

# THE NAARVA



# VOICE

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 4

©NAARVA All Rights Reserved

FALL 2024

## From The President's Desk.

The NAARVA Annual Camp Rally held from September 8th to 15th in Myrtle Beach, SC, was a resounding success! It was heartwarming to see NAARVA members from across the country come together for this unforgettable event. The camaraderie and excitement shared throughout the rally highlighted the unity and strength of our organization.

A special appreciation goes out to Belinda Moore and her Eastern Region team for their outstanding work in making this event a success. Their dedication and tireless efforts truly made a difference, ensuring a smooth and enjoyable experience

for all attendees. We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the NAARVA Executive Board for their hard work and leadership throughout the year.

Looking ahead, the 2025-2027 elections are on the horizon. As we prepare for this important transition, we want to remind all members that the deadline to submit your nomination form is quickly approaching. Be sure to get your nominations to our Nomination Election Chairperson, Lonnie Fyles, before the December deadline.

Thank you once again to everyone who attended, and we look forward to seeing you at the next National Rally in Allegan, Michigan, July 13-20, 2025.



*Rodney Thompson*

**President  
National African American  
RVers Association**



# NAARVA Executive Board 2023 - 2025



**RODNEY THOMPSON**  
President  
rdnthmp@sbcglobal.net



**BRIAN K. SKIPPER**  
1st Vice President  
btmns@yahoo.com



**ELAINE STANDIFER**  
General Secretary  
standeo190@gmail.com



**ANDREA JOHNSON**  
"AJ" HARVEY  
Assistant Treasurer



**BELINDA MOORE**  
Director, Eastern Region  
queenbee2300@aol.com



**VENSON H. MILLER, SR.**  
Director, Southern Region  
vensonsr@gmail.com



**SYLVIA ALLEN**  
Director, Central Region  
spallen1972@yahoo.com



**LIZ HEMINGWAY**  
Director, Western Region  
4lizh1946@gmail.com

## 2023 - 2025 Board Members Not Shown

**IRIS RAINES - 2nd Vice President**  
**STANLEY COUSINS ~ Assistant General Secretary**  
**SARAH RUNNELS - Treasurer**  
**JAMES CAMPBELL - Financial Secretary**

## Appointed Positions

**Rev. Garland Scott**  
*National Chaplain*

**Connie Malone**  
*Parliamentarian*

**Jean Hampton - Ecologist**

**Ronald (Ron) Standifer - Historian**

**Elaine Standifer**  
*Public Relations Coordinator*

**Stanley Cousins**  
*Constitution &  
By-Laws Chairperson*

**Joellen Davis**  
*National Scholarship Chairperson*

**Beth Gill**  
*Benevolent Coordinator*

**Lonnie Fyles**  
*Nominations/Elections*

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

**Diane Bowman**  
*Property Review Chairperson*

Working closely with the Executive Board,  
Appointees will perform duties that  
complete many functions.

## 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.



# A savings app for RV owners!

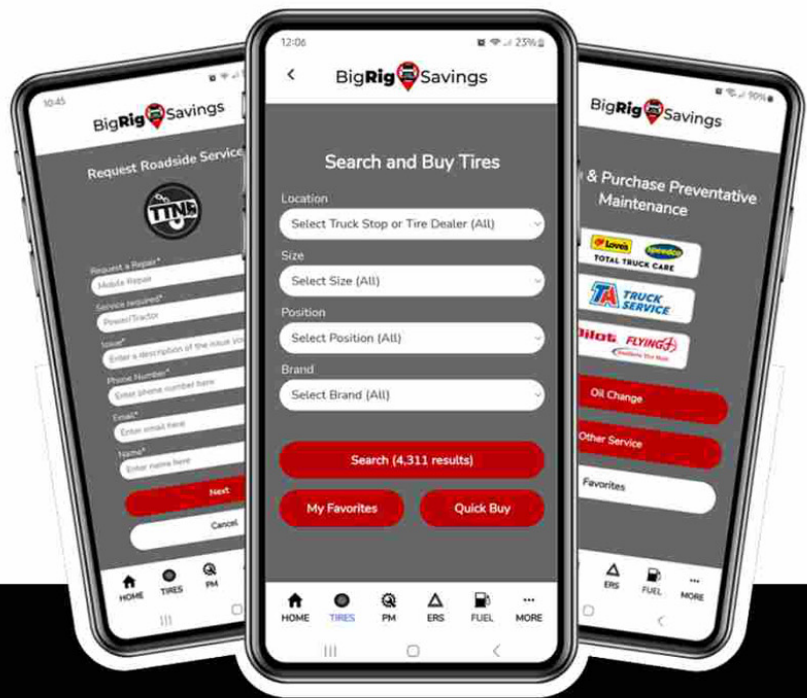
See Pricing

## 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](http://www.bigrigsavings.com/RVer)



# BigRig Savings

**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

# You Play, We Pay

NAARVA MEMBERS 65+ CAN  
HAVE THEIR DUES REIMBURSED  
**FOR FREE!**

Grouper



NAARVA Members:

Unleash Your RV Camping Potential– For Free! Great news for our RV Camping enthusiasts! In an exciting partnership with Grouper, National African American RVers Association now offers free memberships to eligible Medicare Advantage and Supplement plan holders. Don't let membership fees keep you from enjoying your passion for RV Camping. Check your eligibility today and get your National African American RVers Association membership reimbursed without any cost! Check your eligibility today! [Groupergroups.com/NAARVA](https://Groupergroups.com/NAARVA)

**Step 1:** Check Your Eligibility Visit [Groupergroups.com/NAARVA](https://Groupergroups.com/NAARVA) with your health plan details. The registration process is quick and easy, taking just about 5 minutes.

**Step 2:** Activation Once your eligibility is confirmed, Grouper will send a check directly to you to reimburse your National African American RVers Association membership dues.

**Step 3:** Dive into RV Camping! With your membership dues reimbursed, you can fully engage in RV Camping activities and immerse yourself in the vibrant community at National African American RVers Association.

Here's a sample list of events that qualify as activities.

1. Participate in a group activity at a campground
2. Bike riding
3. Pickleball
4. Beanbag baseball/ cornhole
5. Card bingo
6. Host a chapter outing
7. Joining a NAARVA chapter
8. Attending a NAARVA National, Regional rally or Chapter outing/event
9. Serving on a committee or Board
10. Line dancing
11. Enjoying an evening by the campfire with fellow RVers

Need Assistance? For any questions or assistance, please contact us at [info@hellogrouper.com](mailto:info@hellogrouper.com) or call 833-906-1700. Get ready to stay active and engaged with your passion for RV Camping.

## A Word From the Editor....

**Whoosh!!!!** ....That is the sound of Summer 2024 passing us by. Last *VOICE* issue we kicked it off! Now we are recovering from the trip back from South Carolina, and reminiscing about all of the Club Outings and the good times had by all this Summer. Through it all NAARVA stays and grows in many ways. Just look.. we had the selling of the North Carolina NAARVA Property, changed and improved how members communicate, and how we vote, and the addition of a new Regional Director. Through it all, NAARVA stays in full swing. As we migrate from a traveling extended family to the closer at home local ac-

tivity focus of our Chapters, don't forget to stay in touch with new and old friends, and look forward to the times to come, and the chance to do it over again.

In this edition of the *VOICE* you are getting additional information on NAARVA partnerships, in particular, Grouper, that offer and continue to offer savings benefits to members, our updated listing of Board members and appointments (we welcome Liz Hemingway, Western Region Director), coming elections, our Education Station scholarship winners,

## Where Did It GO?

Chaplain Garland Scott, and updates from the NAARVA Ecology Program. All in all much, much, much more from NAARVA!

As always **Thank you** all for your participation.....Until the next time.

**James**

## Education Station



**JOELLEN DAVIS**  
NAARVA  
Scholarship  
Committee  
Chairperson



### 2024 NAARVA SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

I have had the pleasure of being the Scholarship Chairperson for the 2024-2025 NAARVA Scholarship Program. I would also like to recognize the members who served on this committee. They include:

- Joellen Davis, Chairperson — Central Region
- Jean Hampton — Southern Region
- Alice Clark Harris — Western Region
- Saundra Powell — Central Region
- Lola Porter — Eastern Region

This year, we had NINE applicants for the Carolyn J. Buford Scholarships. I would like to thank ALL of the students for applying for these Scholarship opportunities and NAARVA wishes them all a successful journey in their educational endeavors.

NAARVA is proud to announce the four recipients of the \$1,000.00 Scholarship. They are: Noah Porter, Eric "Gavin" Wright, Kourtney Brown, and Kennedi Robinson.

The two recipients of the \$500.00 Scholarship are: Michael Coley, Jr. and Kyle Jones.

NAARVA congratulates each recipient and wishes them continued success.

### **Joellen Davis**

NAARVA Scholarship Chairperson  
6 — The NAARVA Voice

### **Kourtney Brown**



Kourtney Brown is a 2024 Honor Graduate of Sandy Creek High School located in Tyrone, Georgia, with a 4.056 GPA. She is a four-year choral student and a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. Throughout her years at Sandy Creek, Kourtney participated in many student organizations, such as National Honor Society, Beta Club, Mu Alpha Theta, Science National Honor Society, Math Team, Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), and HOSA-Future Health Professionals. Kourtney loves reading, singing, creating art, and listening to music. In her spare time, she is an active participant in GO Church's Youth Ministry. She leads worship on the youth worship team and volunteers with the Kid's Ministry weekly. In the Fall, Kourtney will attend Troy University and major in Nurs-

(See *Education Station*, pg. 7)

# Education Station

(Continued from page 6)

ing. Her career goal is to become a Pediatric Registered Nurse.

Kourtney is the granddaughter of Alex and Jo Ann Fitts, NAARVA members of the Central Region.

Kourtney wishes to thank NAARVA for the \$1,000.00 Scholarship Award and enabling her to further enhance her educational journey.

## Michael Coley, Jr.



Michael Coley, Jr. is a recent graduate of Gaither High School in Tampa, Florida, with a GPA of 3.77. Michael lives in Riverview, Florida.

He participated in football and track and field throughout his high school career.

Michael will attend St. Petersburg College in St. Petersburg, Florida and major in Cybersecurity. Michael is the grandson of Moses and Lucy Coley, NAARVA members of the Southern Region.

He wishes to thank NAARVA for the \$500.00 Scholarship Award enabling him to further enhance his educational journey.

## Kyle Jones



Kyle Jones is a recent graduate of Grant High School in Sacramento, California. Born in Amarillo, Texas, and

raised in the Dallas area, Kyle moved to Sacramento at the end of his sophomore year. Before relocating to California, Kyle played AAU football for various teams and quickly emerged as a rising star. In his first year at Grant, he joined the varsity basketball team and contributed to their CIF Section Championship win. During his junior year, Kyle played football as a wide receiver and quarterback, leading his team to victory in the CIF Northern California Regional and the Sac-Joaquin Section State Championship, Division 3AA, by scoring the winning touchdown.

In his senior year, his team won another Regional Championship but fell short in the State Championship game. Throughout his time at Grant, Kyle earned five championship rings, comprising both regional and state titles. Kyle graduated from Grant High School with a GPA of 2.42.

Kyle will be attending Sierra College in Rocklin, California, where he will pursue a degree in Engineering and continue playing football. He plans to transfer to a Division I college and dreams of one day playing in the NFL.

Kyle is the grandson of Elizabeth Hemingway, NAARVA member of the Western Region.

Kyle wishes to thank NAARVA for the \$500.00 Scholarship Award and enabling him to further enhance his educational journey.

## Noah Porter

Noah Porter graduated from Nansmond River High School with a 3.978 GPA. He has been very active in extra-curricular activities all his life. He learned to play the piano and viola, volunteered for after-school clubs, and competed in sports such as soccer, volleyball, E-sports, and track.

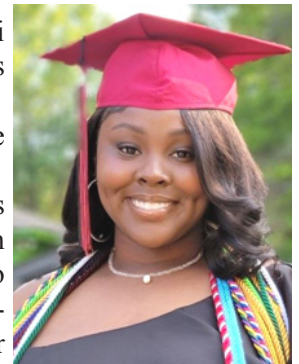


Even while participating in all of these activities, he still managed to graduate high school with an advanced diploma as an honor student. He attributes his success to hard work, dedication, and management skills.

This fall, Noah will be attending George Mason University to major in Mechanical Engineering with a concentration in Aerospace Engineering and a minor in Computer Game Design. His aim is to replicate his high school success in college by staying productive, managing his time

## Kennedi Robinson

Kennedi Robinson is a 2024 graduate from Shades Valley High School who will be continuing her education



at Troy University majoring in Criminal Justice with a minor in Legal Studies in the Fall. She graduated as a Salutatorian with a 4.0 GPA, an Advanced Diploma, a Fine Art Endorsement, and a CTE Endorsement. Kennedi has earned 41 college credits which will allow her to be classified as a college sophomore. She has served in many leadership roles and accumulated numerous volunteer/community service hours. Kennedi also inspired the mayor of her hometown, Irondale, to name a scholarship fund in her honor for the upcoming senior class which will be called the Kennedi Robinson Test Takers Scholarship Fund.

Kennedi is the granddaughter of Clark and Loretta Stoudemire, NAARVA members of the Southern Region. She wishes to thank NAARVA for the \$1,000.00 Scholarship Award enabling her to further enhance her educational journey.

(Continued on pg. 9)

# NAARVA Chaplain's Corner...

## Bring New Disciples to Christ

Matthew 9:9, "And as Jesus passed forth from thence, He saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom, and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and follow Him."

Even though we are not Jesus, we, as His disciples, have accepted the calling to follow Him. With this call-

ing, we inherited a great responsibility to go out into a dying world and witness to unbelievers the unadulterated truth of the good news of Christ to make new disciples and build God's Kingdom.

We, as believers, are commissioned to speak the gospel of Christ and testify of what He has done for us during



**REV. GARLAND SCOTT NAARVA**  
Chaplain

[scotnimp@yahoo.com](mailto:scotnimp@yahoo.com)



ing representative of Christ, and to speak the truth about what we have seen, heard, and the unbelievable experiences we have encountered during our incredible journey as a child of God, how He made a way out of no way because of our faith in Him, Hebrews 11:1.

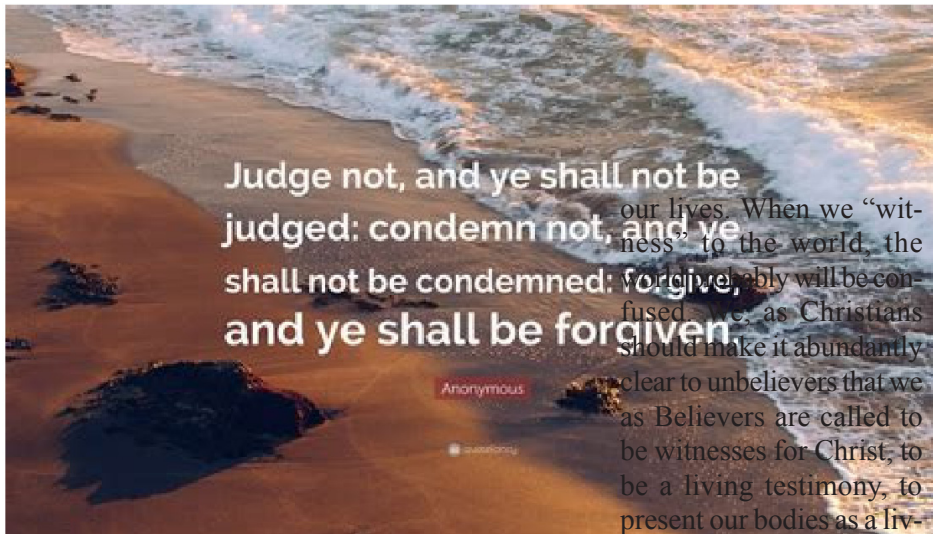
I must admit that I am guilty of being judgmental when deciding who I should witness, especially those I do not know. I would say to myself, "This person isn't ready to hear the Word of God based on their actions, appearance, occupation, and, most critically, their demeanor."

I will judge them based on my experience and how I acted and refused to hear the Word of God when Believers witnessed it to me. Based on my censurable behavior, I judged others not ready to hear God's Word. You see, because of my prejudice, my preconceived notion led me to miss an excellent opportunity to serve and be a witness for Christ to save souls. Who am I to judge anyone for not being worthy? Isn't one of the main characteristics and services of a Believer who walks with Christ to save souls? Thank God Jesus did not judge me according to my actions, appearance, occupation, and demeanor.

Matthew was a tax collector, and because of his profession, he probably was not embraced into the Jewish community. And because of his profession, the Jewish people hated and thought of him as a greedy, sinful, and traitorous sinner.

This example shows believers why we should never judge a book by its

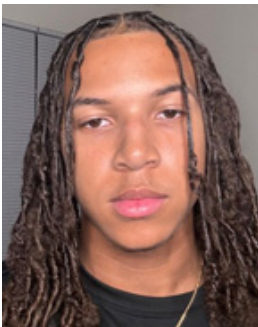
*(Continued on page 9)*



## Education Station...

*(Continued from page 7)*

### Eric "Gavin" Wright



Gavin Wright is a recent graduate of James Martin High School in Arlington, Texas, with a GPA of 3.8. Gavin is a dedicated student with a passion for business and social impact. Throughout high school, he was an active member of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), where he honed his leadership skills and developed a deep interest in business. Gavin was also a member of the Alpha Ambassadors Club (A College Preparatory Program) and served as Vice President; a member of the National Honor Society; and an avid member of Martin's Black Stu-

dent Union. Running track also taught Gavin resilience, especially when overcoming a hamstring injury. Last May, he completed an enriching internship at GM Financial, which solidified his career aspirations.

During his high school career Gavin also received many awards including first place National Champion in FBLA Business Ethics in 2023 and was inducted into the Arlington Independent School District Wall of Fame in 2022. Gavin was thrilled to be accepted into the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas in Austin, where he plans to pursue a 4-year degree. He is eager to leverage his experiences and education to foster a more equitable world for all of us!

Gavin is the son of Earl and Cheryl Wright, NAARVA members of the Southern Region. Gavin wishes to thank NAARVA for the \$1,000.00 Scholarship Award enabling him to further enhance his educational journey.



## Chaplain's Corner...

(Continued from page 8)

cover. Jesus looks at a person's heart, their soul, not their demeanor, outward appearance, profession, and surely not their past history.

Christ called Matthew to be a disciple. Matthew was a tax collector, and he was disliked by his own kind. Because of his profession, he was judged by his own to be evil. Matthew describes Jesus walking by his tax booth and saying, "Follow me." Matthew reports that he rose and followed Jesus. Matthew 9:10, Jesus and His disciples were, having dinner in Matthew's home with many tax collectors and others labeled as sinners. Jesus answered a question from the Pharisees about why He was eating with these people. Jesus responds that the sick need a doctor, not the healthy. He tells the Pharisees to learn the meaning of the Scripture, speaking of the Old Testament, in which God says, He desires mercy, not sacrifice. Jesus declares that He has come to call sinners, not the righteous.

This question from the Pharisees was more of an accusation, accusing Jesus of eating with sinners. Why would a righteous man be associating with immoral people? The Pharisees would never share meals with people who openly break God's law. Nor would they lower themselves to be seen with anyone who didn't follow their own rules of conduct.

Jesus told them to learn the meaning of the Scriptures. So, let's go to the Old Testament and understand what Jesus is talking about. Jesus pointed out to the Pharisees that healthy people do not need a doctor. He says we should love and care for others and minister to those who are caught in sin. Jesus went back to Hosea 6:6, where God says, "*I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.*" Jesus quotes the Greek translation of the Old Testament, known as the Septuagint. The Pharisees were not in the mercy business. Their strategy for motivating the people of Israel to live right before God was to set the standard very high and then

live up to it themselves. From that position, they looked down in judgment on those who could not or would not join them in their pious lifestyles, Matthew 23:2-7. Jesus was willing to spend time with tax collectors, harlots, and other disreputable people. The Pharisees would not.

Jesus tells the Pharisees that He did not come to call the righteous; he came to call sinners. The Pharisees assumed themselves to be righteous already. They did not think they needed saving. Jesus came to call those who understood themselves to be sinful and needed mercy, forgiveness, and a Savior, Matthew 7:6.

Matthew wanted to introduce his old buddies, friends, and acquaintances to Jesus. I, for one, understood what he was doing because I had a friend, a godly friend who introduced me to Christ. So, Matthew had a dinner to make the introduction easy. I can recall the time when friends came together and had Tupperware parties. These parties were held to help someone earn extra cash. But, Matthew wanted to introduce his friends to someone who would give them eternal life, someone who could save their souls, not monetary gain to fill his pockets.

Soon after calling Matthew to follow Him, Jesus ate a meal with many tax collectors and sinners in Matthew's house. Matthew wanted to introduce his social circle to his Savior, Jesus Christ. The scribes and the Pharisees, who despised tax collectors, complained, but Jesus spending time with sinners perfectly aligned with His mission to seek and save the lost. Luke 19:10.

In Jesus' day, rabbis and other spiritual leaders enjoyed widespread respect and were highly esteemed in Jewish society. Almost everyone looked up to the Pharisees. The Pharisees and the different religious classes of Jesus' day would not have socialized with tax collectors known for corruption and embezzlement.

Throughout Jesus' ministry, He reached out to those who needed Him. He conversed with a despised Samaritan woman at a well; His disciples had a hard time understanding. John 4:27.

He forgives an immoral woman in Luke 7, touches a leper in Luke 5, and enters Zacchaeus' house and dines with him in Luke 19. Again and again, Jesus touched the untouchable, hung with the undesirable, and loved the unlovable.

Jesus chose to eat with us sinners because we needed to know repentance and forgiveness were available. As Jesus' ministry grew, so did His popularity among the social outcasts of society. Once Matthew was part of Jesus' inner circle, Jesus had more contact with sinners. Spending time with the tax collectors and sinners was the reason He came since He had not come to call the righteous, but sinners. Mark 2:17. Jesus came here to reach the lost. He went where needed to the sick, Luke 5:31.

Jesus sees us as individuals, not our labels or titles. He had compassion and sought to meet the needs around Him. In sharing the word of God, Jesus ate with sinners and spent time with them. When sinners see this, they are inspired to know Him better. They recognized Jesus as a righteous man of God and saw His compassion and sincerity.

It is not my job to judge who is worthy of witnessing. I must keep in my heart James 4:10, to humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. If we are not walking with Christ, we cannot witness for Christ. It is absolutely imperative that we, as Believers, live a consistent Christian life. Let your light shine before men, Matthew 5:16.

Our Lord shared the gospel with many different people. He understood Nicodemus and the woman at the well, and He used that knowledge to draw them to Himself, John Chapters 3 and

(See *Chaplain's Corner*, page 10)

## Chaplain's Corner...

(Continued from page 9)

4. Our approach too, should be personally tailored to meet their needs. As we meet and speak with unbelievers, we should be compelled and obliged to try to ascertain what is keeping them from salvation.

Reading the Gospel of John will show love is the key for successful witnessing. Jesus loved people so much that he bled and died on the cross. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can learn to love people more. When we do, we will be more motivated to share the gospel since we desire to save people from eternal punishment. Love compels us to communicate the good news. The Holy Spirit will open doors for us by convicting people of their sins and stirring up a desire for salvation, and He will arrange for our paths to cross. Our job is to speak with people, explain that salvation is available to every sinner, and present the good news.

Speaking of the good news is something many of us have trouble with, as did Moses, Exodus 4:10. However, if we are walking as Christians, we should make it a habit to study and have a plan in place to be ready when we meet unbelievers. Most importantly, remember to rely upon the Holy Spirit to help guide and aid you. The Holy Spirit is the One who convicts and regenerates. You might fail, but realize that failure is acceptable, that God blesses us when we are rejected, Luke 6:22.

We should have an attitude of gratitude, meekness, and mildness. Then we will realize it is not our job to judge who is worthy; our heavenly Father will separate the wheat from the tares and the sheep from the rams. When we meet unbelievers, it is paramount to witness and share the good news of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.

*Praise God, Praise God,  
Praise God Amen  
Rev, Garland Scott*

## CENTRAL REGION

### *Hello NAARVA!*

The Fall season is here and we are preparing for the holidays and, for some clubs in the Central Region, the end of our camping season — “sad times.” For NAARVA members living in northern states we are preparing to winterize our RVs and store them for the winter, something unheard of in warmer states.

On a brighter note, after a great Central Region Rally in Sparta, IL and the National Camp Rally in Myrtle Beach, SC, we are gearing up for the **32nd NAARVA National Camp Rally in Allegan, MI, July 13-20, 2025, located on the Kalamazoo River.** The plan is to offer NAARVA members another great Rally including tours, seminars, music, vendors and more. Start preparing now for the 2025 National Camp Rally!

**Allegan County Fair Grounds  
150 Allegan County Fair Drive  
Allegan, MI 49010**

Check out this link for different versions of Cowboy Caviar. It's a great dish for holiday parties and for summer campouts.

<https://cookieandkate.com/cowboy-caviar-recipe/>.

**See you next year!**

**Sylvia Allen,  
Director Central Region**

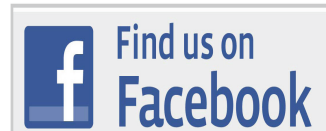


**SILVIA ALLEN**  
Director  
Central Region  
[spallen1972@ayhoo.com](mailto:spallen1972@ayhoo.com)

### **Easy Way to Pay NAARVA Dues!**

Paypal provides an easy way to pay your dues and Charter Renewals. Check it out at [naarva.com](http://naarva.com)

**Join Our NAARVA  
Group**



### ***Rules for Submitting 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 Winter 2025 issue is December 10, 2024.**

NAARVA members may access *The Voice* through the NAARVA website: [www.naarva.com](http://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](mailto:imscholar2@cs.com).

## WESTERN REGION

### *Hello NAARVA!*

The Western Region just come back from our Spring Rally at the Black Oak RV Resort and Casino in Tuolumne, California. Our theme this year was “Juneteenth, An African American Celebration”. It was a wonderful time to honor our ancestors that waited years to find out they were free. On Friday it was great to see members wearing Juneteenth shirts and African American clothing. Members showed their ‘stuff’ at the block party where they really ‘got down’ dancing to the beats of our DJ Robin Summerise.

During the week we had lots of activities including bid whist and cornhole tournaments. There was fulfilled competition and prizes given out to the winners. The rock painting class was a big success with kids and their parents creating their masterpieces.

We took a tour of the Indigeny Apple Reserve and tasted several of their hard ciders along with an extensive



tour of the facility and learning the process of making the hard cider.

We were honored to have our newly installed NAARVA President, Rodney Thompson present. He spoke to the members about the changes in NAARVA and was generous enough to answer questions. We heard from the Tuolumne Board of Supervisors,



**LIZ HEMINGWAY**  
**Director**  
**Western Region**  
**4lizz1946@gmail.com**

Mr. Goldem-berg who welcomed us to the area. Also in attendance was a representative from the Red Cross, Liza Cruz to accept our donation to their organization. We had a class on CPR during the week for our members that was very informative.

At the end of the week, we had a delicious dinner ending with a dessert auction that raised \$535 for the region to use for our charitable donations.

The Western Region has seen a lot of growth in the last year and we will continue to move forward promoting the NAARVA way of camping in the west.

**Cordially,**  
**Liz Hemingway**  
**Western Region**  
**Director**



**Save the Date!**  
**32nd NAARVA**  
**National Camp Rally**

**July 13 - 20, 2025**

**Allegan County Fairgrounds**  
**150 Allegan County Fair Drive**  
**Allegan, MI 49010**



**NAARVA is excited to see you in July. It's going to be a great time in Allegan, MI with NAARVA's members as we roll in for a week of activities, fun and social events.**



# NAARVA ECOLOGY PROGRAM

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

Jean Hampton, Ph.D., NAARVA Ecologist

### Let's "Bag" Plastics.

By now we are, most amply, informed on the global explosion of plastic products that threaten a significant upset in our natural ecological balances. Uninterrupted, these natural balances have sustained and promoted for ages... life and living for all here on our *sole and finite space*, Mother Earth. Clean and nonhazardous air to breathe, untainted water sources from oceans to community waterways and streams, and ample accessible green space and supportive habitat are each synonymous with, and vital to healthy and sustainable living and recreation.



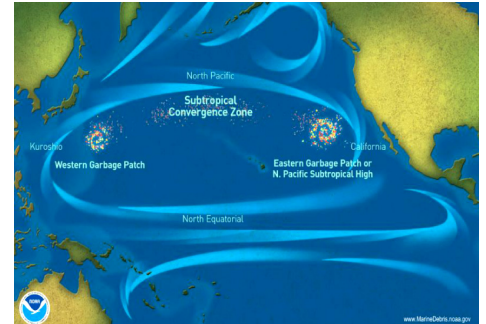
Plastics present a two-faced exhibition of merit and burden, of service and liability. Plastics are extensively made, utilized, and valued due to their inherent flexibilities in production and in use, and for their appreciable cost-effectiveness along with being shockingly cheap,

However, worldwide accumulation of plastics at our presently unsustainable rate has generated damaging sequences of environmental impact, including very evident and measurable biological injury.

A most recognizable and problematic issue with our current employ of plastics is the issue of disposition of used and spent plastic products. Very many plastic products, after a single and remarkably brief use, become waste. Would-be plastic camping items such as beverage bottles and caps, grocery bags, food containers and other packaging often become less-than-wisely disposed waste. As a waste product, plastics regularly produce detrimental environmental impact as well as create health risks and various ecological and biological toxicities.

Grim circumstances face marine animals as millions of pounds of plastic continue to make their way into the oceans every year. Plastic pollution poses a substantial threat to the marine environment by putting marine species at higher risk of ingesting plastic, suffocating, or becoming entangled in plastic pollution.

These spiraling patches are formed by rotating ocean currents known as gyres, which are akin to giant whirlpools where marine



debris is visible to the naked eye and can be seen on the surface of the water. Many of these whirlpools make their way down to the ocean floor... some two miles deep. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, however, is not one single pile of trash in the ocean but rather refers to two distinct collections of marine plastic waste...620 thousand square miles across... double the size of Texas. A similar patch of floating plastic debris is found as well in the Atlantic Ocean.

It has been long scientifically demonstrated that oceanic pollution seriously interferes with biological and geological oceanic processes that, by design, support earth's natural biologic and ecologic functions. Oceanic food chains and natural recycling processes are vital to planetary sustainability. Without them, there is certain, though not fully measured,

(See *Ecology*, page 13)



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



*(Continued from page 12)*

defined and implicit environmental instability.

Plastic materials persist and pollute long after their intended use is finished. Hence there is no end to the impact of plastics within a typical human lifespan. Depending on how plastic is handled, it may pose a significant threat to the environment and to the climate when it reaches the waste phase of its life cycle. Plastic doesn't decompose in the way food and paper do. Instead, it breaks down into extremely tiny



pieces. When these pieces shrink below five millimeters in size which is about the width of a small paperclip, they become what's known as microplastics. Microplastics that are smaller than a micrometer are called nanoplastics, which are small enough to cross the cell membrane and can interfere with normal cellular functions.

Microplastics have been found in human livers, lungs, blood, veins, stomach tissues, kidneys, placentas, and breast milk. They are linked to serious health issues in humans. And they are found all over the world from Antarctica to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean, and even in clouds.

A plastic bag has an average "working life" of 15 minutes. More

than one million bags are used every minute.

440 million tons of plastics are produced each year. Plastic production, use, and disposal contributes about 1.8 billion tons of carbon emissions into our atmosphere annually. Estimates suggest that between 8 million and 11 million tons of plastic waste enter the ocean each year... the equivalent of dumping a garbage truck of plastic into the ocean every minute.

Most of the plastic we make (72%) ends up in landfills or the environment. Only 9% of the plastic ever produced has been recycled and the USA recycles only 5-6% of its disposable plastic. Current recycling has its limitations, and has not proven to be as effective as occasionally declared. However, it is imperative that we continue to refine recycling processes to generate more effective methods and healthier outcomes.

It is urgent that acceptable systems purposed to modify and regulate the use of plastic materials be adapted. We must “bag” (constrain) the employ and life cycle of plastic products by:

- (1) regulating their manufacture
- (2) standardizing their employ and appropriateness of use
- (3) unreservedly and with all haste embracing a circulatory economy...a system of circularity... for plastics that directs the manufacturer to end the use and disposition of it, and recycling standards for the various categories of plastics.

*(Continued on page 14)*

### **Tips to reduce microplastic exposure:**

- Dusting and vacuuming regularly helps to remove excess dust that may contain microplastic fibers that could be inhaled or otherwise consumed.
- Minimize drinking from disposable plastic water bottles, if without choice, try to keep them out of the sun in a cool, dry environment. Disposable plastic water bottles degrade very easily in response to temperature change or friction, For water on the go, consider using a reusable stainless-steel bottle. It's better for the environment and better for your health.
- Filter your water. This can be effective at reducing many contaminants including microplastics.
- Use wood, glass, or steel cutting boards instead of plastic.
- Microwave your food in glass containers instead of plastic or takeaway containers which can release microplastic particles into food.

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

(Continued from page 13)

- (4) considering the popular position offered by researchers and some governments on reducing the waste and pollution from plastics, which is to simply make less of it.

Such proposed constraints lie of course within the resolutions of policy makers, innovators, and commercial companies that seek to ensure a sustainable future. We must all lobby for these constraints through our political and marketing avenues. The good news is that such constraint is indeed possible, currently active, and continually developing and spreading...though not as fast as expected but with noticeable prominence and increasing proximity.

Legislative initiatives regarding the reduction of plastic usage are active and anticipated, and circularity has become a recognized and targeted effort on many environmental levels. For example,

- California Governor Gavin Newsom has signed a law fully banning plastic shopping bags in grocery stores.
- Just about every country in Europe has an EPR (extended producer plan) plan...a policy that requires plastic producers to fund post-use management of plastic materials.
- Ghana is also working to create a national program.
- An EU directive was enacted in July requiring that all single-use bottles have caps that remain attached. This is one of several policies designed to limit the amount of plastic litter...particularly the caps from single-use plastic bottles which are far more likely to find their way into the environment and pose an enormous risk to wildlife.

But what can the RVer do to support responsible utilization of plastics and the reduction of plastic pollution? Certainly, we all must maintain an ap-

preciable mindfulness and become actively involved. RVers can:

- Employ alternative camping utensils such as steel, bamboo, compostable and reusable dining and storage utensils.
- Habitually initiate or support existing recycling activities both at home and within camp sites or camping communities, and share these activities and their results.
- RV clubs can devise and incorporate standard club environmental sustainability policy and protocol.
- RV clubs can circulate important information and updates regarding our environment such as with NAARVA VOICE publications.
- RV clubs can maintain regular environmentally friendly initiatives such as our current NAARVA tree-planting initiatives.
- Participate in communal political actions such as polling to compel elected officials to act accordingly.
- Participate in local or national ecobased organizations (**KAB, Earthwatch, National Parks Service etc.**).
- Read / watch informative books, documentaries etc. (**IVEP offers a list of very interesting materials.**)



Plastics bring widely appreciable value to society through their usefulness and have a range of valuable and unique properties such as...

- Outstanding durability, strong and tough, both chemical- and light-resistant.
- Wonderfully cheap compared with competing materials such as steel.
- Enable medical devices including surgical equipment, drips, aseptic medical packaging.
- Provide packaging that reduces food waste.
- Due to their light weight, plastics reduce transportation costs and CO2 emissions.

Though plastic pollution can cause a range of unwanted and damaging public and environmental distress, it must be highlighted that society is accountable for the creation and extent of this pollution. We must remain mindful of potentially unwanted consequences as we employ plastics, while responsibly using and disposing of them. We must continually seek opportunity for efficient management of the plastic life cycle toward optimal planetary sustainability for our sole and finite space. **Mother Earth.**



**There is no planet B.**

References: Earth.org; National Geographic; EPA.gov; NOAA; ABC News; NEM IJER&PH Oct. 2022; MIT Technology Review; EWG.org

# Some things to Do to Get Ready for Fall

Clean the gutters.  
Repair the gutters.

Wash the windows  
inside and out.



Book an appointment  
to have your  
winter tires put on.

Clean and cover up  
your air conditioner.  
You don't need to  
cover the whole  
thing. Just the top  
where leaves can  
blow in.



Order  
firewood.



Ask an elderly or  
single neighbor if  
they need  
anything.

Make and eat an  
entire homemade pie  
for yourself.



Make a bunch of chili.