



Kansas Association of Retired School Personnel

Volume 59, Issue 4

The Meadowlark

April 2024

2024 CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Wednesday, June 12

10:00 a.m. - KARSP Board Meeting
1:00 p.m. - Registration and Hospitality Opens
5:00 p.m. - Hamburger Feed and Foundation Auction
8:00 p.m. - Games

Thursday, June 13

8:45 a.m. - Opening Session
9:20 a.m. - Keynote Speaker - Judge Tommy Webb
10:15 - Break
10:35 a.m. - Business Meeting
11:30 a.m. - Foundation Luncheon
1:15 p.m. - Speaker - Jennifer Farr
1:45 p.m. - Kell Smalley, AMBA
2:00 p.m. - Speaker - Glenda DuBois, State Director, AARP Kansas
2:30 p.m. - Speaker - Not Confirmed
3:45 p.m. - Foundation Board Meeting
6:00 p.m. - Evening Dinner and Entertainment (Brothers Blue)
8:00 p.m. - Games

Friday, June 14

8:30 a.m. - Memorial Breakfast
9:45 a.m. - Unit Awards
10:15 a.m. - Speaker - Dan Meers (KC Wolf)
11:30 a.m. - Luncheon
End of convention

CONVENTION SPEAKER BIOS

Judge Tommy Webb

District Magistrate Judge Tommy Webb was born in Korea, lived in an orphanage, and was adopted by the Roy Webb family of Tulsa, Oklahoma at the age of seven when he was brought to the United States. The family moved to Junction City in 1961, and that is where he went through school. He served in the U.S. Marine Corp from 1970-1974.

Since 1988 he has been reelected as district magistrate judge for southwest Kansas. He received his Master of Science degree in family therapy and clinical psychology. Judge Webb belongs to several organizations such as State of Kansas Court/SRS Education/JJA Liaison Committee, Chaplain of the District Magistrate Judges Association, Member of National Family & Juvenile Court Judges, and Cimarron Basin Community Corrections Advisory Board, lifetime member of the American Legion and VFW and many others. He was the 2004 recipient of the "Distinguished Service to Kansas Children Award" and National Judges Association recipient "As the Outstanding Non-Attorney Judge of the United States". He has spoken at high schools, colleges, teacher in-services, corporations, and conferences for many associations.

He is married and has two children. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, golfing, and snow skiing.

Jennifer Farr

She is a fifth-grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary in Junction City. Jennifer was selected for the Lowell Miliken award. The Lowell Miliken is an

(Continued on Page 3)

LESSONS LEARNED FROM DISNEY WORLD

*Jerry Henn
KARSP Executive
Director*



On a recent visit to Disney World, I was trying to come up with lessons I learned. There turns out to be many different lessons that extend beyond mere entertainment.

Firstly, the park exemplifies the power of imagination and storytelling. Disney's ability to create immersive worlds transports visitors to realms where fantasies come to life. Why do we need to stop dreaming once we retire? There is always something whether it's designing a new product or solving a problem; embracing imagination can lead to innovative solutions and memorable experiences.

Secondly, Disney World teaches valuable lessons about attention to detail and customer experience. From meticulously landscaped gardens to intricately themed attractions, every element is crafted with precision to ensure visitors are fully immersed in the magic. This commitment to excellence underscores the significance of paying attention to the finer details in all aspects of life, be it in customer service, project management, or personal relationships. By prioritizing quality and customer satisfaction, individuals and businesses can create experiences that leave a lasting impression. Is that not what we want to do in life, leave our impression? I'm sure you have had students come back to say what a positive role model you have been. I know I have had several, and it sure does make me feel good.

Disney World serves as a testament to the power of teamwork and collaboration. Behind every magical moment are countless cast members working together seamlessly to orchestrate the spectacle. We have always talked about teamwork; well, this

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Gil Bunning, President	(785) 486-3304
Beccy Isom, Vice President	(785) 476-3143
Dianne Sisk, Secretary	(785) 749-4601
Mike Isom, Past President	(785) 476-5583
Dee Schwinn, Editor	(620) 412-3452
Jerry Henn, Executive Director	(785) 232-8788
Perry McCabe, Membership	(620) 200-0526
Rod Dietz, Treasurer	(316) 641-3445

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KARSP
1019 Darlow Dr., McPherson, KS 67460
(785) 232-7877
karsp@karsp.org or membership@karsp.org
or visit us at www.karsp.org



is the perfect example of how teamwork can be a major positive in our lives. From performers and ride operators to custodial staff and management, each person plays a crucial role in delivering the Disney experience. This highlights the importance of effective communication, cooperation, and mutual respect in achieving common goals. By fostering a collaborative environment, teams can leverage diverse talents and perspectives to overcome challenges and achieve success.

Lastly, Disney World imparts lessons on resilience and adaptability. Despite its unwavering commitment to quality, the park continuously evolves to meet the changing needs and preferences of its guests. Whether it's introducing new attractions or implementing innovative technologies, Disney demonstrates the importance of staying nimble and embracing change in a rapidly evolving world. As we continue to age, we must change as well. Maybe not as drastic as what happens at Disney, but life will send us curves we must adhere to. This serves as a reminder that setbacks and obstacles are inevitable, but with resilience and a willingness to adapt, individuals can navigate challenges and emerge stronger than before.

Change, teamwork, resilience, paying attention to detail are all items we can continue to be aware of while we continually move forward in our lives. We just have a few more experiences we can draw upon to lead us through this thing called life. Disney made me think about how I treat all people I come in contact with. My patience was tested several times by people that were only looking out for themselves. I struggle with these types of people, but I was reminded several times by cast members of what a positive role model I needed to be. It was great to enjoy the feeling of being immersed in the Disney experience.

(Continued from Page 1, Convention Speaker Bios)

international educational non-profit organization. Exemplary teachers are selected who will collaborate on projects that discover, develop, and communicate stories of Unsung Heroes in

History. Jennifer is also a 2017 Kansas Teacher of the Year. She attended Graber Elementary School and Hutchinson High. She holds a master's degree in curriculum and instruction. She believes that children in her classroom can be the next leaders of tomorrow.

Glenda DuBois, State Director, AARP Kansas

Aging in Place Presentation. This presentation will share information and explore some resources that will enable people to choose how they live and age in place.

Dan Meers

Dan is a Mascot, Motivational Speaker, Author, and Family Man. Dan Meers has been KC Wolf the mascot of the Kansas City Chiefs, for more than 30 years. In 2006 he was selected as the first NFL mascot inducted into the Mascot Hall of Fame. Dan travels throughout the United States and the world entertaining thousands of people both in and out of costume. He has performed in over 40 states and 12 different countries.

He is in high demand not only as a mascot but also as a humorous and motivational speaker to audiences of all ages. His enthusiasm, optimism and love for life are contagious and make Dan an inspiration to all those he meets. Be it young or old, executive, or blue collar, his audiences walk away with a smile and a renewed spirit to live life to the fullest.

Whether you are a Kansas City Chiefs fan or not, you will enjoy Dan Meers as he shares his unique wit and wisdom about life.

Brothers Blue

This Topeka-Brothers Blue tribute group began in the early 1980s.

Sam Austin (Elwood Blue) and Chris Ridley (Jake Joliet) were teachers and coaches at a junior high school. Austin came up with the idea that he and Ridley would perform a Blues Brother classic "Soul Man." That was the beginning.

After several performances at Topeka events, and they expanded their technical equipment and the “show” went on the road. The group not only sings Blues Brothers, but it also covers many classics and artists too numerous to mention.

Sam Austin, leader and creator of the group, came to Topeka from Connecticut and attended Washburn University as a student-athlete playing football. He was a teacher, coach (25 years) and school administrator for 10 years. He, his wife and daughter are all educators.

Chris Ridley, self-proclaimed front man, came to Washburn University from Baldwin City, Kansas. Ridley spent years teaching literature and journalism and coaching football, basketball and track for Topeka-Auburn-Washburn’s middle school before joining Washburn High School administration with the duties of athletic director and assistant principal. He has authored and published three books. He has three kids, all married and enjoys them, their spouses and his four grandchildren.

Sabrina Mann is a seasoned and accomplished vocalist, mesmerizing audiences with her soulful voice. Sabrina has a Motown sound and loves some disco songs. She believes that the power of music uplifts even in the most challenging of circumstances. Sabrina and her husband live and work in the Kansas City area. With over 30 years in the music industry, she was born with a natural talent.

Topekan Dana Hazen is a 1981 Washburn Rural graduate and was the state record holder in Track and Field in the javelin. Not only was he the gifted javelin thrower and baseball player, he has the dubious honor of once competing in the javelin against Garth Brooks in college and Dana beat him. He and his wife have been married for nearly 40 years and have three fantastic daughters and sweet grandchildren. Dana is retired military and spent many years both in the service and in the public sector as a mechanic servicing helicopters. Dana enjoys portraying the “singing cop” and is an avid protector of the other members. The Brothers Blue take pride in entertaining folks with great music, songs that folks love and remember. They

take great pride in getting the crowd involved in their events and love their following who support them.

CONVENTION INFORMATION

When making your room reservation(s), let the hotel know that you are attending the KARSP convention. The number to call is 1-785-210-1500.

A block of rooms has been scheduled and reservations must be made by May 27 to receive the quoted room rate of \$95 plus tax. By missing the deadline, you will not get this rate.

When completing the convention registration form, make sure all boxes are marked. You will notice that a \$10 fee has been added for the Wednesday night meal. A paid meal ticket will be required to attend this event. Your ticket will be with your name tag and other convention information and can be picked up at the convention registration desk. The cutoff date for registration is May 27, as required by the hotel for meal counts. There are no exceptions to the deadlines.

If you need to know whether your check and registration form have been received, please contact Jay Brown, Registrar, at bengal@southwind.net.

The hotel does not have a continental breakfast with your room reservations. Breakfast is on your own for Wednesday, June 12, if coming in early, and for Thursday June 13. A Bistro is available for coffee and whatever they might be serving on those days. There are several places located around the hotel area as well. A Walmart is close by in case you need to purchase any items that you might need.

A reminder! We do not have any control of the temperature in the meeting rooms. The rooms can be rather chilly for some; it is suggested that you bring a sweater or jacket for your comfort.

Have any questions regarding the convention? Please contact:

Karen Pulaski, Convention Chair
kkpulaski1@gmail.com
316-836-3532

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

*Ernie Claudel
KARSP Legislative Chair*

Dear Friends,

I am sending the following to the members of the Senate Education Committee and the House Financial Institutions and Pensions Committee regarding SB479, rolled into HB2626 on March 18, 2024:

I would beg consideration of changing the language in the bill so that the 5156.80 personnel noted below would be included in the proposed move to Tier II.

While I do not agree with Supervisors and Administrators being left out of the total, I can understand that choice. I revisited my calculations on Licensed School Personnel according to the State Department of Education.

Those staff who meet the definition of ‘teachers’ in the above bill equal 34,821.4. There is an additional number of certified staff who are *not administrators* or supervisors which equals 5156.80.

These Include:

- Library Media specialists 619.1
- *School Counselors 1313.9
- *Nurses 759.3
- #Speech Pathologists 689.2
- #Audiologists 17.9
- *School Social Workers 737.8
- Others 594.1
- Total 5156.80

**Since COVID and violence in schools in addition to drug concerns the need for these specialized folks would seem to be essential.*

#Speech Pathologists and Audiologists by label do not follow under special ed, which they certainly are.

KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL Board ZOOM Meeting Minutes January 25, 2024

Present: Jerry Henn, Dianne Sisk, Karen Pulaski, Mike Isom, Beccy Isom, Gil Bunning, Carol Bunning, Rod Dietz, Herschel Martin, Junnae Landry, Betsy Zadorozny, Gary Carson, Perry McCabe, Ernie Claudel, Jay Brown

Absent: Kay Sewell, Nancy Sapp, Jane Martin, Dee Schwinn

President, Gil Bunning opened the board Meeting at 9:03 a.m. and Beccy Isom, Vice President, led the flag salute.

**Rod Dietz made and Mike Isom seconded a motion to approve the agenda as changed.
Motion carried.**

Mike Isom made and Carol Bunning seconded a motion to accept the minutes of October 26, 2023. Motion carried.

Perry McCabe, membership, reported as of January 25, 2024, total membership of KARSP is 3,207. Some units have not sent in their membership reports.

**Mike Isom made and Beccy Isom seconded a motion to approve the membership report.
Motion carried.**

Rod Dietz, Treasurer, gave his report. Revenue from dues is up. Interest is also up. Expenses are down.

Karen Pulaski made and Perry McCabe seconded a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Motion carried.

Jerry Henn gave his report. We are good financially. Jerry and Perry McCabe receive a weekly report from Kell on new KARSP members through AMBA. Jerry sends welcome letters to all new members explaining our organization. There was discussion on collecting and retaining KARSP

data. Mike Isom and Jerry will work on this issue.

Mike Isom gave his past president's History Report. He will take any revision suggestions. The report will be presented and voted on at Convention. KARSP pens and t-shirts were discussed.

Foundation Board, Gary Carson, reported applications for grants have been sent to the districts. The deadline is February 15. In the last 13 years there have been 65 grants presented. He suggests grant information be in the Meadowlark including any responses from recipients.

Ernie Claudel, Lobbyist, gave his report. The most important issue is getting a COLA for KARSP members. It is imperative to continually contact the governor and representatives on the importance of a COLA. Lobby Day is February 22 for KARSP. It is important to have as many members of KARSP as possible in attendance. He would appreciate any input on organizing Lobby Day.

Dee Schwinn, Meadowlark Editor, requests units to continue sending in articles and pictures.

Karen Pulaski, Convention Chair, gave Convention dates: June 12-14, 2024; June 11-13, 2025. These will be held in Junctions City. She will make room reservations for board members again. She will send registration forms to board members. There has been added a \$10 fee for the Wednesday night meal. The March and April issues of the Meadowlark will provide Convention information.

District Directors gave their reports

- 1 Mike Isom
- 2 Carol Bunning
- 3 Herschel Martin
- 4 Junnae Landry
- 5 Betsy Zadorozny
- 6 Jane Martin (absent) sent report
- 7 Nancy Sapp (absent)
- 8 Gary Carson (at large)

Jerry Henn presented changes in the Vice President's responsibilities.

Mike Isom made Karen Pulaski seconded a motion for the Vice President to accept the responsibility of being in charge of the District Directors. Motion carried.

Jerry Henn reported on Associate members. Associate members pay the same as retired members. There will be more discussion in the future.

Rod Dietz presented the idea of vouchers for Convention. The voucher would be with a registration form on the back for two registrations and two meals. District Directors will distribute these to their local units. Vouchers should be by random selection.

Ernie Claudel made and Mike Isom seconded a motion to send a voucher to each unit for two registrations and two convention meals, with cost determined later, to be distributed by random. Motion carried.

Jerry Henn reported there will be a KARSP booth at the USA convention on May 29, 2024, in Wichita. USA will set up a booth and KARSP will provide volunteers to attend the KARSP booth.

KNEA and KARSP will make a joint statement in the Meadowlark concerning a COLA for KPERS members.

Ernie Claudel made and Mike Isom seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:05. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Dianne Sisk, Secretary

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

72nd KARSP CONVENTION
June 12, 13 and 14, 2024
Courtyard by Marriott
310 Hammons Drive
Junction City Kansas 66441
1-785-210-1500

All members are urged to attend and are eligible to vote at the annual convention. Spouses are welcome to attend any session with paid registrations.

You must make reservations through the Courtyard by Marriott, 1-785-210-1500, to receive the \$95 (plus, tax rate). The cutoff date for reservations is May 27, 2024 to receive the quoted rate. After cutoff date, no guarantee of availability of rooms. When making reservation mention KARSP. If special needs are required, please indicate to the hotel at the time of placing your room reservation.

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number _____

Email Address _____

DESCRIPTION	#	AMOUNT	TOTAL
Registration Deadline (MAY 27, 2024)		\$20.00	
Wednesday Evening meal-- Tickets will be required. Foundation Auction Following		\$10.00	
Thursday Breakfast On Your Own		----	----
Thursday Luncheon		\$20.00	=
Thursday Evening Dinner		\$27.00	=
Friday Breakfast		\$15.00	=
Friday Luncheon		\$20.00	=
TOTAL			\$

Make check payable to: KARSP Convention Fund Mail to: Jay Brown, Registrar 511 East 24th, Hutchinson, KS 67502 E-mail bengal@southwind.net To see if your registration has been received, please email Jay at the above email address.	Make your own reservations at: Courtyard by Marriott Junction City, Kansas 66441 Reservations: 1-785-210-1500 Group Rate: \$95.00 + tax
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AMBA INFO

This year is in full swing and AMBA is on the road speaking to local units across the state. Many people do not realize their KARSP membership comes with over 900 different discounts at no additional cost to them. AMBA has also saved KARSP members over 1.3 million dollars on Medicare Supplement savings. Please reach out to Kell Smalley to see if a representative is available for your next meeting.

kell.smalley@getamba.com

913.912.2157

We would also like to welcome Blair Lowe to the KARSP/AMBA partnership. Blair is located in Wichita and is already adding new members to KARSP through member benefits.
blair.lowe@getamba.com

