positive of Covid, so we played several games of Po-Ke-No and

thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

At our October 28th meeting, David James, Executive Director of Partnership 4 Hope, shared that this organization works with young adults who have aged out of foster care, but is not limited to just those individuals. Partnership provides mentoring, food, clothing, a quilt, and the furniture needed to establish a home. The organization accepts donations, and we are going to collect items to help them at our February meeting.



Membership Chair Pat-Falkner-Lewis, Vice-President Vira Brooks, and President Connie Hill behind the prizes that were awarded during our Po-Ke-No games.

Our entertainment at our December 2nd meeting was Po-Ke-No games. Members had so enjoyed playing at our August meeting that they requested a repeat.

Linda Hammer

~ SCOTTSBLUFF AREA ~

Scottsbluff Area Retired School Personnel has not met for nearly two years now. COVID and the loss of several active members to either COVID/other illnesses has taken a big toll on our members. Somehow, in these two years our members have also grown



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older. Whether we meet again is yet to be determined. We are thankful for the opportunity to belong to NARSP individually and appreciate the work Billie and Bob Bussmann have done and continue to do for the state organization.

Twila Griffiths
President SARSP

~ SOUTHEAST NE AREA ~

Happy New Year from the southeast Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel! Our organization held two meetings



*Barb Watlington, Wanda Biel, Sara Veigel, Clarissa Ross, Sharon Boggle,
Trudy Fankhauser, Glenda Nelson*

this fall. In September a memorial service was held to honor long-time teacher Bernice Kopetzky who passed away in July. Bernice continued to serve and teach for many years into her retirement and provided a wonderful example of all that can be accomplished after working full time for many years. Also during this meeting our new officers were installed: June Bowers - President, Deb Harris - Secretary, Glenda Nelson - Treasurer, and later Jan Thompson will be installed as Vice-President.

In October, a program was held to present a certificate of recognition to teacher Clarissa Ross, the NARSP scholarship winner. Mrs. Ross is in her third year of teaching with Falls City Public Schools. Also at this meeting, members were given new year books with committee assignments and membership cards.



Clarissa Ross, June Bowers

We are looking forward to our Spring meetings and warmer weather. We will continue to meet 5 times a year. Members are encouraged to invite new retirees and to continue to volunteer in the community and share their talents.

Respectfully submitted by Debra Harris