



# Kansas Association of Retired School Personnel

Volume 50, Issue 11

*The Meadowlark*

November 2015

## NANCY'S NOTES

Nancy Murry  
KARSP President



We are now in the month of November -- Turkey Time -- but more important it is time to be thankful. I have learned to be grateful no matter what has happened in my life. I don't doubt that whatever the problem, I'll get through it. It's not easy being grateful all the time. But it's when you feel least thankful that you are most in need of what gratitude can give you. When you learn to say thank you, that would suffice.

We live in a world that confuses financial prosperity with success. When you shift your focus from success to service, your work as a teacher will have more meaning. Real success means creating a life of meaning through service that fulfills your reason for being here. The way to true success is to have the courage to follow your passion. One needs to pay attention to what makes you feel energized, connected and stimulated -- what gives one their passion. Do what you live, give it back in the form of service, and you will do more than succeed.

In just a year from now we will be electing a president. Would you vote for a presidential candidate who couldn't stop laughing during an election-year debate? Laughter is an innate behavior, but it can also be influenced by those around us. Laughing is a full-body exercise. It burns calories, increases your heart rate, and works a variety of muscles. It also encourages the release of feel-good brain chemicals, like dopamine. It's a natural high. So I hope everyone that reads this article keeps on laughing.....just make sure it is not inappropriate. We need to have some laughter to get through 2016.

Thanks to the KARSP Board for giving me the chance to be more focused, to pay attention to everything and to take absolutely nothing for granted. One can take

from every experience what it has to offer. I've learned not to worry about what might come next. Someday I may actually learn the process of Roberts Rules of Order.

## GOODBYE AND HELLO

The final meeting of the KARSP Board of Directors for 2015 was held in Hutchinson on October 8 and 9. Nancy Murry will finish her term on December 31, and Bob Grover will begin his term on January 1. This was the last meeting for Kay Dundas who has served as Treasurer for nine years. Gary Price will replace Kay Dundas. Kay Schenk will serve as our Vice President.

Three district directors have finished their terms. They include Harvetta Von Fange, District 1, who will be replaced with Joan Barhydt; David Lowery from District 3 will be replaced by Vic Sisk; and in District 5, Chris Hutton will replace Priscilla Taggart.

The board is still searching for a lobbyist to replace Harvey Ludwick.

The new board members as well as the returning ones are looking forward to our first 2016 meeting on January 28 and 29.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETING

The KARSP Board of Directors met October 8-9 in Hutchinson for the final meeting of the year. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- Brilla Scott, Executive Director, presented the 2016 roster of local unit presidents. Also in June, Brilla and Virgil Funk packed and moved the KARSP office to 1420 SW Arrowhead Road,

*(continued on page 2)*

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETING

(continued from page 1)

- Suite 100, Topeka. In September Brilla attended a Working Kansas Alliance meeting, a Coalition meeting, and the NRTA Advocacy Conference.
- Virgil Funk, Membership Chair, reported a total membership of 3,654.
  - Nancy Murry, President, read a letter of resignation from Gary and Peggy Hughes as Community Service Chairs.
  - Ron Gardner, Legislative Chair, reported Alan Conroy will speak at the November 5 Legislative Committee meeting. The committee will prepare a legislative platform for 2016. The Kansas Coalition of Public Retirees (KCPR) will have an ad in *Hawver's Capitol Report*, which will be underwritten by KARSP.
  - Ernie Claudel introduced Terry Forsyth, KNEA, who works with the Working Kansas Alliance. Terry is also the director of KNEA's Political Action. One of their goals is increasing voter registration.
  - Brilla reported that Premier Travel provided KARSP \$1,617 for members traveling on the Rose Bowl tour and the Panama Canal tour in 2015.
  - The District Directors reported on their visits to their units. Several reported an increase in membership.
  - After dinner a video was shown to the board on the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and the effect it can have on issues in each of the states.
  - Bob Grover, Vice President, reported the following 2016 board meeting dates: January 28-29, June 8, and October 6-7.
  - Brilla presented the revised KARSP Operation Handbook.
  - Leo Lake's resignation as Historian was accepted with regret and gratitude for his many years of work with KARSP.
  - Bob Grover, External Communications Committee Chair, presented the committee's proposal. It is important to make our organization more visible to the public through various types of communications and publicity. Bob also presented a copy of the October 13, 2011, Strategic Planning Session. This will be reviewed and discussed at the January KARSP Board meeting.



*The Meadowlark is an official publication of the Kansas Association of Retired School Personnel.*

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Nancy Murry, President                    | (620) 665-7054  |
| Bob Grover, Vice President                | (620) 343-1072  |
| Dianne Sisk, Secretary                    | (785) 749-4601  |
| Kay Dundas, Treasurer                     | (620) 663-6726  |
| Carol Bingle, Past President              | (620) 278-3015  |
| Duane Anstine, Editor                     | (620) 662-3733  |
| Brilla Highfill Scott, Executive Director | (785) 232-8788  |
| Virgil Funk, Membership Lobbyist          | (785) 233-1916  |
|   | To Be Announced |



**1-800-258-7041**

**[www.myAMBAbenefits.info/karsp](http://www.myAMBAbenefits.info/karsp)**

New memberships or renewals are \$15.00 per year. If you have a change of address, please contact us by mail, phone, or e-mail.

KARSP

1420 SW Arrowhead Rd., Suite 100, Topeka, Kansas 66604

(785) 232-8788

[karsp@karsp.org](mailto:karsp@karsp.org) or [membership@karsp.org](mailto:membership@karsp.org)



Dependable Benefits. Trusted Partner.

**611 S KANSAS AVENUE, SUITE 100**

**TOPEKA, KANSAS 66603**

**(785)296-6166 OR (888)275-5737**

**Premier World Discovery**



2615 190th Street, Suite 200  
Redondo Beach, CA 90278

Ph: 877-953-8687

**Check KARSP website for tours:**

**<http://www.karsp.org>**

## **SCOTT AND JASSO ATTEND NRTA ADVOCACY CONFERENCE**

Kansas Association of Retired School Personnel Executive Director Brilla Scott (left) and Cruz Jasso (right), KARSP Legislative Committee Representative, attended the National Retired Teachers Association Advocacy Conference in Arlington, Virginia, on September 28-30, 2015. Also shown is Dara Dann, NRTA Vice President.

Among the topics discussed were "Federal Legislation Climate and Outlook," "Public Pensions within a Federal, State and Judicial Framework," "Waging Effective Advocacy Campaigns," and "Race for the 2016 Elections."

NRTA was founded by Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus in 1947 and, eleven years later, Dr. Andrus founded AARP.



## **HEALTH-RELATED BENEFITS**

The Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) offers many benefits to KARSP members. Some KARSP members have saved money on these benefits. Maybe you can save on these or any of the other eighteen benefits offered.

### **DENTAL AND VISION PLANS**

Freedom to use any dentist and no network required. Routine cleanings and exams are part of the plan and there are no referrals required for specialty care. Vision Service Plan (VSP) is the largest national quality eye care company. VSP offers one-stop shopping and discounts for your eye care needs. Call 800.258.7041 or email [myAMBAbenefits.info](mailto:myAMBAbenefits.info).

### **MEDICAL AIR SERVICES ASSOCIATION (MASA)**

MASA is dedicated to providing life-saving emergency assistance from home or while traveling. The coverage is designed to protect members against catastrophic financial loss when emergencies arise. Call 800.258.7041 or email [myAMBAbenefits.info](mailto:myAMBAbenefits.info).

## **AMERICAN HEARING BENEFITS (AHB)**

AHB 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. Call 888.200.5701 or <http://americanhearingbenefits.com/partners/amba> Discount code AMBA.

## **CONVENTION UPDATE**

The sixty-third annual KARSP Convention will be June 8, 9, and 10 in Hutchinson. Karen Pulaski, Convention Chairperson, reported to the Board that all four speakers have been confirmed, and in keeping with our tradition of having great speakers, these speakers will also be great.

The entertainment at the banquet will be outstanding as usual. These musicians have had many great experiences with music including several years entertaining on cruise ships. Everyone will enjoy this music.

Several vendors have agreed to be at the convention, and we are contacting other vendors at this time.

Put these dates on your calendar to ensure you don't miss a great convention.

## **WHAT WILL YOU BRING TO THE AUCTION?**

The KARSP Foundation has announced there will be another auction on the Wednesday evening after the cook-out at the KARSP convention on June 8. These auctions allow the KARSP Foundation to present \$500 grants to teachers who are still teaching. Sometimes a teacher wants to do a project with the students, but the district doesn't have the money. Then the teacher can apply to KARSP for a grant. At the last convention KARSP gave a \$500 grant to four teachers who had applied. This way retired school personnel can still make a difference for kids in classrooms just as we did before we retired.

Each unit is asked to bring at least one item valued at \$25 or more for the auction. Gary Carson will again serve as the auctioneer so everyone will have a great time with lots of laughs.

Make a note to bring something to the auction.

**GOT AN EXTRA HOUR**

If you do, then you can volunteer. Hundreds of KARSP members volunteer and turn in their volunteer hours. However, many volunteers never turn in their hours. Every hour is needed --- no matter how few or how many. The more hours we accumulate the stronger our message can be to the governor and the legislature. They need to understand how much we save the governmental agencies and non-profits.

Our Community Service Chair asks us to track our volunteer hours for one year. Some track their hours from January 1 to December 31. Others keep a record from May 1 to April 30. Members may record their hours as they wish, but please keep track and turn in your hours when you have completed a year. Your hours are needed. If you haven't kept track so far, please just estimate your number of hours.

Won't you help KARSP?

**KCPR UPDATE**

Highlights of the meeting include the following:

- It's official! The Rally will be January 20 at 10:00 am at the Kansas State Capitol, Topeka.
- We understand the legislators have been inundated with mail and emails. Keep up the pressure on your areas of interest. Catch them while they are home. Let them know you are a constituent.
- KCPR is working at introducing a COLA bill. It calls for a 1, 2, and 3% over time with a cap of a maximum of \$150 raise per month. This will be our 19<sup>th</sup> year with no raise.
- We have reason to believe that some of the legislators will try to change KPERS once again. There are still misunderstandings on the part of some legislators about how the KPERS system works.