

THE NAARVA



VOICE

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 2

©NAARVA All Rights Reserved

SPRING 2025

From The President's Desk...

I am excited to announce that the 2025 NAARVA National Camp Rally will be held at the Allegan Fairgrounds in Allegan, Michigan, from July 13-20, 2025! This annual gathering is a highlight of our year, bringing together members from across the country to celebrate our shared love for RVing, fellowship, and adventure. We are working hard to plan an unforgettable experience filled with fun activities, great food, and meaningful connections. Mark your calendars!

As many of our members begin their travels for the season, I want to remind everyone to prioritize

safety on the road. Here are a few key travel tips to ensure a smooth and enjoyable journey:

- Plan Your Route — Check your maps, GPS, and campground reservations in advance to avoid last-minute surprises.
- Perform a Safety Check Inspect your RV, tires, brakes, and all essential systems before hitting the road.
- Stay Alert — Take breaks during long drives, stay hydrated, and be mindful of changing road conditions.
- Respect Fellow Travelers — Drive courteously and be mindful



Rodney Thompson

President

**National African American
RVers Association**

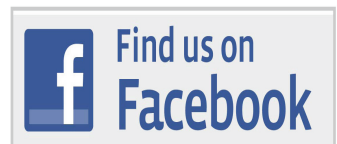
of fellow RVers and motorists on the road.

Let's continue to embody the spirit of NAARVA as we explore the open road and prepare for an amazing 2025 National Camp Rally.

Wishing you all safe travels and great adventures!



**Join Our NAARVA
Group**



NAARVA Executive Board 2023 - 2025



RODNEY THOMPSON
President



BRIAN K. SKIPPER
1st Vice President



IRIS RAINES
2nd Vice President



ELAINE STANDIFER
General Secretary



STANLEY COUSINS
Asst. Gen. Secretary



JAMES CAMPBELL
Financial Secretary



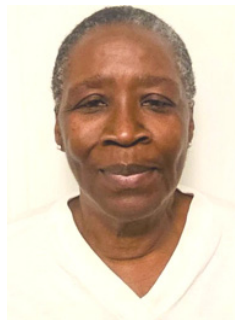
ALBERTA WILLIAMS
Asst. Fin. Secretary



SARAH RUNNELS
Treasurer



ANDREA JOHNSON
"AJ" HARVEY
Assistant Treasurer



LINDA TRILEUR
Director, Eastern Region



VENSON H. MILLER, SR.
Director, Southern Region



SYLVIA ALLEN
Director, Central Region



LIZ HEMINGWAY
Director, Western Region

Appointed Positions

Rev. Garland Scott
National Chaplain

Connie Malone
Parliamentarian

Jean Hampton - *Ecologist*

Ronald (Ron) Standifer -
Historian

Mila Turner
Public Relations Coordinator

Stanley Cousins
*Constitution &
By-Laws Chair*

Joellen Davis
National Scholarship Chair

Beth Gill
Benevolent Coordinator

Lonnie Fyles
Nominations/Elections

James H. Gregory, Jr.
*NAARVA Voice Editor
(Newsletter)*

Diane Bowman
Property Review Chair

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS

The NAARVA President is responsible for appointing volunteers for various committees, and you may be called upon, please think about serving when it's your time to serve.

Meet NAARVA's New PR Coordinator: Mila!

Hi, NAARVA Family!

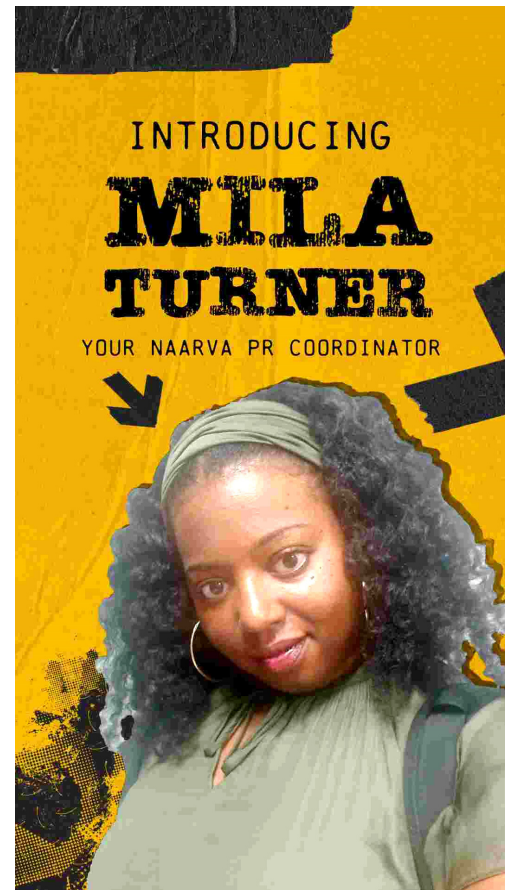
I'm excited to introduce myself as NAARVA's new Public Relations (PR) Coordinator! My name is Mila (my-la). When I'm not working or on the road, you'll find me exploring museums and art galleries, turning up the volume on my favorite music, or soaking in the energy of an HBCU campus. I'm also deeply involved in my neighborhood in NW Atlanta, working to build connections and agitating to create change.

Community engagement has always been important to me. In fact, in both my current neighborhood in NW Atlanta and my former community, Frenchtown in Tallahassee, FL, I was given the same nickname by my neighbors — "Quiet Storm." I don't say much, but I work diligently behind the scenes to strategize and execute meaningful moves that create impact. I bring that same thoughtful and action-driven approach to NAARVA, helping to expand our influence.

What Does a PR Coordinator Do?

As NAARVA's PR Coordinator, I help tell our story, keep members informed, and make sure the world knows about our amazing community. That means:

- Sharing news and updates about rallies, events, and member spotlights.
- Growing NAARVA's presence on social media and beyond.
- Bringing in sponsors and partners to support our association.
- Making sure NAARVA's voice is heard in the RV world.



How You Can Help Me

NAARVA is about promoting outdoor recreation and RV travel among families, and I'd love your support to keep our community growing and thriving! Here's how you can help:

- Join the Conversation – Like, comment, and share the posts on NAARVA's Facebook page. The more we engage, the stronger our association becomes!
- Share Your Stories – Have a fun RV trip, a great rally memory, or a member we should highlight? Send me your stories and photos so we can celebrate our community together!
- Help Us Find Sponsors & Vendors – Know a business that would be a great fit for NAARVA? Whether it's an RV brand, campground, or travel-related company, introductions help us build valuable partnerships.
- Share Your Ideas – Have suggestions for things we should highlight or ways we can grow? I'd love to hear them!

Feel free to reach out to me at mila.turner@naarva.com. I look forward to connecting with you and making great things happen for NAARVA together!

*Happy Travels,
Mila*

Advertise in NAARVA's 2025 Rally Souvenir Booklet

Want to get your business, organization or club in front of hundreds of RV enthusiasts?

NAARVA's 2025 National Camp Rally Souvenir Booklet is the perfect place to showcase what you have to offer!

Ad spaces are available in multiple sizes and color options!

Whether you're a business looking to expand your reach, an organization wanting to connect with like-minded travelers, or a club eager to share your mission, this is a fantastic opportunity to be seen!

To Advertise:

Download the application form and follow the instructions to submit your ad and payment:
[2025 NAARVA Souvenir Booklet Ad Form](#)

Spots are limited — secure yours today!

Letter from the Editor . . .

Ahhh...Spring!

We are finally starting to shake off the Vestiges of Winter 2025. Our snowbird members are starting to think about packing up to come home to do spring cleaning and taxes, by the way, did I say **YARD WORK** (more about that later), We are starting to think about (not do yet) that list of RV things we put off until next season (guess what, next season is here), and the myriads of other things to go into; not only in RVing, but things in our daily living. ARE YOU READY!?! I like to think that I am, but in going back to yard work. I got out to trim one of my starting to bud trees, cut out and bagged some of the dead growth, but in the middle of it all, Winter came back to let me know it ain't quite gone yet. Just as well, it gave me an excuse to procrastinate. But don't worry images of a well-kept and manicured lawn (see the picture in this piece) keeps my incentive go-



ing. I hope that you all are starting to get the spring bug as well.

In this edition we start as always with words from our President, followed by an introduction from our new Public Relations Coordinator, Ms. Mila Turner, our quarterly message from Reverend Garland, reminders to our potential education scholarship winners, and our Ecol-

ogy Leadership emphasis. Keep an eye out for the various National Rally vignettes from Ms. Turner spread throughout this issue. Spring not only refers to the season, but to the ideas of rebirth, rejuvenation, renewal, resurrection and regrowth, during this season.

Until next time!! James

Education Station



**JOELLEN DAVIS, NAARVA
Scholarship Committee
Chairperson**

ATTENTION! Graduating High School Seniors!

The 2025 NAARVA Scholarship applications will be posted on the NAARVA website, NAARVA.com by the end of March 2025.

4 — The NAARVA Voice

The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character — that is the goal of true education.

- Martin Luther King

Check your E-mails for a “Constant Contact” follow-up as well.

As the Scholarship Committee Chairperson, I am proud to say that NAARVA awarded the full complement of six Scholarships last year and we are looking forward to awarding

the full complement of Scholarships available for this upcoming year:

**4 - \$1,000.00 Scholarships and,
2 - \$500.00 Scholarships).**

Spread the word!

We Have A Heart Problem



REV.
GARLAND
SCOTT
NAARVA
Chaplain



What is it about our heart that God warns us about? What is so special about our hearts? Why is our heart one of the most essential organs not only in our physical body, but in our spiritual body?

The heart is a significant part of man's spiritual makeup. It is the place that holds our emotions and desires; it is that which drives the will of man towards action.

The heart of man is a spiritual connection between man and God. When the Holy Spirit inflames our hearts, **Matthew 3:11**, it gives us faith, truth, and knowledge. Through our hearts, God, the Holy Spirit, speaks to us. When we offer God our hearts, we rely more on Him and trust His Word. **Romans 10:10**, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confessions is made unto salvation."

The heart is the starting place for spiritual obedience. **Genesis 4:7**, "If

thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? And if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. Cain had a heart of stone, refusing to be obedient to God, refusing to serve God with a loving heart. He desired to serve his own selfish, evil, sinful ways.

God told Cain to adjust his understanding, attitude, intellect, and behavior of what Cain thought was good for him to understand what God knew was good for Cain's benefit and God's Kingdom. If Cain were to do well by God's standard, God would accept him. In other words, there is no reason for Cain to be angry about God's rejection of his offering. The cure for God's rejection is obedience with a loving heart: if Cain were to do right, according to the will of God, God would be pleased and accept his offering. But Cain had no desire in his heart to obey God's will, he had a stony heart.

Ezekiel 36:26, "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh."

Israel's heart had become rebellious, idolatrous, and hardened against God. Israel had broken their covenant with God, but the Lord, in His grace, promised to make a New Covenant with His people. In the New Covenant with Israel, the Lord promised to give His people a new heart of flesh to replace a heart of stone. God promised to give them a new spirit of grace through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit of life and love.

Their hearts were infected with selfishness; they were flooded with degenerate desires. The entire population was filled with pride and boastfulness. All humanity had a propensity towards arrogance, disobedience, ungratefulness, and godlessness. Every person, Jew and Gentile alike, was born dead in their sin and at enmity with God.

God promised to purify their heart and cleanse their inner soul through the blood of a sinless Mediator, Christ. "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you," was God's promise to His people, "and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." Despite centuries of rebellion, God promised to remove men's rock-hard heart of stone and replace it with a heart that is sensitive to the Lord and responsive to His Word.

We would like to believe that people, in their hearts, are essentially good that

(Continued on page 6)



The Heart

Chaplain's Corner:

Continued from page 5)

We Have A Heart Problem

they must be coerced, victimized, or provoked into having bad behavior. However, Jesus said the opposite: that sins, evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance, and foolishness originate in the heart of man, **Mark 7:21-23**.

Yes, humanity has a heart problem, and it is in desperate need of a heart transplant. If we look at what is going on in the world today: fighting in Israel, fighting in Ukraine, and fighting between two major political parties in the United States of America, we can conclude that man's desire is selfish. If man truly desires to please God, God's love would propagate and perpetual in their hearts. **Mark 7:6-7**, *"They, too, had hearts far from God."* The Pharisees pretended to care about God's law by following outward acts like hand washing, but they did not care about God on the inside. When they met God in the person of Jesus, they tried to kill Him! Jesus summarized their heart condition: *"You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions,"* **Mark 7:8**. The Pharisees still did religious things but had forgotten the reasons behind their actions. They said the right things, but their hearts were far from God.

We attend church on Sundays, and refuse to pick up our Bibles during the week. When Sunday comes around again, we forget where we placed our Bibles. We ask our spouse, *"Honey, have you seen my Bible?"* Our spouse replies, *"Remember honey, when you came home from church last week, you placed your Bible on the nightstand next to your side of the bed."* We maintain the outward appearance of religious obedience by following basic rules, yet we lack any real relationship with God in our hearts. Oh yes, we faithfully attend church every Sunday; some of us have a position in the church, but we ignore God's Word the rest of the week. We must stop "faking and shaking." It is not spiritual. There is an old worldly saying that says follow the money. People spend their money on what they need and what they desire. Look at your checkbook/banking account; it will tell you what your heart desires.

God is not pleased with those of us who only enforce rules and rituals. **Isaiah 29:13**, *"Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and the precept of men teaches their fear toward me."* The prophet Isaiah reveals a disturbing truth about the people of God in his day. They were religious people who were good at going through the motions of worship. They said all of the right things. However, their words were inconsistent with the actual condition of their hearts.

To the casual observers, those who lack spiritual discernment, it can appear they are devout Christians, but the reality is, in their hearts, they are far from God. God wants true righteousness. God wants us to love Him with *"all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind and with all our strength."* **Mark 12:30**.

Cain did not love God the way God wanted Cain to love Him. God wanted Cain to give his offering with a desiring heart. *"For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings,"* **Hosea 6:6**.

Praise God, Praise God, Praise God!

Amen

How to Submit Articles to The Voice

If you want to share news from your Club, or have something to say about RV'ing, E-mail your information to your Regional Director. **The deadline for the VOICE content submissions for Summer 2025 issue is June 10, 2025.**

NAARVA members may access *The Voice* through the NAARVA website:

www.naarva.com.

If you do not have an E-mail account or access to a computer, call 704-333-3070, and a hard copy will be mailed to you. *The Voice* is published four times yearly by NAARVA.

Voice Editor: James Gregory
imscholar2@cs.com.

As an ongoing practice all attempts will be made to post the next NAARVA VOICE edition in the first week of the month following the submission deadline month. Example: the Summer NAARVA VOICE will be posted during the first week of July 2025.

Be a Vendor at the 2025 NAARVA National Camp Rally

Do you have products or services perfect for the RVcommunity? Secure a vendor spot at the 2025 NAARVA National Camp Rally in Allegan, MI, to connect with hundreds of attendees looking for great deals on travel, lifestyle, and outdoor essentials!

Sell direct to a community of RVers.
Increase brand visibility.
Network with fellow vendors and attendees.

Reserve our spot today! Apply now:
[2025 NAARVA Table & Outside Table
Application](#)

REGISTER BY MAY 9TH

32nd NAARVA National Camp Rally



**JOIN US FOR A
WEEK OF
ACTIVITIES, FUN,
AND SOCIAL
EVENTS!**

**COME
JOIN
US!**

**JULY 13-20,
2025**

**ALLEGAN (MI)
COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS**

www.naarva.com

If interested in being a vendor contact: mila.turner@naarva.com

SOUTHERN REGION

Hello From the Southern Region,

Director Venson Miller, here just to say and to give you a little insight of the activities from the Southern E-board.

First, the National E-board tasked us here in the Houston, Texas area to represent NAARVA back in January at the NRG RV Show. This is the second time that we have been honored to take on the request. Members of the **Texas Sojourners** RV Club, lead by Mrs. Thayla Andrews, had this same request bestowed upon us in January of 2024, for the same event.

Mrs. Andrews is president of the **Texas Sojourners** and as a leader I feel as though she is well respected by her members. If that wasn't so, how could she ask them to man the booth that we had for 4 days, 8 to 10 hours per day, splitted into 4-hour shifts, be on time, bring your own lunch and you are NOT getting paid.! Now that is a Good Shepherd over her Flock..! LOL...!

The RV Show event was a great

way to get NAARVA some good advertisement. What better place to advertise our RV organization than at a RV show. The inquiries were amazing, more so because many made the same statement... I didn't know there were so many organized Black RV'ers. Or, I never heard of NAARVA. What does N.A.A.R.V.A. stand for..? How long have they been around...? How many are there..!? And finally, How do I join..? So, mission accomplished on behalf of the organization.

A short about myself and learning about NAARVA. I've been RVing for 15 years and a part of NAARVA for the same amount of time. Back in January of 2010, my Dad and I jointly purchased our first RV. Neither one of us knew of NAARVA. So, after our purchase, a friend of my Dad invited us to go to the Paragon Casino in Marksville, Louisiana. While there, my wife and I were walking around, amazed at all the beautiful RV's, not knowing we were at a rally. After a few moments, I noticed something and shared it with

VENSON H. MILLER, SR.
Director,
Southern
Region



her. Baby.. have you noticed anything..? She replied.. No, what..? I replied.. Everyone is Black..!

A few moments later, I ran across a gentleman at the casino who was sporting his NAARVA attire with this long string of small plates on his shirt. Excuse me, Sir, I said, if you don't mind. I see a lot of people dressed like you with NAARVA on. What does that stand for..? With a proud smile he replied.. I'm glad you asked. This kind man stood there for nearly 20 minutes and told me all I needed to know. When he was done, I said to him... I can't wait to get back to Texas. When I got home, I'm going to join this..! Any time you have these many sisters and brothers holding it down, getting together and none of that typical nonsense, I wanted to be a part of that..! And I've been a NAARVA and **Texas Sojourner** member ever since..! So, Thank you, Mr. John Hammond. Our chance meeting that day has enriched my RV LIFE..!

Second, the Southern Region elected E-board has our nose to grind stone. Meeting every two weeks, in preparation for our 2026 Regional Rally. It is slated to be held at the Margaritaville RV Resort in Breaux Bridge, Louisiana April 19th - 26th. We are making really good progress with everything and will roll out the package as soon as possible. Bear with us as we are working hard to give you one to remember. We are planning a seven day event with as many things to enjoy put into it. And on behalf of the entire Southern Region E-board, we are looking forward to seeing you come out to enjoy yourselves.

Share Your Knowledge at the 2025 NAARVA National Camp Rally

Do you have a valuable knowledge or skills to share? We're looking for engaging presenters to host a one-hour seminar at the upcoming National Rally in Allegan, MI! Whether it's a RV tips, health and wellness, technical skills, financial planning, or travel hints, we'd love to feature your expertise.

- Help educate and inspire fellow RVers.
- Topics can range from travel, health, finances technical skills, and more!

Great opportunity to connect with the
NAARVA community.

Apply now: [2025 NAARVA Seminar Application](#)

WESTERN REGION

Partner with NAARVA - Reach a Thriving RV Community!

NAARVA is the largest network of African American RVers and our National Camp Rally is the perfect place to showcase your brand. Sponsorship opportunities offer direct access to an engaged audience of travelers and outdoor enthusiasts.

Brand exposure at national and regional events as well as online.

Direct engagement with our members.

Marketing across NAARVA's platforms.

Sponsorship levels available for all budgets!

Learn more:

[2025 Sponsorship Campaigns](#)

Become a Sponsor:

[Sponsorship Commitment](#)

Contact:

mila.turner@naarva.com

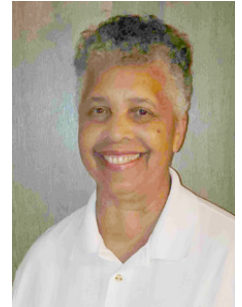
Greetings NAARVA

The Western Region is coming into 2025 with lots of energy and excitement for the new year. Our membership continues to grow and we are encouraged with the number of younger RV'rs ready to join NAARVA.

Our clubs have been very busy with their individual campouts, from the desert to the lakes and the beaches, everyone is having a great time. Seasoned members along with new members are getting together to plan activities, meals and fun.

Our executive board has been working diligently on our Western Region Rally that will take place May 22nd thru May 27th. The theme is "Thank You For Your Service" (Honoring our veterans). We will be making special provisions for those that fought for the United States to keep us safe and free. We intend for our NAARVA veterans to know how much we love and respect them.

The Western Region will continue to grow and invite everyone to enjoy the camping way of life.



LIZ HEMINGWAY
Director, Western
Region



CENTRAL REGION

Hello NAARVA,

Spring is here which means for some of us the 2025 camping season has started and for some of us the camping season is gearing up. For the lucky ones the camping season never

Easy Way to Pay NAARVA Dues!

Paypal provides an easy way to pay your dues and Charter Renewals.

Check it out at

naarva.com

ended due weather conducive to year-round camping.

While making plans for this summer make sure to include the NAARVA 2025 National Rally on your calendar, July 13 - 20, 2025, in Allegan, MI. We are going to have a great time and remember we will not have another National Rally until 2027.

If you are concerned about waste disposal there is one disposal dump included in the Rally fee. There are also four disposal stations on site, and you can dump as you enter the campground or self-dump during the week at no additional cost. You can also schedule a dump which you will be



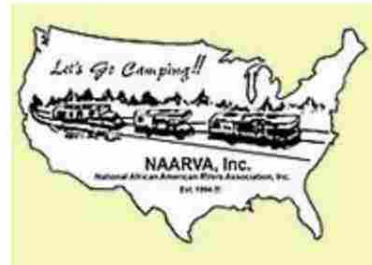
SYLVIA ALLEN
Director,
Central
Region

responsible for if needed. The only thing left is to enjoy the great things we have planned for our 2025 Rally.

I look forward to seeing you in Allegan, MI!
Sylvia Allen,
Director NAARVA Central Region

**DISCOUNT
TIRE**

**AMERICA'S
TIRE**



Discount Tire & NAARVA Partnership

(NAARVA Account #72935)

What Discount Tire has to offer:

- **Free services:**

- Flat Repair
- Tire Rotation
- Tire Inspection & Inflation
- TPMS Relearn / Rebuild / Reconnect

- Low pricing on tires
- Most common sizes are kept in stock

Account Details:

5% off better and best product. Retail price on labor. Customer will provide form of payment. Certs and products will be case by case.

If any questions arise, please call driver.

Free Labor invoices must also be written up under this account number. **This is the national account for NAARVA.**

NAARVA Executive Board

June 7, 2024

#20 2024



A savings app for RV owners!

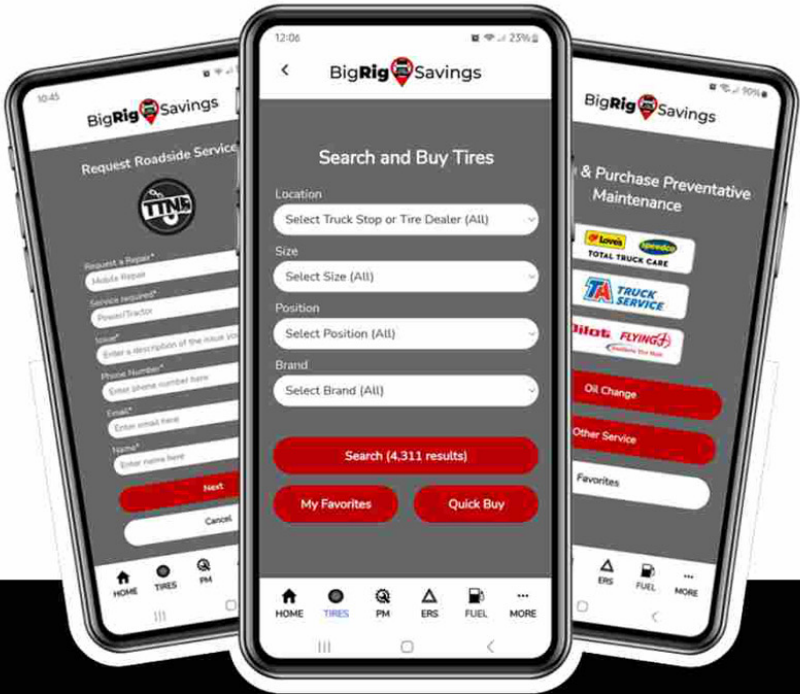
[See Pricing](#)

Save up to 52% on tires & much more!

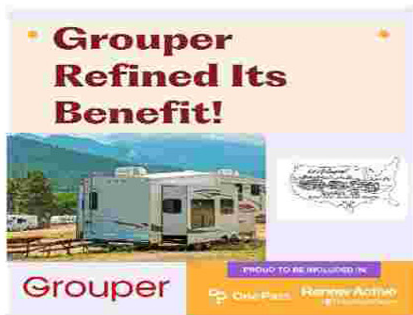
It's never been quicker, easier, and more convenient to gain immediate savings on **RV tires, RV mattresses, fuel, emergency roadside repair, towing, preventative maintenance,** and more through the only mobile & desktop savings app built specifically for truckers, small fleets...and RVer's!

Register today. It's **FREE!**

www.bigrigsavings.com/RVer



BigRig Savings



NAARVA Members,

Subject: Grouper Has Enhanced Its Benefit with National African American RVers Association

Grouper's partnership with National African American RVers Association supports the costs of activities that bring people together, and Grouper has refined its offering to provide newly eligible members annual \$50 dues reimbursement and continuous ongoing benefits throughout the year.

Already enrolled with Grouper? Take action to ensure you are getting the full benefit! Please [log in to your account](#) and verify your information. We're offering a new, enhanced experience where you can update your address, activity information, and other details. Your new dashboard allows you to report monthly activity, so you can receive your ongoing \$20 activity payments.

Haven't enrolled yet? Check your eligibility here: GrouperGroups.com/NAARVA. This collaboration is designed for eligible participants (65+ on a participating Medicare Advantage or Medicare Supplement Plan) to receive benefits for engaging in the NAARVA community. Once your eligibility is confirmed, Grouper will send you an annual \$50 check as well as \$20 for every three months you stay active.

For any questions or assistance please refer to this [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page or contact info@hellogrouper.com or 833-445-2400.

January 15, 2025
NAARVA Executive Board
#01 2025



NAARVA ECOLOGY PROGRAM

“Loving Our Earth - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Respect”

Jean Hampton, Ph.D., NAARVA Ecologist

In this issue of the *VOICE*, the NEP continues our focus on the threatening swelling of environmental plastic pollution as it proceeds across our globe seemingly unconstrained, and at best inadequately addressed by regulatory authoritative controls. Plastics contribute to the degradation of all ecosystems, land, and marine as well as freshwater. It is a major driver of biodiversity loss and contributes to unfavorable climate change.

We know that plastic waste can take anywhere from 100 to 1000 years (US EPA.gov Plastics Mar. '25) to decompose, and even then, it never fully disappears but instead breaks apart into smaller and smaller pieces. These small pieces are categorized as either microplastics, or (even smaller) nanoplastics, and are now found in every ecosystem on the planet from the Antarctic tundra to tropical coral reefs. Both have been shown to gain entry into living bodies... human and so many other lifeforms such as plants, birds, wildlife, marine life, insects, microbes, and so on. They are detected in heart, lung, placental, breast milk, liver, kidney, and brain tissue. The fact that these accumulated plastics can become bioactive elements within living organisms as they are small enough to interfere with or alter normal bodily mechanisms is unnerving, and should be. The extent of damages from ensuing buildup of plastics in human cells is not yet fully defined, but it is clear that bio accumulated plastics can cause cell damage, alter cell function, and in due course disturb the normal activity of bodily systems. Studies have listed associations between microplastics and cardiovascular disease, along with low male fertility. Chemicals found in microplastics or nanoplastics are known to cause cancers, various metabolic disorders, and disturbances in mental acuity. (AAMC.org AAMC News June '24)

It is indeed unfortunate that the benefits of plastics, which include their buoyancy, durability, application and economic advantages, are powerless to balance their downside of harmful environmental unsustainability. Other materials such as wood, metal, or paper products lack the advantages of plastics employed in activities such as packaging, medical applications, as well as household, recreational, and boundless other utilities.

Hope for remedy of our global plastic conundrum appears to lie primarily in the regulatory control of production, disposition, and recycling of ALL plastic materials. The NAARVA membership, and all of its sphere of influence must center in on previously recommended courses of action. After all, how else can we best contribute to the continuance of a healthy environment for our children, grandchildren, descendants, and posterity to enjoy a wholesome and vigorous RV life? Surely, we want clear skies, green valleys and blue waters open to them as they are to us. **Review again the suggested eco-friendly camping actions below.** Commit to them. Commit

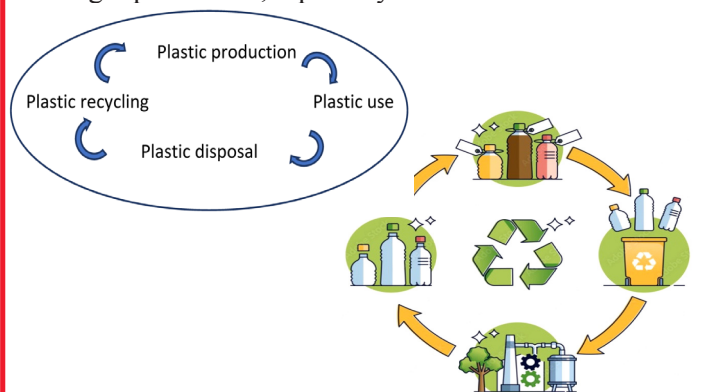
to lobbying for adequate regulatory control through your local governances and those who hold authoritative posts. Join in with local environmental organizations of your choice. Some may request, and accept with much appreciation, donations of whatever amount you choose to give. Some states such as New York, California and others have banned plastic bag use already. Single (and very brief) use of plastic bags has become quite a menace to environmental preservation.

Eco-friendly camping actions:

- (1) Travel as light as possible.
- (2) Use reusable, refillable drinking containers (such as stainless steel).
- (3) Use reusable dishware and utensils; don't accept plastic utensils when purchasing foods.
- (4) Use only reusable shopping bags.
- (5) Lessen waste; buy less, when possible, dispose responsibly, and compost when possible.
- (6) Carry in/carry out (do not leave anything at your campsite that wasn't there before).
- (7) Use biodegradable products.

Most importantly, we resolve to defend the eradication of unchecked production, inadequate replacement, unregulated disposal, and ineffective recycling of (used) plastics. **We need to create workable CIRCULAR PLASTIC ECONOMIES so that plastic items...** particularly those used for only mere minutes (bags, cups, straws, tableware) do not continue damaging our environment and ecosystems for hundreds of years.

An economy in which production of new plastic is hugely reduced, and used plastic is properly recycled to serve as necessary resource plastic, and does not become waste relegated to landfills only to be incinerated, contributing to greenhouse gas production, is primary.



A CIRCULAR PLASTIC ECONOMY

Be a tree lover!



The David & Pam Leaven family: Pam, Anaya, Ezra
NAARVA& Texas Sojourners members
“Loving our trees”!

We treasure as sacred the certainty of a rich and productive environment to continue for both the enjoyment and for the sustainability of life...human and non-human. As such, we are encouraged to collectively support existing and proven efforts to protect the health and continuance of our home, Mother Earth.

So... LAST, but not least let's not forget the upcoming **April 22nd EARTH DAY**... the annual event held every April 22 since 1970. This day has become the anniversary of a global environmental movement, celebrated through mobilization of more than a billion people to enlist in a variety of nature preservation and eco-friendly inspired activities. Ventures include support of forestry or other vegetation, recycling of resources such as plastics, joining community clean-ups, and much more.



ECOLOGY

"Loving Our Earth"

EARTH DAY offers historic opportunity for clubs to donate time, effort, and currency toward national and international woodland conservation or reforestation efforts. Local area forestry support is crucially needed as well. Organizations that perform extensive tree planting activities can customarily assure tree planting activities at a cost as meager as \$1.00 per tree. We recall that trees help clean the air that we breathe, filter the water that we drink, provide habitat to 80% of land-dwelling creatures, and absorb harmful carbon dioxide from our atmosphere among other benefits.

Our own *Texas Sojourners* have made a \$50 donation to **EARTH DAY 2025**, slated to support the various **EARTH DAY** activities. Additionally, the Sojourners have planted 136 trees worldwide, through the internationally recognized **ONE TREE PLANTED**... a non-profit organization focused on global reforestation. Of equal importance is the **NAARVA Ecology Committee**, prologue to the development of what is now the **NAARVA ECOLOGY PROGRAM (NEP)**, which during multiple past national rallies have planted an "area-indigenous" tree at the Rally site, this along with a fixed **NAARVA** dedication plaque representing our organization's commitment to preservation. NAARVA, through the NEP, has also planted a total of 100 trees in the Amazon Rain forest via the One Tree Planted non-profit.

Does your **NAARVA**-based chapter recycle, participate in community based eco-preservation activities, donate to eco-preservation organizations, or participate in ecology-environmental educational events? You are encouraged to submit your club activities to the **NAARVA** ecologist, jeanhamp@yahoo.com. **NEP** is proud to make public our chapter-authenticated activities of this nature. Let's continue to think out loud, while acting responsibly for the sake of our precious posterity.



Looking Ahead: Spring 2025 Celebrations and Events

April



Celebrate Diversity Month

Takes place in April every year! It was initiated in 2004 to recognize and honor the diversity of the world around us. It is a time to recognize and understand our differences, be it gender, race, ethnicity, faith, sexual orientation, and other factors, while honoring the common essence of humanity.

Jazz Appreciation Month

Jazz Appreciation Month (fondly known as “JAM”) was created at the National Museum of American History in 2001 to recognize and celebrate the extraordinary heritage and history of jazz for the entire month of April. JAM is intended to stimulate and encourage people of all ages to participate in jazz - to study the music, attend concerts, listen to jazz on radio and recordings, read books about jazz, and more.



May



Mother's Day Sunday, May 11, 2025

Mother's Day in 2025 will be celebrated on Sunday, May 11. This holiday honors mothers and maternal figure, typically with gifts, cards, and special meals.

Looking Ahead: Spring 2025 Celebrations and Events

May



Memorial Day **May 26, 2025**

Memorial Day in 2025 will be observed on May 26, which is the last Monday of May. This federal holiday honors U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the armed forces.

June

Father's Day **June 15, 2025**

Father's Day is observed on the third Sunday of June. It honors all fathers, grandfathers, great-grandfathers, and father figures for their contribution. The Day was created to complement Mother's Day.



Elkhart Jazz Festival **(NAARVA Invited)** **June 29 - 22, 2025**

410 S. Main Street
Elkhart, IN 16516
(574) 293-4469

