



“To Serve — Not To Be Served”

Affiliated with NRTA and AARP

Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel



# NEWSLETTER



Summer 2020

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

Published Twice Yearly



*Pamela Vander Veen*



*Alexander Steinke*

## NARSP Scholarship Recipients Named

The recipients of the 2020-2021 NARSP Active Educator Scholarship are: Alexander Steinke who teaches grades 5-12 Instrumental Music with the Central City Public Schools and Pamela Vander Veen who teaches freshman English and American Literature to juniors within the Wayne Community Schools. Mr. Steinke is pursuing a Masters Degree in Music Education from UNL. Mrs. Vander Veen is pursuing a MSE in Curriculum and Instruction with a Community of Learning Focus at Wayne State College.

The scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each are awarded annually to an active educator working toward an advanced degree or endorsement in a related field of education. By offering the scholarships to active educators in the field, NARSP members have an opportunity to “maintain

professional contacts and to develop new ones” with the district, schools, and educators in and around the communities of the local units.

Five quality semi-finalist applications were submitted this year for review by the NARSP Executive Board.

**Alexander “Alex” Steinke** has been an educator for six years. In addition to being the grades 5-12 band director with the Central City Public Schools he is the pole vault coach. He is the percussion instructor for Nebraska Ambassadors of Music.

In his application Alex stated, “When teaching, I am always trying to not only help my students realize their potential musically but also socially. Teaching music in an ensemble setting provides a unique opportunity for students to feel like they

are part of a team and learn what it means to contribute positively in that setting. I love being able to share my love of music with students to hopefully instill a lifelong love for music in them. This scholarship would help immensely in my mission to better myself in order to benefit my students.”

One of Alex’s references indicated, “Alex is a dedicated professional, who is enthusiastic and enjoys making connections with kids. One of his greatest strengths is his ability to be a team player with staff, students, and parents. Besides handling difficult situations, he is a team player who works well with teachers to meet the needs of our diverse students. He has done a great job team teaching with our other music teachers besides managing band for our 5th through 12th graders.”

*(Continued on page 3)*

**The Annual Meeting will take place via Conference Call in later October (Date and Time TBA)**



## ...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 following words...

**chal leng ing** – an exception taken to something and **dan ger ous** – exposing

to or involving a danger

Recently, the Nebraska Legislature returned from an extended break to complete the session's work. On the final day those senators that were term limited had an opportunity to give a farewell address and share some thoughts to their colleagues. One remarked that they "recognized this as a challenging and even dangerous time." There couldn't be a truer statement as one reflects on the first eight months of 2020. It has been much more than just a "leap year."

A listing of words and phrases come to mind as one reflects on this year thus far and how many of the same have impacted us individually, our family and friends, local Units, and our association: Viral Pandemic...COVID-19... Coronavirus... testing swabs...negative or positive results... 14-day quarantine...shelter at home...wash your hands...6 foot social distance...wear a mask...medical equipment and supplies...Spring Break and schools closed...learning by remote for the remainder of the year...Zoom, streamlined, virtual lessons, Chrome Books, learning packets and more... Easter Services streamlined via church websites...no proms or graduation programs...no more than five in a group meeting, then increased to 10 in a group...restaurant dining areas closed – it's drive-through or curbside pick up...unrest within cities – peaceful protests and rioting...arson, looting, and property destruction...historical statues torn down or removed... curfews... scheduled medical appointments and elective surgery cancelled... vaccine development...mandates, regulations and restrictions...questions asked and temperatures taken...time for school openings with varied options to choose from – remote, in-class, and more...wash hands, keep social distance and wear a mask. I could continue on and on and I am certain you have many more that could be added to the listing. Oh yes, I cannot forget...GO BIG RED football and volleyball in the spring?

Local Units will be making decisions as to the best time to begin meeting and having programs again. I have heard some targeting the month of October and while others the month of January. You will know what will be best for your Unit members. Take care, stay healthy, and be safe!

...a "little bit" more – We "congratulate" Alex Steinke, Central City (Grand Island Area Unit) and Pam Vander Veen, Wakefield (Wayne Area Unit) being named the recipients of the 2020-2021 NARSP Active Educator Scholarships.

The Independent Sector, in partnership with Do Good Institute, has announced the New Value of Volunteer Time of \$27.20 an hour. Thanks to all that have continued to find volunteer opportunities within your community, especially in light of COVID-19.

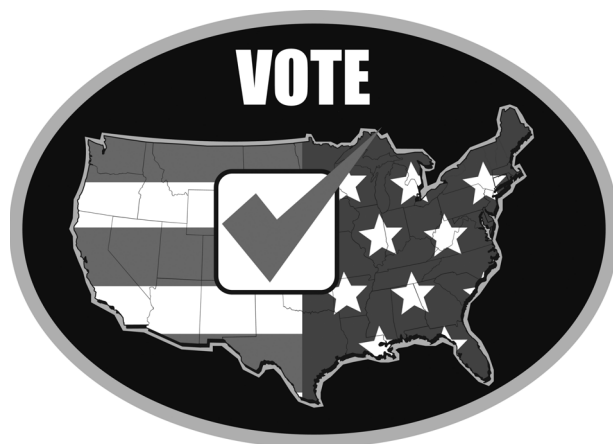
A "Special Thanks" to Cathy Morgan, Hastings Area Unit, for collecting the volunteer hours and related service activities from the NARSP Units.

The Grand Island Area Unit has made a decision to become inactive. GIARSP, organized in 1965, can be proud of the many contributions made on behalf of retired educators and the many volunteer hours given to the Grand Island area community over the past fifty-five years. We wish them well!

Many Units and individual NARSP members have contributed toward the restoration of the Cascade Fountain. "Thank You" very much for your monetary donations. Check out the "Cascade Fountain Update" found in the Newsletter.

The AARP Nebraska staff continues to work from their home locations for the remainder of 2020 with a return to the office in 2021.

In conclusion...*"Let us keep our zest for living, for the joy we can find and the warm human friendships we can make—and mindful of our life as a trust--do what we can to make life useful."* -- Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, Founder of NRTA, 1947



## NRTA Staff

Al Campos, Director NRTA

Shelisa Ashford, DC Office

Mary Beth Dixon, Advisor

Jasmine Vasques, Senior Legislative Representative

## NARSP Executive Board

Robert Bussmann, Executive Director

Wauneta Peterson, President

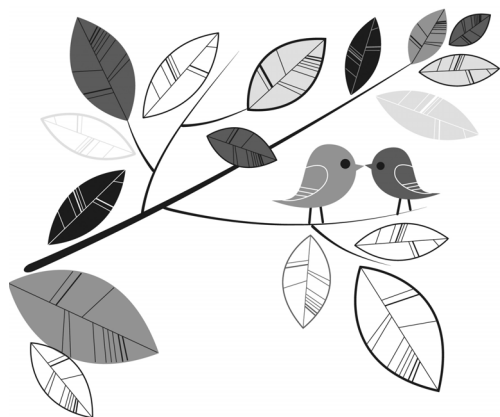
Ann Meinzer, Vice President

Billie Carole Bussmann, Secretary

Nancy Johnson, Treasurer

Additional officer information located  
on the NARSP Website:

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



*(Continued from page 1)*

Alex is a mentor in the Teammates program. He has increased the high school band participation from 35 to 60 members. With his involvement in the Nebraska Ambassadors of Music, he takes students from the state of Nebraska every other summer on a tour of Europe where they perform in a band, orchestra, or choir setting. Alex was named the 2019 recipient of the Jack R. Snider Young Band Director Award given by the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association.

**Pamela “Pam” Vander Veen** has been an educator for nineteen years, which included substitute teaching while her son was growing up. Pam is the advisor for the Wayne High Chapter of the National Honor

Society and is also the coordinator of the ACT prep for juniors at Wayne High.

In her application Pam noted, “Initially I doubted myself and my abilities to ‘go back to school’, but the more I thought about getting my master’s the more excited I became. I want to be able to enhance my teaching with effective and engaging lessons. I want to implement proved strategies to help my students achieve greatness. I want to continue building relationships with my students and colleagues. I realized that I shouldn’t doubt my ability to learn because I have always been a life-long learner.”

A reference stated, “Pam is a teacher who is always looking for ways to help her students make connection with curriculum materials and usually of the first faculty members to explore a technology

application or a uniquely different activity to help her students engage with their learning. She networks with other teachers outside of our district for ideas, techniques, and projects to bring more energy and innovation to her teaching. She is constantly assessing and reassessing what she does in the classroom in order to improve the lesson and find a way to address weaknesses she identifies in herself or her style. That’s one reason why she is pursuing a graduate degree. Truly she wants to be the best teacher that she can be, and she is always striving to develop as a professional.”

Pam is very active in her church. She is a member of PEO and a past member and president of the Gardner Public Library Board.

# Kell's Kolumn

Information provided by:

**Kell Smalley**

**AMBA District Manager - KS, W. MO, & NE**



**As we inch toward the end of 2020 we will expect Plan F premiums with Medicare supplement carriers to rise at a higher rate than years past. Please see the information below to view your options.**

**Medigap Plan F no longer offered after January 1, 2020 to individuals turning 65.**

If you already have a Medigap Plan F or are considering getting a Medigap Plan F, you should be aware of the new law that went into affect on April 16, 2015.

There are several provisions in the law, but section 401 of the new law is one that you should understand. Essentially, the federal government is no longer allowing newly eligible beneficiaries to obtain a Medigap policy that covers the Part B (Medical) deductible (\$185/year in 2019).

So Plan F will no longer be available starting January 1, 2020.

## **The Good News...**

If you have Plan F already, you can keep it and will not be forced to move to another plan since this only affects newly eligible Medicare beneficiaries.

## **The Bad News...**

The Plan F premium rates will be increasing at a higher rate than the other Plans that are not impacted.

## **Why is this?**

Each plan is individually rated based on the costs (e.g. claims

processed) for that particular plan. So, after 2020, when Plan F is no longer accepting new applicants, the pool of Plan F members will begin to age more so than other plans, which will drive higher proportionate claims cost and thus drive up the premiums for Plan F.

## **So what should you do?**

We recommend the Medigap Plan G, which has lower premium rates than Plan F and provides all the same coverage, except for the \$198 Part B deductible.

Plan G is a great option that could save \$20-\$100+ per month when compared to Plan F, with the only additional exposure being \$198/year in Part B deductible.

## **Act Now...**

If you are healthy, it is important that you act now since you will have to go through medical underwriting in order to switch your Medicare Supplement Plan. If you wait until a later point, you risk potential health issues that could prevent you from changing your Supplement plan.

**Note-** You do not have to wait until the open enrollment period to switch from a Plan F to Plan G

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

Phone: 913-912-2157

Email: [kell.smalley@amba.info](mailto:kell.smalley@amba.info)



**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 recovery 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](mailto: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: Kell Smalley

Cell Phone: 913-912-2157

Email Address: [kell.smalley@amba.info](mailto:kell.smalley@amba.info)



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# NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL

## Executive Board Meeting Minutes, April 24, 2020

### Conference Call

The Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel Executive Board meeting was held via a conference call on April 24, 2020. Members present were Bob Bussmann, Executive Director; Wauneta Peterson, President; Ann Meinzer, Vice-President; Billie Bussmann, Secretary; and Nancy Johnson, Treasurer.

Wauneta Peterson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

The minutes of the September 30, 2019 Executive Board Meeting were approved as printed.

The treasurer's reports for February, March, and April were accepted for financial review with an April asset balance of \$58,522.36 with a checkbook balance of \$11,720.11. There was discussion concerning the bonding of the treasurer. Nancy will check to make sure this has occurred with State Farm and make certain of the name on the bonding.

The credit card needs to be reinstated so that both Nancy and Bob have their names on the organization's credit card. Bob's has expired and both will contact US Bank to reinstate the previous organization credit card.

Was there a financial review before the new treasurer received the treasurer's books? Wanda Samson needs to be contacted for a copy of the financial review.

Thus far, NARSP Membership totals 842. Unit membership includes 392 paid members and 129 (85 plus) honorary lifetime members for a total of 521. The remaining 321 are state members. There are 158 individuals who have not paid their dues for this year. Nancy will contact those members.

There were no additional agenda items.

The Executive Director's Report included the mileage reimbursement rate for 2020 as \$.14 per mile.

Bob Bussmann and Jan Barnason attended the NRTA Advocacy Conference held in October in Washington DC. This year there was no Nebraska breakfast so each Nebraska Representative and Senator's offices were visited. A folder of information was given to each one. One of the main areas of discussion was the high cost of prescription drugs.

Bob and Billie Bussmann attended the AMBA Roundup in November. The presentations given gave an AMBA update that was informative and very inspirational. The benefits available through AMBA are very beneficial to all of our members.

The NARSP Active Educator Scholarship Semi-Finalist Applications are due May 15. Copies have been sent to each unit.

Bob will indicate to units the updated guidelines for the NARSP Spring Newsletter.

Wanda Samson requested payment of \$100 of the monies for the treasurer. She wanted it for ink, time and paper for the transition to the new treasurer. Discussion followed which included the transition could have taken place in October instead of February

and that all of us use our own supplies as we volunteer for our positions. Ann moved that we not reimburse last year's treasurer for her time, ink and paper. Billie seconded the motion. Motion carried. Bob will write Wanda a letter indicating this decision of not honoring her request.

AMBA now has an online payment system where our NARSP members can update their membership by paying their dues. There was consensus agreement this system should be pursued. Bob will contact Jeannie Coffey and she will call Nancy to set up this AMBA system. This will certainly be beneficial for membership renewals.

Bob provided a review of the 2019 Biennial Convention Feedback Survey. It was indicated that an annual meeting be held. The cost of a convention has become prohibitive. This year, of course, an annual meeting would take place.

A discussion of the Cascade Fountain included information packets and Bob providing the history. Copies of this information will be sent to each unit. Board members indicated what they felt would be an appropriate donation from NARSP. Billie moved we pledge \$5,000 for the Cascade Fountain with \$2,500 paid in June 2020 and \$2,500 paid in June 2021. Ann seconded the motion. Motion passed.

For new business Bob provided a NARSP Community Service Chair/Committee Update. The Hastings unit will collect the state hours with Cathy Morgan as the contact. It was suggested that Leona Anderson be the NARSP Community Service Chair Emeritus.

In 2020 there is election for President and Vice-President. Ann will chair the nomination committee.

Discussion followed concerning the 2020 Annual meeting. Bob will check on places for this meeting that provides parking and perhaps some food for the meeting. Valentino's was one suggestion that was made.

Nancy wondered if we could have the newsletter on line rather than mailing a hard copy. It was indicated we had talked about this before and many members just do not want to give out their email address. The newsletter is online on the NARSP website provided by AMBA. She wondered also if we ever receive any back to indicate someone's address is not updated. Bob will check with Jeri at Copycat in Grand Island.

The next Executive Board meeting will be in June or July.

The meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Billie Carole Bussmann, NARSP Secretary

# “It’s Time to Join or Renew Your 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 through AMBA.

All retired teachers, administrators, school personnel and support staff are invited to join our association. A spouse of an active member, any individual who is interested in and subscribes to the purpose of NARSP, and an active school personnel within three years of retirement may become associate members upon payment of annual dues. Membership dues are \$15.00 per fiscal year of September 1 to August 31.

Those active and associate members with paid state membership who have reached the age of 85 or older as of August 31 will be granted Honorary Lifetime Membership. Honorary Lifetime Members shall not be assessed dues. [PLEASE NOTE if an individual is not presently a NARSP member and turns 85 prior to August 31 they are not automatically granted the honorary membership. They must be in good standing with their dues paid for 2019-2020. If the individual has not been a state member, turns 85 prior to August 31, and wishes to avail himself or herself of the honorary membership they are welcome to join NARSP for the 2020-2021 membership year. The honorary membership would then occur for them in 2021-2022.]

If you have knowledge of a new retiree in your area, invite them to join NARSP or better yet surprise them with a retirement gift of a membership in NARSP.

**Membership with NARSP is required in order to obtain and maintain AMBA Benefits.**

NARSP membership dues and/or renewals for 2020-2021 may be paid through your local unit treasurer or can be submitted using the form found below to NARSP State Treasurer: Nancy Johnson, 12777 “A” Street, Omaha, NE 68144. (There is also a membership form that can be downloaded from the NARSP website – <[www.narsp.org](http://www.narsp.org)>.)

## NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL

2020-2021 Membership Application  
(Please Print All Information)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

District Retired From \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Annual dues - \$15.00 (September 1 - August 31)  
Please make checks payable to NARSP

\_\_\_\_\_ New Member      \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal      \_\_\_\_\_ Associate Member

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Received on \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# AMBA Benefits Testimonial

The following testimonial was received from Karen Indra, Norfolk Area Unit Past President.

“Just a plug for MASA (Medical Air Services Association) if anyone has questions about it. A few months ago we started on a bus tour of Texas. The first evening in Oklahoma City, I somehow stepped up and as I went down, I sat on a trolley track. Not a soft landing. Anyway a new hip later, we needed transportation. The bus had long since left and they didn’t want my leg dangling too long. I called MASA and we flew home on American to Sioux City. They asked if we preferred that or Omaha. Anyway, just thought I’d pass along how pleased I am. Feel free to share!” Karen

## PROPOSED NARSP CONVENTION RESOLUTION

WHERE AS...NSRTA and NARSP held State Conventions annually from 1961 to 2017 and a Biennial Convention in 2019; and

WHERE AS...attendance over the years numbered in the triple digits per convention and in more recent times has declined to 44 attendees in 2017 and 35 attendees in 2019; and

WHERE AS...convention registration fees were never intended to be a moneymaking endeavor for the Association’s treasury the past three conventions saw a substantial deficit in the amount of \$5,014.64 (2016), \$4,244.60 (2017), and \$2,470.85 (2019).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED...that future NARSP State Conventions will be discontinued; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED...the NARSP Board of Directors’ Annual Meeting will be held in either the month of September or October at a date, time, and location to be determined by the NARSP Executive Board.

*Pending the outcome of the Convention Resolution...if the vote is in the “affirmative” the following proposed updates to the NARSP Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules are offered for consideration...*

### CONSTITUTION

#### ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

The annual meeting of the Association shall be held in September or October. In even years the annual meeting will be held as a stand-alone meeting. In odd years the annual meeting will be scheduled with the NARSP Convention. Special meetings may be called by the President or the Board of Directors when deemed necessary.

**PROPOSED** – The annual meeting of the Association shall be held in September or October. Special meetings may be called by the President or the Board of Directors when deemed necessary.

### BYLAWS

#### ARTICLE IV - TERMS OF ELECTED OFFICERS.

Section 2. In even years the newly elected state officers shall be installed at the conclusion of the annual meeting. In odd years the newly elected state officers shall be installed during the convention following the annual meeting. They will assume their duties following their installation.

**PROPOSED** – The newly elected state officers shall be installed at the conclusion of the annual meeting. They will assume their duties following their installation.

### STANDING RULES

#### MEETINGS

1. The state convention held in odd years may be attended by anyone interested in education and the welfare of retired school employees.
2. Conventions are to be planned by the President and/or the Executive Director with approval of the Executive Board. Since NRTA and/or AARP provides partial funding for the workshops, the NRTA Liaison and/or the AARP State Director shall be consulted as appropriate. The workshops may be incorporated into the day’s program of the state convention. The time, place, and budget shall be determined by the Executive Board.



3. The Board of Directors as the governing body of the State Association would meet in odd years on the day prior to the convention for the annual meeting. The Board of Directors would have a stand-alone annual meeting in even years with the time and place to be determined by the Executive Board. The general business (i.e. proposed bylaw changes, election of officers, presentation/approval of the yearly budget, reports, and other related issues) of the association would be conducted, discussed, and voted upon.

**PROPOSED** – The Board of Directors as the governing body of the State Association would meet annually in either the month of September or October. The date, time and location would be determined by the Executive Board. The general business (i.e. – proposed changes in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules; election and installation of officers; presentation/approval of the yearly budget; reports and presentations; Memorial Service and reading of the Necrology; awards; and other related issues) of the Association would be conducted, discussed, and voted upon..

#### **MILEAGE AND HOTEL REMUNERATION**

1. Provide mileage, when applicable, to all Executive Board Meetings and Board of Directors' Meetings.
2. Mileage is to be computed at the IRS current rate (driven in service of charitable organizations) subject to Executive Board approval.
3. All meal costs and registration fees that are a part of the meetings and State Convention would be the individual responsibility of Executive Board members and members of the Board of Directors.
4. In odd years the association would reimburse fifty percent of hotel room costs for members of the Board of Directors based on sharing rides and rooms when possible and utilizing the block of rooms reserved by NARSP. The association would provide full hotel room costs for members of the Executive Board.
5. In even years when there would be a stand-alone annual meeting of the Board of Directors the association would reimburse fifty percent of hotel room costs for specific board members. The Executive Board would make such a determination of those board members based on meeting location and travel distance.

#### **PROPOSED –**

1. Provide mileage, when applicable, to all Executive Board Meetings and Board of Directors' Meetings.
2. Mileage is to be computed at the IRS current rate (driven in service of charitable organizations) subject to Executive Board approval.
3. The Association would reimburse fifty percent of hotel room costs for specific board members. The Executive Board would make such a determination of those board members based on meeting location and travel distance.

## **Board of Directors' Annual Meeting Agenda**

Items of consideration during the Board of Directors' Annual Meeting include the following:

- Memorial Service for Departed Members
- Reports (Membership, Community Service, Nominating Committee, and Executive Director)
- Selection of members (from the Board) for the NARSP 2021 Nominating Committee
- Election of NARSP President and Vice-President for 2020-2022 (Installation of the same)
- Proposed Convention Resolution
- Proposed changes to NARSP Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules
- Approval of the proposed 2020-2021 NARSP Budget
- Awards

There is the potential of additional items being added to the agenda between the printing of this Newsletter and holding the annual meeting date.

**PLEASE NOTE – The Annual Meeting will take place via Conference Call in later October (Date and Time TBA). Each Unit is allocated two representatives (Co-Presidents, President and Vice-President, President and another Unit Officer, or any combination). More information about the call and Unit reps will be communicated to Unit Presidents in September.**

## “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!

Do you have questions regarding your pension benefits?  
Do you need additional information or need to  
schedule an appointment about your pension benefits?  
Have you changed your address? Contact NPERS:

### Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems

1526 K Street, Suite 400

P.O. Box 94816

Lincoln, NE 68509-4816

Phone 402-471-2053

Toll Free 800-245-5712

[npers.ne.gov](http://npers.ne.gov)



## “LIKE” NARSP on Facebook

Have you joined Facebook yet? If not, you are missing out. Recently you could have seen the following items that were posted:

- Who, What, When, Where for local area meetings
- Posts that are informative for retired individuals
- Stories that bring back memories
  - Pictures
- and much more

Do you need help getting on?

You can ask questions from [wanda.samson@gmail.com](mailto:wanda.samson@gmail.com) or [jkletke@q.com](mailto:jkletke@q.com) if you write one of us. Don't be afraid of facebook. If you don't want to connect with anyone else, don't “friend” them or “like” a group...except NARSP, of course!

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



**The news articles  
for the Spring  
Issue of the NARSP  
Newsletter are due  
by February 5, 2021.**

# Officer Election

Election for the offices of NARSP President and NARSP Vice-President will take place during the Board of Directors' Annual Meeting in October.

## **PRESIDENT**

Wauneta Peterson, NARSP President for the past two years has consented to stand for re-election to a new two-year term. Wauneta is a member of the Lincoln Area Unit. She retired from the Lincoln Public Schools as a teacher of physical education and health. Wauneta has been actively involved in LARSP. She has served two terms as secretary, vice-president, and two separate terms as president of the Unit. She also served as the LARSP Book Sale chair for ten years and now serves as the chair of the Financial Review committee. Prior to her term as NARSP President, Wauneta served as NARSP Vice President for four years. Wauneta has also served in a number of positions in the Elks and Does organizations.

## **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.

TBA – The Nominating Committee continues to work on filling this position. If you would have an interest in serving in this office or have a recommendation of an individual, please contact Ann Meinzer at 402- 245-3372 or email [ameinzer@sentco.net](mailto:ameinzer@sentco.net).

Nominations will also be taken from the floor.



***WASH YOUR HANDS***

***SOCIAL DISTANCING***

***WEAR YOUR MASK***

## \*REMINDER\*

It would be appreciated if local Units and individuals would regularly notify Nancy Johnson, NARSP Treasurer, of the name(s) of NARSP members who have changed addresses or passed away. This will help with keeping an updated membership/ mailing list as well as a listing of the necrology for the 2019-20 Memorial Service Program. **If you have not already done so, names of members who have passed since the last convention need to be submitted to Nancy by Monday, August 31 to be included in the memorial program.**

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



**NARSP**



**Remember to LIKE us on**  
**[www.facebook.com/NRTA.NE](http://www.facebook.com/NRTA.NE)**



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



## **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](mailto:wanda.samson@gmail.com) with information for your unit)
- Posts that are informative for retired individuals
- Humorous posts
- and much more

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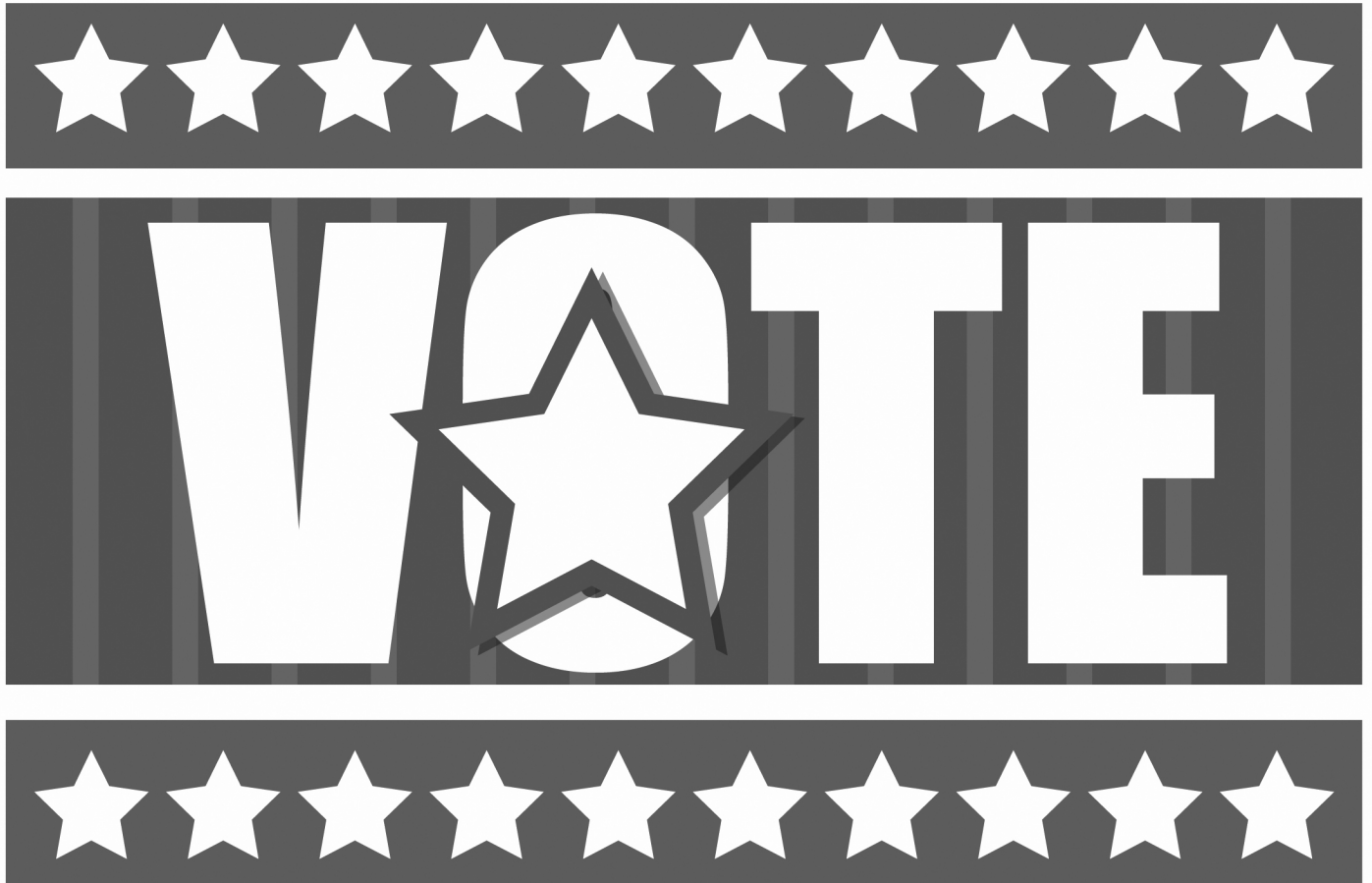
**ASSOCIATION MEMBER**  
**BENEFITS ADVISORS**

**800.258.7041**

**<http://myambabenefits.info/narsp>**



*Remember to VOTE  
on Tues., Nov. 3*



Nebraska Association Retired School Personnel						
Financial Report						
March 1, 2020 - June 30, 2020						
Checkbo	February 28, 2020					\$11,375.11
Income						
	Dues	online				
	March			\$ 345.00		
	April			\$ 185.00		
	May	\$185.38		\$2,250.00		
	June	\$ 14.26		\$ 375.00		
	Total balance and Income	\$ 199.64		\$3,155.00		\$3,354.64
Expenditures						
	Postage			\$ 874.09		
	Printing			\$2,639.38		
	Bob's mailings			\$ 151.03		
	Lincoln Park Foundation			\$2,5000.00		
	Analysis Charge			\$ 6.00		
	Miscellaneous					
	Fidelity Bond					
	ASRTE dues					
	Treasurer's supplies			\$ 138.24		
	Total Expenditures			\$6,308.74		\$6,308.74
Checkbook Balance, June 30, 2020						\$8,421.01
		<u>Original</u>		<u>Current</u>		
Other Monies						
	US Bank					
	CD (xxx4411) Matures 01-07-2021	\$6,009.35		\$6,409.88		
	CD (xxx7901) Matures 05-20-2018	\$10,380.30		\$11,616.04		
	CD (xxx0631) Matures 01-16-2021	\$10,000 .00		\$10,666.51		
	CD (xxx0649) Matures 01-16-2021	\$10,000 .00		\$10,666.51		\$39,358.94
	State Farm					
	CD (xxx1159) Matures 01-06-2023	\$9,280.18		\$10,346.94		
	Total CD's					\$49,705.88
Checkbook Balance and Other Monies, June 30, 2020						\$58,126.89

I have checked the books from January 1, 2019 to February 29, 2020 and found them to be in order.

Andrea Bongiovanni  
4-3-2020

# "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 War Effort

Neal S. Gomon, Peru

*My first superintendency was at Niobrara, Nebraska, from September 1941, through August 1943. Soon after the outbreak of the Second World War in December 1941, a call came from the U.S. Defense Department through the State Department of Education for assistance in collecting scrap iron and other metals to be used to produce armaments for the war effort.*

*Heeding the call on a cold winter day, I dismissed school and students from first through twelfth grades scoured the city and surrounding countryside for the coveted metals. Businessmen and farmers donated trucks and wagons. Some of the children hauled their offerings in wheelbarrows, coaster wagons and baby buggies. Almost anything on wheels was pressed into service to transport every conceivable kind of metal object to a central gathering place in front of the schoolhouse.*

*Through the diligence of the 350 or so school children and their teachers, a mound of scrap 10-15 feet high, 30-25 feet wide, and 50-60 feet long materialized during the day. Our job was collection. The scrap was to be moved by others from the schoolhouse to flatcars at the railway siding.*

*Although the collection was organized as of the utmost immediate need, months passed and the scrap was still in the schoolyard. I left Niobrara for another job in August 1943. The scrap was still there. I returned for a visit in June 1944. The scrap was still there. I did not return again for several years, and the scrap was gone, but a new addition to the school building had been erected on the site where the scrap had been. I wonder if the scrap became bullets for the war effort or ballast for the new school?*



# Exciting Updates about Cascade Fountain!

**BLASTING!** The blasting process to remove the stains from the fountain towers started. With the picture in this article you can see the amazing difference this process makes in the appearance of this community icon. It's like the fountain is getting a facelift!

**FUNDRAISING UPDATE.** Our goal for this project is \$1.6 million which includes a \$400,000 endowment fund. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, we are grateful for the generous support from donors which has allowed us to reach \$1.2 million in commitments. We are 75% to our goal and we continue our donor outreach.

**CASCADE HONOR ROLL.** In June, we unveiled the Cascade Honor Roll, a brick recognition program that gives people an opportunity to honor a favorite educator. The Cascade Honor Roll is an ongoing program that will help fund the endowment over the years. We've had a very good response—and we want to make sure all teachers, their families and friends across the state know about this unique opportunity to honor our Nebraska educators (all levels, preschool-university). We appreciate your efforts to spread the word! Online orders can be placed at [www.lincolnparks.org/cascade](http://www.lincolnparks.org/cascade).

**ROTARY SIGNATURE GIFT.** We are excited to share with you that Cascade Fountain is officially the recipient of the Downtown Lincoln Rotary Club #14 Signature Grant in honor of their 110th anniversary. The gift of \$200,000 was formally announced at a news conference on Friday, August 7 at Cascade.

[Information provided by Susan Larson Rodenburg, President, SLR Communications and Maggie Stuckey, Executive Director, Lincoln Parks Foundation]





# NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL

## Executive Board Meeting Minutes, July 29, 2020

### Conference Call

The Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel Executive Board meeting was held via a conference call on July 29, 2020. Members present were Bob Bussmann, Executive Director; Wauneta Peterson, President; Ann Meinzer, Vice President; Billie Bussmann, Secretary; and Nancy Johnson, Treasurer.

Wauneta Peterson called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

The minutes of the April 24, 2020 Executive Board Meeting were approved as printed.

The treasurer's report indicated a June checkbook balance of \$8,672.31. The checkbook balance and other monies as of June 30, 2020 is \$58,454.98.

NARSP Membership totals 990. Unit membership includes paid members and honorary lifetime members for a total of 537. There are 69 individuals who have not paid their 2019-2020 dues. These names have been sent to AMBA so they are aware and hopefully will be able to collect those membership dues.

Additional agenda items are Community Service Award and Domain Registry.

The COVID 19 virus is impacting unit meetings. Many have cancelled meetings until January of 2021.

Bob also shared that Kevin Williamson is no longer the Nebraska representative as with COVID he has been unable to meet with individuals. Kell Smalley, the AMBA District Manager, is handling all calls and information.

The Grand Island Area Unit is moving to inactive status as they have lost their place to meet, etc. Members with AMBA benefits will need to continue NARSP membership. They will continue their scholarship program. We will miss all of their members.

The Cascade Fountain fundraising has reached \$1,016,000, which is great knowing personal contacts have not been able to be made during this pandemic. The Cascade Honor Roll brick proposal includes individuals or groups purchasing a brick and having it inscribed with their favor teacher or their organization name. It was suggested the brick for NARSP have NSRTA NARSP organized in 1954 inscribed. Ann moved and Billie seconded this inscription be inscribed on our brick. Motion passed.

No written nominations for NARSP awards have been received.

The summer issue of the NARSP Newsletter will be published the latter part of August.

After sending many emails a call was received informing Bob the Community Service Award Certificates are not available as the individual who sends these out is not working in the AARP office. She is working from home. Even though our application was sent in in December Lincoln will not receive the certificate and pin until she returns to the office.

Information on Postal Service notification/returning undeliverable Newsletters under unfinished business was shared. Copycat does receive address changes when the newsletter is mailed. For us to be notified of any newsletter that is undeliverable,

it would cost \$1.00 plus per newsletter. Nancy moved and Ann seconded we leave everything as is. Motion passed.

Ann reported from the nomination committee the slate for President and Vice President. Wauneta Peterson is nominated for President, and we still need a candidate for Vice President. Information about nominations will be placed in the summer issue of the NARSP Newsletter.

New business began with the selection of the NARSP Scholarships for 2020-2021. There were five applications from four units. Each board member had previously ranked the scholarship applications. Bob moved and Ann seconded the scholarship recipients will be Alexander Steinke from the Grand Island Unit and Pamela VanderVeen from the Wayne Unit. Motion passed.

The proposed Convention Resolution reads that future NARSP State Conventions will be discontinued because of cost and lower attendance. The NARSP Board of Directors' Annual Meeting will be held in either the month of September or October at a date and time determined by the NARSP Executive Board. Nancy moved the proposed resolution be approved. Ann seconded the motion. Motion passed with corrections.

The Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules with the convention resolution being approved were presented. All changes were made in this document to update it to the passed convention resolution. Billie moved and Nancy seconded the update in the Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules with the new convention resolution be presented to the Board of Directors. Motion passed.

Bob presented the proposed 2020-2021 NARSP Budget. Discussion followed. Ann moved and Bob seconded the budget be presented to the Board of Directors for approval. Motion passed.

Bob presented some ideas for the annual meeting. It was hoped we might be able to meet at the Lincoln Children's Zoo and visit the Cascade Fountain. However, with the pandemic we will have a conference call sometime in October with two representatives from each unit. We will also have the memorial service during this call.

The first of the additional items was the domain name for NARSP. Bob received a letter indicating a fee to renew the domain name for NARSP. He contacted Jeanie Coffey with AMBA and she contacted their technology people. Bob was informed this was a company trying to move our domain name to their company. Until we receive information from the company that has our domain name we are in good standing.

The Community Service Award has already been discussed.

The next Executive Board Meeting will be the Board of Directors' Meeting in September or October via a conference call.

The meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Billie Carole Bussmann, NARSP Secretary

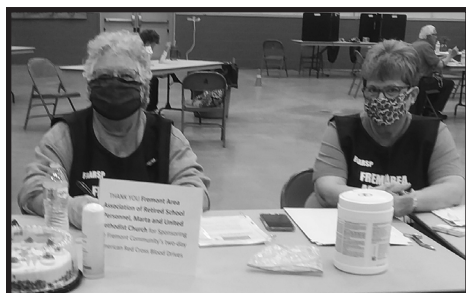


# UNIT REPORTS



## ~ FREMONT AREA ~

The Fremont Area Association of Retired School Personnel cancelled the scheduled meetings for March and May. However some of the members were still able to take care of some group activities.



*Ruth Register and Marta Calhoun worked the registration desk at a Red Cross Blood drive in Fremont on May 18 and 19th.*

The Scholarship committee selected two Fremont High School seniors to be awarded with \$1,000 scholarships. They were Hope Hansen (Kearney University) and Madison Schleicher (Wayne State). Both plan to

major in education at their respective colleges.

The volunteer time turned in for the last year amounted to 321 student hours and total service hours of 3346 hours. In today's economy this would have been worth \$92,481 of service to the community by FAARSP members.

In May four members volunteered their time to help sponsor a two day Red Cross blood drive which collected 144 pints. This drive was in honor of a FAARSP member Marta Calhoun who has a rare blood disease and needs blood quite often.

Respectfully submitted by Jo Mitteis, Public Relations

## ~ HASTINGS AREA ~

The Hastings Area Retired School Personnel has not had a meeting since January due to the Covid-19 outbreak. However, our executive board met in April and June to take care of a few

business items. One important item was choosing a new president which would normally have been done at our May meeting. Karen Meyers volunteered to take the position, and LaVila Van Boening, our current vice president, agreed to remain in office. The board voted to approve both.

The board also approved the Hastings Middle School panty project for the upcoming year. We will donate food and personal items at our regular meetings once they resume.

Scholarship recipients were chosen by the scholarship committee. They are Brooke Aspen of Hastings High School and Jacob Haight of Sutton High School. The committee received one applicant for the teacher scholarship, and it was submitted to NARSP.

Another decision approved by the board was to make a monetary donation to the Educators Cascading Fountain in Lincoln.

Plans for our annual membership luncheon in July were discussed. President Meyers had spoken with the Hastings Middle School about holding the luncheon in their commons area because it is large enough to accommodate social distancing. Safety precautions would be followed closely. A motion to hold the luncheon meeting carried, and unless health regulations are changed, we will proceed with our plans.

We hope we will be able to safely resume our regular meetings in September.

Karen Christensen

## ~ LINCOLN AREA ~

Pam Ford and Jan Stamper agreed to continue as co-presidents for another two-year term. Gretchen Terpsma has also agreed to continue as vice-president for the 2020-2022 term. We are hoping to find someone to assist her.

We discontinued meeting after March, but the board did meet via computer in April. Seven members of the Executive board met in June at Hy-Vee. Our board meeting is via computer in August. It has been decided to cancel our September general meeting and meet month by month after that.

Gretchen's Community Service Reception, which was postponed in April, and moved to September, has now been moved to next April. Hopefully, we will be able to have our Necrology service in October remembering twenty-three members who have passed away this past year. We are, also, hoping to honor two scholarship recipients at that time. They are Ayo Boko and Drew Wiegert.

Members who will be receiving honorary certificates this year

are: Dorothy Bennett, Betty Erickson, Donna Hoxie, Barbara Moss, and LuEtta Spracking.

The custodial staff at Sheridan Lutheran will be receiving our "Friends of LARSP" awards for helping at our meetings. They are: Mark Vollmer, Jeremy Vannier, Phil Hobbs, and Haifa Hameed.

Receiving Golden Awards this year are Barb Hetcko and Judy Strand for helping on the scholarship committee.

LARSP made a donation to the Lincoln Public Schools Foundation to support the needs of families adversely affected by the pandemic.

Our unit also contributed \$1,500 to the renovation of the teachers' Cascade Fountain at 27th and Capitol Parkway. A challenge was made to members to match that amount; and, a big thank-you to all the members who more than matched it with over \$3,500.

## ~ OMAHA AREA ~

The Omaha Area Retired School Employee Association's February meeting started with a brief presentation from Pam Weise from the Nebraska Humane Society who came to pick up the donations that members had brought to the meeting. In addition to thanking us, she gave a brief update on the addition and renovations that have been made to the facility which will be finished at the end of March.



*President-elect Vira Brooks, Pam Weise from the Human society, President Connie Hill, and OARSEA member JoAnn Anderson-Haafke behind the many donations that members brought to the meeting.*

Vira Brooks, OARSEA president-elect, then introduced Traci Lichti, president and CEO of New Cassel Retirement Center, who presented a program on HUGS. She explained how hugs can reduce stress, fight infection, ease depression, alleviate fear, and reduce pain. Hugs can involve other people, animals, and even stuffed toys. She explained six types of hugs: side-to-side, jel-



*Traci Lichti, President and CEO of New Cassel Retirement Center*

lyroll, long distance, quick, Texas, and warm embrace. Members joined her in doing the jellyroll.

Our May meeting which is always the meeting where we announce our scholarship winners was cancelled. Two winners were chosen, but will be announced at our next meeting.

Linda Hammer

## ~ SOUTHEAST NE AREA ~

Greetings from the Southeast Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel! Due to the Corona Virus Pandemic our group chose not to meet this spring. However, we are happy to report that for September and October we did volunteer a total of 1914 hours! We will be excited to share our volunteer time and experiences when we reconvene this fall.



*L-R: Sharon Bogle, Trudy Fankhauser, Emily Wertenberger, Jan Thompson, Christina Wertenberger (Emily's Mom)*

Our scholarship committee has been busy this spring. They selected Miss Emily Wertenberger as the recipient of our \$750 scholarship. Emily was chosen from a list of very deserving seniors. She will major in Elementary Education and attend Missouri Western State University at St. Joseph, Missouri this fall.

We wish everyone good health, peace and a relaxing summer!

Submitted by Secretary Debra Harris



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## ~ WAYNE AREA ~

The Wayne Area Retired School Personnel Association has not been able to hold meetings during the Corona Virus outbreak. We meet at an assisted living facility and it has been closed to the general public since the middle of March.

We planned our annual Fourth of July picnic in the hopes of a lapse in the quarantine measures our state has issued. Unfortunately, larger group meetings were not approved, and our facility still declined public meetings.

Our president, Pat Jenkins-Rohde, did an excellent job keeping in touch with all members and informing us of meeting details and the health and well-being of our members.

One of our members has died since our last newsletter. Gertrude Vahlkamp was buried in late June. A couple of our members were able to attend the funeral.

We all look forward to the time when we can all meet again and share our stories and enjoy fellowship in a safe and secure place.

