

THE NAARVA



VOICE

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 4

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FALL 2022 (Oct., Nov., Dec.)

From The President's Desk...

Greetings NAARVA:

As I near the last six months of leadership with NAARVA, I already see myself seated near a campfire after enjoying the many NAARVA activities of Regional and National Camp Rallies.

I am distracted by all the fun, food, and fellowship planned for the 30th Annual Camp Rally — *“Then and Now. It’s A Celebration!”* The Western Region and the 2023 Rally Planning Team are ready to present and support one of the most memorable celebrations ever.

The impact of the 2020’s pandemic continues to change the lives of our families and friends today. The loss of loved ones, serious illnesses, and our economy; packages are smaller, and the cost is higher.

Well, let’s join in turning the tide! You can get your big package at the 30th Annual Camp Rally, tours, take a day cruise to Catalina Island, walk the coastline of San Diego, an afternoon at the Winery, jazz by the poolside, seminars, and games. Yes, all that and more!

So, make Hemet, California, your vacation destination; travel to California to work on your travel bucket list. California is the home to Riverside-Mission Inn, Disneyland Park, Santa Barbara, San Francisco, the Golden State Bridge, Yosemite National Park, Palm Springs, Death Valley, Redwood National Park, and other historical landmarks.

Attending the National Camp Rally brings together friends, new and forever friends. NAARVA has a long history of building friendships by sharing meals, talents, concerns, experiences,

and travels!

The 30th Annual Camp Rally is your opportunity to pour into NAARVA, join the future of things to come, create an adventure, and be one of the many that will say, I was there and had a great time!

Watch for information regarding the 2023 National and Regional Camp Rallies, and I hope to see you in 2023!

**Best Regards,
Louise Grogan
NAARVA
President**



NAARVA EXECUTIVE BOARD - 2023-2025



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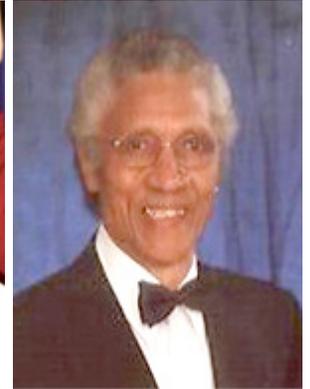
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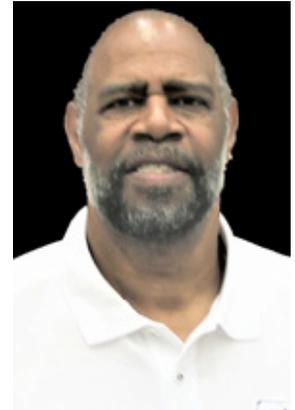
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2023-2025 NAARVA National Executive Board Election of Officers



To be eligible to participate as a candidate in the National Executive Board elections, your Nomination form, and biographical statement of qualifications must have been received by 7:00 CST, December 31, 2022, at dotredd1@gmail.com.

See the Winter 2023 edition of the NAARVA Voice, and other communications, for candidate bios, ballot distribution information, and the date by which the ballots are to be returned to the Nomination/Election team.

National Executive Board Duties and Responsibilities From By-Laws of the National African American RVers - Final July 2021

PRESIDENT

The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the organization. He/she shall appoint all persons and committees not otherwise provided for in the Constitution and By-Laws; act on behalf of the organization between annual meetings; provide direct supervision of the Administrative Office of the Organization; preside at the annual National Camp Rally Meeting; and carry out all other duties usually performed by the Office of President.

1st VICE PRESIDENT

The 1st Vice President shall assume the Office of the President in the event of death, resignation, or removal from office. He/she shall preside over all meetings in the absence or incapacity of the President; shall serve as National Camp Rally Coordinator, and additionally, shall serve as chairperson of the Rally Oversight Team, including, but not limited to, recruiting replacement members for the team, he/she shall refer final selection to the President for appointment; and shall carry out all other duties assigned by the President or the executive Board.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

The 2nd President shall preside in the absence of the President and the 1st Vice President. He/she shall serve as a liaison to the Youth Program Coordinator, and as liaison to the Constitution and By-Laws Committee; and shall carry out all other duties assigned by the President or the Executive Board.

GENERAL SECRETARY

The General Secretary shall exercise oversight of all secretarial duties; keep a list of all members of the executive Board, keep in permanent form a complete and accurate record of all organizational meetings at the national level; prepare and distribute to the executive Board members, within 45 days, the minutes of its meetings; prepare and read the minutes to the membership at the Annual National Camp Rally Meeting. He/she shall perform all other duties as the By-Laws of the organization may prescribe; and shall carry out all other duties assigned by the President or the Executive Board.

ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY

The Assistant General Secretary shall perform the duties of the General Secretary in his/her absence; keep and updated list of current members; certify Governing Assembly attendees; and monitor all membership activities at the Annual National Camp Rally, and shall carry out all other duties assigned by the President or the Executive Board.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

The Financial Secretary shall verify all monies received by the NAARVA office through bank deposit, PayPal, Square credit card, and all other sources; verify weekly revenue reports received from the NAARVA Office and make corrections if necessary; prepare monthly, quarterly, and annual financial membership reports; prepare monthly, quarterly,

and annual revenue reports of the NAARVA merchandise sold; attend the Annual NAARVA National Camp Rally; receive all monies from every source at the Annual NAARVA National Camp Rally; maintain a three (3) part money receipt book at the National Camp Rally; to give copies to the following:

1. Member from whom money is received;
2. Assistant (Rally) Treasurer if applicable;
3. Copy for Financial Secretary's records. In addition,, the Financial Secretary shall verify Membership of Members attending the National Camp Rally, and collect dues that cannot be verified as current; keep and accurate list of all NAARVA Chapters; notify Regional Directors annually when chapter dues will expire.

He/she must be proficient in the use of Microsoft Excel, and Microsoft Word programs; must have and use the latest version of Microsoft Windows; must be a member in good standing with NAARVA and his/her Region; and shall carry out all other duties assigned by the President or the Executive Board.

ASSISTANT FINANCIAL SECRETARY

The Assistant Financial Secretary shall perform the duties of Financial Secretary in his/her absence. Additionally he/she shall assist in developing a budget and coordinate audit as
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Executive Board Duties...

(Continued from page 3)

needed; and shall carry out all other duties assigned by the President or the Executive Board.

TREASURER

The Treasurer shall receive all funds paid to the organization; render a receipt for same, and forthwith deposit same in the bank designated as a depository by the Executive Board, on the first available business day, credited to the organization; disburse funds by check signed by the Treasurer and the National President, keep correct account of disbursements, under the proper dates, with the proper amounts and purposes; at such time the Governing Assembly may direct, or the President requires, present for examination his/her books, papers, etc., that are necessary for the proper auditing of his/her accounts; prepare and present reports to the Executive Board and the Governing Assembly, and make copies of a report of all financial activities handled by the Treasurer during the year available at the Annual National Camp Rally Meeting. He/she shall also perform such duties as are required by the organization that are customary for the office of Treasurer, and shall be required to give bond to the organization in such sum as the Executive Board and/or Governing Assembly may determine, for the faithful performance of his/her duties. Such bond shall be executed by a reputable surety company. The cost of the bond shall be paid out of the National Treasury. Per auditing analysis, all applicable corrections, changes, etc., shall be done or completed on or before August 31 of each year. The Treasurer shall carry out all other duties, assigned by the President or the Executive Board.

ASSISTANT TREASURER

The Assistant Treasurer shall assist and perform duties of the Treasurer in his/her absence. Additionally, the Assistant Treasurer shall be known as the National Rally Account Treasurer. He/she will oversee the National Rally
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A Word From the Editor...

Here We Go....Again. Like in the old Ray Charles song, but in a good way...where did it go?

As we enter a new year let us look back at what has passed. In Fall 2022 the thought was getting our houses and selves ready for winter, National and Regional Rally registrations, and filing taxes. In the Spring we talked about your first outings and looking towards your anticipated outing schedules. In Summer we celebrated our National and Regional Camp Rallies and started thinking about elections. Now guess what...with God's willwe get to do it all over again!

As in the Kwanzaa prayer.... Let us give thanks for another harvest (year). Let us be mindful of the many sacrifices (and experiences) our ancestors (and us) have made (and shared). Let us take it upon ourselves to control our own destiny, and let us live the principles of Unity, Self Determination, Collective Work and Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity, and Faith, throughout the (in)coming year. In spite of COVID and its many impacts on our living, nail-biting elections, gas prices, and just trying to live normally, we have been and continue to be blessed. To paraphrase Reverend Battle — let us take a hold of the many tomorrows to come with the handle of faith, the strength of our NAARVA and core families, and the proven knowledge that we are a hardy and resilient people.

In this edition of *The VOICE* you are getting continuing communications on our pending elections, National and Regional Rally information, and our Looking Ahead for the Winter Quarter activity caplets.

Until next time...

James Gregory, Editor



CENTRAL REGION

Season's greetings NAARVA family!

The Central Region family and friends had a great time in Branson, MO this year. Our Executive Board is hard at work planning for the 2023 Central Region Rally which will be held in Hutchinson, Kansas on June 11-18, 2023 at the Kansas State Fairgrounds. The team anticipates having the rally packet ready for the members to register soon. Please check the NAARVA website after the 1st of January for details about the registration.

Happy New Year to all!

Brian Skipper



**BRIAN
SKIPPER**
Director
Central
Region

btms@yahoo.com

Account containing seed money, and all monies coming in designated for rally activities and is responsible for paying all Rally expenditures by September 30; and shall carry out all other duties assigned by the President or the Executive Board.

NAARVA NATIONAL CAMP RALLY



"THEN & NOW"



SAVE
THE
DATE



*It's a
Celebration!*

*July 23rd - 30th 2023
Golden Village Palms RV Resort
Hemet, CA*

Hosted By Western Region

More
Information
Coming Soon

**JOIN THE FUN.
JOIN THE FAMILY!**



NAARVA Chaplain's Corner...



The Handles of Tomorrow

Henry Ward Beecher, an itinerant preacher who pastored churches in Indianapolis, Indiana (NAARVA's Central Region), and Brooklyn, New York (NAARVA's Eastern Region), was described by American historian and biographer, Debby Applegate, as "the most famous man in America." Her biography of Beecher won her the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for Biography.

Beecher gained national notoriety during the mid 1800's for his support of the abolition of slavery during the years leading up to the Civil War. He launched a nationwide campaign to raise money to purchase slaves from captivity; he then sent them to non-slave states where they could live as free men and women. In addition, he purchased and sent rifles, which were dubbed as "Beecher's Bibles" to abolitionists fighting in Kansas and Nebraska.

Beecher was a man who understood both trouble and triumph; a man whose life experiences encompassed extraordinary love and intense hate. He encapsulated the essence of life's struggles in a single quote: "Every tomorrow has two handles. We can take hold of it with the handle of anxiety, or the handle of faith." He viewed "tomorrow" as the hope of every person's life! No matter the pain of today, there is always tomorrow! And, as the spirited redhead, Little Orphan Annie, proclaimed in the famed Broadway production bearing her name, "The sun will come out tomorrow, so ya gotta hang on 'til tomorrow, come what may!" Though dark may be the skies of today, the sun will come out tomorrow. Tomorrow is always a new day, a better opportunity, another chance, a new beginning!

Even though tomorrow represents

a departure from the pain and problems of today, tomorrow's experience depends on you! What happens tomorrow is determined by which handle you latch on to as you embrace tomorrow. The choice is yours! You can take hold of tomorrow with the handle of anxiety, or you can clutch its uncertainties by the handle of faith. If you choose to grasp the challenges of your tomorrow with the handle of anxiety, you will be no better off than you are today. All of the worry, the fear, and the anxiety will present itself with even more force tomorrow than it did today. You will continue to live out the doom expressed by Paul Laurence Dunbar in his poem, "Life"! He wrote:

*A crust of bread and a corner
to sleep in,
A minute to smile and an hour
to weep in,
A pint of joy to a peck of
trouble,
And never a laugh but the
moans come double;
And that is life!*

Oh, but if you take hold of tomorrow with the handle of faith, you will



THE REV. JESSE BATTLE
National Chaplain, NAARVA
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awake from the disappointments of yesterday with the inspiration that the dawn of a new day can bring! You will face the challenges of life with a resounding enthusiasm that guarantees both success and happiness. You will reach for stars that you could not see in the shadows of yesterday's pain. Tomorrow will be bright! Tomorrow will be fulfilling! Tomorrow will be fun! Tomorrow will be the best RV trip of your life!

My advice to all of us in the NAARVA family is that we remove from our tomorrow the handle of anxiety, and please, take hold of tomorrow with the handle of faith!

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 2023 is March 10, 2023.**

NAARVA members may access *The Voice* through the NAARVA website: www.naarva.com.

If you do not have an E-mail account or access to a computer, **call 704-333-3070**, and a hard copy will be mailed to you. *The Voice* is published four times yearly by NAARVA. Voice Editor: James Gregory imscholar2@cs.com.

NAARVA EASTERN REGION ANNUAL
CAMP RALLY
CAMPING IN THE GOLF CAPITAL
OF THE WORLD



LAKWOOD CAMPING RESORT
MYRTLE BEACH, SC
MAY 11-14, 2023

With early arrival commencing 5/7-10,2023

Registration Packet Coming Soon

EASTERN REGION

The 2023 NAARVA Eastern Region Annual Camp Rally will be held at Lakewood Camping Resort in Myrtle Beach, SC from May 11-14, 2023. If you wish to enter the resort before 5/11/2023, we are offering Early Bird admission commencing Sunday 5/7 to Wednesday 5/10/2023. The registration packet will be available soon for you to register for the rally @ www.naarvaeast.com

Due to the possibility of COVID-19, no tours are scheduled for this rally. Masks are not required to be worn according to CDC regulations for South Carolina at this time. However, meals will be served as take out. A menu selection will be 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 form. There will be NO substitution.

Lakewood Camping Resort offers accommodation suited for campers and glampers while camping there. RV sites accommodate all sized of RVs with 20/30/50 amp service, full hook-ups, plenty of room for slides, picnic table, daily onsite trash removal service and free WIFI & cable. As you relax on your spacious back-in RV site; enjoy the water park lazy river, indoor and outdoor pools, private poolside cabanas, swim or walk on the 1/2 mile beach, putt a round of golf and disc golf, play basketball on the basketball court, play volleyball, corn hole, shuffleboard and bocce ball. The resort also has a laundromat, full service bathhouses, propane refills, arcade, playground, free bicycle, pedal

BELINDA MOORE
Director, Eastern Region



queenbee2300@aol.com

boats, kayaks and canoe rental, fresh and salt water fishing, ice-cream parlor, seaside cantina, coffee house and camp store. Also enjoy the food truck breezeway featuring local food truck favorites. No need to carry cash/credit cards around when you use the Pay & Play wristband that Lakewood Camping Resort provides you with at Lakewood Camping Resort for you to use while there for any of your purchases.



Lakewood Camping Resort offers spacious cottages for individuals who will not be living in an RV during the Rally. For this accommodation, please contact Lakewood Camping Resort at 877-525-3966 to make arrangements to rent a

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Eastern Region...

(Continued from page 8)

cottage for the rally. You must purchase a camp pass to attend the rally.

Golf carts will be available to rent. If you want to rent a golf cart, please indicate so on your registration form. No personal golf carts are permitted.

Beanbag baseball will be played for fun and excitement including bragging rights so please bring your chair. Also come ready to play card bingo and participate in the cake walk for delicious treats.

Club members/persons who wish to part together must put their club?/ person's name on their registration form to ensure that you are parked together. You will not have to send in your registration form together or arrive together. If you do not specify a name or club on your registration form, we cannot guarantee that you will be parked together.

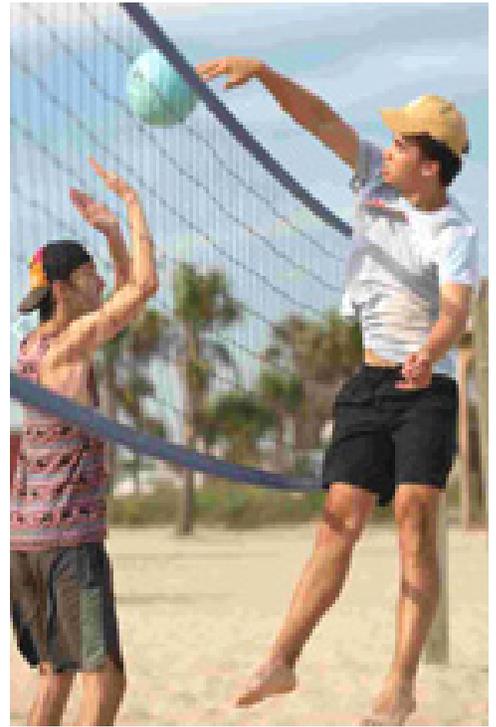
We look forward to your attendance at this rally as there is fun, fellowship with family and friends waiting just for you. Please stay safe during your camping adventures.

May you have a Merry Christmas, Joyous Kwanzaa and a Prosperous New Year.

Respectfully Submitted.

Belinda (Bee) Moore

Director, NAARVA Eastern Region



**Easy Way
to Pay NAARVA
Dues!**

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

Check it out at

naarva.com

NAARVA
Eastern Region
Est. 1999

Let's Go Camping!

NAARVA, Inc.
National African American RVer's Association
Est. 1999

PA, VA, WV, NC, SC, TN, KY, OH, PA, VA, WV, NC, SC, TN, KY, OH

National African American RVer's Association

SOUTHERN REGION

Greetings from the Southern Region Director

First, I want to thank all the Officers and Committee Chairpersons who work very hard to help move the Southern Region forward. It's my honor to work with a great group or individual members. Since I became Director, we have come a long way in making Southern Region Great. We're getting ready to close out this year, 2022, and now we must get prepared for the 2023 year. I know we will make 2023 year even greater.

Our host, *Merrimac Sams RV Club*, is doing a great job planning our Camp Rally for 2023. Our Region Camp Rally will be at Carolina Pines RV Resort, 5800 Highway 90, Conway, SC. Dates for the Camp Rally are May 17-21, 2023. We are expecting a large turnout in support of our Camp Rally. Be looking for the Camp Rally Package to be sent out in January 2023.

It is that time of year for those Clubs

who need to renew their NAARVA Charter dues that will expire on December 31, 2022. Please remit payment before December 31, 2022.

Based on the NAARVA By-Laws, a Chartered club shall be delinquent if dues are not paid by January 31. Your Charter dues are \$30.00 for two years. It is also time for the members of the Southern Region to pay their Regional and NAARVA dues. Your Region dues are \$10.00 yearly, and your NAARVA dues are \$50.00 yearly. If your dues expired on December 31, 2022, you will be delinquent if not paid by January 31, 2023. If your NAARVA dues are paid after January 31, 2023, you will have to add a \$25.00 reinstatement fee.

Southern Region memberships are on steady growth. We have a total of 456 Rigs as of November 2022. We added two new members in November, and also we had 16 members renew their NAARVA dues in

November 2022.

After all the Regions have had their Camp Rally, it will be time for the NAARVA National Camp Rally. The registration package for the National Camp Rally is scheduled for release in January 2023. Be on the lookout for it and get your package in as soon as possible. The National Camp Rally will be held from July 23-30, 2023, in Hemet, California, at the Golden Village Palms RV Resort.

Respectfully,
Charles Breedlove,
Southern Region Director



CHARLES BREEDLOVE
Director, Southern Region
breedlove@gmail.com

Louisiana Gators RV Club...

The Louisiana Gators RV Club was founded in 2002 by a small group of "like minded" folks. Mr. Albert Babineaux, Sr. invited several RVers from New Iberia and Lafayette, LA to meet and discuss forming a RV club. This meeting of sharing RV traveling experiences and steps needed to form a RV club resulted in the formation of the *Louisiana Gators RV Club*.

The Gators have been members of NAARVA from the beginning and regularly participates in Regional and National rallies. The Gators remain a family-oriented group of fun loving RVers consisting of 19 coaches' membership that campout every other month and gather for various "Gator" events throughout the year.

On the weekend of August 26-28, 2022 the *Louisiana Gators* celebrated their 20th anniversary at Bayou Wilder-

ness in Carencro, LA. The weekend started with fellowship activities

and a seafood feast on Friday evening. Saturday morning started with a gourmet brunch and a aerobics activity.

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Gators donated items and inspirational messages to homeless shelters in New Iberia and Lafayette areas.



Louisiana Gators...

(Continued from page 10)

Later on Saturday afternoon, the Gators were entertained with “Painting with a Twist” where each Gator painted scenery of a trailer being pulled while being wined and dined. At the conclusion of this activity, the Gators brought their donations for the homeless shelters and took group pictures.

On Saturday night following a fabulous catered evening meal; President Albert Babineaux Jr. started the program with recognition of founding members and deceased members and shared the history of the Gators. He presented special monogrammed aprons to each Gator member from the Babineaux family. The night continued with enter-



Sandra and Allan Antoine's finished painting.

tainment from a DJ, dancing, open bar, anniversary cake, and socializing.

During the anniversary celebration, Gator members donated bags of personal items containing inspirational messages that could benefit and uplift those at the homeless shelters in New Iberia and Lafayette areas. These bags were later delivered to the New Iberia Men's Homeless shelter and Lafayette Homeless shelter. These gift bags were lovingly given by the Gators, and greatly appreciated by the directors and residents of the shelters. See pictures attached for anniversary celebration activities and donations gathered and delivered to shelters. The LA Gators are currently looking forward to celebrating the holidays at their second annual "Gator Gala" sponsored by President Babineaux and his family.

(Submitted by Sandra J. Antoine)



Lois and Sherall "Painting with a Twist."



Louisiana Gators RV Club celebrates 20th Anniversary.



WESTERN REGION

CHARLES GILL, JR.
Director,
Western
Region

cdg2511@comcast.net

Greetings NAARVA Members from the Western Region

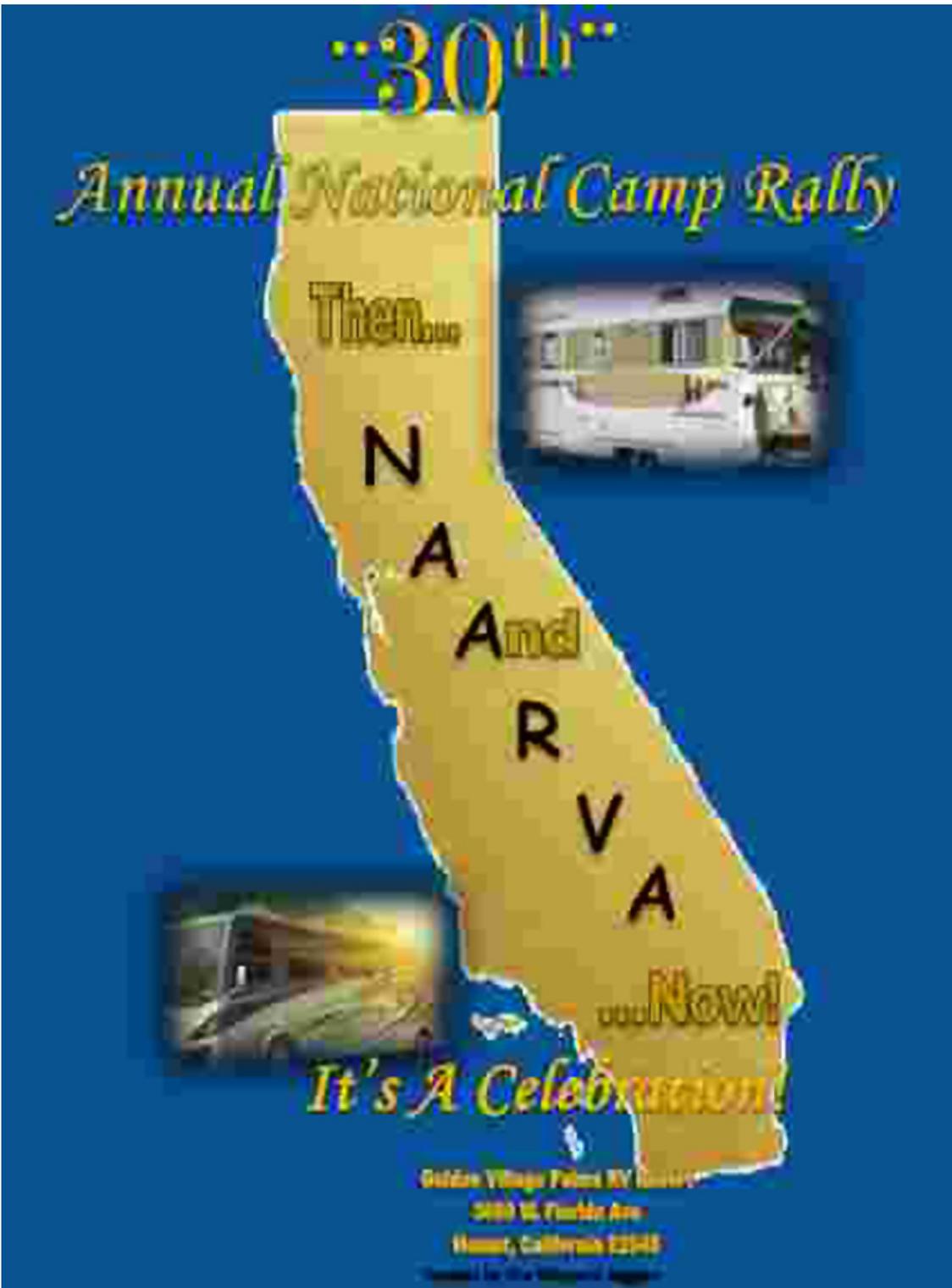
We are hard at work preparing for the upcoming 30th Annual National Camp Rally, in Hemet, California. The dates of the 2023 Rally are July 23 - 30. Our theme for the rally is “*NAARVA...Then and Now.*” We’ve come a long way in the last 30 years. The committees are working to provide a fun-filled week of fellowship, seminars, dancing, games, and delicious meals. Further details are forthcoming, but it will be an event not to be missed.

Save the date, and prepare to come celebrate and grace us with your presence.

Additionally, the Western Region is growing dramatically. A renewed interest in RV life out west is fueling this surge, and we are pleased to see more families taking an interest in the vacation/travel option.

Our problem now is finding RV parks with the ability to handle clubs as large as we’re getting, as it relates to clubhouse space. What a problem to have! As we have always done, we find a way.

Charles Gill, Jr.
Western Region
Director



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**, NAARVA’s National Benevolence Chair, at: przr50@gmail.com



NAARVA ECOLOGY PROGRAM

Dr. Jean M. Hampton, NAARVA Ecology Chair

Having celebrated “**THE REASON FOR THE SEASON,**” let us focus on our divine responsibility to care for our all our seasons, by caring for our Mother Earth. Many of us have experienced, if not at least noted that our seasons have lessened in traditionally described character over the past several decades. Expected faunal and floral populations have, along with historically noted and even cherished climatic, temperature and landscape qualities, changed considerably. These aberrations have led to identifiable spins of cultural disenchantment, distress, and even displacement for humans and for both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. Science has confirmed that these injurious changes are indeed the result of human activities, specifically irresponsible human activities, that are proposed to have shifted our existence into a geological age labeled as the “Anthropocene” geological period. This period of human influence is measured to be the dominant influence on global climate and the environment, and has resulted in substantial imbalances and destructions in our earth's natural ecosystems, systems that in fact have fostered and sustained all life and growth for millennia.

Nature is not simply designed for the preservation of humans. We are actually another part of nature, a biblically pronounced curator, and self-proclaimed higher intelligence, appointed for the enrichment of all nature, and all its components, biologic and non-biologic. Earth must not know humans as uncensored robbers and consumers of its treasures. Destructions in marine and terrestrial ecosystems, increase of extreme meteorological phenomena — hurricanes and storms, acidification of the oceans, and the disappearance of the protecting forests are unmistakably the result of human

recklessness and boundless sovereignty.

Rather than unrestricted robbing, unregulated depletion, and irresponsible destruction of earthly resources and codependent components, homo sapiens should protect and service nature, as surely as it has serviced us, if we are all to survive. We may keep in mind that nature, on the other hand, is highly likely to recover from a seemingly emerging permanent damage, without human kind. Human survival, as we know it, is much more fragile, and theoretically may depend, in the absence of properly applied intelligence, on the mercy of an even higher intelligence ... if He so desires.

NAARVA has wisely established an ecology program that supports a healthy human response to our world's looming environmental issues. The NAARVA Ecology Program (NEP) vigorously promotes ecologically supportive activities designed as counterbalance to, even correction of unwise activities on our (human) part that so adversely impact the health of our planet. NEP has consistently involved NAARVA members in both tree planting and recycling activities, each servicing a most important route toward planetary conservation. We know the account of trees (NAARVA *Voice* Vol. 24, Issue 1), we have witnessed the heartbreaking terrestrial results of their destruction, and understand the science of their significance. So NAARVA plants trees.

Let's plant more.

This fall, the *Texas Sojourners*, during their annual November rally, donated \$56.00 to One Tree Planted. Donations were deposited into either of two designer sipping mugs which were awarded to first and second place contestants who most accurately estimated the respective monetary content of a mug. Pictured are

the winners: **Annie Jenkins** - 1st place (on right), and **Janine Wilson** - 2nd place, each having been awarded one of the mugs. The \$56.00 donation was forwarded to One Tree Planted (OTP), representing a second donation this year by *Texas Sojourners* toward the purpose of global reforestation. Join us.



Surely, each of NAARVA's 38 chartered clubs (NAARVA.com Dec. 2022) would agree to service a global effort in protecting and preserving our single home, Earth, through the planting of trees. Consider that NAARVA as a whole, could be an organization that plants 2000 trees per year. This would involve each club planting a minimum of 50 trees per year, and the NAARVA organization planting 100 more (NAARVA planted 100 trees through OTP in 2022 (NAARVA *Voice* Vol. 24, Issue 3). There are many organizations purposed for various reforestation efforts. The NEP strongly urges each club to develop their own ecology team to support club reforestation activities at whatever chosen level, be it community, state, national or international. Club support may be directed at tree planting, at forestry educational support, or even at gifts for forestry sustainment or developmental services. Each club can choose, and subsequently determine the measure of their involvement for documentation. NEP seeks to publicize these measured involvements.

Listed here are several national or international organizations that specialize in the reforestation of our planet. There are many others (local, state, national) and most also accept individual

(See *Ecology*, page 14)

Ecology...

(Continued from page 13)



memberships.

One Tree Planted

“We plant one tree with every dollar donated. We want to make it simple for anyone to help the environment by planting trees. Together we can restore forests, create habitat for biodiversity, and make a positive social impact around the world. Since 2014, we have more than doubled the number of trees planted each year, and are working with partners across 47+ countries in North America, Latin America, Africa, Asia, Europe and the Pacific.”
Onetreepanted.org

Arbor Day Foundation — Celebrating Its 50th Year

We plant trees because people need trees. Our health and the health of our planet are interconnected, and the simple act of planting tree benefits both. The Arbor Day foundation works to connect opportunities, people, and organizations to plant trees and forests to help solve some of the most critical issues facing our planet.

arborday.org

National Forest Foundation

America is blessed with a stunning diversity of public National Forests. From urbanites in big cities to families in rural towns, we are all connected to these forests. Natural disturbances, such as wildfire, insects and disease outbreaks, are jeopardizing the very things that make forests so wonderful. That’s why we’re planting 50 million trees across National Forests. We invite everyone — individuals and businesses alike — to join us as we replant National Forests. We make it easy — \$1 plants one tree on a National Forest in need of tree planting.

Nationalforests.org

As for recycling, many NAARVA members have described to me their own individual recycling activities. These are inspiring conversations, certain to produce or increase duplicative

actions for all our members, and others within their range of influence. As well, NEP urges recurring annual or semi-annual club recycling activities as a planned part of rally events, or even community recycling involvement as many city, county, or state offices maintain environmental components to service more localized ecological concerns. Many rally sites offer recycling bins, or some form of local recycling support.

NEP would enjoy documenting and reporting on quantified activities, such as tallies of the weight(s) of collected recycled items (e.g., 5 lbs. of empty plastic bottles, 2 lbs. of paper materials, 10 lbs. of compostable food waste). NEP welcomes opportunity to assist as possible with information, ideas, or research to help with development of club ideas. And, NEP will repeat its 2022 recycling challenge at our upcoming National Rally to be held in Hemet, California for 2023. Be ready with your emptied and capped plastic bottles!

Meanwhile remember our NAARVA ecology credo: **“Laying Our Earth: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Respect.”**

Reduce...

(Note: residents of high-income countries e.g., the USA have largest ecological footprints; emissions from disposal of goods is miniscule compared to emissions created from production of something. “By the time you purchase something, 99% of the damage has already been done,” This means that the “reduce” part of “reduce, reuse, recycle,” is the most important. (Time.com Climate Change 2022)

- Reduce your carbon footprint by reducing personal emissions of greenhouse gases.
 - Buy less stuff.
 - Adopt a plant-rich diet.
 - Reduce food waste. (CA Sen. Bill 1383 requires food waste to be composted.)
 - Wash your clothes in cold water.

- Use LED lighting; Electrify all you can.
- Employ renewable energy sources including transportation. (Winnebago has developed an all-electric zero emission RV concept motorhome vehicle; Thor industries has revealed its new electric Airstream concept RV trailer; various electric motorbikes are now available with other expected in 2024.)

Reuse...

- Reuse paper and plastic items; storage bags.
- Purchase reusable dining items; straws, stainless steel items, shopping bags.
- Donate to charity your used clothing, shoes, household items.
- Circulate clothing among family members as possible.
- Repurpose outdated or used items

Recycle...

(Note: Recycling is important to ensuring our Earth remains healthy. We must develop best practices of converting waste material into new materials and objects.)

- Buy / request recyclable materials.
- Visit How2Recycle.com; learn the facts of HOW we should recycle, what, when and where.
- Take the Keep America Beautiful recycled pledge at (kab.org); visit the website and acquire information on recycling.

Respect...

(Note: All living things depend on a functional and supportive environment for life and survival.)

- As possible, teach our youth to understand the need for a healthy environment.
- Reject trashing our streets, parks and waterways and oceans.
- Leave recreational areas better than when you arrived at them.
- Respect workers who serve to keep our public areas clean and orderly.

Looking Ahead: Winter 2023

Celebrations and Events, Includes Available Regional Club Events

January

Monday, January 1

New Year's Day

January 1 is New Year's Day — a time of optimism, planning, and resoluteness. There's a feeling that maybe this year we'll make the changes we've been meaning to: more rest, better eating habits, more exercise, or a new job. New Year's Day is about taking a moment to get ready for everything that is about to unfold.

Happy New Year!



Tuesday, January 11

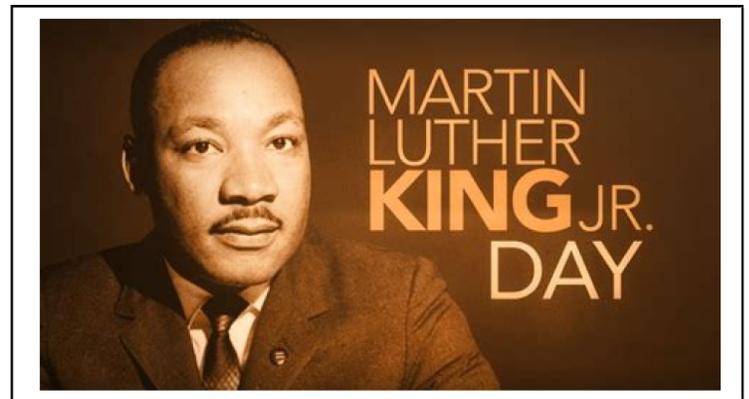
International Thank You Day

International Thank You Day is celebrated yearly on January 11. It is a day that serves as a reminder that we ought to express our gratitude to those who have made our lives better in some way. What better month to reflect on this than the beginning of the year? We often forget to say, "Thank you," because we take it for granted or we assume that others know how we feel. This day was founded to recognize the importance of always saying thank you.

Monday, January 16

Marthin Luther King Jr. Day

Martin Luger King Jr. Day also called MLK Day, and Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Day is observed on the third Monday of January, which is close to King's actual birthday on January 15. The earliest Monday the holiday will ever be celebrated is January 15th and the latest is January 21st. The day ia s federal United States holiday with all government and most business offices closed.



Sunday, January 15

National Alpha Kappa Alpha Day

Alpha Kappa Alpha Day has been celebrated on January 15 annually since the sorority's inception more than a century ago. It is the first black female sorority and has the honor of housing many great black women in the U.S. While it has its competition, its members are quite exceptional. Did you know that Kamala Harris — the first black woman to occupy the office of Vice President in the U.S., is an A.K.A. sister? Well, don't you think this sorority deserves a day to be celebrated? We absolutely do!



Looking Ahead: Winter 2023

Celebrations and Events, Includes Available Regional Club Events

Sunday, January 22

Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year for the year 2023 is celebrated/ observed on Sunday, January 22. This year the animal sign is the Rabbit. It is the first day of the New Year in the Chinese lunisolar calendar (Chinese traditional calendar). It is also known as the Lunar New Year or the Spring Festival. The first day of the festival begins on the New Moon sometime each year between January 21st and February 20th. The holiday/festival lasts 16 days from New Year's Eve to the 15th day of the New Year which also happens to be the Lantern Festival.



February

Wednesday, February 1

African American Heritage Month

African American Heritage Month is observed in the month of February every year. People celebrate African American Heritage Month and throughout the year to reflect on more than 400 years of American African history and heritage

that have shaped the American culture as we know it today. Celebrations are held across national parks, schools and universities, and communities around the country. People celebrate the month by finding special places, historic moments, and personal journeys that have contributed to conversations and moments of African American representation, identity, and diversity in America's history. Today, the American identity is closely related to that of African Americans.



Thursday, February 2

Groundhog Day

Groundhog Day on February 2 is when we ask are we in for six more weeks of Winter? Only a groundhog named Punxsutawney Phil knows for sure. Each year on Groundhog Day, people flock to Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, to await the forecast of the local rodent celebrity. Originating with German settlers, who came to Pennsylvania in the 1700s and brought their seasonal superstitions with them, legend has it that if Phil sees his shadow on February 2, the winter chill will continue. Oddly, if the weather is cloudy and he doesn't see his shadow, we can expect warmer temperatures and early spring.

Looking Ahead: Winter 2023

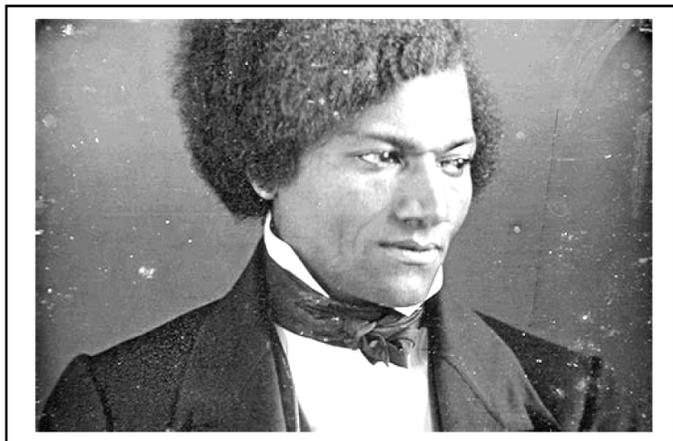
Celebrations and Events, Includes Available Regional Club Events

Saturday, February 11

International Day of Women & Girls in Science

International Day of Women and Girls in Science on February 11 allows us to honor women's significant achievements in science and place a much-needed focus on girls entering Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) careers. As the fastest-growing segment of jobs with employers finding it hard to find available talent, STEM needs women. Have some fun today by learning about women charting their course as techie trailblazers and by supporting young women to pursue their passions in STEM with finding them scholarships based on STEM studies only for women.

International
Day of
Women
and Girls
in Science



Tuesday, February 14

Frederick Douglass Day

Frederick Douglass Day is observed on February 14 to celebrate this author, publisher, writer, orator, and most prominent African American abolitionist of his time. Through his public presence, oration, and writing, Frederick Douglass inspired an entire generation of Black Americans to fight for their liberation. Born into slavery in Maryland, Douglass went on to become a lightning rod for abolition in America. His master's wife made the mistake of teaching him how to read and write, which Frederick Douglass repaid in full by transforming himself into the antithesis of a slave. On his chosen day of birth, we celebrate one of the greatest leaders of America and take inspiration from his example.

Tuesday, February 21

Mardi Gras

It's Mardi Gras time, arguably one of the best celebrations in the world. It stretches from Twelfth Night (the last night of Christmas) all the way until Ash Wednesday. Mardi Gras is French for "Fat Tuesday" to reflect the practice of eating rich, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season. It's also a time to bring out those colorful beads and masks and party! This celebration goes on in many parts of the world in various forms. So get out there and join the Mardi Gras celebrations on February 21, and party with the world!



Looking Ahead: Winter 2023

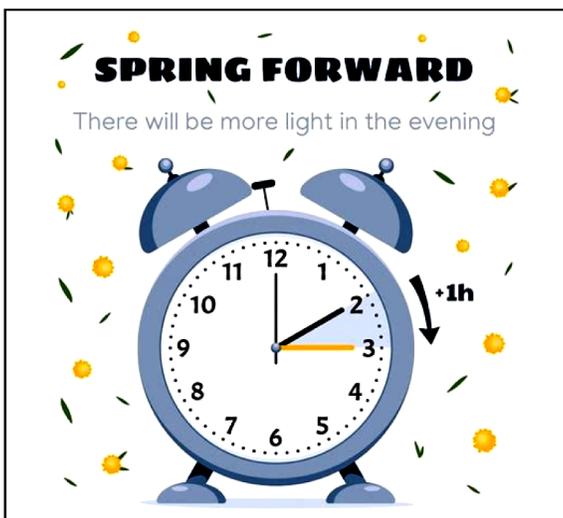
Celebrations and Events, Includes Available Regional Club Events

March

Friday, March 10

Harriet Tubman Day

Harriet Tubman Day is celebrated on March 10 every year. If you've never heard of Harriet Tubman, she was a former slave who fought tirelessly to free other slaves by assisting them in fleeing their captors. Tubman is celebrated all around the United States, especially in Maryland and New York, two states, which held great significance in her life. She is most commonly known for the underground railroad which refers to the network of safe houses she used to help slaves escape. Harriet Tubman Day is a day to remember the heroic actions of this great woman and honor her work by fighting racism wherever you see it.



Sunday, Mar 12

Daylight Savings Time Day

Daylight Saving Time (DST), also referred to as daylight savings time or simply daylight time (United States, Canada, and Australia), and summer time (United Kingdom, European Union, and others), is the practice of advancing clocks (typically by one hour) during warmer months so that darkness falls at a later clock time. The typical implementation of DST is to set clocks forward by one hour in the spring ("spring forward"), and to set clocks back by one hour in the fall ("fall back") to return to standard time. As a result, there is one 23-hour day in early spring and one 25-hour day in the middle of autumn.

Thursday, March 16

Everything you Do is Right Day

Everything You Do is Right Day is celebrated on March 16 every year. The day comes a day after Everything You Think is Wrong Day and cheers us up after feeling bad about the decisions we might have made the day before. Everything You Do is Right Day reminds us that everything will be alright. No matter what happened yesterday, today can be its own bright day. Nothing can go wrong today because everything you do is right, and it's going to be a perfect day. Everything you do is going to turn out right, no matter your age or status!



Looking Ahead: Winter 2023

Celebrations and Events, Includes Available Regional Club Events

NATIONAL COMMON COURTESY DAY – March 21 | National Day Calendar

Tuesday, March 21

National Common Courtesy Day

With ever-busy lives, we often forget that simple things can make a difference. National Common Courtesy Day is a great way to remind ourselves that the world is better off when we show gratitude and graciousness in both big and small ways. Hey, it only takes a small gesture to be a big hero. Remember to say “please” and “thank you” on March 21. It could make a world of difference!

Wednesday, March 29 National Vietnam War Veterans Day

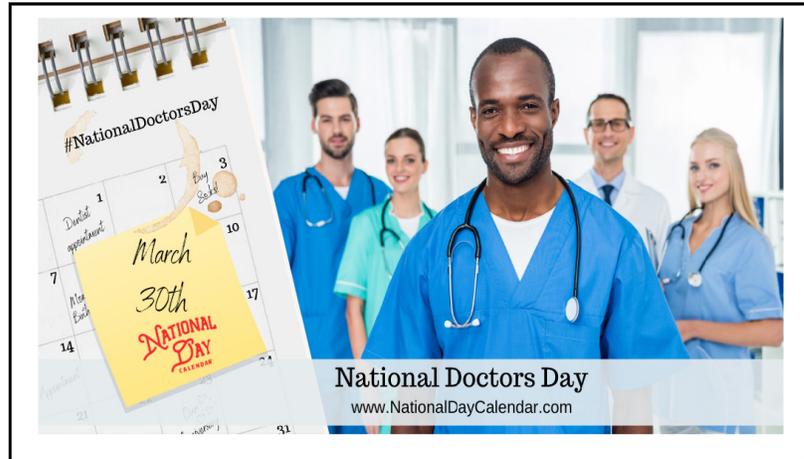
Vietnam Veterans Day is annually observed on March 29. It commemorates the hardships suffered and sacrifices made by nine million Americans during the Vietnam War. However, the holiday does not only honor the former soldiers but also their families who supported them before and after the war.



Looking Ahead: Winter 2023

Thursday, March 30 **National Doctors' Day**

March 30 is Doctors' Day, an annual observance aimed at appreciating physicians who help save our lives everywhere. The holiday first started in 1933, and since then it's been honored every year on March 30 which was the first anniversary of a doctor using either anesthesia. Today we continue to celebrate medical advances like these and thank all doctors everywhere who've spent so much time and energy mastering their field of expertise.



Friday, March 31 **World Backup Day**

We're fortunate enough to have access to the most powerful computers to date, but what would you do if you lost everything on your computer? Crashes happen more often than you think, data recovery can cost you hundreds of dollars, and recovering everything you've stored on your computer is not guaranteed. We understand, life gets hectic and it's easy to forget to back up your files. Join us on March 31st, as we celebrate World Backup Day!