



Kansas Association of Retired School Personnel

Volume 54, Issue 11

The Meadowlark

November 2019

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE



At the KARSP board meeting on October 10-11 the following members who are going off the board were recognized by President Pricilla Taggart for their service. Bob Grover has

served as a District Director, Vice President, President, Past President and Historian. Vic Sisk has served as District Director for district 3, Carol Bingle for district 4, and Chris Hutton for district 5.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The board needs district directors for several areas of the state. If you are in any of the following areas and would be willing to serve, please contact President Taggart or Executive Director Jerry Henn: District 3, District 4 and a newly formed District 7, which includes Seward County, Southwest Area and the Sunflower Area. District Directors are a key link between the local units and the state board.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Two new District Directors were introduced at the October board meeting. Becci Isom will be serving District 1 and Betsy Zadorozny will be the new

Director for District 5. In addition, the board elected Tom Alstrom as the board's treasurer. Welcome aboard.

CHANGES IN THE MEADOWLARK

Starting in 2020, The Meadowlark will continue to be published electronically every month. However, in order to cut costs, the printed Meadowlark will be mailed out only four times during the year. Those issues will be printed in April, May, August and October. If you are currently receiving the Meadowlark in the mail and wish to receive it every month electronically, you can change it at any time by contacting the executive director, Jerry Henn.

ELECTION SUGGESTIONS

Ernie Claudel, KARSP Legislative Chair

If KARSP members are going to get the legislation passed that we want, we need to be active in the voting process. Here is a list to guide you.

1. Put election dates on your calendar or phone. Key ones are general election on Nov. 5, 2019; primary on Aug. 4, 2020, and general on Nov. 3, 2020.
2. Make sure you are registered to vote.
3. Know who is running and the candidates' positions on issues
4. Vote early

In addition, keep in contact with your legislators and stress the issues that are important to you.

Finally, mark your calendars for Feb. 3, 2020 to come to Topeka and meet with your legislators and let your presence be known.

NOVEMBER ALREADY!

Jerry Henn

KARSP Executive Director



2019 has moved on at a pace I thought would slow down once I was out of the buildings. But I am wrong. The year continues to move just as fast as before. Only now, I am driving my day and not a bell within the building. Seems odd, but is very satisfying in the long run.

Renewal of memberships is coming up very soon. It is very important that you spend some time with your unit to get membership updated. We are always looking for email addresses so we can continue to email your Meadowlark to you. General Kansas members hopefully will be getting your membership renewals in early November, so you have time to get your dues to the office.

I would encourage each of you to speak with a colleague in your community that is not a member of KARSP and ask them to join. If each of us would ask one person to come to a meeting and talk about the benefits of having a membership, we could grow our organization and enjoy the time with others in the most important profession we have retired from.

As you go about your daily routine have you ever thought about talking about KARSP? Our findings are pretty clear. Most people have no idea what KARSP is, even our educators. Through my travels to schools, I always leave a brochure in each Superintendent's office and ask that they post it in a place of importance. I would like all educators to know about our organization. We have a good thing going; we need to talk about KARSP to all educators we can. With your help, we can grow our organization and have a solid future of membership and hopefully continue the support the organization gives you.

As the holiday season fast approaches, please enjoy the time you have with your family and friends. Please be safe in your travels and give hugs to all you can.

*The Meadowlark is an official publication of the
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Learn About Your KARSP Endorsed Benefits at:

www.myAMBAbenefits.info/karsp

You can also call our benefits provider at:

800.258.7041



Kell Smalley, District Manager of Kansas, Kansas City,
913-912-2157

Cindy Hayes, Retired Educator USD #204 & Benefits
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913-669-3387

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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

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karsp@karsp.org or membership@karsp.org
or visit us at www.karsp.org



Better... Together



MEDICARE INFORMATION



2019 tours:

Christmas in Kentucky, \$989, Dec 10-14, 2019

Highlighted 2020 tours:

Australia/New Zealand, \$7,249, Feb 25-Mar 10, 2020

Sandhill Crane Migration, \$327, March 18-19, 2020

March Mystery Tour, \$1,234, March 21-26, 2020

Gulf Coast, \$1,589, April 23-30, 2020

Pella Tulip Festival, \$529, May 5-8, 2020

Alaska, TBD, July 17-13, 2020

Oberammergau Passion Play, \$5,234, Aug 18 – 27, 2020

*prices are per person based on double-occupancy

Call or email for a catalog with more details or visit our website: www.heritagetoursofyoder.com. Email:

heritagetours@heritagetoursofyoder.com

Heritage Tours, Yoder KS, 1-800-364-2320



Christmas in Kentucky, Dec 10-14, 2019:

Join us as we head over the river and through the woods to Kentucky! Stay at the beautiful Galt House in Louisville, visit the Conrad Caldwell House, see over 3

million lights underground in the Mega Cavern, tour “My Old Kentucky Home,” enjoy a live show at the Derby Dinner Playhouse and more!

Gulf Coast, April 23-30,

2020: Join us on this NEW tour to the Gulf Coast including Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and Louisiana! Highlights include Graceland, USS Alabama, beachfront accommodations in Florida, dolphin cruise, shrimp boat adventure, New Orleans, and more!



Pella Tulip Festival, May 5-8,

2020: Join us on a NEW tour to Pella, Iowa as they celebrate their Dutch Heritage and vibrantly blooming tulips! Includes grandstand seating

during the parade, narrated open-wagon tour of the city, and time to stroll the festival.

Is auto-renewal available?

If you're already enrolled in a Medicare Part D prescription plan or a Medicare Advantage Plan and you *don't want to make changes* to your coverage for the coming year, you don't need to do anything during open enrollment, assuming your current plan will continue to be available. If your plan is being discontinued and isn't eligible for renewal, you will receive a non-renewal notice from your carrier prior to open enrollment. If you don't, it means you can keep your plan without doing anything during open enrollment.

But be aware that your benefits and premium could change from one year to the next. So even if you're confident that you want to keep your current coverage for next year, it's important to make sure you understand any changes that may apply, and that you've double checked to make sure that your current plan is still the best available option. The available plans and what they cover changes from one year to the next, so even if the plan you have now was the best option when you shopped last year, it's important to verify that again before you lock yourself in for another year.

Changing Medicare Advantage coverage after the annual enrollment period

Between January 1 and March 31 each year, if you are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan, you can leave your plan and return to Original Medicare, and buy a Part D prescription drug plan to supplement your Original Medicare. *As of in 2019, you also have the option to switch to a different Medicare Advantage plan during this time.* From 2011 through 2018, there wasn't an option to switch to a different Medicare Advantage plan outside of the fall open enrollment period unless you had a circumstance that allowed you a Special Enrollment Period. But the 21st Century Cures Act (Section 17005) expanded the timeframe of the window (from one and a half months to three months) starting in 2019, and allows people to switch from one Medicare Advantage plan to another.

Only one switch during this time frame is allowed each year — you can change your mind multiple times during the enrollment period in the fall, but can only switch to a different Medicare Advantage plan (or back to Original Medicare) once in the first quarter of the new year. But if you sign up for a Medicare Advantage

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plan in the fall and then decide you don't like it once it takes effect in January, you have until the end of March to make a change.

You can only sign up for Part D coverage during the first three months of the year if you're switching from a Medicare Advantage plan back to Original Medicare. You cannot, for example, be enrolled in Original Medicare with a Part D plan and then switch to a different Part D plan during the January — March enrollment period. Instead, you'd need to make that change during the fall election period (October 15 to December 7).

Enrolling in Original Medicare

If you didn't sign up for Medicare A and B when you were first eligible, you have a chance to do so each year from **January 1 to March 31**, with coverage effective July 1. You may be subject to a late enrollment penalty, however. For Medicare Part B, the penalty is an additional 10 percent of the premium for each 12 month period that you were eligible but not enrolled.

There's a late enrollment penalty for Medicare Part A as well, but it only applies to people who have to pay premiums for Part A. Most people get Part A for free, based on their work history (or a spouse's work history)

Source: <https://www.medicareresources.org/faqs/when-is-the-next-medicare-open-enrollment-period/>

EARTH DAY/KARSP DAY GUIDELINES:

1. All local units' attending members decide together on your unit's activities.
2. Units may work with an existing community or school activities. Plan with them how your members may help.
3. All active meeting-attending members OR small groups within it, develop your activity/activities plans. Be sure to get approval from appropriate people.
4. Afterward, each unit write a newspaper article with 1 picture of Earth Day/KARSP day happening. Put in newspapers and send copy and printed picture to El Mullen, 134 Greenway, Ark City, Ks. 67005.