



Kansas Association of Retired School Personnel

Volume 58, Issue 4

The Meadowlark

April 2023

LOCAL UNITS HAD GREAT MEETINGS IN MARCH



Pictured are members of the Leavenworth Area Retired School Personnel Association (LARSPA) at their March meeting. These members volunteered to help with the Salvation Army 2022 Red Kettle Campaign. The members were excited to display the 1st Place Community Group Award presented to them in February 2023. (Ken Church, Chairperson)



Pictured are Michael Green and Tonya Theis who attended the March Leavenworth Area Retired School Personnel Association (LARSPA) meeting. Michael presented an informative talk about the HORSES 4 HOPE Organization. He explained HORSES 4 HOPE uses equine therapy to help special needs populations, our community, military

members, veterans and their families. Tonya and Michael remained after the LARSPA meeting to answer questions from the membership.

Photos submitted by Joe Grasela.

Southeast Kansas Retired School Personnel met in March at the Crawford County Historical Museum for a review of the museum's mission by Museum Director Amanda Minton and for the opportunity to tour the museum. Unit secretary Joella Skyles, in period costume, proudly shared the G.A.R. 46-star flag she had previously donated to the museum.



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CONVENTION NEWS

- See page 4 and 5 for details about the schedule
- See page 8 for the registration form (due May 31)

OUR PASSIONS

Jerry Henn

KARSP Executive

Director



As many of you are aware, about two years ago KARSP introduced an effort to support Earth Day, which is April 22nd. The Board was excited to see many units had plans already in place to support Earth Day. What was exciting was other units picked up some of these activities as well. Once again, another Earth Day is upon us, and the Meadowlark would enjoy hearing what you and your unit may be doing to observe this occasion.

KARSP continues to support your needs in getting a COLA for our members. We are finding that the support for a COLA is not being supported by the leadership in the House or in the Senate. Neither leader has allowed a bill to come to the floor of each chamber. There lies the issue of not getting a COLA. Now, there could be some action taken on the floor for the information for a COLA could be inserted into a bill, but the chance of this happening would be very low. Contacting Senator Masterson and/or Speaker Hawkins would be appropriate.

Membership is always on the minds of the Board. There has been some positive movement in membership for KARSP. We still have a long way to go, but if everyone is trying to bring one retired educator to the membership, we would

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Mike Isom, President	(785) 476-5583
Gil Bunning, Vice President	(785) 486-3304
Dianne Sisk, Secretary	(785) 7494601
Elrea Mullen, Past President	(620) 441-8766
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

Learn About Your KARSP Endorsed Benefits at:

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You can also call our benefits provider at:

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New memberships and renewals are \$25.00 per year.
If you have a change of address, please contact us by mail,
phone, or email.

KARSP

1019 Darlow Dr., McPherson, KS 67460

(785) 232-7877

karsp@karsp.org or membership@karsp.org



STRENGTH IN UNITY

double our membership very quickly. This could give us better numbers to support KARSP goals.

I know your Executive Board has been busy visiting different units. Mr. Isom, president, and Mr. Bunning, vice president, have been busy at different meetings throughout Kansas. Their support of our membership is impressive. The entire Board has been busy having district meetings and attending unit meetings as well. It is great to work with these most dedicated people.

Lastly, the convention is quickly approaching. June 14-16 in Junction City will be the host. We have had very positive comments about our venue there. This is a great opportunity for all to meet new educators and enjoy a great relaxing time. If you have not been able to attend, I would encourage you to come and relax and enjoy other educators and do a little learning as well. Learning never stops, even after you retire.

Thank you for being a member of KARSP.

***(Continued from page 1 - Local Units
Had Great Meetings in March)***

Wyandotte enjoyed a presentation on “Arabian Museum.” For their meal, they had a baked potato bar, salad and cookies.

The Topeka Area learned about the underground railroad. In addition, they were entertained by the Seaman Middle School Jazz band directed by David Wingerson. They enjoyed roast beef,

roasted potatoes, veggies, rolls, and chocolate cake.

The Emporia Area heard from a nutritionist who shared delicious recipes and also a wellness instructor who demonstrated some chair exercises and told us about activities at the Emporia Recreation Center. Their meal was pizza, salad and cake.

The Meadowlark would love to share what’s going on in your unit.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The Steering Committee engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding what to do next regarding our legislative interests. This report could, therefore, be extremely long. However, because you have been provided so much information recently, I am going to offer the short version. There are plans to explain this entire challenge, beginning with the KARSP convention this summer. As always, if you have questions, please call and I will fill you in! The following is a summation of today’s discussion which was initiated following my observations so far this session.

As lobbyist for KCPR and KARSP, I have been to the Capitol 17 times. I also traveled to Wichita to speak to their KARSP unit. All this travel has happened since the 5th of January. During that time, I have attended numerous committee meetings and testified 5 times as well as contacting numerous legislators, on both sides of the aisle, and in both the Kansas Senate and House. I

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2023 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR CONVENTION

Wednesday, June 14

- 10:00 a.m. - KARSP Board Meeting
- 1:00 – Registration and Hospitality Opens
- 5:00 p.m. – Evening Meal - Foundation Auction Following. Make sure to mark on the registration form that you are attending this event.
- 8:00 p.m. Games

Thursday, June 15

- 8.45 a.m. – Opening Session
- 9:20 a.m. (approximately) – Keynote Speaker (Col. William (Bill) Clark (ret.) (see bio below); Business Meeting
- 10:15 – 10:35 a.m. - Break
- 10:35 a.m. – Business Meeting
- 12:00 p.m. – Foundation Luncheon
- 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. - District Directors/ Unit Membership
- 3:45 p.m. – AMBA Meeting
- 3:45 p.m. – Foundation Board Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. - Evening Dinner, Entertainment following with the Tallgrass Tunsmiths Polka Group
- 8:00 p.m. Games

Friday, June 16

- 8:30 a.m. – Breakfast and Memorial
- 9:45 a.m. – Unit Awards
- 10:30 a.m. (approximately) – (Building the Future, 1 Bot at a time)
- 11:30 a.m. – Closing Luncheon

If you have any questions, please let Karen Pulaski know: kkpulaski1@gmail.com

COLONEL (RET.) WILLIAM (BILL) CLARK

He served in the United States Army for a period of 30 years. During his tenure, he commanded at every level from platoon through Brigade, serving a total of 13 years overseas, which included operational deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo, and Bosnia. As a Cavalry Squadron Commander, COL Clark deployed the first Stryker Brigade Cavalry Squadron into Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. Bill retired from the Army in 2014, culminating his military career as the Garrison Commander Fort Riley.

COL Clark's awards include the Region of Merit and two Bronze Stars. Upon retiring, Bill served as the Chief Operating Officer for USD 475, Geary County Schools in Junction City, for 3 years assuming his role as the President of St. John's Military School in Salina, KS. Upon the merger of St. John's with Saint Francis Ministries, Bill initially served as the organization's Chief of Staff before assuming his current role as President/CEO in November 2019.

Bill holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Management from the University of Maryland and a Master's Degree in Administration from Central Michigan University. He has been married to Andrea for thirty years; together they have four children and eight grandchildren. All of Clark's four children have, or are currently, serving in the military.

TALL GRASS TUNESMITHS POLKA GROUP

A quartet from the Manhattan area, met by chance in regional venues. They are life-long musicians who perform in various ensembles and have joined together to perform polka music for the past two years.

The members are Mary Louise Stahl, mandolin, melodica and banjo; Steven Brant, bass; Bob Hughes, clarinet and guitar and Tracy Weaver, accordion. Tracy is an engineer; Steve is an IT specialist, and Bob is an IT specialist in Manhattan. Mary Louise is a retired music teacher and still makes music everywhere she goes. Come enjoy Thursday night's entertainment.

JOIN US ON FRIDAY DURING THE KARSP CONVENTION TO SEE HOW ROBOTS ARE CHANGING EDUCATION!

Building the Future, 1 Bot at a Time

Teaching robotics in public education is becoming increasingly important as our society becomes more reliant on technology. In order to prepare students for the workforce of the future, it is essential that they have a basic understanding of robotics and programming. By introducing robotics into the curriculum, students are exposed

to a range of STEM-related concepts, such as coding, electronics, and mechanics. Not only does this provide them with valuable technical skills, but it also helps to develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork abilities.

Retired teachers who are passionate about education and want to contribute to shaping the future workforce play a crucial role in encouraging and inspiring the next generation of innovators.

By the way, if you don't think robotics in education are important, a robot wrote this. Could you tell?

FOUNDATION AUCTION

Remember, we are doing this every year, so we need you to bring your unit's contribution to the auction. The money goes to support grants for current educators through the KARSP Foundation and to support KARSP.

Get your registration forms in by May, 31, 2023 and be sure to mark on the form if you are attending the Wednesday night meal.

Hats off to the Convention Committee for preparing a great Convention for our group. The more who come, the more fun there will be!

SURPRISE!

This just in... A special guest will be in attendance at the Friday morning program.

(Continued from page 3 - Legislative Report)

obviously have had numerous discussions with other lobbyists as well. Four of those serve on the KCPR Steering Committee with me. The consensus of those discussions and listening sessions are as follows:

1. There is much interest in a COLA, improving Tier III, and at least temporarily reducing the Working After Retirement restrictions. There additionally has been a push to bring the Corrections Officers, all police and fire, and 'sworn' members of the 'Fish and Game' law enforcement wing into KP&F. (Again, I will reiterate that this is across party lines and both the Senate and the House.) Because of their failed status, these subjects would need to come up as amendments and are no longer viable bills. Best described as "in limbo."
2. The common thread of these positive thoughts regarding our needs, I perceive, are being driven by the following main reasons:
 - A. The fact that you have been pounding them with your "cards and letters" is apparent and working, but just not on the right people!
 - B. Difficulty of drawing folks not only to the teaching profession but to many other areas of State Government as well.
 - C. Universal recognition that Tier III is "terrible" (the term I most often hear).
 - D. Employees in the "physical professions" (corrections officers, police and fire) are being asked to work too long before retirement.
 - E. Neighboring states are paying bonuses to draw employees - especially across state lines. Bonuses are not authorized in

Kansas for State Employees.

F. Working after retirement restrictions are too restrictive.

WHAT CAN I DO?

1. Continue writing the representative who is supposed to represent you, not the interests of leadership. Twenty-six years is enough!!
2. At this point, it is apparent that you need to get 3 fellow state employees or retirees to write as well.
3. Write the Governor and request/demand a benefit increase. Suggest she include it in her next budget!!
4. To Contact Her by email, go to governor.kansas.gov/questions_form/ This address will allow you to contact her by email.
5. The mailing address is Governor Laura Kelly, Capitol, 300 SW 10th Ave., Suite 241S, Topeka, KS, 66612-1590.
6. If you should happen to mention that you heard that there was a bill for legislative pay increase in the hopper, while your interests have been thrown out, no one on the KCPR Steering Committee would think ill of you!

The good news is that Spring is just around the corner!!!

Ernie Claudel
KCPR & KARSP Lobbyist eclaudel1@comcast.net 913-481-6923

**Please share with the
Meadowlark what
your unit did for
Earth Day!**

LONG TERM CARE - THE GORILLA IN THE ROOM



We're Living Longer, but ...

Advancements in medical science have resulted in steadily increasing life expectancy. But as we age, our health problems become chronic as we suffer from degenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease or arthritis.

Chronic disease often leads to some degree of disability, creating an ever-increasing need and demand for long-term care services.

The Need for Care

Your need for long-term care is determined by your ability to continue to function independently. Four distinct models are used in the assessment process:

- **Social Model:** Your ability to cook, clean, do laundry, handle household maintenance, transport themselves, read, write, manage money, use equipment such as the telephone, and comprehend and follow instructions. These activities are known as Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs).
- **Physical Model:** Your ability to function independently and perform activities of daily living (ADL's) including bathing, dressing, toileting, continence, transferring and eating.
- **Mental Model:** Cognitive Impairment refers to the deterioration or loss of your intellectual capacity, as evidenced by memory loss, disorientation and/or the

inability to reason. It is often caused by Alzheimer's disease or similar forms of senility or irreversible dementia.

- **Medical Model:** The medical model is often referred to as "medically necessary" care and/or due to "injury or sickness". In this context, long-term care should not be confused with short-term, restorative in nature acute care.

Will you lose the ability to function independently at some point in your life? Start planning for LTC now; you only have a 7/10 chance on needing LTC in your lifetime. KARSP has discounted rates on programs through AMBA. AMBA represents 63 different retired educator and school personnel associations in 36 states.

Contact your local AMBA representative by requesting information from <https://www.myambabenefits.info/karsp> or call Kell Smalley at 913-912-2157.

Median Cost of LTC Services in Kansas

- Homemaker Services \$3,813
- Homemaker Health Aide \$4,004
- Based on annual rate divided by 12 months (assumes 44 hours per week).
- Adult Day Health Care
- Adult Day Health Care \$1,760
- Based on annual rate divided by 12 months.
- Assisted Living Facility
- Private, One Bedroom \$4,556
- As reported, monthly rate, private, one bedroom.
- Nursing Home Care
- Semi-Private Room \$5,414
- Private Room \$5,865

[https://kansas.ltcoptions.com/why-care-about-ltc/who-needs-long-term-care/](https://kansas.ltcoptions.com/why-care-about-ltc/who-needs-long-term-care/file:///C:/Users/Kell%20C/Downloads/2018%20Cost%20of%20Long%20Term%20Care%20Kansas.pdf)
<file:///C:/Users/Kell%20C/Downloads/2018%20Cost%20of%20Long%20Term%20Care%20Kansas.pdf>

CONVENTION REGISTRATION
71st KARSP CONVENTION ...June 14, 15 and 16, 2023
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 \$92. (plus, tax rate). The cutoff date for reservations is May 31, 2023 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 31) \$20.00		(\$20.00)	\$
Wednesday Evening meal (<i>Must be registered to participate. Circle below if attending</i>). ** Foundation Auction Following		No Fee	No Fee
Thursday Breakfast On Your Own		----	----
Thursday Luncheon		\$20.00	=
Thursday Evening Dinner		\$27.00	=
Friday Breakfast		\$15.00	=
Friday Luncheon		\$20.00	=
TOTAL			\$

****Please circle 1 2 if attending Wednesday June 14 evening meal.**
Ticket(s) are required to eat at this meal.

Make check payable to: KARSP Convention Fund Mail to: Jay Brown, Registrar 511 East 24th, Hutchinson, KS 67502 E-mail bengal@southwind.net	Make your own reservations at: Courtyard by Marriott Junction City, Kansas 66441 Reservations: 1-785-210-1500 Group Rate: \$92.00 + tax
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