

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 1

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WINTER 2023 (Jan., Feb., Mar.)

From The President's Desk...

As I near the end of my leadership as NAARVA President, I am pleased to reside in the Western Region and where the plans are in motion for NAARVA's 30th National Annual Camp Rally! "Then and Now — It's a Celebration!"

Yes, indeed, it is a celebration, a time to travel west and take advantage of this fantastic opportunity to visit the west coast, San Diego to San Francisco, and return home with travel to Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Rally resort location is extraordinary, with amenities that will please our NAARVA youth, young adults and our more senior members, and every age in between. Please don't take my word for it; visit www.GoldenVillagePalms.com.

The winding roads of recreational vehicle travel have led us to still another crossroad. This crossroad is the crossroad of transition. Therefore, it is time for the selection of a new leadership team. The new leadership will be working to continue the work of the founding members that led us to this 30th National Camp Rally. You are encouraged to take time to participate in the voting processes each year. Club, Region, and National elections are critical to the growth and preservation of NAARVA. 2023 is a National Executive Board election, and your vote counts.

Each elected official will be asked to give their time and talents to the good of NAARVA members.

"Work joyfully and peacefully, knowing that right thoughts and right efforts will



inevitably bring about right results."

Please have a safe and joyful 2023 Rally season travel; I hope to see you in Hemet, California. **Best Regards,** Louise Grogan

Everything Must Change...

Everything must change, Nothing <u>stays</u> the same. Everyone must change Nothing <u>stays</u> the same.

The <u>young</u> become the old, Mysteries do unfold. 'Cause that's the way of time Nothing and no one goes unchanged. There are not many things In life you can be sure of, Except

Rain <u>comes</u> from the clouds, And sun <u>lights</u> up the sky, And <u>humming birds</u> do fly.

Meet Your Executive Board Candidates

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, General Secretary and Assistant Treasurer. The candidates have submitted statements 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.

For President...



RODNEY THOMPSON Rodney Thompson currently serves as the 2nd Vice President of NAARVA and is seeking the position of President of NAARVA.

Rodney is the Liaison of the Constitution and By-Laws committee, Membership Chairperson and Chairperson of the Youth Program.

He has been a member of NAARVA and *Texas Sojourners* for 11 years, and has previously held the position of Assistant Regional Director for the Southern Region for two terms.

He 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 con-2 — The NAARVA Voice tinuously develop processes and procedures, bring consistency to the organization, continue to recruiting new members and advance this wonderful organization into the next phase.

<u>For President...</u>



CHARLES E. BREEDLOVE My Sisters and Brothers of NAARVA: My name is Charles E Breedlove NAARVA (#94-3528) currently serving as the Southern Region Director. I am seeking election for the position of President of NAARVA.

I am a member of *Space Age RV Club* of Huntsville, Alabama. I have been a member of NAARVA and the Southern Region for eight years. I'm a past President and Vice President of *Space Age RV Club*. I also serve as Parliamentarian and Chairperson for the By-Laws for the Southern Region.

I retired from the US Army with over twenty year's of service and retired from the U.S. Postal Service with over twenty year's of service. I am a member of many Social Organizations and Clubs

Dorothy Redd, Chairperson Nominations/Election Committee

where I serve as Vice President and other elected positions. Currently I am the President of the Roadrunners Corvette Club of Huntsville, Alabama and one of its founding members.

My goal will be to preserve the integrity of our great organization, increase our membership, and have a quarterly financial report sent to all members. I will also have every member get a copy of all approved minutes from all meetings from the Executive Board.

Another goal, if I'm elected as the next President with the permission of the members, is to sell the NAARVA Property at 614 Chipley Ave., Charlotte, NC. I will have a committee to report on property to buy that can accommodate office space and RV sites to the members.

I also want to see more sponsors added to our website. I'd like to inform all the members of NAARVA that there is a Commercial Account at Advance Auto Parts Store. You can go to any Advance Auto Parts Store in the U.S. and U.S. Territory to receive the Commercial Discount. All you have to do at checkout is to present your NAARVA dues card and Corporate Account number 1846086076 to the sale person to receive your discount. This is one Corporate Account I got for NAARVA and I'm working on other accounts. I have heard from members, "what is NAARVA doing for them?" This account will be added to the other accounts NAARVA has on its (See, Candidates, page 3)

Candidates...

(Continued from page 2) webpage. Now we can tell all ours members they can save money if they chose to use these Corporate Accounts that NAARVA has on its webpage.

If I am elected as the next President of NAARVA, every member will have a voice and be heard. I will support the Members-at-Large by letting them have a voice on the NAARVA Executive Board and all members will be treated with the same respect.

I'm asking you to VOTE for me to continue moving NAARVA forward. Thank you in advance for your Vote!

For 1st Vice President...



MYRTLE MAYFIELD Myrtle Mayfield 94-1182, I am ask-

ing for your support and for your vote! Qualificatiaons

Former First Vice President 2014-2018; former National Rally Chair 2018; former Second Vice President -2019-2020; former Southern Region Director 2010-2013; former Southern Region Director -2009- 2009; former President and Co-founder of *Georgia Easy Riders RV Club* 2006-2008; Former Regional By-Laws Revision Chairperson; Past National Constitution and By-Laws Chairperson; Past Co-Chairperson for the NAARVA National Camp Rally (Rayne, LA); responsible for a successful Southern Region Rallies - 2011, 2012, & 2013.

Rally Experience

Assisted in planning the following Rallies from 2014-2018 as First Vice President. Developed the first Rally Survey soliciting members input and implemented same in Oklahoma in 2014. Compiled results and shared with Regional Directors. Updated the National Rally Manual and issued it to Regional Directors. Planned and implemented all Regional Rallies while serving as Regional Director from 2010-2013.

Plan for advancing NAARVA

My plan for advancing NAARVA is and continues to have better communication. We have already made strides in communicating through using Constant Contact. However, it can be expanded by ensuring that we have updated email address for members. I'd also like to see us participate in another Strategic Planning seminar and follow up on the plan. Start on a 3-year plan for the upcoming Rallies by selecting venues and dates.

Education

Bachelors Degree in Sociology; Masters of Social Work Employment; Retired Educator - DeKalb County School System as a Resource Coordinator; retired from Equifax and IBM as a End User Analyst and Manager.

Other Information

I am widowed and have one adult son, a daughter-in-law, two grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

I am an active member of Green-forest Baptist Church, Decatur, Georgia; Life member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; Life member of National Council of Negro Women; Past 2nd VP of NAACP - Rockdale Branch

I am a former board member of the Georgia Radio Reading Service for the Visualy Impaired.

<u>For 1st Vice President...</u>



REV. JESSE BATTLE Hello Fellow NAARVA Members,

Having spent the last few years observing the culture of NAARVA's leadership, including, but not limited to, the conduct and responsibilities of each of the executive offices and officers. I have observed that the responsibilities of the office of 1st Vice President has an essential financial impact on NAARVA and its membership. An example of such impact lies in the planning of the National Camp Rally. In accordance with the job description in the rally packet, the 1st Vice President is "in charge of the National Rally, along with the Rally Chairperson"; he/she is required to "go on site visits, along with the Rally Chairperson"; he/she is to "negotiate all contracts and bring (them) back to the President for approval and signature." In addition, Article II, Section 2 of our By-Laws states: "The 1st Vice President ... shall serve as National Camp Rally Coordinator; and additionally, shall serve as chairperson of the Rally Oversight Team..."

The office of 1st Vice President is most crucial to the rally cost which is passed on to NAARVA members. The lack of involvement in this process on the part of a 1st Vice President, who is experienced in handling such negotiations, is that the overall cost handed down to the membership could be considerably higher. In light of the aforementioned factors, I feel it absolutely essential that the person who fills the office of 1st Vice President be someone who is skilled in negotiating. Therefore, after extensive consideration I have decided to run for the office of 1st Vice President of this esteemed association.

<u>A Biographical Sketch:</u>

Jesse Battle is a 73-year-old retired bishop who spent most of his adult life as senior pastor in churches in Ohio, Michigan and Missouri. From 2001 until 2019, he served his denomination as bishop in Hawaii for eight years, and in Missouri for ten years. During his tenure as bishop, he was responsible for the training and development of local pastors, along with

> (See, Candidates, page 4) The NAARVA Voice - 3

Candidates...

(Continued from page 3) diocese.

After longing for several years to own a recreational vehicle. Battle and his wife purchased his first RV (a Class A diesel) in 2012. They attended their first National RV Rally with the Family Motor Coach Association, held in Gillette, Wyoming. During the next FMCA rally, they learned about the MO/KAN Roadrunners and the National African-American RVers Association. They joined both groups shortly there after.

In addition to serving his local chapter as chaplain, Battle has served NAARVA as National Chaplain and parliamentarian during the past four years. He brings to NAARVA the unique experience of having successfully served in executive positions for nonprofit organizations throughout his career. For more than 40 years, he has served as a parliamentarian in both a teaching capacity and as a practicing parliamentarian.

He served as an executive officer, culminating as president, of the Hampton University Ministers' Conference, which for more than 100 years was regarded as one of America's most prestigious interdenominational conferences of African-American pastors. Other areas of service included:

Board Member. National Urban League; Board Member, Clark County Family Services; NAARVA 1st Vice President; Member, Clark County Drug Control Council; Board Member, NAACP; Board Member, Opportunity Industrialization Centers (OIC); President, Church Development Institute; Vice President, Cross-Cultural Pastors' Association; Board Member, Aenon Bible College; President, Ecumenical Leadership Council of Missouri.

After attending elementary, high school and college in St. Louis, Battle served in the U.S. Army where he graduated from U.S. Army Helicopter Flight School and mastered the intricate details of flying the Huey (CH47A) and Chinook (UH1D) helicopters. While stationed at the largest army airfield in South Korea, he was credited with stopping a major racial incident between Black, White, and Korean soldiers in the local village just outside of the post. Subsequently, he was appointed by the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Korean Support Command, to the position of Equal Rights Liaison Officer for the Command.

Battle holds a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree, and a Doctorate of Ministry (D.Min.) degree. In addition, he holds two honorary doctorates. He has been married for 32 years to Denise (Watt) Battle, a special education high school teacher. While Battle is the proud father of a Harvard educated daughter and a Princeton educated son; he and Denise have a younger daughter who is preparing to enter her first year of medical school.

2nd Vice President...

BRIAN SKIPPER

Brian is serving his second term as the Central Region Director, a position he has held since April of 2020.



He is also the President of his local camping club, The Akron Adventurers Kamper Club (AAKC), and has held the position since 2017.

Born and raised in Akron, Ohio, Brian was educated in the Akron Public School system. He began his employment with the City of Akron, Ohio in 1984 after which he became employed by the Akron Board of Education in the same year. Brian retired from the Board of Education in 2015.

During his working career, Brian coached many youth sports including soccer, basketball, and football. Brian was also a Youth Advisor with the New Era Baptist District Association and

helped to organize many events to benefit the youth in his community.

The Skipper family began their camping experience with Brian's inlaws and their RV. After experiencing the enjoyment of RVing, the Skippers purchased their first of several RVs. They have officially been camping since 2011 at which time they became members of their local camping club, AAKC. They also joined NAARVA the same year.

Brian enjoys traveling with his family and friends both with the RV and by air. He also looks forward to the fellowship with old friends and meeting new friends at the Central and National Rallies

Brian and his wife, Tammy, and have been married for 24 years. They have two handsome sons, Mario and Nicholas, and two beautiful grandchildren. Milan and Phoenix.

2nd Vice President...

JOE BRADY



I, Joe Brady am running for the 2nd Vice President position. I have held the position of 1st Vice President for the last four years. I believe my duties as 1st Vice President qualify me to hold the position as 2nd Vice President.

I have been a member of NAARVA for 24 years. During that time I have held the position of Assistant Financial Secretary, 1st Vice President, and Chairman of the Constitution and By- Laws Committee.

My goals for NAARVA is to increase the membership and find ways to get our former members to rejoin, keep our members informed on what's going on at the executive level, get Members-at-Large more involved, fight to get the Members-at-Large on the executive board.

(See, Candidates, page 5)

Candidates...

(Continued from page 4) I am dedicated to NAARVA to do whatever it takes to keep NAARVA moving in the right direction.

I appreciate your vote and support. Thank you in advance.

For General Secretary



ELAINE STANDIFER

As current General Secretary of NAARVA and I happy to nominate myself for the upcoming 2023-2025 Executive Board.

My husband Ron and I joined NAARVA in 1996 right after cofounding the *D.C. Connection RV Club* and have attended twenty NAARVA National Rallies.

Prior to retiring in 2015 my work history consisted of being a Human Resources Manager and VP for numerous high-tech companies in the Northern Virginia area.

Following are my positions held within NAARVA over my twenty-six years as a member and have enjoyed the growth I've seen and continue to see within the organization. I knew I wanted to be a part of such a familyoriented association.

1999 - 2001, Assistant Recording Secretary, National.

2001 - 2007, Scholarship Chairperson, National.

2005 - 2007, Public Relations, National.

2014 - 2021, Public Relations, Eastern Region.

2017 - Present, Public Relations, National.

2021 — Present, General Secretary I look forward to continuing my support of NAARVA in this capacity. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my nomination.

For Asst. Treasurer...



ANDREA JEANNE "AJ" JOHNSON-HARVEY

I am submitting my application for the position of Assistant Treasurer. I have been a member of NAARVA for 17 years and have held positions at both the Regional and National levels. My experience in leadership positions began as Secretary of The Group Camping Club. I was then elected president and served until I was elected as Eastern Region Executive Secre-After serving in that position tarv. for several terms. I was elected to the position of Assistant Director, where I served until I accepted an appointment on the National Executive Board as Assistant Financial Secretary. I was responsible for developing and presenting our membership with the first Annual Budget to be voted on and accepted by our membership. In 2021 I was appointed to the position in which I currently serve, responsible for all rally related financial transactions. I have dedicated time and energy to the success of NAARVA, and I seek to continue to do so as your elected Assistant Treasurer.

I have an extensive background in leadership, management, and administration. I began my career as a Legal Clerk in the New Jersey Army National Guard in 1981. I was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1985 as an Intelligence Officer. Over the next several years I served in various intelligence assignments and completed several levels of military schooling. I began my active-duty career in 1997 at National Guard Bureau in Washington, DC. While on active duty my assignments included supervisory and managerial responsibilities for anywhere from 3 to 75 personnel in Washington, DC, Carlisle, PA, and Tampa, FL. In July 2007 I deployed to Afghanistan where I served on the NATO staff until my redeployment in August 2008. In 2009 I again deployed, this time to Baghdad, Iraq where I served for seven months. I returned to Washington, DC in 2010 and served in several leadership positions until my retirement in January of 2016 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel

I hold a Bachelor of Science degree from Regents College, and a Master of Business Administration in Human Resource Management from American Intercontinental University.

My awards include Department of the Army Staff Identification Badge, NATO Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal w/Campaign Star, Iraq Campaign Medal w/Campaign Star, the Army Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medal (3rd Award), Meritorious Service Medal (5th award), Defense Meritorious Service Medal (2nd award) and Bronze Star.

I am married to Colonel Retired Kevin Harvey of Jersey City, New Jersey. We are the proud parents of four children: Reginald (33), Capt. Andrew Harvey (32), Emily (30), and Laurajeanne (26). We have been avid campers and RVers for over 35 years.

Shortly after my military retirement in 2016 my husband and I began to live and travel full-time in our RV, which we did for 5-1/2 years. We have crisscrossed the country several times and look forward to every new experience on our grand adventure. Although we no longer live full-time in our RV, we continue to camp with our club, *The Royal Campers*, attend Region and National Rallies, and frequently hit the road for a new adventure.

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A Word From the Editor...

Registrations...Outing Plans....Taxes....do you feel the gathering energy of a new year and RV season on the horizon? Within the next two months our early registrations will be winging their way to their appropriate locations, add to that the impending tax deadline, Daylight Savings, and there you have it....2023 with a BANG!

In this edition of the VOICE you get to meet your candidates for the Executive Board, get introduced to some other African American organizations reaching out to NAARVA, and along the way get some Black RVing history, and meet your new Education Station Coordinator....whew! We haven't even got to the camping yet, but NAARVA is just humming along!

It is with a note of sadness to realize that this will be some of the last times that our current slate of Executive Board Officers will have the opportuity to continue the work of the NAARVA Organization and its founding members.

> **James Gregory Editor, NAARVA VOICE**



Education Station



JOELLEN DAVIS NAARVA Scholarship Committee Chairperson



ATTENTION Graduating High School Seniors!

The 2023 NAARVA Scholarship applications will be posted on the NAARVA website, NAARVA.com

We encourage all NAARVA members to be alert, watchful and vigilant. Scholarship application forms will be available in March 2023.

As the new Scholarship Committee Chairperson, I am looking forward to awarding the full compliment of Scholarships available (4 - \$1,000.00 Scholarships and 2 - \$500.00 Scholarships). Spread the word!

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

"Education is the key that

Unlocks the golden door to

Freedom"

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER



<u>NAARVA Chaplain's Corner</u>... Antidotes to Fear

One of the greatest hits by the famed Broadway singer Frank Sinatra was "My Way"! He starts with a reflection of his life against the realization that he was nearing the end of life. Verse one laments, "And now, the end is near, and so I face the final curtain ... " Verse two reminds us that no matter how impoverished or successful one's life has been, we all have regrets. Sinatra says, "Regrets, I've had a few..." He then goes on to say, "Yes, there were times, I'm sure you knew, when I bit off more than I could chew; but through it all, when there was doubt, I ate it up and spit it out... I've loved, I've laughed and cried; I've had my fill, my share of losing. And now, as tears subside, I find it all so amusing ... "

While regrets are indeed a part of life, regrets are often the result of fear! Like Sinatra, I find it amusing that most of us are besieged with fear — in many cases unmanageable fear! I've counseled adults whose life's ambitions were thwarted by unexplainable fear; dreams were unfulfilled; talents unrealized; goals missed; abilities untapped because people were too afraid to set aside their apprehensions and move forward towards their dreams. Fear is crippling! It robs the soul of satisfaction; life of peace and happiness! Fear is cruel; it ravishes one's sense of independence! Fear is a form of mindcontrol, a form of mental programming and a weapon of psychological torture! In fact, fear is so devastating that Paul cautioned Timothy, his son in ministry, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1:7)

The six primary fears that rob us of our ability to live our lives to the fullest are: fear of failure, fear of criticism, fear of the unknown, fear of poverty, fear of being alone, and fear of sickness/death. In reference to the fear of death, I find it ironic that people who are afraid to die are so traumatized by the possibility of death that they are, in effect, also afraid to live! By this, I do not suggest that we live recklessly; however, we cannot allow the risk of what could happen to stop us from doing what can happen! FEAR MUST BE MANAGED!

The above referenced text gives the antidotes to fear. God bestows upon us three things necessary to manage fear in day-to-day living. He gives us the spirit of power, the spirit of love, and the spirit of a sound mind. First, it's important to emphasize Paul's use of the term "the spirit of" as we consider our God-given antidotes to fear! This suggests that not only do we have access to these gifts; but that they are intrinsically woven into our nature. We are given the ingredients to continue the production of these elements of protection. Being endowed with "the spirit of" denotes that those qualities necessary in forming these definitive elements are ingrained in our character, thought and attitudes. In other words, we have the stuff necessary to do the job!

<u>The spirit of power is our first antidote to fear!</u> The power to live without fear resides within us! We must remember that: *(We) are of God ... and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in (us), than he*



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

that is in the world." (1 John 4:4). The power over fear that resides in us is greater than the power of fear that seeks to torment us! The spirit of love is our second antidote to fear because one does not fear what one loves! The Bible also teaches: "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear..." (1 John 4:18) I suggest that when we learn to love God, to love people, and to love life, we will soon discover that fears will subside exponentially! Our final antidote to fear, the spirit of a sound mind, equips us to make decisions free of irrational fears. Our clarity of thought is inherent in every decision we make. Members of NAARVA, we are free to pursue our dreams. There need not be anything left on our bucket lists when at last we join the "Celestial RV Rollers" for that great RV campout in heaven with Jesus Christ Himself as our Wagon Master!

SOUTHERN REGION

Greeting to all my NAARVA Family and Friends:

On behalf of NAARVA Southern Region, I want to take this time to provide you with an update on the 17th Annual Region Camp Rally that will be held May 17-21, 2023 at Carolina Pines RV Resort - Conway, South Carolina. The Rally Package has been released via Constant Contact and you can also find it on the Southern Region and NAARVA websites.

We have plenty of sites left, and I encourage you to send your registration package in and get ready to have an "A-MAY-ZING Spring Fling". The week will be full of great fun, fellowship and spending quality time *(See, Southern Region, page 9)*



CHARLES BREEDLOVE Director, Southern Region breedlve1@gmail.com

The Black RV Experience...

During the January Executive Board Meeting and via email it was communicated that NAARVA had been contacted by a few organizations interested in knowing more about NAARVA. One of those organizations was "Together Outdoors" that has a blog being published soon. Tiffin is associated with this organization along with three other companies. Well, I was interviewed and NAARVA President, Louise Grogan, was available to give input as well. The outcome of this effort, an article containing these interviews, as well, as the exploits of one early Black RV family, Benjamin and Frances Graham, is located here:

https://www.togetheroutdoors.com/news/ blackervexperience

It was such a short notice request from Together Outdoors to us to provide some pictures that I asked a

few people if I could use pictures with them in it. Some of the pictures were not used, as I had hoped, but the resulting article captures our flavor and the Black RV experience and some history. Also, if you look close you might be able to pick out pictures of your RV in the Gillette, WY, Mesa, AZ, and other rally locations that did make the cut.

The African Americans that RV and Camp (AARVC), a FaceBook group, contacted the Historian, Ron Standifer who gave the 30 year history of NAARVA to the African American Owned Campground Owners on Zoom on February 6, 2023. The presentation was well received. The campground owners are interested in placing ads on the NAARVA website and in the rally souvenir booklet. Included on pages 19-20 of this VOICE issue is a listing provided by the African American Owned Campground Owner of AA owned campgrounds.

SOUTHERN REGION... (Continued from page 8)

with family and friends. All sites have concrete pads with a picnic table and are fully equipped with individual hook ups for 30/50 amps electric, water, sewage, cable TV and WiFi. Additionally, If you do not want to drive your RV, the resort can accommodate you with a one or two bedroom rental cottage combined with genuine southern hospitality.

Members who send in their rally package and want to park with their Club or with a group can still do so. Please send your request to NAARVA Southern Region Attn: Alexis Jones, 505 Flint Trail, Jonesboro, GA. 30236.

Rally t-shirts are available for all members to purchase whether you are attending or not attending the 17th Annual Region Camp Rally. Our hosts of this year's Rally, the *Merrimac Sams RV Club* and the Southern Region Executive Board have worked together as a Team to present a Rally package second to none.

We are requesting all members of NAARVA and non-NAARVA members to join the Southern Region for our Rally.

> Charles Breedlove Southern Region Director



npgrounds. Blessings!

BRIAN K. SKIPPER Central Region Director btmns@yahoo.com



Greetings NAARVA Family!

As winter is coming to an end and spring is near, I'm sure we are all excited about the upcoming camping season. The Central Region's executive board would like to welcome newly elected presidents from all of our charter clubs. Also, we would like to thank our club Presidents and club members for their commitment to NAARVA.

The Central Region is at 100% with membership dues and that is GREAT! Our executive board and club presidents are working to make the 2023 Central Region Rally in Hutchinson, Kansas on June 11-18 2023 a fun-filled week. We are doing something this year that has never been done before and we are very excited about it. We have an 11-year-old rapper from Kansas City name Macyn "Mac Sauce" McMillan and she will be entertaining our youth as well as some adults. We also have on our schedule National recording artist Nellie "Tiger" Travis. A special thank you to Chuck Byrd from the MoKan Roadrunners for all he's done to make this entertainment possible!

This is NAARVA's 30-year anniversary. The National Rally will be hosted by the Western Region and will be held July 23-30, 2023 in Hemet, California. Director Charles Gill and his team are working hard to put together a celebration for the history of this GREAT organization! Looking forward to seeing you all soon!

Safe travels NAARVA Family... Brian Skipper Director of Central Region The NAARVA Voice - 9

General Secretary NAARVA Public Relations Officer standeo190@gmail.com

ELAINE STANDIFER

VAARVA

CENTRAL REGION

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



LAKEWOOD CAMPING RESORT

MYRTLE BEACH, SC

MAY 11-14, 2023

With early arrival commencing 5/7-10,2023

WESTERN REGION

Greetings NAARVA,

The Western Region is working to present all of our NAARVA members with an outstanding 30th Annual National Camp Rally. Rally packets have already been announced via Constant Contact, and registration packets are available at the NAARVA website. The Rally will take place at the Golden Village Palms RV Resort in Hemet, CA. The dates are July 23-30, 2023.

The theme for our upcoming rally is "NAARVA Then and Now, It's a Celebration". It's going to be a time to celebrate our 30+ years of getting together, remembering where we started and looking at where we are now. There will be music, street parties, entertainment and so much more. Games will take place during the week, as well as bike rides and our annual parade. (We will even take care of some NAARVA business.)

Sunny Southern California offers many activities for those wanting to make this an extended vacation. Theme parks are within a few hours, golfing, beaches and more. For your pleasure, we have added a few tours at the beginning of the rally week, so be sure to review all the pages of the Rally Packet for information.

Your presence and participation will make this celebration complete. A few of the notable events this year will be a block party with karaoke, a Friday night jazz party featuring a jazz quintet and we're asking attendees to dress in all white. For our Saturday dinner, we want to acknowledge and remember our roots,



want to acknowledge cdg2511@comcast.net

and we are asking all members to dress in African attire.

Come on out to the Western Region, and let us entertain you.



"Loving Our Earth: Recycle, Reduce, Reuse, and Respect" What We Can Do? BY JEAN M. HAMPTON, PHD

NAARVA NATIONAL ECOLOGIST

Our NAARVA Ecology Program (NEP) was developed as a brilliant group response to what is now a critical obligation of global magnitude to protect and preserve our planet. We seek to participate in the rebuilding of human behaviors and attitudes that service planetary protection and preservation for present and future generations.

At our August 2022 NEP seminar, Jeff Andrews, one of several buoyant attendees, very emphatically asked me, <u>"What can we do?</u>" **This is <u>THE</u> Question.** It outright demonstrates that we (Jeff, and all of us) <u>really</u> <u>care about our planet</u>, and are eager to pursue solution to the bulging ecological injury on our planet.

Secondly, the answer to this question is multilayered, which is worthy, because there is so much that we can do, so much that we can be, and so much promise in our assorted actions. The promise here, is that we can remedy the ecological injury to our only home, and preserve the future of our planet by living sustainably and sparingly (yet richly) as we enjoy our Earth.

We must act, both individually and collectively, and indeed globally, as no one character, group or even nation can resolve our ecological dilemma alone. Individual action sharpens the mindfulness of our planetary guardianship. It is a necessity for collective action which gives measurable value to our undertakings.

Lastly and most importantly, the combination of these actions can bring meaningful, corrective transformation to this problem. And we have a problem, one that inherently belongs to, and impacts, us all.

Illustrated on page 12, is a summary graphic demonstrating **What** We Can Do, as individuals, or as groups.

The NAARVA NEP and family of NAARVA members are keenly instrumental in protecting our planet through the actions of an array of recycling, volunteering and educational activities.

Our highlighted group actions consist of individual and collective recycling events, and the planting of trees during national, regional or club rallies through both physical planting, and support of national and international tree planting organizations.

Beyond these activities, NEP encourages, as both individual or group actions, the following effective options:

- Buy less "stuff"; and
- Use products/support brands that employ recyclable materials.

(Continued on page 12)



"Protecting Our Planet Starts With You"

(Continued from page 11)

- Consider the ecological platform of both elected and aspiring policy makers.
 - Lobby for legislative intervention and change for effective environmental policy that limits pollution, prevents habitat loss and promotes biodiversity.
- Engage in a more plant-based diet.
- Take the (KAB) Keep America Beautiful #BERECYCLED PLEDGE (at <u>kab.org</u>)
 - o Don't litter, support our parks and recreational sites.
- Remember, and support our annual April 22nd "Earth Day";

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this year's slogan: "Invest in Our Planet."

- Consider investing in home and recreational environmentally-friendly technologies.
- Self-educate by visiting ecologically supportive web sites, there are many; there are many good "reads" as well.
 - o contact jeanhamp@yahoo. com (NAARVA National Ecologist) for referrals.
- Encourage the development of a club Ecology team. (We have 37 clubs, what an impact we can have!)
- Enjoy outdoor activities, take long (or brief) walks in your communities, or spend time in your parks.

Everything that we care about is ultimately shaped, directed and inspired by environmental or ecological conditions and events including weather conditions, sporting and recreational opportunities, population health and human development, community orientation and support. Planet Earth provides the means to support good climate conditions, clean and healthy oceans and air, bountiful and fertile supportive lands for all life forms including humans (including humans because nature and life is not only about humans). Earth can only continue to give if we humans, the assigned planetary caretakers, optimally manage and defend this precious resource. THERE IS NO PLANET B.

Constitution and By-Laws Proposed Amendment Submittal Form

The Constitution and By-Laws that govern our organization is a living, breathing document, frequently adjusted, modified and updated to meet the needs of our members. We have the opportunity every year to enhance the rules that govern us by proposing additions and/or changes to our policies and rules. You may have ideas on ways to improve these controlling documents. If so, amendments can be submitted for our members to consider and approve. Any suggested amendments must be sent in writing to Stanley Cousins, the chairperson of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, and must be postmarked no later than ninety (90) days prior to the convening of the NAARVA National Camp Rally.

The Rally starts on July 23, 2023 and your recommended changes are due by April 24, 2023. All changes are to be submitted by e-mail to the chairperson at <u>sacousinsverizon.net</u>. The Proposed Amendment Submittal Form can be downloaded from the NAARVA website. You will receive an E-mail confirmation within three days of submission. Changes submitted for consideration will be automatically placed on the 2023 National Camp Rally agenda. While the By-Laws may be amended by a majority vote of the members in attendance, amendments to the Constitution require a 2/3 majority vote of those members present.

All Constitution Amendments voted on at the 2022 National Camp Rally will be carried over to the 2023 National Rally for consideration. There is no need for members to resubmit these amendments. This is the decision of the NAARVA Executive Board due to uncertainty of their receiving a certifiable 2/3 majority vote. Let your voice be heard. Submit your proposals soon and make every effort to vote this July.

Submitted by Stan Cousins, Chairman Constitution and By-Laws Committee

		ITION AND B SUB	MERICAN RVer's As YLAWS PROPOSED MITTAL FORM ne per page)		
NAME OF SUBMITTER	:	DATE:			
[] Constitution Propos	sed Amendment:				
Article	_ Title		Section	_ Page	
[] Bylaws Proposed A	mendment:				
Article	Title		Section	_ Page	
PRESENTLY READS:					
CHANGE TO READ:					
REASON FOR CHANG	GE:				
Signature of Submitter	:		Membership #: _	Date: _	
[] Club Name:			[] Member-at-la	rge Region:	
	For Us	se by Constit	ution and Bylaws C	Committee	
Recommended for app Reason for recommenc		[] No			

Looking Ahead: April, May, June 2023

Celebrations and Events, Includes Available Regional Club Events

April

Saturday, April 1 --- April Fools' Day

April Fools' Day on April 1 is a day where many of us unleash our most creative sides, all in a hilarious – sometimes over the top – attempt at bamboozling those around us. Why do we do this, and where did it start? Well there surprisingly isn't a concrete conclusion by historians. But nevertheless, every spring we all put on our pranking caps to plan out the most devious and diabolical, yet safe and playful pranks we can think of, making this 24 hours possibly the most fun, exciting, and anxiety-filled day of the year!





Eastern Region - DC Connection <u>RV Club</u> April 14 - 16, 2023 American Heritage RV Park 146 Maxton Lane Williamsburg, VA 23188

Friday, April 14 National Ex-Spouse Day

National Ex-Spouse Day, curiously inserted into the calendar exactly two months after Valentine's Day, has become a time to reflect on the positive moments you shared with your ex. That's correct. Look — you married them. There must have been something you liked — that is, before they snapped. Think of them fondly — before celebrating the fact that they're gone.



<u>Tuesday, April 18 — National Exercise Day</u>

National Exercise Day is celebrated on April 18 every year. It is a day to encourage everyone to participate in physical activities. Exercise enhances our general health by giving us more energy, making us feel better, and even extending our lives by years. Regular physical activity and exercise have several health benefits that are impossible to overlook. Everyone, regardless of age, gender, or physical ability, benefits from exercise. Unfortunately, despite how important exercising is, only a few individuals are dedicated to it. National Exercise Day is a day to encourage and motivate people to exercise, with the aim that it will be the start of a new habit for everyone.

<u>Eastern Region —</u> <u>Virginia Camping Cardinals</u> April 20 - 23 , 2023 North Point RV Resort 428 Campground Road Selma, NC 27576



Looking Ahead: April, May, June 2023 Celebrations and Events, Includes Available Regional Club Events

<u>Central Region —</u> <u>Rocky Mountain RV Rollers</u> April 22, 2023 AMC Castle Rock 12 Movie Times, 3960 Limelight Avenue Castle Rock, CO 80109,



Tuesday, April 25 - Red Hat Society Day

Red Hat Society Day Celebrated on April 25, Red Hat Society Day is a celebration of women and the lifelong friendships formed. The Red Hat Society is one of the world's most prestigious worldwide women's social organizations. Starting with a single red hat given as a birthday gift, it has evolved into a universal emblem for women turning 50 and entering the next stage in life. It has evolved from a club or organization to a women's



society with members emphasizing the positive sides of life, including camaraderie, sisterhood, entertainment, and a desire to discover the good in everything. Members promote mutual respect, goodwill, and good humor. Let us wear our Red Hats on this journey of camaraderie.

<u>Central Region —</u> <u>Akron Adventurers Kampers Club</u> April 28 - May 1, 2023 Evergreen Lake Park - Conneaut 703 Center Road Conneaut, Ohio 44030 Located off i-90, Exit 241 Conneaut, Ohio





<u>Eastern Region —</u> <u>New Horizon RV Club</u> April 27 - 30, 2023 Carrollwoods RVCampground & Vineyards 95 Dot Lane Tabor City, NC

Looking Ahead: April, May, June 2023

Celebrations and Events, Includes Available Regional Club Events





<u>Central Region —</u> <u>Minnesota Voyagers RV Club</u> May 5 - 7, 2023 Dakota Meadows (Mystic Lake Casino) 2341 Park Pl. NW, Prior Lake, MN 55372

<u>Eastern Region —</u> <u>NAARVA Eastern Region Annual</u> <u>Camp Rally</u> May 11 - 14, 2023 Lakewood Camping Resort 5901 S. Kings Highway Myrtle Beach, NC 29575

Monday, May 15

Bring Flowers to Someone Day

Bring Flowers to Someone Day is held annually on May 15. The gift of flowers is a universal way of showing love, appreciation, sympathy, or thanks. Today is the perfect day to explore the history of giving flowers and the meanings behind them. You won't need a reason to give flowers to someone — any or no reason will do! Everyone is encouraged to spread joy through beau-





tiful blooms. Buy an arrangement from a florist or pick blooms from your garden. You must hand over the flowers yourself. It adds a personal touch to a thoughtful gift.



<u>Eastern Region — DC Connection RV Club</u> May 19 - 21, 2023 Americamps RV Resort 11322 Air Park Road, Ashland, VA 23005

African Liberation Day

African Liberation Day, aka Africa Day, on May 25 is an annual celebration of African sovereign rule, independence, and African identity. African states founded the Organization of African Unity and sought collaboration and co-existence with neighboring countries that had also recently driven away their colonizers. Countries from all over the continent hold this day in high regard as it speaks to their past, present, and future as nations. African Liberation Day belongs to Africans of all creeds and classes for they are one nation.

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Looking Ahead: April, May, June 2023

Celebrations and Events, Includes Available Regional Club Events



Central Region — Akron Adventurers Kampers Club MAY 25 – 29, EVERGREEN RV RESORT 16359 Dover Road (250) Dundee, Ohio 44624

<u>Sunday, May 28 — Pentecost</u>

Pentecost, also known as Whitsunday, will be celebrated on May 28 this year. The word has its roots in the Greek word 'pentecoste,' which means '50th day.' Pentecost is a major festival in the Christian church and is celebrated by believers on the Sunday that falls on the 50th day of Easter. Believers often choose to get baptized on Pentecost, and today it has become the most common day for baptism. Simply put, Pentecost marks the beginning of the Christian church's mission to the world.





Looking Ahead: April, May June 2023 Celebrations and Events, Includes Available Regional Club Events



June 1 — Black Lives Matter

Every June 1 marks the start of Black Lives Matter Month, an opportunity for all Americans to make a stand against racism and raciallymotivated violence. Founded as a hashtag in 2013, Black Lives Matter has grown into thousands of decentralized chapters advocating for equality and justice for the Black community, and protesting against violence against black people at the hands of law enforcement.





Central Region — **Akron Adventurers Kampers Club** June 22 - 225, 2023 **Tappen Camping Resort** 84000 Mallarnee Road Deerville, Ohio 44693

African-American Music Appreciation Month

The United States has been celebrating African-American Music Appreciation Month in June since 1979. The month of June is set aside to appreciate the contributions of African-American musicians, composers, singers, and songwriters in American culture. The month honors the history and rich African traditions that gave birth to different styles of music such as rap, hip-hop, jazz, rhythm and blues, barbershop, and swing. It is also the month to celebrate creative inspiration and appreciate the impact that African-American music has had on generations of performers and music lovers!



National Camping Month

Camping is one of America's favorite outdoor activities and National Camping Month is observed in June every year. Be it with friends, family, or even by yourself, camping is the perfect way to reconnect with nature and yourself. Camping is also a very popular summer activity that keeps young children engaged outside of school. Enjoy camping however you want, and rough it by leaving all modem amenities behind to get a detox from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.



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 Spring 2023 is June 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.

Listing of African American Owned Campgrounds This list of AA Owned Campgrounds is provided for information only, and is not intended as an endorsement or incentive to patronize.

Apache Park & Trail Website: Apache Park and Trail

Joyland RV Park Website: Joyland RV Park Facebook: Joyland RV Park

Lake City Camp & Glamp Website: Lake City Camp and Glamp Facebook: Lake City Camp and Glamp

Tranquility RV and Campgrounds Website: Tranquility Campgrounds Facebook: Tranquility RV & Campgrounds

> Wild Wild West Camp No info avail

Picacho/Tucson NW KOA Website: Picacho/Tucson NW KOA Journey Facebook: Picacho/Tucson NW KOA Journey

Cowtown Keeylocko Website: Cowtown Keeylocko Facebook: Cowtown Keeylocko

Sugarloaf Morings Farm Website: no info avail Facebook: Sugarloaf Morings Farm

Mike's Desert Oasis Website: Mike's Desert Oasis

The Starlight Ranch Website: The Starlight Ranch Facebook: The Starlight Ranch

G&R Campground Website: G&R Campground https://www.facebook.com/pages/ G-R-Recreation-Campground/ 111705518865242

Grace Farms Campground Website: Grace Farms

Big John's Redemption Ranch Facebook: Big John's Redemption Ranch

Skyview Trail Website: Skyview Trail

Harvest Blessings Garden Retreat Website: Harvest Blessings Garden Retreat

> Warthen RV Park Website: Warthen RV Park Facebook: Warthen RV Park

D&D Outdoor Retreat Website: D&D Outdoor Retreat Facebook: D&D Outdoor Retreat

BoMax Ranch and Retreat Website: BoMax Ranch and Retreat Facebook: BoMax Ranch and Retreat

Kayenah's Sunset Ranch Website: Kayenah's Sunset Ranch Facebook: Kayenah's Sunset Ranch

McIntosh Manor RV Park and Campground Website: McIntosh Manor RV Park and Campground Facebook: McIntosh Manor RV Park and Campground

The Platinum Ranch Facebook: Southeastern Platinum Riderz

Wanderland Campground Website: Wanderland Campground Facebook: Wanderland Campground

> The Glamp Inn Website: The Glamp Inn Facebook: The Glamp Inn

HSS Farms Website: HSS Farms Facebook: HSS Farms

Unity Family Farm and Camp Website: Unity Family Farm

Big Black Campout Website: Big Black Campout

.The Oasis at Stonecrest Facebook: The Oasis at Stonecrest

> **Camp Kupugani** Website: Camp Kupugani Facebook: Camp Kupugani

H.E.R. Living Ranch Website: H.E.R. Living Campus Facebook: H.E.R. Living Campus

Laurel Lake Camping Resort Website: Laurel Lake Camping Resort Facebook: Laurel Lake Camping Resort

Omega Star Hobby Farm Facebook: Omega Star Hobby Farm

Seaside View Campground Website: Seaside View Campground

> The Muvaland Hipcamp Website: The Muvaland

Lacy Oasis Website: Lacy Oasis Facebook: Lacy Oasis

Shite Foot Farms Facebook: Shitefootfarms

Kamp 42 Degrees Facebook: Kamp 42 Degrees

Mujeres Valley Campground Website: Mujeres Valley Campground Facebook: Mujeres Valley Campground

> **Boheme Retreat** Website: Boheme Retreats Facebook: Boheme Retreats

Buckhorn Veterans Park Website: Buckhorn Veterans Park Facebook: Buckhorn Veterans Park

Nu Generation Farm Park Website: Nu Generation Farm Park Facebook: Nu-Generation Farm Park

(Continued on Page 20)

Listing of African American Owned Campgrounds

This list of AA Owned Campgrounds is provided for infomration only, and is not intended as an endorsement or incentive to patronize.

(Continued from Page 19)

Edward Beach on Lake Gaston Facebook: Edward Beach Lake Gaston

Seven Springs Farm and Vineyard Website: Seven Springs Farm and Vineyard Facebook: Seven Springs Farm and Vineyard

Coble's Landing Website: <u>Coble's Landing</u> Facebook: <u>Coble's Landing</u>

Land of Waterfalls RV Park Website: Land of Waterfalls RV <u>Park</u> Facebook: Land of Waterfalls RV <u>Park</u>

Homestead Asili Facebook: <u>Homestead Asili</u>

Ross' Paradise Park Website: <u>Ross' Paradise Park</u>

Rich Farm and Venue Website: <u>Rich Farm & Venue</u> Facebook: <u>Rich Farm & Venue</u>

Council Road RV Park Website: <u>Council Road RV Park</u> Facebook: <u>Council road RV Park</u>

The Rembert Family Homestead Facebook: <u>The Rembert Family</u> <u>Homestead</u>

Urban Saddle Ranch Website: <u>Urban Saddle Ranch</u> Facebook: <u>Urban Saddle Ranch</u>

> **Kidogo Farms** Website: <u>Kidogo Farms</u> Facebook: <u>Kidogo Farms</u>

Friendly Fowl Farms Website: <u>Friendly Fowl Farm</u> Morning Glory Homestead Farm, LLC Website: <u>Morning Glory Homestead</u> <u>Farm, LLC</u> Facebook: <u>Morning Glory Homestead</u> <u>Farm</u>

Little Congaree Creek Camp Website: Little Congaree Creek Camp

Middleton Place Bed and Breakfast Website: <u>Middleton Place Bed and</u> <u>Breakfast</u> Facebook: <u>Middleton Place Bed and</u> Breakfast

> **Starlight Glamping** Website: <u>Starlight Glamping</u> Facebook: <u>Starlight Glamping</u>

Swan Bay Cabins and RV Park Website: Swan Bay Cabins and RV Park Facebook: Swan Bay Cabins & RV Park

Cook's Lake RV Resort Website: <u>Cook's Lake RV Resort</u> <u>and Campground</u> Facebook: <u>Cook's Lake RV Resort</u> <u>and Campground</u>

Tripl RV Park Website: <u>Tripl RV Park & Resort</u> Facebook: <u>Tripl RV Park & Resort</u>

Twisted Pines RV Park Website: <u>Twisted Pines RV Park</u> Facebook: <u>Twisted Pines RV Park</u>

BTL Ranch RV Resort Website: <u>BTL Ranch RV Resort</u> Facebook: <u>BTL Ranch RV Resort</u>

HFR Campsites Facebook: <u>HFR Campsites & Retreats</u>

Logan's Way RV Park Website: Logan's Way RV Park Facebook: Logan's Way RV Park Shands Park Facebook: <u>Shands Park</u>

Hidden Acres Family Campground Website: <u>Hidden Acres Family</u> Campground Facebook: <u>Hidden Acres Family</u> Campground

Geer's Royal Kingdom Website: <u>Geer's Royal Kingdom</u> Facebook: <u>Geer's Royal Kingdom</u>

Goree's Catfish Bay Facebook: <u>Goree's Catfish Bay</u> <u>Resort</u>

Turtle Island Off the River Campground Tiny Home RV Park Website: <u>Turtle Island Off the River</u> <u>Campground Tiny Home RV Park</u> Facebook: <u>Turtle Island Off the</u> <u>River Campground Tiny Home RV</u> <u>Park</u>

Greens Campground Hideaway Facebook: <u>Greens Campground</u> <u>Hideaway</u>

Peachtree Campground Facebook: <u>Peachtree Campground</u>

The Creek House Facebook: <u>The Creek House</u>

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