

NARSP



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

Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel



NEWSLETTER



Spring 2024 www.narsp.org

Published Twice Yearly

NARSP Attends NRTA Advocacy Conference

by Jan Barnason,
NARSP Legislative Chair

On Monday, October 2, Pat Etherton from LARSP, and I, representing HARSP and NARSP, flew to Washington D.C. to represent Nebraska at the National Retired Teachers Association Advocacy Conference. We had an evening reception and were greeted by Al Campos, director of NRTA: AARP's Educator



Pat and Jan on Capitol Hill

Community, Noelle Carter, Program Associate, Mary Beth Dixon, Senior Advisor, Adam Goldberg, Senior Legislative Representative.

Tuesday was a full day with various representatives from AARP, the National Institute on Retirement Security, National Public Pension Coalition, Mission Square Research Institute, and National Association of State Retirement Administrators. There was so much good information that it was a little overwhelming! We had many guidelines on the

research related to important issues to use when we talked to our representatives on Wednesday.

We had sent emails to all five representatives several weeks before the conference but only heard back from Senator Pete Ricketts' office and Representative Adrian Smith's for appointment times. Undaunted, we had a goal to find the offices of all five!

We strategized our approach and planned to discuss the Assisting Caregivers Today caucus, the need for expanding Broadband, Defined Benefit Pensions, and protecting Social Security.

Senator Ricketts' assistant, Andrew Nam, greeted us and arranged a room for us to meet with Senator Ricketts. Senator

Ricketts told us he had not joined any caucus' yet but discussed the importance of broadband and what he had accomplished in Nebraska as governor. He feels something needs to be done to keep Social Security solvent and noted that Nebraska had SS state tax exempted as soon as 2025. He promised to get back to us on the bill number for SS tax cut act that he is working on.

Since Senator Deb Fischer was in the Russel Senate Office Building also, we dropped off a packet of information with her Staff members Emma and Eduardo and had a short but enjoyable visit with them.

Joel Keralis in Representative Smith's office was inviting and well informed and said he would pass on our ask for Representative Smith to join the ACT caucus.

Representative Mike Flood was in the Cannon HOB as was Smith so we dropped by and left a packet in his office but Sophia said no one was available to visit with us.

We had the fun trip walking through the tunnel to get to our last building, Representative Don Bacon's office in the Rayburn HOB where we signed our name in the visitor's book.

Considering everything I believe we were able to get our messages across even though we did not get a face-to-face with all five representatives. For me the facts that I learned about the research and how many people are working to enhance the lives of those of us over 50 and retired educators is heart-warming and reassuring.



Pat and Jan meet Senator Ricketts

Mark Your Calendar for Thursday, September 26th!

NARSP Annual Meeting - Lincoln - More info to follow



Wauneta's Notes

The year started with snow and subzero weather. Most of our weather now is more like spring than winter. It won't be long and the tulips will be peaking out of the ground.

Scholarship Applications were sent to all presidents in January. Local units select their semi-finalist applications and remit to the NARSP State President on or before Wednesday, May 15, 2024.

It is time to start thinking about our NARSP Conference at Aldersgate United Methodist Church at 84th and South Street in Lincoln. Save the date, Thursday, September 26 from 11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. with lunch provided. More information will be following in August.

If you have deaths in your Unit, please send information to Nancy Johnson at nancy.johnson5@cox.net.

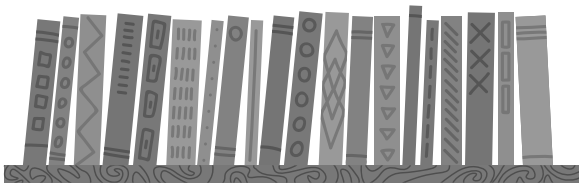
Volunteer hours during the year are to be sent to Cathy Morgan at morgan1968@charter.net or call 402-469-4642.

Nominations are due for the Big Apple Award.

Jan Barnason and David Schribner will be representing us at a NRTA leadership meeting in Charlotte, NC in April.

Stay healthy, be safe and keep moving!

Wauneta Peterson
NARSP President
402-483-1648



“Remember the Spotlight”

Do you have a centenarian in your local Unit that is a member of NARSP or a member that will be reaching that milestone in the very near future? Plan to submit an article about that individual along with their picture to Jeri Lorenz at 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

NARSP Executive Board

Vacant
Executive Director

Wauneta Peterson
President

June Bowers
Vice President

Vira Brooks
Secretary

Nancy Johnson
Treasurer

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

NARSP Membership

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

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

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

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

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

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

NARSP Newsletter

Co-Editors

Bob and Billie Bussmann
RBUSSMANN@neb.rr.com
bbuss@neb.rr.com
(402) 488-3231

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/mailling list as well as a listing of the necrology for the 2023-24 Memorial Service Program. **If you have not already done so, names of members who have passed since the last memorial service need to be submitted to Nancy by Saturday, August 31 to be included in the memorial program.**

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

Officer Elections

Officer positions up for election at the NARSP Board of Directors Annual Meeting this coming fall are President and Vice-President. Both positions are for a two-year term of 2024-2026. These two officer positions are elected in even numbered years.

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



I ♥ READING



NARSP



Remember to LIKE us on



Find us on:
facebook

www.facebook.com/NRTA.NE

“Message from MJ”

MASA Emergency Shield – Protection to Protect You and Your Loved Ones

Did You Know? The ambulance that transports you in an emergency may not be within your health insurance network, which could result in a hefty, out-of-pocket medical bill.

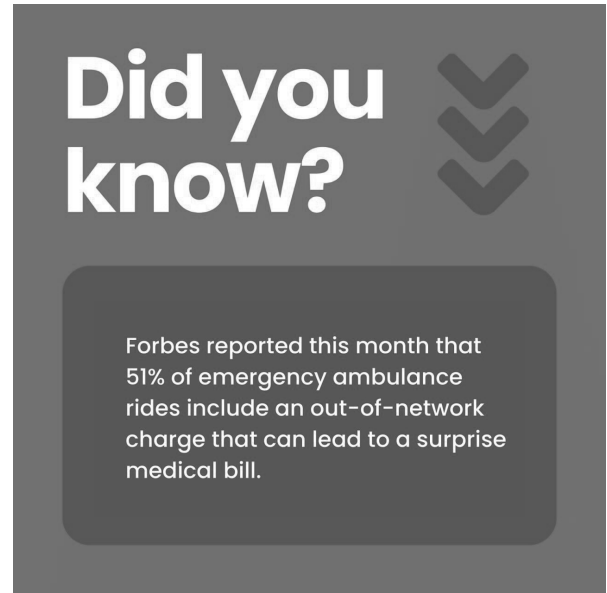
I know how much our educators love Pop Quizzes - so here is one for you:

What are the chances a ground ambulance will be out-of-network? 20%-30%, 40%-50%, or 60%-80%?

If you answered 60-80%, you are correct!

Study results over the past few years have shown that the risk of a ground ambulance being out-of-network ranges from 60%-80%. We are seeing more and more studies continue to uncover this truth of medical transport patients running the risk of exposure to an out-of-network bill. Forbes' most recent report includes such findings.

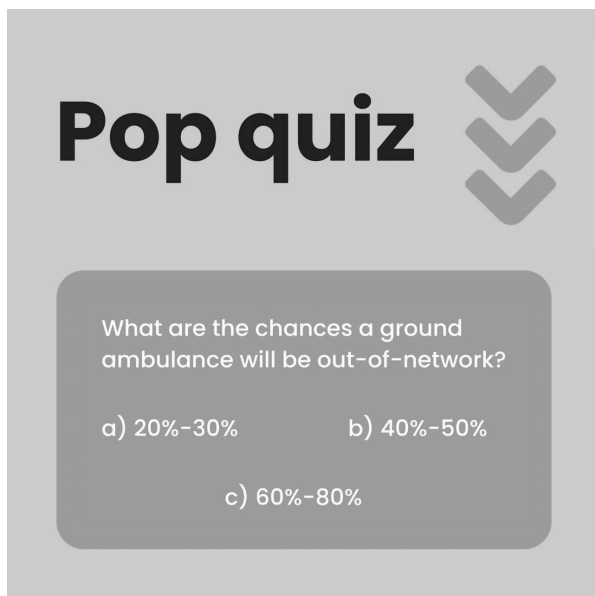
MASA provides a solution that can easily supplement your health insurance plans. When you have MASA coverage, there is no “out-of-network.” MASA works with 100% ambulance providers, nationwide. As we age, the potential for needing the services offered by MASA will increase.



Did you know?

Forbes reported this month that 51% of emergency ambulance rides include an out-of-network charge that can lead to a surprise medical bill.

Your Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel Association has endorsed the MASA Emergency Shield benefit for you to help protect you from these surprises that you would only find out about once you received your bill from your ambulance ride. Don't delay in learning more about this valuable benefit. Contact MJ Woodall at 414.750.6575 or by this link: <https://connect.amba.info/A07363>

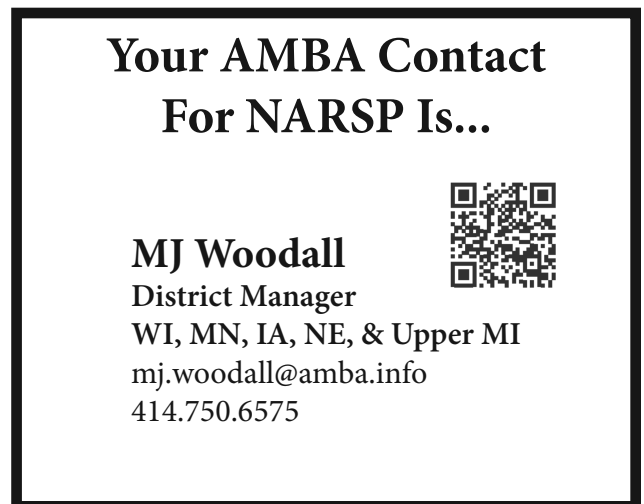


Pop quiz

What are the chances a ground ambulance will be out-of-network?

a) 20%-30% b) 40%-50%

c) 60%-80%



**Your AMBA Contact
For NARSP Is...**

MJ Woodall
District Manager
WI, MN, IA, NE, & Upper MI
mj.woodall@amba.info
414.750.6575



GUIDE TO YOUR NARSP MEMBER BENEFITS



Dental & Vision Plans

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



Long-Term Care

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



Cancer, Heart, Stroke, Accident, and Disability Insurance

Benefits paid directly to you. You select the benefit level that best suits your needs.



Tax-Deferred Asset Protection

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



Short-Term Care/Home Health Care

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



Medicare Solutions

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



Whole Life

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



Hospital Indemnity

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

GET YOUR BENEFITS NOW!

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

MJ Woodall
414.750.6575 | mj.woodall@getAMBA.com

YOUR INSIGHT TO SAVINGS



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PASSPORT®
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THOUSANDS OF SAVINGS OPPORTUNITIES!



myAMBAdiscounts

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

ADDITIONAL MEMBER DISCOUNTS:

Start Hearing, Inc.

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

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

Connect America Medical Alert Service

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

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

BENEFITS MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH



Some benefits not available in all states. Association membership required to obtain benefits. Some associations have made a special benefits website available to their members. Register at myAMBAbenefits.info.

Updated 02/2024

**Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel
Financial Report
September 1, 2023 - January 31, 2024**

Checkbook Balance	August 31, 2023	\$ 16,285.91
Income		
Dues	\$ 780.00 September	
	\$ 2,670.00 October	
	\$ 150.00 November	
	\$ 300.00 December	
	\$ 15.00 January	
	\$ 3,915.00	
Online dues	\$ 270.94 September	
	\$ 413.54 October	
	\$ 285.82 November	
	\$ 385.02 December	
	\$ 185.38 January	
	\$ 1,540.70	
Scholarship donation	\$ 2,500.00	
Total Income	\$ 7,955.70	\$ 24,241.61
Expenditure		
Check 2040	\$ 350.00	
Check 2041	\$ 2,723.42	
Refund	\$ 15.00	
Check 2042 (Nationwide)	\$ 100.00	
Total Expenses	\$ 3,188.42	\$ - 3,188.42
Checkbook Balance	January 31, 2023	\$ 21,053.19
Other Monies		
US Bank	Original	Current
CD (4411) matures 12-07-2025	\$ 6,009.35	\$ 6,495.13 (\$ 4.08)
CD (7901) matures 04-20-2023	\$10,380.30	\$12,471.56 (\$ 7.84)
CD (0631) matures 12-16-2025	\$10,000.00	\$10,808.39 (\$ 6.79)
CD (0649) matures 12-16-2025	\$10,000.00	\$10,808.39 (\$ 6.79)
State Farm moved to US Bank		
CD (6961) mature 01-06-2023	\$ 9,280.18	\$10,989.03 (\$ 6.91)
Profits for this period (\$32.41)	Total CDs \$51,572.50	(\$ 32.41)
Checkbook Balance and Other Monies - January 31, 2024		\$72,625.69

Submitted by Nancy Johnson Treasurer



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



SUDOKU

LEVEL: COMPLICATED

	5				7			
8	2		6				3	5
							8	
	8	7	2	5				
	4	2		6		3		8
9			3		8		5	
				8				
	6	8					9	3
2					3			

answers on page 19

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Board of Directors Annual Meeting Minutes, September 28, 2023

Aldersgate Methodist Church - Lincoln, NE

The Annual Board of Director's Meeting of the Nebraska Association of Retired School Personnel (NARSP) was held on September 28, 2023, at the Aldersgate Methodist Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. Twenty-one members and guests were present: State President Wauneta Peterson from the Lincoln Unit, State Vice-President June Bowers from Southeast Nebraska, Secretary Twila Griffiths and her husband Ernest (member) from Scottsbluff, Treasurer Nancy Johnson from Omaha, former Executive Director Bob Bussmann and Billie Bussmann from Lincoln who are NARSP Co-newsletter Editors, Community Service Chairperson Cathy Morgan of Hastings, Beatrice Unit President Margie Brubaker, Beatrice Program Chair Renee Jones, Hastings Unit President Lavila Van Boeing, Hastings member Jan Barnason who serves as Legislative Liaison, Lincoln Unit Past President Pam Ford, Lincoln Unit Treasurer Laurie Lindgren, Lincoln Legislative Chairperson and NRTA Liaison Pat Etherton, Omaha Unit President Connie Hill, Omaha Unit Vice-President Vira Brooks, AMBA Representatives James Johnson and Nikki Adair, Nebraska AARP State Director Todd Stubbendieck and guest Past NARSP Secretary Lois Mills.

Visiting was enjoyed by all during the first part of the meeting as we enjoyed box lunches catered from Hy-Vee.

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 pm by President Wauneta Peterson. She welcomed attendees and introduced the officers and guests. We pledged allegiance to the flag and sang "God Bless America" accompanied by Wauneta. It was declared that a quorum was present.

The annual memorial service for deceased members was then held. Unit presidents or representatives placed a white rose in a vase and stated the name of members from their locals who had passed away this year. Two past presidents who passed this past year were recognized: Mildred Vogt who served 1992-1996 and Frank Mills who served 2000-2002. Twenty-seven other deceased members were also honored.

The September 14, 2022, minutes were approved as published in the Spring 2023 issue of the NARSP Newsletter and also the August 1, 2023, Executive Board meeting in Lincoln. Nancy Johnson presented the financial report for September 1, 2022-August 31, 2023. The checkbook balance was \$16,271.65. We have CDs valued at \$51,540.09 which gives us a total balance of \$67,811.74. Nancy will renew the CDs as they reach maturity.

AARP Nebraska State Director Todd Stubbendieck reminded us that AARP is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization which works to improve the lives of our aging population. One of the issues Director Stubbendieck discussed was the prescription drug part of the Inflation Reduction Act that now allows Medicare to negotiate prices for our prescriptions. Other issues were digital literacy, broadband access, taxing of retirement and Social Security and

home equity theft. He also discussed the future of Social Security. AARP has produced a three-part series on digital literacy which is quite popular. He told about the emphasis on livable communities and mentioned the Community Challenge Grants by telling about some that had been granted.

Nikki Adair, AMBA Representative, shared about the benefits of AMBA. Five threats to our retirement are 1) taking care of elderly parents, 2) spouse dying without life insurance, 3) medical crisis, 4) boomerang children and 5) over exposure to the stock market. Nikki encouraged us to seek new members as the partnership between NARSP and AMBA is well worth the cost.

James Johnson also with AMBA is on the Associations Relations Team. He shared tips and hints with groups about the benefits of AMBA.

Jan Barnason and Pat Etherton will represent us at the NRTA Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C., next week. They have meetings set up with Senator Pete Ricketts, and Representative Adrian Smith. They will write a report for the NARSP Newsletter.

Nancy Johnson reported on membership renewals which is happening now. She thanked AMBA for their database which helps her keep up with members who need to renew.

Cathy Morgan, Community Service Chair, reported that 35,559 volunteer hours had been reported this past year. The value of a volunteer hour has been set at \$31.80 by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. That means the worth of NARSP volunteer hours from June 1, 2022, to May 31, 2023, is \$1,130,776.20. Cathy said some of the ways NARSP members volunteer are in churches, in homes, various organizations and many others. Discussion was held on how to collect the hours, what dates to include (June 1-May 31) and what type of service to include.

President Peterson shared information about the recipients of the 2023-2024 NARSP Active Educator Scholarship. Meg Gratupp is a 10-12 English teacher at Norris High School. Brittany Vinchattle is a 7-9 English/Language Arts/ Reading teacher in the Wakefield Community Schools. These two ladies will receive \$1000 each. Eight quality applications were received this year.

June Bowers thanked Twila Griffiths for being secretary the past two years. She placed the nomination of Vira Brooks from Omaha as secretary to be helped by Connie Hill. Nancy Johnson has agreed to take another term as treasurer.

Bob Bussmann gave us information about Doctors' Choice Prescription which is a fundraiser for organizations. James Johnson from AMBA asked to help us look into this. He will report back to the executive board.

The first item of new business was to appoint a nominating committee. It will be June Bowers, Connie Hill and Margie Brubaker. Wauneta Peterson called for a vote on the nominations

of Vira Brooks for secretary and Nancy Johnson for treasurer be accepted. The motion carried unanimously.

Bob and Billie Bussmann will continue as editors for the NARSP Newsletter. Bob discussed the length of newsletter articles, and the importance of getting them sent in a timely fashion.

Liaisons for NRTA, AMBA, and AARP will be appointed by Wauneta Peterson.

The proposed budget for 2023-2024 is income of \$13,000 and expenditures of \$12,400.00. A motion was made by Bob Bussmann that we accept the proposed budget. This was seconded by Connie Hill and approved.

Wauneta presented a certificate to Twila Griffiths for her two years as secretary of NARSP. She also had a certificate to Vernelle Werblow for reaching the milestone of 100. Vernetta is from the Fremont Unit. June Bowers thanked Wauneta Peterson for her dedication and service to NARSP. Wauneta read a note from Pat Jenkins Rhode thanking the organization for the many years that she has enjoyed serving and being a member of NARSP. The Wayne Unit has recently disbanded.

As there was no other business the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Twila Griffiths, NARSP Secretary



Twila Griffiths was recognized by Wauneta Peterson with the NARSP Educational Service Award for her service as NARSP Secretary (2021-2023) and her previous involvement with the Scottsbluff Unit.



NARSP Executive Board - Nancy Johnson, Treasurer; Twila Griffiths, Secretary; June Bowers, Vice-President; and Wauneta Peterson, President.

THANK YOU, WAYNE!

Thanks and appreciation is extended to the Wayne Area Unit for the many contributions made and service provided to the Wayne community and the surrounding area over the past 48 years. The Wayne Unit was organized in 1975. In September 2023 they voted to disband. They are wished nothing but the very best!

President Peterson shared at the Board of Directors meeting the following note received from Patricia Jenkins Rhode, Wayne President

Good morning Wauneta! Thinking about you and all of the other state board members as you prepare for the meeting tomorrow. I certainly will miss being in the midst of each of you. I have enjoyed being a member of NARSP and of our local unit WAASRP. Networking with fellow retired teachers filled a void in my professional life and how I enjoyed attending the convention each year. What fun it was to have our local members work together to create a basket filled with goodies that represented our area of Northeast Nebraska. I enjoyed being a "SPONGE" as I listened to the various speakers as well as being entertained by those who found unique ways to express their talents

It was with a sense of sadness that I earlier expressed to both Bob (Bussmann) and Wauneta (Peterson) the decision I made to inform my group at our Fourth of July gathering that after 12 years serving as president of the WAASRP group I felt it time to resign and recommended that our unit disband from a formal group affiliated with NARSP to become a group that would gather socially. We were a group of 12 members with 10 people aged 85 and above with an average age of those members 91.7 and with two members aged 80 and under for an average age of 88.5. One of our members turned 100 this summer. Jennie (Gabbels) and I shared the joy of interviewing Jeanette Giese. A copy of her thoughts on education throughout the years will appear in the Spring Issue of the News Reporter 2024.

I wish each of you a great rewarding year as you continue to make a difference in the lives of individuals in the community that you serve. I will miss each of you and wish God's Richest Blessings of health and happiness in your personal lives.

With love and sincerity, Patricia A. Jenkins Rohde



— HELLO SPRING —

The news articles for the Summer Issue of the NARSP Newsletter are due by Friday, July 5, 2024.

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 20, 2024. 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
Noelle Carter, Program Associate

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

Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems
1526 K Street, Suite 400
P.O. Box 94816
Lincoln, NE 68509-4816
Phone 402-471-2053
Toll Free 800-245-5712
npers.ne.gov



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 20, 2024. (You may make copies of this form for other members to use.)

Community Service Report for 2022-2023



By Cathy Morgan
NARSP Community Service Chair

Ethel Perry Andrus is known for saying that it is important "to serve, not to be served." That spirit remains a core value for retired educators and staff today. That is evident in the number of hours turned in each year by the Nebraska Units.

NARSP members reach out to their communities in a variety of ways. Many still are found working with youth either in the schools, churches, or community youth organizations. They also reach out to the elderly by providing transportation, sending cards or small gifts, or making visits. NARSP members can be found actively involved in service organizations, helping out at churches in a great number of ways, and taking part in special community events. Helping those less fortunate will find members working at food pantries or being involved in Habitat for Humanity.

Even though many hours are not even turned in as the act of volunteering is not done for recognition, 35,559 hours were turned in this year. The Bureau of Labor Statistics placed the value of \$31.80 per volunteer hour this year. Therefore, the hours turned in indicate a savings of \$1,130,776.20.

NARSP members, you can be proud of the many hours and ways that you reach out to your communities.



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

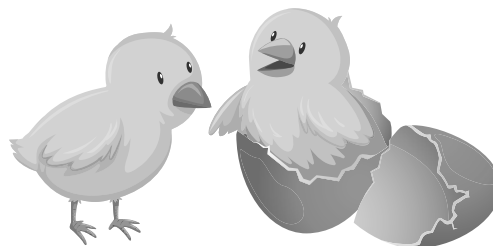
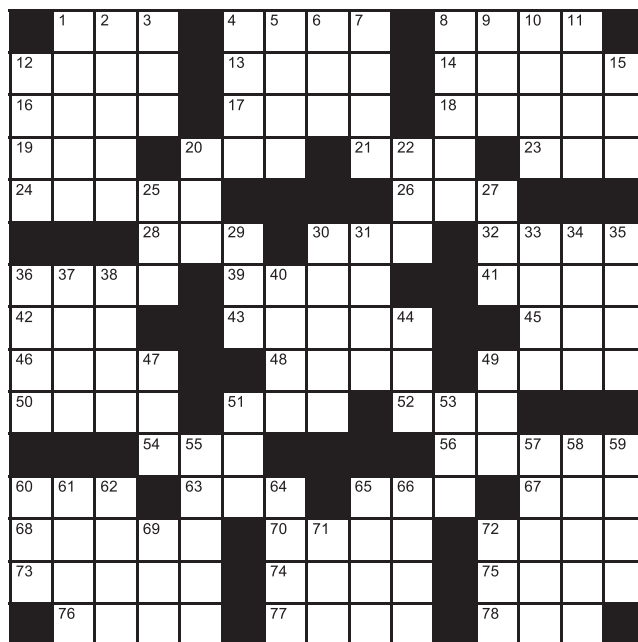
Across

1. Fa follower
4. Aquatic plant
8. Charge
12. International Civil Aviation Organization, for short
13. Container for nitroglycerin
14. Cognizant
16. Farrier's tool
17. "Cogito ___ sum"
18. Sammy Kaye's "___ Tomorrow"
19. "Mârout" baritone
20. "___ we having fun yet?"
21. Bolivian export
23. "A rat!"
24. Crows' homes
26. Delay
28. Select, with "for"
30. Come together
32. Song and dance, e.g.
36. Cheat, in a way
39. "One of ___" (Willa Cather novel)
41. Radial, e.g.
42. "The Three Faces of ___"
43. Run off to the chapel
45. Census datum
46. Abrupt
48. House votes
49. Gross
50. BBs, e.g.
51. Delivery vehicle
52. "For shame!"
54. Egg cells
56. Church song
60. Amiss
63. Dump
65. Is no longer
67. Grassy area
68. Mushroom topper

Down

70. Gulf V.I.P.
72. Auto pioneer
73. Groovy, awesome, e.g.
74. Walk in water
75. Torn pieces of cloth
76. Airy
77. Cleaning cabinet supplies
78. "Ciao!"
1. Bathroom item
2. Desert sight
3. Chop (off)
4. Affirm
5. Euros replaced them
6. Retch
7. "Thanks ___!"
8. It's a part of life
9. Barley bristle
10. Miles per hour, e.g.
11. Ashtabula's lake
12. Persia, now
15. ___ Grove Village, Ill.
20. Death on the Nile cause, perhaps
22. Calamity
25. Cracker Jack bonus
27. Gangster's gun
29. Foot digit
30. Complain
31. Catch a glimpse of
33. Reduced instruction set computer for short
34. Arduous journey
35. Alluring
36. Where the large intestines begin
37. Egg
38. Make waves
40. Arm part
44. "C' ___ la vie!"
47. " ___ bad!"

49. "___ De-Lovely"
51. Big wine holder
53. Bull markets
55. Peace symbol
57. Put to rest, as fears
58. Pigeon's perch
59. Come together
60. Harvest goddess
61. Flaky Greek pastry
62. Ado
64. A ship's small boat
65. All-inclusive
66. "Iliad" warrior
69. Charlotte-to-Raleigh dir.
71. ___ Day
72. Sun, e.g.



answers on page 19

NARSP DECEASED MEMBERS 2022-2023

BEATRICE

Carol Schulz

FREMONT

Alice Colgan

Marilyn Shanks

GRAND ISLAND

Eldon Ervin

Glenna Kingsley

Roberta Slack

HASTINGS

Pat Prochaska

LINCOLN

Betty Dasenbrock

Shirley Grauer

Frank Mills

Marilyn Peterson

Willie Shafer

Cliff Sibley

Theresa Stehlik

Helen Willmeng

OMAHA

Mildred Boyd

Margaret J. Miller

Judith C. Ryan

Cleo Snyder

SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA

Elizabeth Dunn

Susan Nutzman

Jan Thompson

Mary Lee Weinert

Marion Wittrock

WAYNE

Marilyn Bodenstedt

NARSP STATE

Fay Gillham, St. Paul

Mary Sue Grabenstein,

North Platte

Shirley Holmes,

Topeka, KS

Iva M. Johnson, Blair

C. Ladeen Shepherd,

Mesa, AZ



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



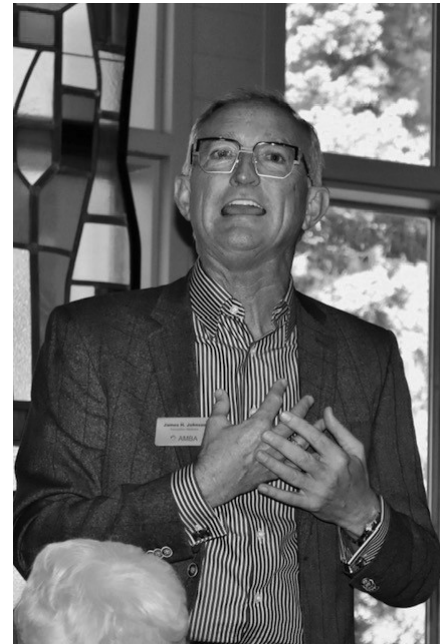
“Highlights from the Annual Meeting held in Lincoln on September 28th”



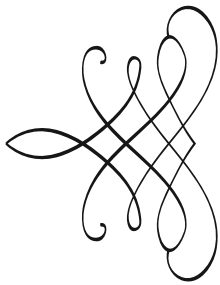
*Todd Stubbendieck
State Director
Nebraska AARP*



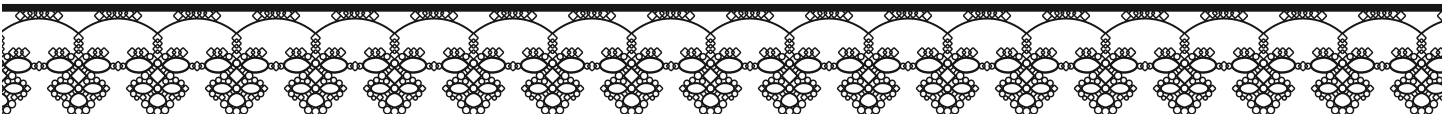
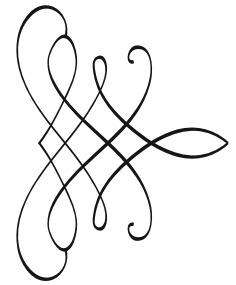
*Nikki Adair
Iowa AMBA Representative*



*James Johnson
AMBA
AVP/Association Relations*



*Elected and installed for the 2023-2025 term were Nancy Johnson
as Treasurer and Vira Brooks as Secretary.*



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



Jeanette Giese

Jeanette Giese you are “In the Spotlight”...Congratulations on reaching the milestone of 100 years on May 15 (2023). Jeanette is a member of the Wayne Area Unit.

Jeanette Giese started teaching after two years of college at Wayne Teachers College. Her first job was for Ainsworth Public Schools as a kindergarten teacher for 32 children. She was only 18 years old and when she was hired the principal’s only comment was “Oh my!”

Giese’s third year at teaching was in Norfolk at Washington School. She never taught in a country school with all nine grades. It would terrify her that this new job opportunity was not in a rural school, so she was willing to try.

The administration in Norfolk felt she was a seasoned teacher. There were 10 children in her classroom. She never called her students “kids” instead they were “children.” She taught for two years in Norfolk.

Her next job was a kindergarten classroom in Wayne. There was a slide that went right into her classroom from the outside. After recess, her students would line up and take turns getting on the slide and sliding into the classroom.

At age 25 Giese got married. The president of the school board said that she should be allowed to continue teaching. “Leave her alone. Just because she’s married does not mean that she has lost her brain!” he said. She became the first married teacher in Wayne.

Spotlight on a 100-Year-Old Member



She taught for five more years. When she became pregnant, she did not teach so that she could stay at home and love her own babies.

Later, Giese was asked to substitute in the Wayne area. One of the substitute requests was at Wakefield. They allowed her to bring her daughter with her as she taught. Her-daughter played quietly in the corner and was always good.

Giese says it is nice to have students for every subject. That way, you get to know and see every child be good in something. If they are not good in math, perhaps they can read like a trooper. Every child can excel in something. Find it! This became her philosophy in teaching.

As Giese looks at the world today, she states schools should be a priority. Children have to be trained. Today’s world is so different, but students still need the fundamentals of reading, writing, and arithmetic. They also need to be loved. If children feel loved, they can learn.

Again, Jeanette Giese “CONGRATS” on your 100th birthday and THANKS for the many lives you have touched over the years!

ANIMALS

HORSE
LEOPARD
JACKAL
HONEY BADGER
PENGUIN
LIZARD
SPARROW
DEER
MEERKAT
RHINO
SQUIRREL
ALLIGATOR
CAMEL
PANTHER
COW
SEA LION
TIGER
SNAKE

I	H	M	R	L	Z	I	H	A	S	Q	U	E	R	T	Z	C	R	J	A
N	G	C	O	S	E	E	R	O	R	N	S	P	I	D	E	R	O	A	B
E	R	U	N	U	H	M	B	S	C	V	E	Q	B	U	B	O	W	C	O
H	Z	S	Q	T	F	O	A	E	R	U	T	L	U	V	U	D	R	U	E
R	J	E	N	U	P	E	L	C	R	O	C	O	D	I	L	E	S	B	L
C	S	A	B	V	K	T	R	K	D	H	L	E	N	Q	R	E	A	P	H
O	P	H	O	N	R	O	Y	O	T	U	I	G	U	A	S	R	M	A	E
M	A	O	D	U	W	C	M	I	V	G	P	N	R	U	C	N	E	N	T
N	R	R	T	N	R	M	P	O	U	D	S	C	O	W	F	I	Z	L	D
K	O	S	Q	E	O	A	C	A	D	W	E	M	R	U	L	U	L	I	R
E	T	E	P	K	R	P	N	U	N	O	Z	E	B	R	A	G	S	E	A
M	I	U	G	C	J	A	C	T	L	R	D	E	P	A	V	N	I	H	P
A	G	W	O	I	P	S	N	A	U	R	E	R	I	G	U	E	N	A	O
C	E	I	K	H	P	O	F	I	J	A	C	K	A	L	K	P	T	W	E
P	R	G	D	C	I	F	W	T	L	P	E	A	U	G	H	C	Z	K	L
J	W	O	R	L	U	V	U	L	I	S	Q	T	C	R	O	B	A	I	O
D	A	Z	A	B	R	D	E	B	A	B	U	F	F	Q	R	N	E	J	N
A	N	E	Z	T	U	R	T	L	Z	E	B	V	A	L	S	N	A	G	E
W	S	Q	I	V	L	H	O	N	E	Y	B	A	D	G	E	R	D	E	R
K	V	U	L	D	U	R	A	G	O	N	A	W	R	D	O	P	E	N	G

RABBIT
CHICKEN
DUCK
IGUANA
CROW
MOUSE
SEAHORSE
CRAB
BUFFALO
SPIDER
VULTURE
ZEBRA
KOMODO DRAGON
PELICAN
HAWK
TURTLE
PIGEON
ANT



UNIT REPORTS



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

~ FREMONT AREA ~



Five of the six living presidents of FAARSP are pictured. They were honored at the September meeting for their service. Kathy Cahill the sixth not pictured was ill and passed away shortly after the meeting. Pictured are Vernelle Werblow, Nola Cox, Janet Kletke, Mary Jane Thulin and Ruth Register.

FAARSP met for its September meeting at the Congregational Church. The annual memorial service for the two members who passed away were Alice Colgan and Marilyn Shanks. Wanda Samson led the first part of the service while Linda Betkie led the second part honoring members who had passed away in each decade of the association's

existence. Beth Radtke assisted with both parts. President Ruth Register acknowledged the dedication and love of the association that presidents have. In the 50 year history of FAARSP there have been 21 presidents of which six were still living. One month after the honor past president Kathy Cahill passed away. It is always important to say thank you to those for the role they played throughout the years. Thanks you to Vernelle Werblow, Nola Cox, Janet Kletke, Mary Jane Thulin, Kathy Cahill, and Ruth Register. Register announced that she will not be accepting a nomination for another term as president in March.

Shonda Shirley of CHAD/FAARSP presented the banner awarded to FAARSP at the CHAD annual meeting for their



FAARSP members who are also veterans are honored for their service after readings, prayers and songs. Our heroes are never forgotten. Pictured are David Bade, RJ Riggs, Al Martinez, Larry Marvin, Bob Kroenke and Johnny Halladay. Kroenke is our oldest veteran at 96.

2023 Partners in Health Award for 10 straight years of increased giving. Shirley explained the process to the new members as the 2023 campaign kicked off. Janet Kletke read several short stories from members. Wendy Brenner reported that she had completed and delivered the project to the Bridge for their annual holiday auction. FAARSP helped host a free kidney screening test which was free to anyone. It was fast and easy.

November's meeting was held at the United Methodist Church. The first item was the honoring of the association's six veterans. Veteran members honored were Johnny Halladay, David Bade, RJ Riggs, Bob Kroenke, Larry Marvin and Al Martinez. Readings and prayers were given with songs by Nancy Beilke, Nancy Meier, Wendy Brenner and Bob Yanike were performed. Norma Register presented each veteran with the FAARSP VETERAN 2023 medal and Rosanne Placek presented them with their gift basket.



The Salvation Army got help this year by the FAARSP membership during their Red Kettle Drive. Kris Olson and Karen Burns took their turn ringing the bell. Members always enjoy their time during this activity as they greet community members during community service work.

Norma Register reported that since the "White Can" donations had already collected enough money for the 2024 Holiday Meals that the white can money would now be used for the scholarship fund. Shirley updated the membership on the CHAD campaign and that it is so close to being an 11th straight year of increases.

Christmas bag deliveries were ready to start December 6th for the veterans in the nine care centers in Fremont. School THANK YOU treats continue to be delivered to 25 Fremont and area schools from September to the end of March. Thank you to all school staff members in these 25 schools for all they do for our children.

January's meeting was a tough call because of the bad snow storms in Nebraska and Iowa. After much discussion with St James Episcopal Church and watching radar Register chose to



Two members of the Methodist Fremont Health nursing staff are pictured with members of the FAARSP last baby born in 2023 committee. Many gifts for the baby were accepted by the nurses. FAARSP President Ruth Register on the left poses with the committee of Marta Calhoun, Nancy Meier Norma Register and Nancy Morris. Not pictured is member Jan Kruse.

go for it and have the meeting. Wendy Brenner won split the pot and to everyone's surprise she split her winnings with all who were at her table. What a cool gesture Wendy.

Marta Calhoun reported from her committee that the Last Baby Born at Methodist Fremont Health for 2023 was a baby boy and he was the first child for the family. They received many wonderful and useful

items from FAARSP.

The membership reviewed the scholarship program and voted to give one educational scholarship for \$1,000.00 and one trade school scholarship for \$500.00. The other major topic was that president Ruth Register and communication director Linda Betkie will not be seeking re-election in March. Both officers have given everything they have got and it was time to step away from the offices. New elections will take place in March.

As president of FAARSP, I can't thank everyone enough for all you do for FAARSP, your communities, you churches and every where else you give a helping had. You have chosen to make everything better then where you found it. God bless you all. Stay healthy and be happy. Love to all.

Submitted by
Ruth Register
President-FAARP



The veterans in the care centers know we are coming when they see our blue pinnies that says who we are. Sara Doudney a Life Director at one of the care centers dresses as a tree as FAARSP members move from room to room to celebrate the holidays with the veterans. Posing for a picture after finishing their deliveries are Janet Lowe, Cindy Tranmer, Jan Wolfe and RJ Riggs in the back. Doudney and Norma Register are in the front. Sharing the warmth of stories, laughter, hugs and warm hands is never forgotten.

~ HASTINGS AREA ~

The Hastings Area Retired School Personnel had a busy volunteer year. Members helped in their churches in a variety of ways. They also volunteered with service organizations in our community. As retired school personnel, they volunteered with youth wherever and whenever they could. A total of 2,450 volunteer hours were turned in this past year.



HARSP was pleased to be able to give two scholarships to help future educators.

Scholarship Chair, Gary Aadland visits with scholarship winner, McKenzie Petr at the annual luncheon in July. McKenzie graduated from Sandy Creek. Jesse Bergen

from Sutton was unable to attend the luncheon.

Our new altruistic project for the 2023-2024 year is to contribute food and money to the Hastings Food Pantry.

Fellowship, snacks, and wonderful programs help to bring members to our meetings.

Elias Bair presented the program at our September meeting. He spoke about the en Courage advocacy center.



~ LINCOLN AREA ~

The first meeting of the year for the Lincoln Area Retired School Personnel group was on Patriot's Day, September 11th. Our theme was red, white, and blue and our speaker was Sue Cassata, Principal of Lincoln's newest high school, Standing Bear. Her topic was "Creating Culture and Building Community". She talked about how they built an environment that honored the students, staff, Standing Bear, and the Ponca Nation. Lincoln's mayor was presented a "check" for \$654,233.20 that represented the value of our community service hours.



In November, the past presidents of LARSP were honored. Those present were: (back row) Billie Bussmann, Jan Stamper, Viki Ku-

gler, Pam Ford (front row) Bob Bussmann, Ruth Ann Lyness, Wauneta Peterson.

All fall the members donated mittens, hats, scarves, and socks to decorate the LARSP tree for the Heritage League's annual Holiday of Trees.

Nearly 400 items covered the tree and were later given to Willie's Underwear Project. The members decorating the tree were: Laurie Lindgren, Gayle Alexander, Pam Ford, Lynne Nelson-Dixon, Jeanne Butzke, Billie Bussmann and Bob Bussmann.

Lynne Nelson-Dixon,
Lincoln President



"Tuffy" Epstein, Lela Glover, Beatrice Laughlin, Margaret Miller, Judith Ryan, Cleo Snyder, and Nick Stolzer.

Michele Bang, Deputy Director of Project Harmony, a non-profit organization that works to end child abuse and neglect through an innovative and highly collaborative service model that encompasses three equally important and overlapping pillars (response, treatment, and prevention) spoke at our October 26th meeting. OARSEA donated \$100 to help their cause.

We are proud that Past OARSEA President Nancy Johnson remains treasurer of NARSP and Vira Brooks, our President-Elect, was elected to be secretary at the state convention.



Janice Gilmore with a copy of her book.

~ McCOOK AREA ~



Enjoying a taco lunch while learning about creating your own spices for cooking.

~ OMAHA AREA ~

We started our fall meetings on August 24th with presenter Janice Gilmore, former Omaha Public Schools administrator and World Herald columnist, who shared thoughts about treating others with kindness, featuring a memory of a policeman's encounter with an elderly man. Nine lucky OARSEA members won a copy of her book Cool Kids live in Omaha.

We also had our Memorial Service at the August gathering. Remembered members were Mildred Boyd, Joan Denton, Arnold



Michelle Bang, deputy director of Project Harmony

For the second year in a row, our December meeting was cancelled, but it wasn't the weather this time; it was because water was going to be turned off in the facility we use with no promise as to when it would be turned back on.

We look forward to our February meeting which features our service project, ReConnect 2 Success, which fills in gaps in services and support needed to help men and women successfully transition from incarceration back to their families and communities.

Linda Hammer

~ SOUTHEAST NE AREA ~

Welcome to 2024! We here in Southeast Nebraska are excited to see what the new year holds! We currently have 29 very busy members in our group. We received a certificate of achievement from the State for the 2903 hours of volunteer work we accomplished.

This fall we installed our officers: President: June Bowers, Vice-President: Denise Kurpgewit, Secretary: Deb Harris, Treasurer: Glenda Nelson. Also a ceremony of remembrance was held for our colleagues who have passed away: Marion Wittrock, Jan Thompson, Mary Lee Weinert, Sue Nutzman, and Elizabeth Dunn.



Andy Dunn, of Falls City does a cowboy poetry recitation for the retired teachers of southeast Nebraska.

In October we were honored to have a former student and local farmer attend our meeting. Andy Dunn, recited and performed as a cowboy poet. He actually authored one of the poems he presented. He has also performed at many other local events and does an amazing recitation.

We continue to collect funds to help with our local scholarship for a high school student wishing to pursue a teaching career.

“May we all have a vision now and then, of a world where every neighbor is a friend. Happy New Year” —ABBA

Respectfully submitted by Deb Harris, Secretary



SUDOKU

ANSWER

6	5	9	8	3	7	1	4	2
8	2	1	6	4	9	7	3	5
7	3	4	5	1	2	6	8	9
3	8	7	2	5	4	9	6	1
5	4	2	9	6	1	3	7	8
9	1	6	3	7	8	2	5	4
4	9	3	1	8	6	5	2	7
1	6	8	7	2	5	4	9	3
2	7	5	4	9	3	8	1	6

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				O	P	T		G	E	L		A	R	T
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