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www.NAARVA.com

THE NAARVA VOICE

VOLUME 23 ISSUE 4

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FALL 2023

From The President's Desk...

Greetings

Hello NAARVA Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to introduce myself to you as the NAARVA President for the 2023-2025 term. Also, I would like to congratulate the newly elected Executive Board, Appointed Officers and Committee chairpersons.

We, as your new administration, are in the process of working on some new ideas to lead the organization into the 21st Century and become more updated with technology. We are also in the process of revamping the National website, so look for new updates soon. The plan is to make the website more user friendly and easier to navigate.

I am excited to announce the Executive Board has secured a location for the NAARVA 2024 National Rally hosted by the Eastern Region. The Rally will be held at Lakewood RV Resort in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. September 8-15, 2024.

I look forward to seeing all the smiling faces in Myrtle Beach this upcoming year.

Sincerely,
Rodney Thompson

"NAARVA's FAMILY REUNION" 2024

I'm so excited about the 2024 NAARVA National Camp Rally that is being hosted by the Eastern Region!

September 8 - 15, 2024
Lakewood RV Resort
Myrtle Beach, NC
Belinda Moore - Regional Director

You can look forward to full hook-up, Water Park, Arcade, Mimi-Golf, Amphitheater, Resort-Wide WiFi, Trading Post, Ice Cream Parlors, Private Poolside Cabanas, The Ocean, The Chicken Joint, Beach Bum Coffee House, Onsite Food Trucks and local attractions such as the new African American Museum.

Registration packets will be available January 2024.

Rodney Thompson
NAARVA President

NAARVA Executive Board 2023 - 2025

RODNEY THOMPSON
Presiden
rdnthmp@sbcglobal.net

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1st Vice President
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CHARLES BREEDLOVE
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Breedlove@gmail.com

SYLVIA ALLEN
Director, Central Region
spallen1972@yahool.com

CHARLES GILL, JR.
Director, Western Region
cdg2511@comcast.net

2023 - 2025 Board Members Not Shown

STANLEY COUSINS ~ Assistant General Secretary
NICHOL HIGDON - Treasurer
SARAH RUNNEELS - Financial Secretary
IRIS RAINES - Assistant Financial Secretary

Appointed Positions

Rev. Garland Scott
National Chaplain

Connie Malone
Parliamentarian

Jean Hampton - *Ecologist*

Ronald (Ron) Standifer - *Historian*

Elaine Standifer
Public Relations Coordinator

Stanley Cousins
Constitution & By-Laws Chairperson

JoeIlen Davis
National Scholarship Chairperson

Beth Gill
Benevolent Coordinator

Lonnie Fyles
Nominations/Elections

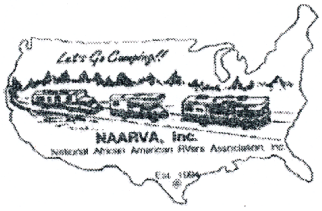
James H. Gregory, Jr.
NAARVA Voice Editor (Newsletter)

Diane Bowman
Property Review Chairperson

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS

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



From The President's Desk:

Each year our membership has the opportunity to improve on our governing documents by adding, deleting or changing the policies and rules presented in our Constitution and By-Laws. This year we voted to make several changes to these documents at the Annual National Camp Rally Meeting. The newly amended versions of our Constitution and By-Laws are attached.

Constitution changes approved by our membership are as follows:

- Article IV, Section 4 — **Regional Elected Officers:** The term 'affiliated chapters' was removed.
- Article V, Section 2 — **Governing Assembly:** In the absence of the National President, the Governing Assembly shall be chaired by the lst Vice President, then follow the order of hierarchy of elected officers.
- Article V, Section 3 — **Delegates:** A syntax error was corrected in referencing Article V, Section 2.
- Article VI, Section 1c — **Governing Assembly Meeting:** In the event that the composition of the Governing Assembly is such that the ability to cast the tie-breaking vote is nullified, the President, on matters where there is a conflict of interest, shall be empowered to randomly select one (1) additional member for such session only.
- Article VI, Section 2e — **NAARVA Youth:** This article on NAARVA Youth officers, directors, and programs was deleted.
- Article VI, Section 2f — **Western Region:** The British Columbia province of Canada is added to the Western Region organization.

By-Law changes approved by our membership are as follows:

- Article IV, Section 3 — **Elections:** After the National Camp Rally elections and swearing-in ceremony, newly elected National Officers shall assume office and full responsibility at the end of the Annual National Camp Rally.
- Article XIII, Section la — **Western Region:** The British Columbia province of Canada is added to the Western Region organization.

Please download and keep a copy of these updated governing documents for your records.

NAARVA Membership Dues
National: $50.00 Region: $10.00

During the 2023 National Annual Camp Rally meeting in Hemet, California, July 29, 2023 the members in attendance voted to change the dues from $50.00 to $60.00. This is not an increase in dues. The new amount includes the $10.00 for region dues. The $10.00 region dues will be sent to the region's financial secretary.

If you selected the 3-year $135.00 ($15.00 discount) dues payment you must include $30.00 for the region dues totaling $165.00, The $30.00 region dues will be sent to the region's financial secretary.

As we near the end of this year, it is time to submit your dues if your membership ends 12/31/2023! Pay your dues timely, and there will be no reinstatement fee.

For those of you who have already paid their dues beyond 12/31/2023. THANK YOU!

If you have already paid your dues without the region dues, please pay prior to your expiration date or December 31, 2023 to alleviate being assessed the $25.00 reinstatement fee.

NAARVA is growing to its fullest potential; you are the key to that success. We are on track to encourage membership growth. Club outings are occurring all across the nation nearly every week! Our Region and National rallies, facilitate families and friends coming together, and visiting grandparents, parents, siblings, and extended family as part of their journey to rally sites.

If you have any questions, please call the NAARVA Office at 704-333-3070.

Rodney Thompson
NAARVA President

From the Editor....

WHERE DID IT GO!!! I teased you in the past issues about braving residual Covid, travel distances, heat, and future planning just in anticipation of a signature NAARVA GOOD TIME. Once we hit the season for most members in June, it is like a whirlwind hit. Think about it....Regional Rallies, National Rally, National Elections, residual club outings...**WHooSH** check out the "Looking Forward" section at the end of this VOICE Edition. The NAARVA GOOD TIMES continue even though the the summer season has drawn to an end. We now turn to — and start hearing from the snowbirds i.e. those NAARVA members that run from the cold to over-winter in places like Florida and Texas..., must be nice. We will be hearing about their camaraderie in the months to come. My club hosted their last RV outing in September when we went to Santa Fe, NM. We had tried this visit in the Covid past when we had big celebrations planned for our 15th anniversary, nonetheless we finally got to do it and it was relaxing and fun, a great way to end our travel season.

In this issue of the VOICE we introduce you to our newly elected Executive Board, position appointees, get an early view of the upcoming 2024 NAARVA National Rally, note reminders about our Constitution and By-laws and dues, recognize new winners of the NAARVA scholarships, celebrate our NAARVA Ecological contributions, get a peek at the remaining NAARVA Club activities, and remembering Hemet.

As always — get out, have fun, STAY SAFE and look out for each other. **~ JAMES**

Education Station

JOELLEN DAVIS
NAARVA Scholarship Committee Chairperson

I have had the pleasure of being the Scholarship Chairperson for the 2023-2024 NAARVA Scholarship Program. I would also like to recognize the other Committee Members who served with me on this Committee. They include: Alice Clark Harris — Western Region; Lola Porter — Eastern Region; Saundra Powell — Central Region; Jean Hampton — Southern Region and Joellen Davis — Central Region.

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

NAARVA is proud to announce the four Recipients of the $1,000.00 Scholarship. They are: Alayna Cleaver, Rhyan Victoria Herrera, Skylar Adams, and Nolan /Shelton. The one Recipient of the $500.00 Scholarship is Jace Edward Jones.

NAARVA Congratulates each recipient and wishes them continued success. Their photos and biographies follow.

Joellen Davis

SKYLAR ADAMS

Skylar is the Grandson of Oscar and Cynthia Neal from the **Texas Sojourners** and the Southern Region.

Skylar graduated from James Martin High School in Arlington, Texas with a GPA of 3.08. During his high school years, Skylar participated in the following activities: Choir; Show Choir; Chamber Singers; Marching Band; Concert Band; Philharmonic Orchestra; Musical Theatre; and Winter Guard.

Skylar will be a student at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, where he will be majoring in Music Therapy with a minor in Psychology.

With this scholarship, Skylar will continue his journey of using music to heal and reform people's lives.

Skylar wants to thank NAARVA for the $1,000.00 scholarship.

(Continued on pg. 5)

Education Station

(Continued from pg. 4)

ALAYNA CLEAVER

Alayna is the Granddaughter of Charles and Bobbie Locke, Members-at-Large from the Southern Region.

Alayna graduated from Lee's Summit North High School in Lee's Summit, Missouri with a GPA of 4.37.

During her high school years, Alayna was enrolled in Honors, Advanced Placement, and International Baccalaureate classes. She also participated in the following activities: Medical Club, Vice President (Grades 9-11); President (Grade 12); Health Occupation Students of America, Vice President (Grades 10-11); President (Grade 12); Robotics Program (Grades 11-12); Black Student Union (Grades 10-12); French Honor Society (Grades 10-12); National Honor Society (Grades 11-12); Truman Heartland Foundation Youth Advisory Council (Grades 11-12); Suburban Balance Youth Leader (Grades 10 - 12); Kansas Parks & Recreation Volunteer (Grade 11); Piano (8 years); Orchestra Cello (6 years); Basketball (Grade 9); and Track & Field (Grades 9-11).

Alayna will be a student at Stanford University in Stanford, California, where she will be majoring in environmental science and political science to advocate for governmental policies that protect the environment, our planet, and its people.

Alayna wants to thank NAARVA for the $1,000.00 Scholarship.

RHYAN VICTORIA HERRERA

Rhyan is the Granddaughter of Timothy and Fran Emily from **Rocky Mountain RV Rollers** and the Central Region.

Rhyan graduated in the top 15% of her high school class from Eaglecrest High School in Aurora, Colorado with a GPA of 3.73.

During her high school years, Rhyan was enrolled in Honors and AP classes in English, Social Studies, and Math and also participated in the following activities: School Newspaper — Website Manager and Editor-in-Chief (Grades 10-12); Yearbook (Grade 11); Sisterhood Program (Grades 10-11); Speech & Debate (Grade 11); Varsity Softball (Grades 9-10); and Junior Varsity Basketball (Grade 9).

Rhyan will be a student at San Diego State University in San Diego, California, where she will be majoring in Journalism and Media Studies. With this scholarship, Rhyan will continue her journey of exploring the expanding field of journalism.

Rhyan wants to thank NAARVA for the $1,000.00 Scholarship.

NOLAN SHELTON

Nolan is the Grandson of John and Jackie Keller from the **Funseekers Rain City Travelers** and the Western Region.

Nolan graduated from Heritage High School in Frisco, Texas with a GPA of 3.08.

During his high school years, Nolan participated in the following activities: Peer Leadership; Distributive Education Clubs of America (2019-2022); Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (2022-2023); and Antioch Urban Ministries, Youth Program (2012-present).

Nolan will be a student at Georgia Gwinnett College in Lawrenceville, Georgia where he will he majoring in Cinema and Media Arts.

Nolan wants to thank NAARVA for the $1,000.00 Scholarship.

JACE EDWARD JONES

Jace is the Grandson of Stephen and Linda Gray from the **Texas Sojourners** and the Southern Region.

Jace graduated from Foster High School in Houston, Texas with a GPA of 3.55.

During his high school years, Jace participated in the following activities: Basketball (Varsity and AAU) and in the Community, he volunteered at Jones Pre-K — ECE Summer School Enrichment Program. Jace also volunteered at his church with the Back-to-School Fall Festival, Christmas Food Drive, and Vacation Bible School.

Jace will be a student at Coastal Bend College in Beeville, Texas, where he will be majoring in Business Management.

Jace wants to thank NAARVA for the $500.00 Scholarship.

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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 Chaplain's Corner...

REV. GARLAND SCOTT
NAARVA Chaplain
scottnlimp@yahoo.com

Hello, my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. I, Rev. Garland Scott, am very proud to be appointed NAARVA's new Chaplain. Just like Paul who accepted his calling to follow after Christ, I have no idea where the road will lead me, but I am willing and able to accept the challenge. Most importantly, I know with your help and with the Lord by my side, I can and will accomplish my tasks and responsibilities.

Also, I am very excited to announce that we have a new Executive Board. The new leaders will need our help and assistance with their new roles, assignments, and responsibilities. We must not forget that YOU, the members, have a vital important role to play as well. You will help to ensure that NAARVA moves forward by engaging and participating in discussing with the E-board to solidify the mission and goals of this great organization.

There will be discussion about implementing new policies and procedures. And when having these discussions, antagonism should never be the goal of any member(s) to stop the process as we strive to create a better camping experience for all to enjoy.

Remember, the body elected the E-board to serve all members and no one member should take on the responsibility or take the position to be an antagonist.

An antagonist is an individual or a group of individuals that goes out of their way to make insatiable demands and unreasonable attacks on the leadership. These attacks are selfish in nature, tear down rather than build up and are often directed against those in leadership positions.

Luke 13:10-17, Jesus was teaching on the Sabbath in the synagogue. He saw a crippled 18 year old woman who was bent over and was unable to stand in an upright posture. Because of her disability, this young woman had no confident in herself, she felt ashamed, rejected, and ignored.

Then Jesus saw her. He called out to her and said, "Woman thou art loosed." She was healed and immediately afterwards she praised God. But now, here come the antagonists. They only noticed that Jesus healed her on the Sabbath. They failed to realize that Jesus had set this young woman free and placed her on a straight and righteous path. It didn't matter to them that she was healed, not only of her physical condition, but most importantly of her spiritual condition. We must learn to see in all directions, to see the bigger picture. Yes, Jesus healed on the Sabbath, **but the law was meant to serve man and not man to serve the law.**

On the road to Damascus, Saul's mission was to find, imprison, and or kill Christians. But on his way, Saul met Jesus and repented. He turned in faith to Christ, Acts 9:1-8. After his incredible meeting with Christ, he attempted to persuade Jews and Christians by telling them about his life-changing conversion. He was met with much opposition and many doubted and shunned him.

Let's give our leaders a chance by removing all doubts and skepticism and provide them our full cooperation. We should adopt the mindset of helping and coordinating in order to be a cohesive team which is paramount to grow NAARVA into a beautiful organization. Each member on the E-board will need our participation, our patience, and understanding as they navigate through their new roles. The road will be tough, but we can make it easy. Not by blind compliance, but by a willingness to air out our differences and most importantly, respecting one another's point of view.

~ Rev. Garland Scott

History of NAARVA... Rev. Garland Scott

I looked up the great history of NAARVA and found this:

The idea for the first National African-American RV'ers Association (NAARVA), originated while the ***Ohio Buckeye Road Runners of Cincinnati, OH*** were camping at the Rose Garden Campground in Crittenden, KY in August 1992. The goal was to provide an environment for networking and fellowship with other minority campers because it was not common to see other minority campers when traveling. The OBRR of Cincinnati held fundraisers to help finance the first Camp Rally which was held in August 1993, at Winton Woods Campgrounds in Cincinnati. There were 52 campers, with more than 150 people in attendance. The idea of a camping event for minorities caught on, with campers from Detroit, MI serving as hosts of the next event. In August 1994, the ***Free Rollers*** and ***Northwest Sun Seekers*** hosted the Second Annual Camp Rally at the Wayne County Fairgrounds in Bellville, MI. In 1994, the "Camp Rally" concept expanded, and the campers joined together to officially create a national minority organization, NAARVA. Interim officers were elected and NAARVA was chartered in August 1994. It is now an independent 501(c)(7) organization. First National Officers Interim President and Organizer Norman L. Ellis 1992

I would like to think that when the founders got together, the road was not easy. They had to have several meetings, discussions, and some opposition when the idea of NAAVRA was for-

(See History of NAARVA, pg. 7)

CENTRAL REGION

SYLVIA ALLEN
Director, Central Region
spallen1972@yahooo.com

Hello NAARVA!

What a successful year for this great organization and I expect another great year in 2024. Each year we continue to make our National and Regional Rallies better than last. We listen to our members and make every effort to meet your needs and implement your suggestions to make our Rallies enjoyable for everyone.

This year we had two performers at the June 2023 Rally in Hutchinson Kansas at the State Fair Ground. Macyn "Mac Sauce" McMillian performed for our youth audience and stayed to answer questions our young members asked regarding how she got started in the business.

As a Father's Day gift to the men attending, we had Nellie "Tiger" Travis. Nellie performed several of her popular recordings and got off the stage and joined the Central Region Line Dancers.

The 2024 Central Region Rally will be held at the World Shooting and Recreational Complex in Sparta, IL / June 16-23, 2024. All NAARVA Regions are invited contingent upon space availability. Our Central Region Rallies fill up fast.

Before closing, I want to thank the NAAARVA and Regional outgoing officers and welcome the new officers serving this term. **~ Sylvia Allen**

History of NAARVA...

(Continued from page 6)

mulated and implemented. But they worked hard, and like-mined people came together as one to prevail. When Paul preached his first sermon, they all heard it and said they were amazed. "Is not this he, that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests." Acts 9:21.

I, for one, do not think that anyone who was elected to the E-board wishes to destroy this organization. Yes, each one has their own agenda, but collectively, their agenda is to improve and not to destroy. Saul's dramatic conversion on the road to Damascus was the beginning of an incredible journey. And while not all conversions are as startling as Saul's, but each of us is commissioned by Jesus to live in obedience to Him, John 14:15, "Love one another in His name."

As we go together on this amazing journey, let's help our leaders do their job with love and maybe, just maybe, with **EVERYONE ON BOARD** as one, we all will be amaze with what we can and will accomplish...
Praise God, Praise God, Praise God!

Ease on down the road again.

Central Region Board with Nellie "Tiger" Travis.

(Above) Macyn "Mac Sauce" McMillian performed for the kids.

(L) Sandra Powell

Bean Bag Baseball

(Above) Ladies Luncheon Models

(Right) Ladies Luncheon

The Rollers Rolled in to Hemet and were WINNERS at the National Rally!

Hello Everyone!

The ***Rocky Mountain RV Rollers*** from the Colorado area took several different routes as they headed to the 30th Annual NAARVA National Rally in Hemet, California. One member was already on the west coast, so he drove down from Oregon. The other two groups (one with six rigs and the other with five rigs) traveled through the mountains of Colorado and Utah and through Las Vegas, Nevada, while the other group traveled from Colorado through New Mexico, Arizona, and then into Hemet.

In total, we had 28 members, which included: Fermor Black, Elton and Cynthia Cannon (with daughter, Kaneisha and granddaughter, Kaliyah), James and Anita Clark, Charlie and Joellen Davis, Tony and Toni Goggans, James and Arnetta Gregory, Willie and Barbara James, Daron and Rachel Nedio, Willie and Delores Rosaya, (with Dave and Janet — Delores' sister and brother-in-law), Michael and Traci Walker, James and Wanda Woods (with son, Jayden), and Reggie and Alfredia York. Seven members (and other family members) attended the National Rally for the first time and we all enjoyed this memorable rally!

The Rollers participated in all events, including two of the tours that were offered, San Diego tour and the Catalina Island tour. My husband, Charlie and I went on the San Diego tour along with nine other Rollers and enjoyed the beautiful day (30 degrees cooler in temperature than it was in Hemet!)

Once in San Diego, some of us boarded an "Off and On Tour Bus" to see "the city sights." It was very interesting and we stopped and had lunch at a Mexican Restaurant and then reboarded the bus to continue on with the tour (We could get off and on at any of the 12 stopping points). We arrived back at the campground in time for the "Meet and Greet." This gave us a chance to see all the Rollers and meet up with other NAARVA members. The Western Region had plenty of food to eat at this first activity.

On Tuesday, a contingent of Rollers went on another tour offered, which was to Catalina Island. They left the campground at 6:30 a.m. and arrived back to the campground at 7:30 p.m. It was a long day, but enjoyed by those who went. Several of us went to a local Casino. Tuesday evening was Karaoke Night and several of us enjoyed listening to the "brave people who performed." NAARVA has some very talented singers who performed and we enjoyed the night.

On Wednesday, the Rollers started off the day with a Club Breakfast. It was nice and cool at 9:30 in the morning, but very quickly warmed up. We had "awnings" and a "mister" to keep us cool from the hot sun. Three of our attendees went off to line dancing class, while the rest of us returned to our rigs to stay cool. Thanks to all the Rollers for making this a special way to start our day!

The Opening Ceremony was held and I am pleased to announce that as NAARVA Scholarship Chairperson, I was able to announce and present the five Scholarship winners (See pg. 4.) We wish all the recipients continued success as they continue their educational journey.

The Parade was held after the Opening Ceremony when it was nice and cool and we were able to watch the people walking and those that had decorated golf carts and bikes in the parade. Mr. Norman Ellis (Founder and Fist NAARVA President) was the Grand. Marshal of the parade. It was great to see Mr. Ellis and I know he was pleased to see that NAARVA is still going strong. A special thanks to him for having the vision of bringing campers together from all across the United States. Thank you, Mr. Ellis!

On Thursday, the Governing Assembly Meeting (for Delegates) was held in the morning. The Region Meetings were held in the afternoon. I am sure each region discussed the Proposed National Constitution & By-Laws that had been submitted, as well as updates on each Region Rally for next year. One very important item that was brought up was Region Dues. The $10.00 Region Dues fee will now be sent by each NAARVA member to the National Headquarters along with their NAARVA Dues ($10.00 plus $50.00 per year). This policy change will begin in January, 2024. If a member has already paid their dues for 2024 and beyond, they will only need to pay the Regional Fee for each year, but it should go directly to the NAARVA Headquarters. NAARVA will then send each Region a check for all Region Dues collected from each Region member. Another item discussed was the tentative date for the 2024 National Rally. It will be held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, September 8-15, 2024, and hosted by the Eastern Region.

We ended Thursday night with a Street Party, complete with DJ and Party lights. A coupon for "Free In-and Out" Burgers were given before the street party began and a food vendor specializing in Southern Cooking was also on site. Both were very good!

On Friday, the Ladies "Diamonds and Pearls" Luncheon and the Men's Luncheon were held. Then it was off to the Cake Walk. We ended the night

(Continued on page 9)

Jazz Night White Party around the pool.

Rollers Rolled In To Hemet...

(Continued from pg. 8)

with a Jazz Night "White Party around the pool, complete with a band playing soulful tunes. Again, the night was nice and cool and it was a great way to "chill out."

(The week flew by and it was Saturday! We had Worship Services, the Rally Camp Meeting, Ice Cream Social, and the Closing Dinner and Ceremony. NAARVA Election results were announced at the Camp Rally Meeting and the new Officers are:

President — Rodney Thompson; 2nd Vice President — Brian Skipper; General Secretary — Elaine Standifer; and Assistant Treasurer — Andrea Johnson-Harvey. Five other positions for elected officers will be appointed by Rodney Thompson as the New President. They include: 1st Vice President, Treasurer, Assistant General Secretary, Financial Secretary, and Assistant Financial Secretary. Congratulations to all!

For the closing dinner and ceremony, the theme was "African Attire" and it was great to see all the colors! Final awards were presented (Golf, Bid Whist, Texas Hold'em, Parade, etc.). Louise made her final remarks as outgoing President and recognized the many people who worked with her along the way. I want to personally thank Louise for her leadership over the past four years. She has done an awesome job!

As I stated in the beginning of this article, the Rollers were Winners! Door Prize Winners were: Joellen Davis, Toni Goggans, Tony Goggans, Delores Rosaya, Traci Walker, Wanda Woods, Alfredia York, and Reggie York. Early Incentive Drawing Winner ($100.00) was James and Wanda Woods.

A Special Thank You to Charles Gill, his Rally team, and the entire NAARVA Membership for making the 30th NAARVA National Rally a very memorable event! I am looking forward to seeing everyone next year. Stay safe and "See You on the Road!"

~ Joellen Davis
Rocky Mountain RV Rollers
President NAARVA Member since 1996 (#94-0571)

Roller Ladies enjoying their luncheon.

WESTERN REGION

CHARLES GILL, JR.
Director, Western Region

cdg2511@comcast.net

Western Region members did an outstanding job. I recognized our Co-Chairs during dinner Saturday, but I neglected to recognize the amazing job of our Registration team, led by Lynnette Lewis and Nor-Cal President Patricia Brown. The volunteers within the Western Region really showed out. Thank you!

I also want to congratulate our new President, Rodney Thompson, and his leadership team. Great things are coming. I also want to thank our outgoing President Louise Grogan, Western Region member, for her unwavering dedication to NAARVA for the past four years.

As we move forward, we are still growing out west. Many new families are deciding to become members. We welcome everyone to come experience the NAARVA way of life, and the lifetime friendships that begin NAARVA or Chapter rally.
Safe travels to all. **~ Charles Gill**

ECOLOGY: Our Hope for Tomorrow

Jean Hampton, Ph.D., NAARVA Ecologist

The NAARVA membership is careful to remain mindful of current ecological issues as many of us are persistent in steady involvement in eco-related practices. The NAARVA Ecology Program (NEP) focuses on recycling (plastics and other recyclable items) and the planting of trees, as primary communal practices conducted during club rallies or other club-related gatherings. Either and both of these practices are critical to the correction of a number of looming environmental threats to planetary and habitat sustainability, and of course to our well-being as functional and healthy human stewards of our Earth.

It is imperative that, in addition to these essential aforementioned practices, we continually and with even greater effort, remain educated on the current and pending status of Earth's ecological status. We must face the facts:

(1) There exists a climate and ecological threat to humanity that presents a serious global crisis

(2) This crisis results from a significant increase in emissions of greenhouse gases from widespread human activities including unsustainable energy use through burning of fossil fuels, environmentally caustic patterns of lifestyles, irresponsible farming and agricultural activities, deforestation... and more, on a global scale, Ultimately, detrimental global warming results.

(3) Both resulting from, and intensifying this crisis is a global loss in biodiversity, and a loss of nutritional resources through marine and aquatic abuse and poisoning, overfishing, and unrestricted land use and conversion.

(4) Every year 8 million tons of plastic waste are dumped into our oceans; every day we use 100 million barrels of oil; every minute we subsidize production and burning of coal, oil and gas by $11 million, and every second an area the size of a football field of forest is cut down.

(5) We must pursue implementation of structural system changes, individual changes and cultural transformation to remedy this crisis, and avert impending and forecast global disaster. Our ecological and climate crisis is the greatest threat that humanit has ever faced. We must reco nize and treat this crisis as "a crisis".

(Photo 1) Half of Earth's fertile land is now farmed (and abused); overloaded with nitrates, phosphates, unsuitable crops, pesticides. Topsoil changes from rich ecosystems with fungi, worms, specialist bacteria, and other microscopic organisms, into hard, sterile and empty ground. Rainwater runs off as it does on pavement, leads to flooding.

(Photo 2) Combustion engines produce greenhouse gases.

(Continued on pg. 11)

(Photo 3) Noxious mixes of gases are produced in variou manufacturing.

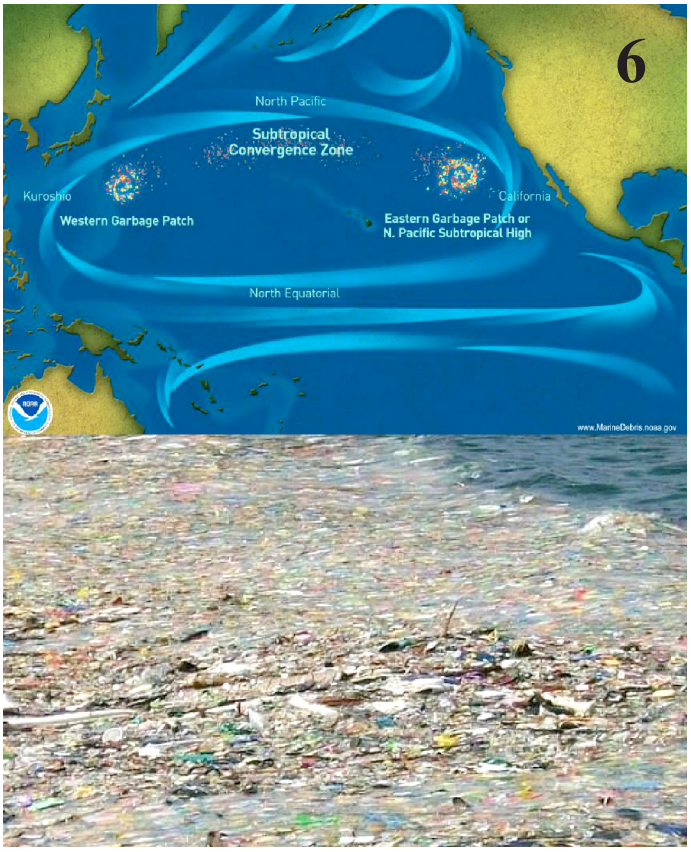
(Photo 4) Deforestation: We cut down over 15 billion trees per year and processing activities; greenhouse gases e.g. CO2. Large swaths of forests are cut down to service agriculture, methane and nitrous oxides and other industrial interests. Top drive of deforestation is beef production that requires cattle pasture; soy plantations are the second top driver. (Soy is mostly used to feed livestock); also oil palm plantations. Many of our remaining forests are severely fragmented by roads, farms and plantations.

ECOLOGY: Our Hope for Tomorrow

(Photo 5:) Animals that mistakenly ingest marine debris or large amounts o fmicro plastics can block their gastrointestinal tracts, or be tricked into thinking they don't need to ear, leadin to starvation. Micro plastics could also stunt sea plant growth, and the reproduction rates of species like aooplankton, an imporant element of the aquatic food chain.

(Photo 6) The North Pacific Gyre is one of five major oceanic gyres. These spiraling patches are formed by rotating ocean currents known as gyres, which are akin to giant whirlpools; marine debris is visible to the naked eye and can be seen on the surface of the water; many such gyres make their way down to the ocean floor.

The Great Garbage Patch, however, is not one single pile of trash in the ocean, but rather refers to two distinct collections of marine plastic waste formed by the massive North Pacific Subtropical Gyre, 620 thousand square miles; double the size of Texas. A similar patch of floating plastic debris is found in the Atlantic Ocean.



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 2024 issue is December 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.

ECOLOGY: Our Hope for Tomorrow

Jean Hampton, Ph.D., NAARVA Ecologist

We have only Earth as our home, a home that we hope to preserve for future generations. What We Can Do? I take this opportunity to repeat a previously submitted National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) pictorial, highlighting avenues of action for self-appointed environmentally active individuals or groups (see below). With cooperative actions at individual, group, societal, political and industrial levels, we can animate our NAARVA Ecology Program mantra, as we endeavor to secure a safe future for sustainability of life on Earth.

"Loving Our Earth: Recycle, Reduce, Reuse, and Respect"

Looking Ahead: Fall 2023

Celebrations and Events, Includes Available Regional Club Events

October

Central Region - Ohio Buckeye Roadrunners

October 4 - 8, 2023
Pine Mountain RV Park
411 Pine Mountain Road
Pigeon Forge, TN 37863
Phone: 877-753-9994 (The Ellis')

Central Region - Lake Erie Travelers

October 5 - 9, 2023
Woodside Lake Park 2486 Frost Rd
Streetsboro, OH 44241
Phone: 866-241-0492

Central Region - Rocky Mountain RV Rollers

October 6, 2023
Golden Corral Buffet & Grill
3677 S. Santa Fe Dr.
Sheridan, CO 80110
Phone: 303-643-5898

Eastern Region - DC Connection RV Club

October 6 - 8, 2023
Richmond North / Kings Dominion KOA Holiday
10061 Kings Dominion Blvd.
Doswell, VA 23047
Phone: 804-876-3500

www.koa.com/campgrounds/richmond-north

Looking Ahead: Fall 2023

Celebrations and Events, Includes Available Regional Club Events

Eastern Region - The Innovators RV Club

October 6 - 8, 2023
3rd Quarter Meeting (Innovators)
Harriet Barber House
116 Barberville Loop Road
Hopkins, SC 29061

Western Region - Funseeker RV Club

October 12 - 14, 2023
Travel Inn RV Resort
801 E Main Street
Elma, WA 98541
Phone: 360-482-3877

Eastern Region - The Triangle RVERS

October 12 - 15, 2023
Rolling View Campground @ Falls Lake
4201 Baptist Road
Durham, NC 27703
Phone: 984-8970-8000

Central Region - MO/KAN Roadrunners

October 19 - 22, 2023,
Tievoli Hills Resort
25795 Highway N
Clarksville, MO 63336
Phone: 573-242-3577s

TIEVOLI HILLS
RESORT & CAMPGROUND ™

Looking Ahead: Fall 2023

Celebrations and Events, Includes Available Regional Club Events

Central Region - Indiana Soul Journers
October 26 - 29, 2023
Follow The River RV Resort
12273 Markland Town Rd.
Florence, IN 47020
Phone: 812-427-3330

Western Region - California Cruisers
October 25 - 29, 2023
Bonelli Bluffs RV Park,
1440 Camper View Road
San Dimas, CA 91773
Phone: 909-599-8355

Central Region - Ohio Buckeye Roadrunners
October 19 - 22, 2023
Whispering Hills RV Park
257 Rogers Gap Road • Georgetown, KY 40324
Phone: 502-862-2552

Western Region - Renegades RV Club

October 22 - 25, 2023
Bakersfield River Run
3715 Burr Street
Bakersfiled, CA 93308
Phone: 661-377-3600

Eastern Region
Virginia Camping Cardinals

October 26 - November 6, 2023

Egypt Tour/Nile Cruise Contact:
757-343-3540

Looking Ahead: Fall 2023

Celebrations and Events, Includes Available Regional Club Events

November

Eastern Region - The Innovators RV Club

November 10 - 12, 2023
Penn Center
16 Penn Center Circle West
St. Helena Island, SC 29120
Contact: Satchell 803-404-9505

HOLIDAY
RETIREMENT

Central Region - Minnesota Voyagers RV Club

November 11, 2023
Holiday & Retirement Dinner

Central Region
Rocky Mountain RV Rollers
November 11, 2023
Ted's Montana Grill at 2:30 p.m.
16495 E. 40th Circle in Aurora.

Eastern Region - The Triangle RVERS

November 16 - 19, 2023
North Pointe RV Resort
428 Campground Rd., Selma, NC 27576
Phone: 919-965-5923

Western Region - NorCal Family Travelers

November 2023
River Run RV Resort
Bakersfield, California
Contact: 916-764-5441

Looking Ahead: Fall 2023

Celebrations and Events, Includes Available Regional Club Events

December

Central Region - Rocky Mountain RV Rollers

December 2, 2023
Annual Holiday Party
Doubletree Hotel Denver
203 Quebec Street
Denver, Colorado

Western Region - California Cruisers

December 6 - 10, 2023
Indian Waters RV Resort
47202 Jackson Street
Indio, CA 92201
Phone: 760-342-8100

Eastern Region - The Triangle RVERS

December 7, 2023
Christmas Outing
Myrtle Beach Travel Park
10108 Kings Road, Myrtle Beach, SC
Phone: 800-255-3568

Eastern Region - The Innovators RV Club

December 7 - 10, 2023
Annual Christmas Outing
Willow Tree RV Resort
520 Southern Sights Dr., Longs, SC 29568
Phone: 843-756-4334

Eastern Region - The Innovators RV Club

December 14 - 17, 2023
Christmas Party
Savanah South Holiday KOA
4915 Hwy 17, Richmond Hill, GA
Phone: 912-756-3396

Hemet Memories...

Our Home for the Week

First NAARVA Greeting

Arriving

Lining Up

Registration

Tee Shirts?

Table Vendors

NAARVA President's Greeting and Welcome

Flag Setting

Hemet Mayor Pro Tem

Golden Village Representative

Western Region Director

Hemet Memories...

Meet and Greet

Karaoke

Karaoke

Soul Train Line

Lovers

Silent Auction

Old Town San Diego

Youth Activities

Parade

Regional Meetings

Regional Directors

Parade

Hemet Memories...

Beanbag Baseball Winners

Street Party

Street Party

Ladies Luncheon

Ladies Luncheon

Men's Event

Men's Event

Cake Walk

Soul Food

In n Out

White Party

White Party Band

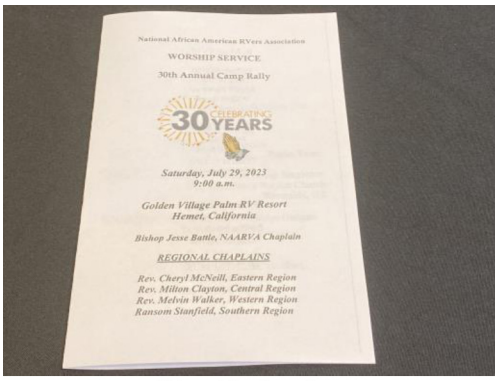
Hemet Memories...

White Party After Dark

Chess Players

Party Goers

Clubs



Worship Service

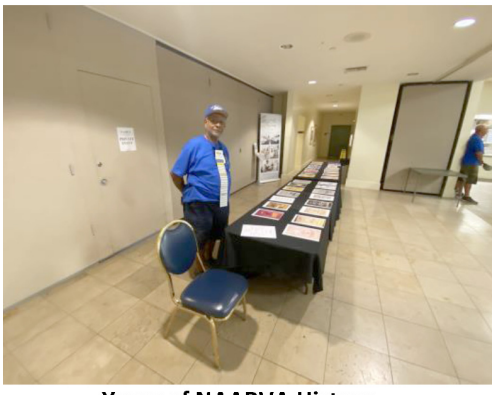
Call to Worship

Services

Waiting for Offering

Regional Recognition

Early Incentive



Years of NAARVA History

History Up Close

Hemet Memories...

Brian and Norm Ellis

Scholarship Winners

Scholarship Winners

General Meeting

Call to Order

Program Changes

Officers

Constitution and By-Laws

Banquet Dinner Set-up

Our Cooks

All In Our Attire

Dinner

Looking Towards the Holidays - Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a time-honored tradition among American families that was once used to celebrate the nation's victory over the British in Saratoga during the Revolutionary War in 1777. Across the 13 colonies, enslaved Blacks also joined in celebration by expressing their thankfulness for the victory at their churches.

In October 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed a proclamation to officially celebrate the holiday, months after signing the Emancipation Proclamation earlier in the year. Thanksgiving was also a period where slaves would often try to escape due to the ending of crop season, but with the new law, it morphed into a time where newly freed Blacks could come together.

Looking Towards the Holidays - Christmas

While celebrating St Nicholas is an old tradition, Santa in his red outfit only appeared in the 1870s. Children wait with bated breath on Christmas Eve for their African American Santa Claus to bring some much-wanted gifts. Beautiful gifts depicting black people and products produced and sold by black businesses are growing, developing traditions of gift-giving. Supporting black businesses over the Christmas period can make a huge impact on their success. Where an African American Christmas decoration may adorn a Christmas tree this year, the tradition of trees began in Germany. They only spread with Queen Victoria of England in the mid-1800s as her husband Prince Albert was German.