



Kansas Association of Retired School Personnel

Volume 61, Issue 5

The Meadowlark

May 2026

REMINDER!

Convention dates –June 10-12 in Hutchinson.

All convention registrations and Hampton Inn Hotel room reservations must be in on or before May 26th. There are no exceptions. Meals are catered and we must have accurate meal counts.

Directions from the Hampton Inn to the Career Technical Educational Academy and back to the Hampton Inn are also included in this issue of the Meadowlark.

All members are welcome to attend the Foundation auction even if you choose not to sign up for the Wednesday night meal.

Important: Check in time at the hotel is 3:00p.m. Hotel check out time on Friday is 11:00 a.m. It is suggested that you check out before attending the memorial service. If you do not check out before 11:00 a.m., you will be charged another day.

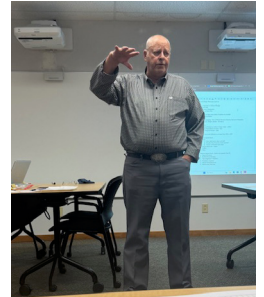
Also, not knowing the temperature of the academy, be sure and bring a sweater or jacket for your comfort.

All details about the convention are found in this issue of the Meadowlark..keep reading!

BUDGET WORKSHOP

On April 2, members of the KARSP board met in Emporia at ESU to discuss the budget that will be voted on at the June Convention. First, the members prioritized the purposes of the

organization. Once those were established they began going through this year's budget and making changes based on the priorities. In the end they created a budget to be presented to the membership. Thanks to Rod Dietz and Jerry Henn for preparing all of the data ahead of time and for organizing this workshop.



UNIT NEWS

Manhattan Area

The Manhattan Area met on April 1 at CAFUMC Fellowship Hall. Their Community Service Project was Flint Hills Breadbasket. They collected hygiene products, egg cartons, and monetary donations. The speaker for the day was Mike Matson, Host Within Reason on KMAN Radio in MHK, They chose an Earth Day activity. On April 22 they met in Longs Park to plant a tree. *Thanks to Lew Faust for his contribution.*

Cowley County

Their April meeting was held at Pizza Ranch. The program was the ACMS Show Choir. They also presented a \$600 scholarship. On March 25, members joined for coffee and conversation and learned about the Junior Naturalist Backpack Program. They are looking for volunteers and for donations for the hands on nature backpacks. *Thanks to Tamara Butcher for sharing her newsletter.*

EVERY MOUNTAIN IS WITHIN REACH

Beccy Isom
KARSP President



As I prepare to start on my message, I will explain that I am in Dallas, Texas to celebrate the book signing of our granddaughter's launch of her novel. She is now an author with a book in a bookstore. She has been writing since she was a young girl. I think her grandfather was the inspiration behind her pursuing her dream. He told her she had a unique talent and to follow her heart. That brought us to surprising her and arriving at her signing. Yes, I got a first edition, autographed book!!! She now has two novels with an agent and two books in their first edition. Where is this going? We all pursue our own dreams.

We have several goals in our organization and it takes each of you to achieve those. I am going to touch on some of them and what we can do to accomplish the results we hope for. First, we live in a world that is full of scams and fraudulent activities. As older adults who weren't raised with modern technology, it is difficult for us to not trust people. But, as we know, you must always be alert. Do not give out any of your financial business to anyone on the phone or in person unless you know them. The scammers are masterful and can make you believe they are legit.

Email scams are prevalent. We had a program on scamming at our unit meeting April 10. When I got in the car, I had a message from a friend that I requested a money card from them because our treasurer didn't know how to do it.

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

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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,
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STRENGTH IN UNITY

A bit later I had two more different requests. This all occurred within one afternoon. A few months ago, I received in the mail that I owed \$993 on a credit card I didn't even have. After phone calls, it was cleared up. Our executive director Jerry Henn presented a fraud program to the Pratt unit and has written several articles in the Meadowlark. Be vigilant and smart.

Next is the COLA. Although we had two bills introduced in the House and Senate, the leadership refused to allow the bills to reach the floor for a vote. Unfortunately, once again, the Legislature failed to grant us a COLA. The House leader, Dan Hawkins, and the Senate leader, Ty Matherson, are both running for higher offices. Read your ballot carefully.

In that same vein, there is an attempt by the Republicans to change the way we select our Supreme Court justices. Instead of being vetted by a judicial panel, they want to have them elected. This will allow dark money and special interest groups to buy candidates. We do not want to change the selection process because it was the courts that forced the legislature to fully fund public education.

Lastly, don't forget the Convention June 10-12, 2026. We want to see you there as we prepare to go forward in the next year. It's a good time to renew acquaintances and meet new people. Attend the KARSP Foundation Auction on Wednesday evening to support the Foundation and their efforts to provide grants to current teachers as they promote new ideas in their classroom. The Memorial service is a time to honor those who have passed and the legacy they have left for us. Speakers, food, and fun abound.

And remember "Every Mountain Is Within Reach."

CONVENTION INFORMATION

Convention Dates - June 10, 11, 12, 2026

After receiving a proposal from the Sonesta in Junction City, the location for the convention had to be moved due to the high costs. The convention will be held in Hutchinson.

The convention will be a lot different than in the past. The activities will be held at the Career Technical Educational Academy, 800 East 15th Circle. Since there is no lodging there, we will be staying at the Hampton Inn at 1401 ½ East 11th, not too far from the Academy. Directions will be provided for you

A block of rooms has been scheduled for the convention under the name of KARSP. Reservations for the hotel must be made by calling 620-665-9800, not online, by May 26th to receive the quoted rate of \$119.99 plus tax. If the deadline is not met, you will not receive the quoted rate or availability of rooms. There are no exceptions. When making your reservation please tell them it is for the KARSP group. The hotel offers a free continental breakfast for each registered guest. Check in time is 3:00 p.m.

When completing your registration form, make sure all boxes are marked. The deadline for the registration form is to be in on or before May 26th with no exceptions since all meals are being catered and we must have accurate counts. A ticket will be required for the Wednesday night meal. Your ticket will be in your packet at the registration table, located in the lobby as you enter the building.

Let us make the registrar happy and get your registration form in as soon as possible to make the registration process run smoothly. Do not wait for the deadline of May 26th to mail it because of the US mail. If you are registering on a voucher from your unit, be sure to use

the proper registration form, otherwise your registration form will be returned to you. Checks are held for a time and sent in groups to the treasurer in Great Bend. If you wish to inquire about your registration form, email Jay Brown bengal@southwind.net.

On another note, a Past, Present, and Future for conventions meeting is scheduled for Thursday after lunch. The convention committee would like everyone to attend so we can hear questions and give answers as best we can regarding future conventions. Attendance at this meeting is important to see if we can or want to continue our conventions.

It may be chilly for some, it is suggested that you bring a sweater or jacket for your comfort.

If you have any questions regarding the convention, please contact:

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

CONVENTION INFORMATION CONTINUED

KEN WEAVER BIO

After graduating from the University of South Carolina with his BS in biology, Ken served two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Philippines in rural public health education. He then taught five years of seventh and eighth grade science in his hometown in South Carolina and earned an MEd in secondary science education. He returned to graduate school to study the science of memory during learning, earning his doctorate in educational psychology and accepting a faculty position at Emporia State University in 1986 that included preparing high school psychology teachers. He retired

as dean of the Teachers College at ESU and then served a year as interim executive director of the National Teachers Hall of Fame. He is a member of Emporia Area Retired School Personnel and KARSP. Ken and his wife Kathy have four children who are all products of Emporia public schools and Kansas public universities.

LEGISLATIVE THOUGHTS

We can gripe and complain all we want but we need to act. Ernie gives us tasks to do and suggestions to be involved. I was a part of a group that helped with the table. It was a small part but if we all do a small part, we can make a difference. With our numbers we have great potential when we vote and we must vote knowing how the candidates feel on issue that affect us. Here is a reminder of Ernie's suggestions:

Don't be silent. We have voting power if we would just use it. Let's make our voice be heard. Keep those Cards and Letters coming!
– Referral to John Carson's famous line.

- Please keep those postcards and letters, and emails going!
- Here is why: We must keep the pressure up so if they don't do anything this session, we can use the pressure in the upcoming 2026 elections.
- If you have been doing this, DON'T STOP. I would suggest it once a week.
- If you have not, we beg you to START.
- It is known that there is a lot of support out there from many legislators. WE CAN NOT LET THIS OPPORTUNITY SLIP AWAY!!

Start studying the candidates now. Find out how they voted. They may say on their advertisements that they support education, but dig deeper and see if they actually voted in the interest of public education. We need

to get legislators in Topeka who will fight for our cause if we expect change.

If you have questions contact Ernie Claudel
eclaudel1@comcast.net 913-481-6823.

KARSP FOUNDATION



These photos are a reminder of the KARSP Foundation and their part at convention and as a part of our organization.



make sure there are items for the auction.

First of all, they will need donations of baskets from each of the units. Bring more than one if you wish. They need to be there for the auction which will be held on Wednesday evening of the convention. Be creative and

Wednesday night is a fun event... we will miss you Gary but we know you will be smiling down on us, especially if we make lots of money.



Different individuals get in bidding wars and the auctioneers do their best to get the maximum amount. It is all for a good cause as the Foundation provides grants to current educators for their projects.



At the Thursday luncheon the membership gets to meet some of the winners as they are presented their grants in person and they can tell us about themselves and their project. The ultimate winners are the students of Kansas whose education is enhanced by the innovative programs their teachers create.

Be sure to come to the auction with your check book, credit card or cash!



2026 CONVENTION SCHEDULE

June 10-12

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

10:00 a.m. - KARSP Board Meeting
3:00 p.m. - Hospitality Opens
3:30 p.m. - Registration Opens
5:30 p.m. Evening Meal
Foundation Auction Following

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

8:45 a.m. - Opening Session
9:20 a.m. - Speaker - Ken Weaver
10:15 -10:35 a.m. - Break
10:35 a.m. - Business Meeting
11:45 a.m. - Foundation Luncheon
1:30 p.m. - Past, Present, Future Meeting
2:30 p.m. - Tour of Building
2:30 p.m. - Foundation Board Meeting
6:00 p.m. - Evening Dinner and Entertainment (if available)
8:00 p.m. - Games

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

Due to past evaluations, no breakfast or lunch will be available
8:30 a.m. - Memorial
9:45 a.m. - Unit Awards
End of convention

74th KARSP CONVENTION
June 10, 11 and 12, 2026
Career Technical Educational Academy
800 East 15th Circle
Hutchinson Kansas

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. All registrations are due on or before May 26th. No exceptions due to catered meals.

You must make your room reservations through Hampton Inn, 620-665-9800 to receive the quoted rate of \$119.99 (plus, tax rate). The cutoff date for reservations is May 26, 2026 to receive this rate. After cutoff date, no quoted rate nor the 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 (<u>MAY 26, 2026</u>)		\$30.00	\$30.00
Wednesday Evening meal -- Tickets will be required. Foundation Auction Following		\$12.00	
Thursday Breakfast (on your own, unless registered at hotel)		XXXXX	XXXXX
Thursday Luncheon		\$18.00	=
Thursday Evening Dinner		\$22.00	=
Friday --As suggested from previous evaluations, there will not be a breakfast or lunch.		XXXXX	XXXXXX =
			=
TOTAL			\$

<p>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.</p>	<p>Make your own room reservations at: Hampton Inn 1401 ½ East 11th, Hutchinson Kansas Reservations: 1-620-665-9800 Group Rate: \$119.99 + tax</p>
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MAY 2026

DIRECTIONS FOR CONVENTION

- Leaving the parking lot of the Hampton Inn, head North to East 11th Avenue. Turn left on East 11th Avenue.
- Turn right onto North Lorraine Street.
- Turn left onto 17th Avenue.
- Stay on 17th Avenue until Cleveland Street. (You will see Graber Elementary School on your left.)
- Turn left on Cleveland Street.
- Turn left onto 15th Circle.
- The Hutchinson Career and Technical Academy will be on your left.
- Since Cleveland is a one-way street, you will not be able to return going back to your right and going to Cleveland.
- Leaving the Hutchinson Career and Technical Academy parking lot, turn left and then turn right on 14th Avenue.
- When you arrive at Plum Street, turn left.
- Go to 11th Avenue (The Cosmosphere Corner) be sure you are in the left lane and turn left. Proceed on 11th .
- Immediately, after you cross K-61, you will see the Hampton Inn on your right, turn right at the second driveway, and it will take you back to the hotel.