

THE NAARVA



VOICE

VOLUME 23 ISSUE 1

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WINTER 2021

From The President's Desk...

Hello NAARVA Family,

Wow, this has been a year filled with nothing but unexpected, unplanned events that have changed our plans and left too many of us with illness, grief from loss and pain. It has been a time when the support of both biological and extended family has been tested. We have demonstrated the strength that is required to encourage one another with phone calls, cards and in some cases financial support.

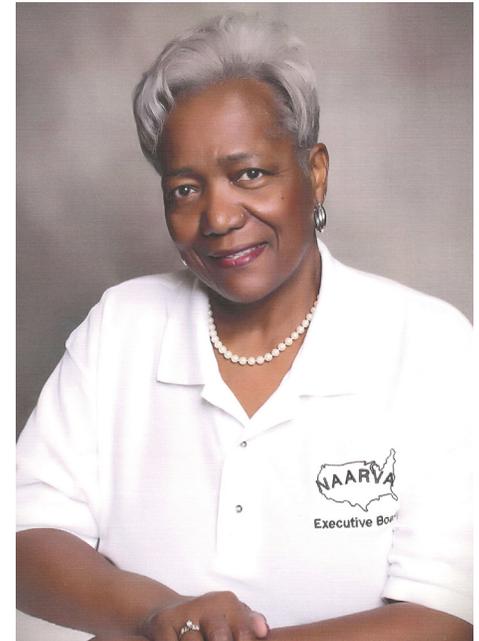
I know this is true because I have heard from many of the NAARVA members expressing how they need to stay near home or assist family and at the same time they are anxious to be on the road with family and friends!

As we approach another uncertain year of Rally planning, I am sending you all a word of sincere appreciation for your NAARVA membership and support and a pledge that when we can be together safely, it will be a time of celebration! A time where we can visit and tell stories about the good old days, that will always be the 1970's for me! Discussions about who makes the best barbeque, fried fish, homemade ice cream or the best pound cake, etc.

Meanwhile, this is important for you to know. We are planning all 2021 Rallies, but we are moving

cautiously. This means that with all the planning things could still change. The 2021 National Rally has minimal information in this newsletter. That does not mean plans have not been made. The Central Region is on schedule and has an awesome rally team in place. In addition, we want you to know that we are looking toward our 2022 National Camp Rally and you do not want to miss this; it will be hosted by the NAARVA Southern Region! If you have ideas, you can place a message on our website at naarva.com. Just click the "contact us" tab at the top right side of the home page and leave your message.

Lastly, please continue to take care of your physical and mental health. I know that you are all reaching out to one another because I have heard from members about how they ap-



Louise Grogan, President
lg.naarva@yahoo.com

preciate hearing from their NAARVA Family. You all are a part of what makes NAARVA great!
Be well and stay safe,
Louise

28th NAARVA National Camp Rally

*Start 'em up, Roll 'em In
To the Showdown!*

July 18 - 25, 2021

Gillette, Wyoming

Hosted by: Central Region

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Dear NAARVA Members,

It is once again time for us to elect officers to the Executive Board of Directors of NAARVA, Inc. The Nominations/Election Committee received nominations for the positions of President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Recording Secretary, Assistant Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary. The candidates have submitted a brief statement of their qualifications and expectations for advancing NAARVA to a better organization. Please read the statements and be ready to cast your vote.

Ballots will be mailed to each member in the Spring, with directions for submitting your ballot to the Nominations/Election Committee.

The positions that did not receive a nominee were: Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Financial Secretary. These positions will be addressed at the 2021 National Rally in Gillette, Wyoming.

**Dorothy Redd, Chairperson,
Nominations/Election Committee**

~ Candidates for Elected Offices ~

For President...



LOUISE GROGAN

NAARVA Experience

President - 2019-2021

Regional Director Western Region 2010 to 2019; President 2007-2010 *California Cruisers*; Membership 2008 - *California Cruisers*.

Rally Chairperson:

1. "Wild Wild West" - Pahrump, NV; 18th Annual NAARVA Western Region Rally 2018.

2. "Team Spirit" - Buellton, CA; 17th Annual NAARVA Western Region Rally 2017.

3. "Family Reunion" - Kennewick, WA; 16th Annual NAARVA Western Region Rally 2016.

4. Motown - "We will be Dancing in the Streets", Mesa, AZ; 23rd NAARVA National Camp Rally 2015. National African Americans RV'ers Association.

tion.

5. "Under the Big Top" - Red Bluff, CA; 15th Annual NAARVA Western Region Rally 2014.

6. "Mardi Gras in the Desert" - Tucson, AZ; 14th Annual NAARVA Western Region Rally 2013.

7. NAARVA Across America - "Honoring our Veterans," Mesa, AZ; 27th NAARVA National Camp Rally 2019, National African American RV'ers Association.

As NAARVA President (2019/21), during this extraordinary time of the pandemic, along with the Executive Board, as the leader, we have improved communication and information to our membership.

Along with opportunities for some rally activity to continue work for the several committees. Other areas included, awarding of scholarships, supporting charitable organization and Association wide distribution of Members Packet and Constitution and By-Laws.

My work with NAARVA Western Region as Regional Director and President has included the development of clubs that continue to participate in National and Regional Rallies. I am known throughout the Association as a capable, effective leader and I would like to share this new sense of energy, style, and administrative skills to NAARVA along with the ability to build teams that make a difference in an organization that functions

primarily with volunteers. I attended and coordinated or assisted in the coordination and volunteered at several Rallies since attending my first Rally in 2005, 13 of which were National Rallies and 10 Western Rallies.

Employment

After 27 years of employment from 1980 to 2006 with Riverside County Department of Public Social Services, I retired as a Human Resources Administrative Compliance Office/Administrative Services Manager. As Administrative Services Manager I managed a unit of six employees responsible for workplace and safety processing of Workers Compensation and ADA Compliance for approximately 2,700 employees.

Community Volunteer Assignments

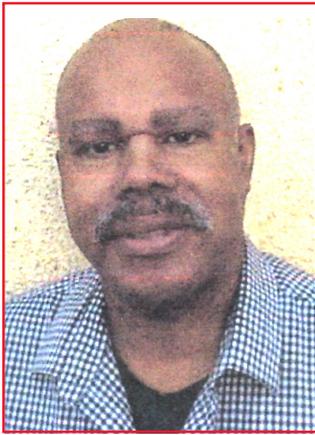
Human Relations Commission - City of Riverside - 9/90 - 3/2001; Chairperson 1996/97, 1997/98 and 1999/2000.

Inland Empire Coalition Against Hate Crimes - 2000; Representative for Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) - 1999; M-2 Prison Visitation Ministry - 1999; Toastmasters International - 1998; St. John Missionary Baptist Church - Member since 1983.

Community Recognition

NAACP Award - 1997; Community Involvement Human Relations Commission/Study Circles; YWCA Everyday Hero - 1998; Contribution to eliminating racism and hate in the Community; Assemblyman Rod Pacheco - April 2000 Community Service Recognition Award.

For President...



AUBREY MANUEL

I have been involved in some form of organized camping leadership for over 25 years. I have carried out the duties of each camp club officer position as prescribe by the club By-Laws.

I have over 30 years of experience in authority and management positions in a major corporation operations environment, a law enforcement agency, and a national non-profit organization. Noted strengths include creative problem solving, excellent leadership and project management skills. I have excellent skills in budgeting and expense control, as well outstanding interpersonal and presentation skills. I'm a superior motivator with the proven ability to lead and/or guide any organization to the attainment of its goals.

I am devoted to NAARVA goals and objectives. I have served as the 1st and 2nd Vice President of NAARVA, and as the Chairperson for the NAARVA 2018 National Membership Meeting.

I have served as the Chairperson for the Budget-Finance Committee, the By-Laws Committee, and Treasurer for NAARVA Western Region. I facilitated in the creation of a new NAARVA Chapter. I also was co-chairperson for the 2010 NAARVA Western Region Rally; which received many compliments about the quality of the Rally.

I was the NAARVA Western Regional Assistant Director. I was always available and willing to perform the duties of this position. I attended and represented the Western Region at the

2009 National Rally, including attending all national board meetings in place of the NAARVA Western Region Director, who was not able to attend the Rally.

As NAARVA President, I will continue to grow NAARVA with new members and open up lines of communication with the current members and the NAARVA Executive Board. I will also ensure that as a national camping organization, we improve the quality of our National Rally and increase participation in the event; I have attended this event since 2004.

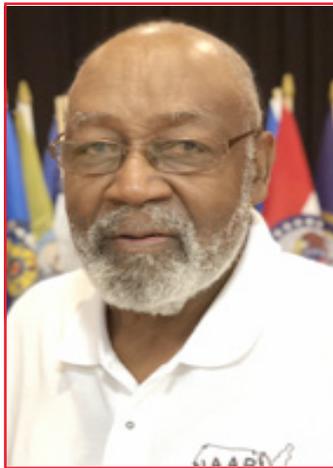
As President of NAARVA, I will with a team, ensure that NAARVA attains a 501(c)3 status from the IRS.

I have extensive parliamentary knowledge and leadership experience, which is essential for conducting productive meetings with great results.

I am extremely reliable and committed to a job until its completion.

I am prepared and willing to assume the responsibilities of NAARVA President.

For 1st Vice President...



JOE BRADY

My name is **Joe Brady** and I am running for re-election for 1st Vice President.

My wife, Pat, and I have been members of NAARVA since 1999. We have attended all but one National Rally.

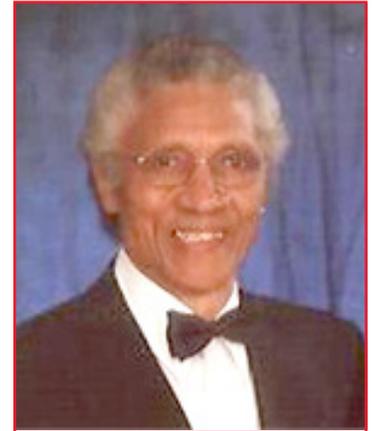
I have been active at the Region and National levels. I currently hold the position as 1st Vice President.

I retired from United Steel Workers of America after 40 years. During that time I held a number of positions

which included Financial Secretary, Treasurer, and President for 12 years. I believe the experience I received dealing with Corporate America and my union brothers and sisters gives me the ability to do the job as 1st Vice President.

Thank you in advance for your vote.

For 1st Vice President...



JOHN CANNON

After graduating from Kentucky State University in 1960 with a BS in Business Administration, my first job was a high school mathematics teacher in Appomattox, VA. From there I moved to Portsmouth, VA and taught mathematics at I.C. Norcum High School. During the four years in Portsmouth I also attended Hampton University where I earned a Master of Arts in Education. The following year I was awarded a National Science Foundation Academic Year Scholarship to attend the University of Oregon where I earned a Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Mathematics Studies.

After graduating from the University of Oregon in 1966, I began a 24-year career in telecommunications at AT&T Bell Laboratories doing Software Research and Development of large-scale computer systems. In 1973 I transferred to Seattle, WA and continued my career in telecommunications at Pacific Northwest Bell Telephone Company, (later known as US West, Qwest, Century Link, and Lumen), with corporate responsibilities for technical support for mini-computers, electronic switching systems, and

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Candidates for Elected Offices. . .

John Cannon...

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network operations. While working at Pacific Northwest Bell I attended the University of Washington and earned an Executive Master of Business Administration degree. After retiring from the telephone company in 1990, I resumed my teaching career as a mathematics professor at Seattle Central College and retired from teaching in 2000.

I have been a member of the *Funseekers/Rain City Travelers RV Club* and NAARVA for 19 years and was introduced to RVing and NAARVA by my late wife Conne when we met in 2001. I am an avid RV'er and enthusiastic supporter of NAARVA. I previously served five years as the Financial Secretary of the Western Region and have held the position of Assistant Treasurer of NAARVA. I currently serve as the Treasurer of NAARVA and am at the end of my second consecutive term in that position.

By seeking the office of 1st Vice President, it is my hope to continue to participate in building and guiding NAARVA into the future.

For 2nd Vice President...



RODNEY THOMPSON

Rodney Thompson is currently serving as 2nd Vice President of NAARVA and he is seeking re-election as 2nd Vice President of NAARVA.

Rodney is the Co-Chairperson for

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the Constitution and By-Laws. He is also the Membership Chairperson and Chairperson over the Youth Program. He has been a member of NAARVA and *Texas Sojourners* for nine years. He has held the position of Assistant Regional Director for the Southern Region for two terms.

Rodney is a United States Army Veteran who also attended Prairie View A&M University where he majored in Business. He retired from the United States Postal Service where he served as President, Vice President, OWCP Rep., and Steward of National Letter Carriers Association Branch 3867.

His goals and plans are to keep working to take the organization to the next level and continue to keep recruiting new members to grow this wonderful organization.

For Recording Secretary...

SYLVIA ALLEN

Objective:

To work collaboratively with the

NAARVA National Executive Board and the NAARVA organization and its members to support the organization's mission, vision, and goals. To use my administrative, financial, and management skills, to realize this objective.

NAARVA Experience: 2018 to Present member of *Minnesota Voyagers RV Club Charter #62*; President.

2019-Present: NAARVA National Recording Secretary

Record and distribute Executive Board minutes. Serves as co-chair of the National By-Laws committee. Keeps an accurate list of Executive Board minutes. Records minutes at the NAARVA General Assembly and Delegates meeting. Carry on tasks requested by the National President.



2018-Present: NAARVA Central Region Secretary.

Keep a list of all members of the Executive Board, record Executive Board minutes, keep minutes in organizational order meetings at the Executive level. Distribute pertinent information on a timely basis to the Chapter Presidents when requested. Carry on administrative tasks requested by the Director.

2017 - Present: UnitedHealth Group - Corporate Medical Affairs Executive Administrator. Managed schedule for Executive Vice President.

2014 - 2017: UnitedHealth Group - OptumRx Executive Assistant. Chief Financial Officer and SVP Pharmacy Operations (OptumRx an \$80B PBM).

Managed calendar and coordinated domestic/international travel. Reviewed legal statements, approved credit notes, affidavits and quarterly statements for signature and coordinated quarterly earnings documents for a \$90 billion segment.

Education: Capella University

Skills Component: Microsoft Office (Word, Outlook, PowerPoint & Excel), Visio.

Licenses: Notary - commission expires 2021.

Social Activities: President, 2007-2014, The 40 Club. A social club comprised of Forty African American couples from Minneapolis and St. Paul. The club was founded in the early 1900s.

President, 2002-2011, The Sterling Club's Women's Auxiliary. The Sterling Club, founded 1919, is the oldest African American Men's social club in Minnesota, owning its own building and organizes and meets for social activities and has a women's auxiliary branch.

Members - Twin City Reel & Trigger Club. A hunting, fishing and camping club founded in 1947 and is the only African American club of its kind in Minnesota. The club owns 12 acres of land with two peninsulas and plenty of fishing.

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Candidates for Elected Offices. . .

For Assistant Recording Secretary...



DOROTHY SMITH

My name is Dorothy Smith, and I am applying for the position of NAARVA's Assistant Recording Secretary. I have been a member of NAARVA since 2004 (NAARVA #94-2179). I am an active member in good standing with my local NAARVA club, *The Original Las Vegas Rolling Wheels RV Club* of the Western Region. My husband and I have attended every NAARVA National Rally since 2005 and have worked as needed wherever and whenever we could for NAARVA.

I am retired from the City of Las Vegas Human Resources department with over 30 years of service. A position I previously held was Chief of Records, where I supervised a staff of five employees and our Division was responsible for all employee's records and files. For over 15 years, I operated my own bookkeeping service where I kept financial records for several businesses and individuals.

I am currently the Financial Secretary for NAARVA. I have served for two consecutive terms (2017-2019 and 2019-2021). I feel my previous experience and background has equipped me to be a candidate for the position of Assistant Recording Secretary. As NAARVA's Assistant Recording Secretary I will always strive to have all reports completed in timely and correct manner, and if elected to the position of Assistant Recording Secretary,

I will continue to volunteer my services for the betterment of NAARVA.

My vision for NAARVA is that it will continue to grow for generations and be a camping way of life for all American Families and one of the greatest RV camping organizations. It is my goal to always promote the mission and values of NAARVA.

Thank you and I appreciate your VOTE!

For Treasurer...



ROBERT JONES

Hello, my name is Robert Jones and I am running for the position of Treasurer of NAARVA. I have been RV'ing with my wife Darlene for eight years and we have been members of NAARVA for the past seven years. I am dedicated to NAARVA and currently serve as the Financial Secretary for the Central Region and President of the *Ebony Dream Makers*.

I graduated from the Illinois Institute of Technology with a Degree in Mechanical Engineering. I worked in Power Generation for over 30 years in power plants located in Wisconsin, North Carolina and Michigan. In my career I have managed many engineering and construction projects. Later in my career I became a Power Plant Site manager where I also provided oversight of the Labor, Operation and Maintenance budgets. I feel that these job responsibilities have provided me with the skills necessary to be success-

ful in this position.

My goal as Treasurer will be to ensure accurate financial records and comprehensive reports to the Board and our membership.

For Financial Secretary...



ANNETTE M. MAYFIELD

Annette Mayfield was born and raised in Topeka, Kansas. She attended public schools in Topeka then she located to Georgia in 1993 and continued her education. She received a diploma in Medical Assisting in 2010 from Everest Institute and was awarded an Associate degree in Applied Science from Georgia Piedmont College. Now she is enrolled in Clayton State University pursuing a bachelor's degree in administrative management.

Work Experience: She was employed with Waffle House as a Master Grill Operator from 1997 until 2017, completing several Safe Serv qualifications. In 2014 she took a position as afterschool caregiver with Peter Pan Daycare until 2016. She became a paratransit bus driver for Marta Mobility from 2016 to 2018. Then she received her CDL class B and joined the school district as a Bus Driver for Rockdale (2018-2019 school year) and later for Newton County, 2019 to present.

NAARVA Experience: Annette Mayfield has been an active member with NAARVA since 2011 after she attended her first rally in Berrien

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Candidates for Elected Offices. . .

Annette M. Mayfield...

(Continued from page 5)

Springs, MI.

Position held within NAARVA are included: Youth Coordinator 2014 to present, she coordinates all youth activities for the national rally. The youth have a structured schedule outlined to fit the young minds that will be in attendance. From arts & crafts, to games, and outside activities to let the children stay active and healthy.

Assistant Recording Secretary 2019 to present, where she maintains and coordinates with the 2nd Vice President on membership. In the absence of the Secretary, takes the minutes and keeps the flow of the meeting in line with the agenda. She sends out the quarterly roster to the Regional Directors and updates delegates and chapter information such as dues. *Georgia Easy Riders RV Club:* She has held the position of hospitality since 2017 until present. She reaches out to members in times of comfort and sends out cards to those that might need a pick me up. She recently joined the executive board for the *Easy Riders* as an Assistant Treasurer which in the absence of the Treasurer, reports all financial change and transactions to the board (2019 to present).

Vision for NAARVA: To help build a stronger membership, by continuing to promote NAARVA to those who are seeking to learn a new way for adventure and meeting new people. To help maintain accurate financial records that are received in the organization and forward all receipts to all parties.

Easy Way to Pay NAARVA Dues!

Eventbrite, a form of Paypal, provides an easy way to pay your dues and Charter renewals.

Check it out at naarva.com

Big Rolling Wheels

The Negative Impact of COVID-19 on RVing

In order to respond to the restrictions placed on us by the invasion of the COVID -19 Virus, and the resulting pandemic, many NAARVAites have not gone far from home in our motorhomes. Others of us have not moved our RVs at all since last spring. However, none of that should deter us from recording our activities, no matter how inconsequential the activities might appear to be. To keep the spirit alive, I have been told that some couples have been known to go to their yards and storage places to get in their rigs to “simulate an adventure”, just to keep the RV feeling alive.

No matter what your activity has been, and as your time on the road increases, others of us want to see it or read about it. So this comes as a reminder that at the annual National Rally you can enter your travels in “*The Big Rolling Wheels Contest*” as a Narrative entry, or a Pictorial entry. The Selection Committee will be looking for lots to read and lots to look at, to make a decision on the 2021 Winners.

Start recording now or as soon as you hit the road.

Submitted by Anne Steele-Holsey

PRESTON & SANDRA National Scholarship Co-Persons

The 2021 NAARVA Scholarship applications will be posted on NAARVA website. We encourage all NAARVA members to keep alert and watchful. Scholarship application forms will be available on the site during the month of March.



NAARVA.com

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ARTICLES

Submissions chosen for publication may be corrected for length and clarity. Any submission to *The Voice* may be published in any issue.

Letter from Gwynne Toney...

As the editor-in-chief of The NAARVA VOICE, you learn to keep your eyes and ears open to anything RV related that might interest your readers. Because I began writing this in early April 2020, my thoughts are consumed by all the things that are unfolding around me. RV rallies are being canceled. It's just the start of the Covid-19 Pandemic, followed closely by the Racial and Social unrest and protests, Police brutality, Black Lives Matter, the Wild Fires in California, hurricanes, economic upheaval, stay at home orders affecting workers, businesses, parents, and students. Our daily existence has been put on pause with no end in sight. I think we all entered this new decade 2020 with high hopes for something better.

I have sheltered in place consistently for eight months and while I have missed my family and loved ones, I have cherished the time with my husband, Bruce. We have had plenty of time to reflect on our long and short-term goals, which include a lifestyle of travelling. So, while sheltering in place has not been too much of a sacrifice for us, I especially miss interacting with strangers who became friends as we travelled and certainly the camaraderie of our NAARVA family.

If we refuse to learn from adversity, then what is it for? I reflect on the largeness of the world and the smallness of my place in it. After devoting 10 years to the position of Editor-in-Chief of the NAARVA Voice Newsletter and living through times of change in my life, I had an epiphany - it was time to move on. Moving on from that place of letting go of what is and having faith in what will be.

Thank you for entrusting me with your newsletter. Thank you for making it so hard to say goodbye. Once life returns to normal or better than normal - may the road ahead curve with excitement and may your next great adventure be even more memorable than the last.

I will see you on the road...



Gwynne Toney
Outgoing NAARVA Voice
Editor

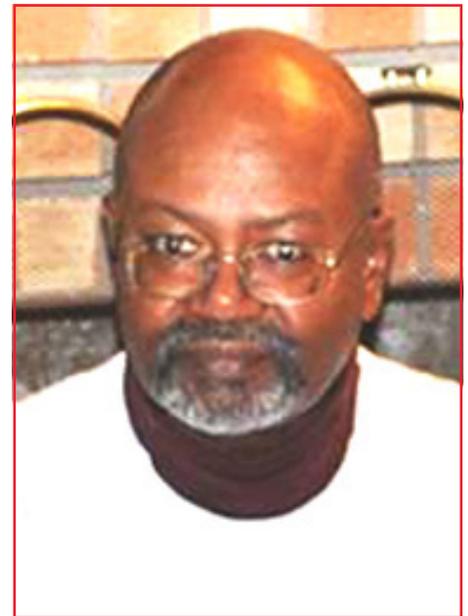
From the NAARVA Voice Editor...

It is an honor to take on this role as the editor of the NAARVA VOICE. Gwynne Toney has developed a newsletter that proudly reflects the NAARVA organization. It is my job to build on this foundation while continuing to profile the NAARVA organization and its members.

Some of my background: I am a retired Lockheed Martin Systems/Project Engineer. I have been a NAARVA member since 2010. My local club membership is with the Rocky Mountain RV Rollers of the NAARVA Central Region. I am currently the editor of the Central Region View, as well as the Rocky Mountain RV Rollers' newsletters. From this position I am able to see across a broad swath of the NAARVA organization(s) and have some insight into the many endeavors and activities in which NAARVA members and clubs are participating. I am excited to be able to have a role in formatting and communicating the news of these undertakings to our members.

Our road ahead still runs through the routes of enjoying travel, fun, food and the RVing lifestyle. As on all roads we will run into detours; the most prominent of which is now, the corona virus, and its effect on our lives. In the midst of all this and other recent changes, we can take a breath in a change in government, our continued embracing of the hopes and core beliefs that have, and continue to fortify us, as a people, and enjoyment of the closeness, and compassions we share with family and friends.

So it is with this direction that I look forward to sharing with you many more of our NAARVA experiences and achievements. Here is looking toward a safe, happy, and prosperous year.



James Gregory
NAARVA Voice Editor
Imscholar2@cs.com

James

Obstacles Are Pathways to New Experiences!

While for some people, obstacles are viewed as an enemy of success; for others, obstacles are pathways to new opportunities. Often, those new opportunities become lifelong involvements. Please know that every obstacle is not necessarily a negative experience. It appears that God's Old Testament promises to "...do a new thing..." would be preceded by a "wilderness" and a "desert"; both of which conjure up mental images of hardship and struggle! But within that negative imagery, God promised "...I will even make a way in the wilderness" and will provide "rivers in the desert."

There is no question that obstacles often force us to change our intended patterns; but, remember that change is not necessarily bad. Never make the mistake of equating the necessity of change with defeat; rather, view unexpected change as an opportunity for new horizons, as a pathway to a new experience.

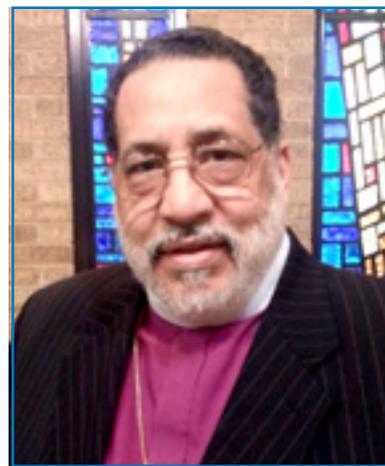
My wife and I often travel from St. Louis to Minneapolis by way of what is referred to as "the Avenue of the Saints." Several years ago, during one of our winter trips, we were caught in the worst blizzard I have ever witnessed; it made driving hazardous! My prayer was that the bad weather would dissipate miraculously and we would be able to complete our trip back to St. Louis. Needless to say, that did not happen; the storm only intensified! In fact, it got so bad that we had to quickly find a place of refuge. I discovered that we were just outside of a college campus in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. I quickly pulled into the parking lot; we got out and rushed into the nearest building. I failed, however, to notice the marquee on the building which designated it as a ho-

tel run by the college's Department of Hotel and Restaurant Management. It was staffed by students majoring in the art of all phases of operating and serving a luxury hotel and gourmet restaurant.

I went to the front desk and asked if we could get a room for the night. They very politely obliged us; we checked in and went to our room. It was indeed a most festive and pleasant room! After refreshing ourselves, we went down to the lobby to check out the restaurant! Wow, what a discovery! We were seated and given the menu and a glass of water in a fine crystal goblet. As we looked at the menu, we were astonished at the delicacies that were offered for dinner that night. We ordered dishes that we had not only never eaten, but had never heard of. They were cooked in the fashion of exquisite French cuisine. It was absolutely fabulous!

I said to my wife, "What if there had not been a blizzard? What if we had decided not to risk driving that day?" What was once a dull trip through the farmlands of northern Missouri and the prairies of Iowa has, as a result of an uncomfortable obstacle, become the highlight of our most frequent travels.

As RV'ers, we sigh at the reality



THE REV. JESSE BATTLE
National Chaplain, NAARVA
bishopjessebattle@gmail.com



that we have not been able to enjoy our local club campouts, our regional rallies, and national camp rally. For some, the disappointments of the past year have created a spirit of boredom that has morphed into a stressful existence. But, for others, this season of RV inactivity has given us an opportunity to complete some unfinished business, or create a new interest that could possibly result in a plethora of life-giving involvements that will be with us for the rest of our lives. Welcome to new opportunities!

Bereavement Information

A NAARVA member's death announcement should be given to your Chapter President, who will pass it along to your Regional Director. The Regional Director will submit the list of names to **Beth Gill, Corresponding Secretary, at przr50@gmail.com. The list should be sent by June 15, 2021.**

*Start 'em up, Roll 'em In
To the Showdown!*



28th NAARVA
National Camp Rally
July 18—25, 2021

CAM-PLEX EVENT CENTER
Hosted by:
CENTRAL REGION

Akron Adventurers Kampers Club, Buckeye Explorers, Ebony Dream Makers, Free Rollers Camping Club, Indiana Soul
Journers RV Club, Inter State Nomads, Kentuckiana RVer's, Lake Erie Travelers, Minnesota Voyagers RV Club,
Mo/Kan Road Runners, Ohio Buckeye Road Runners, Rocky Mountain RV Rollers, Sankofa Camping Club,
Steele City Cruisers, and Windy City Travelers

CENTRAL REGION

Greetings NAARVA Family and Friends,

The Central Region is excited about hosting the 28th Annual National Rally to be held July 18th - 25th in Gillette, Wyoming. The Executive Board, co-chairs, and the presidents in the Central Region, are looking forward to having a successful rally.

During this time of the pandemic we have learned a lot about ourselves and how resilient we can be. We've learned the steps necessary in our effort to keep ourselves, our loved ones, and others safe. One of our main goals for the rally is to keep safety as our TOP priority. As such, we will continue to monitor COVID infection rates and hospitalization rates as we get closer to July and adjust accordingly. This rally has been modified to incorporate safety measures in accordance to guidelines provided by the county's health department.

I can say, with confidence, that you will be completely satisfied with this rally. Our goal is to keep our members safe while having a great time camping. We hope you all will join us in Gillette! Now let's *Start 'em up, Roll 'em in to the Showdown!*



Brian Skipper
Central Region Director
btmns@yahoo.com

NAARVA Central Region Welcomes Their Newest Club Minnesota Voyagers, Charter #62

The *MN Voyagers* received their NAARVA Charter in 2020. We accept membership from NAARVA members living in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Iowa and full timers looking for a RV Club home. Look at our calendar on the NAARVA website and make plans to join us for a campout and enjoy some of the best trout and bass fishing Minnesota has to offer.



Alisha Gusdal
Secretary



Gary & Sylvia Allen, President
Connie & Charles Jefferson, Vice President



Baran St. Michaels, Treasurer
& Sue St. Michaels



~ Crystal A. Fitts Receives Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing ~

Crystal is the granddaughter of Alex and Jo Ann Fitts, who are members of the *Rocky Mountain RV Rollers* (Central Region).

Crystal graduated Cum Laude (3.6 GPA) from Coe College on May 10, 2020, via Zoom. Coe College is in Rapids City, Iowa.

Crystal was the recipient of a \$1,000.00 Scholarship from NAARVA in July, 2016.

She began her Nursing career in the ICU Unit at Penrose Hospital in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in August, 2020.

The Rollers are very proud of Crystal and we wish her much success as she enters the Nursing field in an unprecedented time.

We know that she will be a valuable asset to her community. Stay healthy, Crystal! **Thank You for your Service!**



EASTERN REGION

As we encourage you to join us at our rally, we are hopeful that this year will be a year of Healing and Blessings of the vaccine that will protect us as we gather among our camping family at this rally. Therefore, I welcome you to attend the 2021 NAARVA Eastern Region Annual Camp Rally at Carolina Pines RV Resort in Conway, SC May 13-16, 2021. If you wish to enter the resort before May 13, 2021, we are offering Early Bird admission commencing Sunday, May 9th to Wednesday, May 12th. Please see registration form for fee and indicate your desired dates www.naarvaeast.com www.naarva.com.

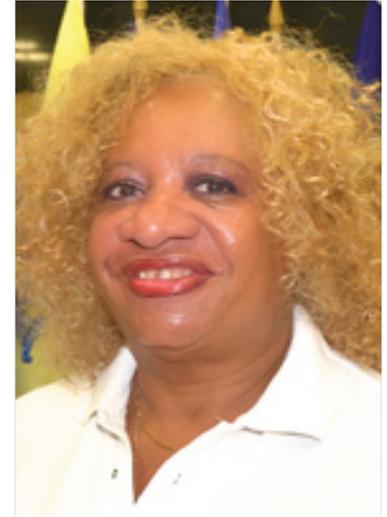
Due to COVID-19 no tours are scheduled for this rally. Also, during the rally masks must be worn according to CDC regulations for South Carolina. Meals will be served as take out, and a menu selection is included in the registration packet. Your name tag must always be worn especially when picking up meals. Meals will be distributed according to your menu selection; there will be NO substitution at pickup time. Everyone's temperature will be taken upon entering the rally area. Carolina Pines RV Resort offers accommodations suited for campers and glampers. RV sites accommodate all sizes of RVs with 20/30/50 amp service, with full hookup, plenty of room for slides, fire ring, picnic table, free Wi-Fi & cable. As you relax on your spacious back-in RV site; enjoy the Serenity pool/lap pool/spa, indoor pool and hot tubs, bowl a few frames at the mini bowling alley, putt a round of golf on the mini golf course, play basketball on the basketball court, play pickle ball & corn hole, pitch horseshoes at the horseshoe pits, play pool in the billiards room, work out in the fitness center, or meditate in the Yoga studio. The resort also has a dog park/dog wash for your furry travel companions, laundry facilities that use credit/debit cards, comfort stations, playground, camp store and shuttle service. If you

don't feel like cooking or leaving the resort to get a bite to eat, you're welcome to dine at the on-site, full service Restaurant & Bar. Feeling pampered, orders can also be delivered to your RV site or cottage.

Carolina Pines RV Resort offers spacious cottages for individuals who will not be living in a RV during the rally. For this accommodation you must be registered for the rally by purchasing a camp pass. Please contact Belinda Moore, Director of NAARVA Eastern Region to plan arrangements to rent a cottage for the rally. Additional information regarding this in the registration packet.

Golf carts will be available to rent for a fee. If you choose to bring your "Personal Electric Golf Cart" proof of insurance and a onetime fee of \$30, good for the duration of the rally. If you want to rent a golf cart, please indicate so on your registration form.

For fun and excitement come ready to play card bingo and participate in the cake walk for delicious treats. Club members/person who wish to park together, must put their club's/person's name on their registration form. This



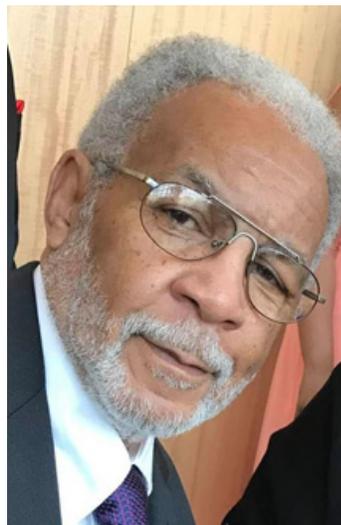
Belinda Moore
Director, Eastern Region
queenbee2300@aol.com

will ensure that you are parked together. You will not need to arrive together. If you don't put that name on your registration form, we can't guarantee you will be parked together. There will be NO ON-SITE registration for this rally.

We look forward to your attendance at this rally as there is fun, fellowship with family and friends waiting just for you. Please stay safe during this pandemic.

Respectfully Submitted,
Belinda (Bee) Moore, Director
NAARVA Eastern Region

Remembering Meredith Anding Jr.



MEREDITH ANDING, JR.



Meredith Anding, Jr. was a Civil Rights Activist Icon who was a member of the Tougaloo Nine college students. The Tougaloo Nine were students who attended the historically Black institution Tougaloo College. They staged a peaceful "read in" at Jackson's white only library on March 27, 1961. These students were arrested and charged with breach of the peace. This protest is widely considered the first student protest of segregation at a public institution in Mississippi. These students noticed there were major disparities between what resources were available for Black residents at their library compared to the library available to white residents. The materials were generally secondhand at the Black library and many books that students needed for class assignments were missing.

Meredith understood what Dr. Martin Luther
(Continued on page 12)

Meredith Anding, Jr.

(Continued from page 11)

King, Jr. meant when he said, “The time is always right to do what is right” and that’s why Meredith participated in the “read in” protest.

After the Tougaloo Nine protest the college became known as the “cradle of the Civil Rights Movement” and a “safe haven for activism.”

In 1962, in response to the protest, the American Library Association membership adopted a new policy that opened up membership to everyone regardless of race.

Meredith was a member of the U.S. Air Force for four years.

Meredith earned his Master’s degree in Mathematics from the University of Buffalo. He taught at the State University of New York and Niagara University until his retirement in 2007. Meredith and his wife, Maurice of fifty years, joined NAARVA in 1996 and attended their first NAARVA National Camp Rally in 1997. They joined the first Region of NAARVA; the Eastern Region in 1999 and were members of the first chartered club of NAARVA, *The New York Ravens*. Meredith, and his wife Maurice, served as Chairpersons of the Nomination Committee for NAARVA and NAARVA Eastern Region for numerous years. Meredith also served as past president of *The New Year Ravens*. Eastern Region

Meredith and his wife Maurice, attended NAARVA and NAARVA Eastern Region Camp Rallies until his diagnosis of leukemia stopped his travels.

Meredith passed peacefully on January 8, 2021 after losing his battle with leukemia. Meredith will truly be missed by all of his camping family.

May we all remember to respect each other as one image created under God. We can do this in every action each day with every person. Perfection is not a reality, but sincerity, moral character, kindness and effort which can be achieved.



**“History and Heritage”
“Celebrating”**



“African American History Makers”

**Carolina Pines RV
Resort Conway, SC
May 13-16, 2021**

WESTERN REGION

Greetings from the Western Region

It is my sincere hope that all of you have remained healthy and free of the Covid-19 virus, and are planning, if not already received, the vaccine. We have experienced nearly a full year of limited contact with family, friends and club members. But brighter days are ahead for us, as we rely on our faith and science to get us through.

The Western Region has completed the planning stages of our 2021 Rally. This year's theme is "Western Region Goes Hollywood". The Rally is being held at Durango RV Resort in Red Bluff, California, June 22 thru 27. The sun will be shining down on us as we resume the RV lifestyle, gathering together and sharing stories of our experiences.

Club sponsored Lunch on Thursday and Breakfast on Friday will be included for all attending. Tours and seminars will fill the week, as well as regional meetings.

The culmination of the Rally will be our Saturday night Red Carpet "Glampers Ball". Get dressed up and walk the Red Carpet, take pictures in front of the Hollywood Red Carpet backdrop and enjoy a delicious catered meal, followed by the Western Region Cake Auction.

To register for the 2021 Rally, go to NAARVAWesternregion.com, and click on the link to the 2021 Western Region Rally, download the forms and send them in.

As we prepare for the upcoming NAARVA National Rally in Gillette, Wyoming, we invite all those from other regions who are heading west, to consider joining the Western Region for our Rally. It's three weeks before the National Rally, and what better time to develop new and rekindle old friendships. We'll show you a good time with plenty Western Region hospitality.

Bionca and Son's RV'ing...

When Bionca Smith got tired of the traditional life, she opened up a whole new world to her 10 year-old son.

Frustrated and on the verge of tears, she posted on Facebook: "I want to travel the world and explore hidden, wonderful gems with my son." When someone replied, "What's stopping you?" I felt a click inside, says Bionca. I realized that the only thing stopping me was stuff. Everything I'd worked so hard for was bogging me down.

As she stared at the Facebook response, Bionca made a promise to her son. "I wanted to show him there was a lot more to life than putting all your money toward bills and not having

enough time to spend with your loved ones. I decided to get rid of everything and start traveling the world in 30 days. That's where it all began," she said.

Eventually, Bionca soon grew tired of booking flights, cars and places to stay. She had seen videos of van life in the U.S. and the concept—living in a tricked-out van and exploring the country—appealed to her. "I loved the idea of not paying rent and spending on experiences rather than things." She picked her hometown of St. Louis as their starting point and they flew back.

Hitting the Road

Within weeks, Bionca found a 1989 Ford Econoline with a kitchen, a toilet,

a shower and two beds for \$4,900. "It seemed like a spaceship at first," she says. "There were so many buttons, compartments and levers."

With the van running, the two explored the red rocks of Sedona, AZ; toured Yellowstone National Park; drove through Montana, and had an impromptu science class poking around tidal pools along California's coastline. "So many things he learns about in school are right here at our fingertips," says Bionca. Sometimes they stayed in campgrounds; at other times they "stealth camped" on city streets. "Stealth camping is when you park and sleep in a place you're not supposed to be," says Bionca. "Usually there's no problem, but one time

we both hid up on the top bunk so nobody would know we were there."

While they travel, Bionca makes a point of volunteering in the communities they visit. "We feed the homeless, work in animal shelters, clean up beaches and campgrounds," she says. "We strive to give back and encourage others to do the same." The two might live in a house again someday but don't plan to settle down anytime soon. For now, they enjoy the simplicity and freedom of van life. "We've learned that we should enjoy every moment and truly embrace what life brings," says Bionca. "We're defining what success means for our family." GT



CHARLES GILL
Western Region Director
cdg2511@comcast.net





**NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN RV
ASSOCIATION
"NAARVA"**

WESTERN REGION GOES

★ **"HOLLYWOOD"** ★

COME OUT AND JOIN US ON THE RED CARPET

JUNE 22 THRU JUNE 27, 2021

**DURANGO RV RESORT
100 LAKE AVENUE
RED BLUFF, CA 96080**

REGISTRATION FORM COMING SOON

No Man or Woman is an Island

“A Look at Ecology”

Most of us have heard the saying that no man is an island meaning that all organisms are interdependent. Our ecological health, past, present, and future is included in that dependency. The footprint we leave upon the earth will remain for future generations. One of the past trademarks of our NAARVA family has been to plant a tree, which is both symbolic and beneficial to the environment by decreasing carbon pollution and thereby decreasing global warming. We have also been asked to evaluate and change our habits as joint caretakers of this land. A glaring recent example of the benefits of changing habits is that NASA researchers have found that since the Covid-19 pandemic travel limitations began, global pollution has been significantly reduced. So where can we go from here?

Some items we as individuals can achieve are:

- Speak to family and friends by phone or through social media remind-



ing them of recycling, reusing and repurposing products.

- Contact elected officials to encourage laws that penalize companies that pollute excessively, and benefit people who practice green energy through the use of solar panels, wind energy or electric cars. Reinsulate or weatherize your home and/or RV.

- Buy more energy efficient appliances.

- Reduce water waste.

- Drive less.

- Drive a fuel-efficient vehicle.

To expand on the last point, many of us are familiar with DEF systems, or Diesel Exhaust Fluids sprayed into the exhaust system to cause the harmful exhaust pollution to be broken down into nitrogen and water. This

helps our diesel trucks or RVs to become more efficient. Now to go a step further, what about our tow vehicle? When we need a new tow, let's consider a hybrid or electric vehicle to save fuel, money and the environment! By 2025, many vehicles should attain over 50 miles per gallon. This will cut emissions in half compared to average 2010 vehicles. Now taking it one step further, maintaining our vehicles by keeping tires at the proper inflation, changing air filters and keeping them in tune further boosts our gas mileage. All these steps reduce our carbon footprint and slows global warming.

Stay tuned for other tips and be ready to share your thoughts for great ideas for NAARVA to make a bigger impact relating to Ecology.

Technology

There's an App for That!

By **Bruce Toney, Recreation.gov**

As we all get ready to service our recreational vehicles in preparation for travel to attend our Regional Spring and National Camp rallies, don't forget to visit a National Park along your journey. If you purchased your National Park Lifetime Senior Pass for \$10 prior to August 28, 2017 you are one of the lucky ones. After that date the National Park "America the Beautiful Lifetime Senior Pass" has increased to \$80. The price of the Lifetime Senior Pass had not changed since 1994. So why am I discussing the National Park Senior Pass with you in this article? It's still considered a bargain among many travelers simply to experience and visit our national treasures. However, here is a free app that will make experiencing our national parks more enjoyable and easier to explore, as you begin to plan your road trip.

Adventure is at your fingertips with the [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) mobile app! From booking a weekend getaway to planning a cross-country road trip, the [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) app helps you find and reserve campsites, review location details for your trip, and quickly access information on past and upcoming reservations. The [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) app is your on-the-go solution for making reservations or purchasing passes for incredible destinations all over the United States. Return to your favorite spot or find a new one by searching for the location that's right for you.

Whether you're looking for a campsite in your zip code or across the country, the [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) app allows you to compare and book the perfect spot for your next camping trip.

This app is available for free for both iPhone and Android users.



BRUCE TONEY

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Your Health Matters: RVing is Good for Your Health

An active lifestyle is good for your health. This can be interpreted in many different ways as everyone will have different activities that they enjoy and like to pursue for purposes of health and pleasure. Whether it be a nice morning walk or jog, an intense gym session or any other style of exercise or movement, we all stand to benefit from getting out of bed and shaking the dust out of our bones. In addition to a consistent exercise routine, another great way to increase your wellbeing, both physical and mental, is to get out in nature and experience the world away from the hustle and bustle of modern life. This can be done in a variety of ways but if you are one of the lucky individuals who have adopted the RV lifestyle, it can be a one-way ticket to better overall health and peace of mind! Let's take a look at how RV camping can make you happier, healthier and altogether amped up on life.

The Drive to De-Stress

High stress levels are an accepted part of our modern lives. The demands of a career and supporting a family take discipline, focus and plenty of energy. While the rewards of these lifelong pursuits are well worth it, the everyday pursuit of progress can lead to a steady stream of stress for even the calmest people out there. Consistent high stress levels can quickly turn in to a variety of negative health issues including weight gain, heart disease, a weakened immune system and depression. The science behind how stress can impact health is well documented but each individual has to cope with things in their own unique way.

The idea to drive around to de-stress may sound crazy if you have a daily commute full of stop-and-go traffic. But packing up the RV and heading out on a trip is an entirely different experience than that daily grind. An RV trip typically is a vacation or break from the rat-race - surefire methods to escape common stressors and put a smile

on your face. Regardless of where you may be headed, the simple act of committing to some time away from home and work life can ease tension and provide an outlet to relax and enjoy the ride on an entirely different level. Sure, there are times when driving a large vehicle down the road can be stressful, but the adventure it instills far outweighs the normal everyday activities and demands that can lead to constant stress.

Nature is Nurture

The old adage "stop and smell the roses" rings true here and can be tweaked to read "start and smell the engine" for us RV enthusiasts. Well, don't actually smell the engine but rather, start of the RV and use it to get to some awesome campground near you to escape the rat-race for a night, week or month! Spending time in nature is a great way to improve your health and unwind. Many campgrounds offer easy access to different activities that can help your health and head. Go for a hike on a trail into the woods or a walk on the beach. Take a quick dip in a lake or river. After you have had your fill of active events, light up the campfire and stare at the stars. Take some deep breaths and soak it all in.

After a few days out in nature, you are sure to feel more calm and happier overall. Sleeping habits can also improve while you are out in nature which has a direct link to your body's ability to recover from exercise, improve your immune system and instill a better state of mental health. Nature is the original nurturer and some time spent away from home and out in the wild places that still surround our modern lives is an easy trick towards better health. Use your RV as a tool to access these places and you are sure to be rewarded with benefits of body and spirit.

Disconnect and Discover

Some folks see camping as a way to escape and disconnect from the

modern world and some like to bring the modern world with them in the form of a fully stocked and equipped RV. The choice is a personal preference, and both are great ways to enjoy camping and nature. Regardless, if you choose to spend your nights telling stories around the fire or watching a movie from the comfort of your RV, enjoy the simplicity and comfort that the lifestyle offers. The simple fact that you've brought a mobile home to some far flung location should bring a smile to your face.

If you really want to feel the freedom that RV life can offer, I would highly suggest disconnecting from it all for at least a few days of your trip. This means turning off your cell phone, stocking up on supplies and just being at ease with the perfect camp spot you've found. Slowing down the pace of life is a great way to reset and recharge the inner batteries. Disconnecting from the many distractions we all place on ourselves can bring new insights and happiness. Take a break from the demands you place on yourself and you will be sure to feel lighter, brighter and full of life. Giving yourself the time and space to sit quietly reading a book or just sitting in a lounge chair under the awning or your RV provides a peaceful fulfillment that cannot be replicated.

RVing is good for your health. I said it. I've seen it. I've felt it. By allowing you to escape normal life, even for a weekend, your RV provides an outlet to improved overall health. Take advantage of the opportunity and you just might feel like an entirely new person in body and mind. - GT

(Excerpted from article by Caleb Summeril 09-06-2019)

**Deadline for NAARVA
VOICE Spring
newsletter is
April 15, 2021.
Send information to:
lmscholar2@cs.com**