

SOUTH DAKOTA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

2014 State Convention Business Meeting
Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Holiday Inn City Center
Sioux Falls, South Dakota
9:30 AM

Minutes of the Meeting

President Nancy May called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting - Minutes of the May 2, 2013 meeting were read by Secretary Leni Healy. Marrietta Catlin indicated that the Yankton Unit did receive a With Our Adults award as indicated but not a community service award. President May indicated that, with that correction, the Minutes would stand approved as read.

Treasurer's Report – Co-treasurer Ron Riherd presented the financial report and proposed budget for 2014-2015. He explained the AARP contribution of \$1500 for convention expenses and the Grandparent Essay contest.

Ron also indicated that convention expenses had increased over previous years. Al Price wondered if registration fees for the convention should be increased. Ron explained that registration numbers for the convention were down and SDRTA membership is also down. Al then questioned if funding can be transferred from another area of the budget to keep registration fees down. General discussion indicated that the registration fee could be determined at another time.

Ron and Gloria thanked Association members for their cooperation over the last four years. They have completed two terms as Treasurers and will be leaving that position.

Hank Kosters moved to accept the 2014-2015 budget. Bill Zubke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Membership Report – Cathy Zubke circulated materials. Each Unit received two reports: delinquent members and accumulation of membership. The delinquent members report includes name of people who have been members within the last three years. People are kept on the roster for three years. They are not counted as new members if they skip a year of membership and come back the next year. If a Unit's membership numbers do not coincide with the report Cathy distributed, it may be because of the definition of a new member.

Cathy reviewed the data per Unit as listed on the report. Milbank, Redfield, Vermillion, Watertown and Winner were the only Units which did not suffer a decrease in membership numbers. Statewide there was a 14.27% decrease in membership. Cathy also explained the "New" column on the report. The numbers in that column represent members who were new in 2012 who did not renew in 2013.

Legislative Report – Hank reported that participants in the South Dakota Retirement System (SDRS) will receive a 3.1% monthly increase beginning July 1st. He gave a review this year’s legislative session of importance to SDRTA:

- SB152 - \$4.6 million was appropriated to fund the Cement Plant Retirement System (CPRS) which is administered through SDRS. A Class C was created to address the unionized employees receiving benefits. This bill allows former cement plant employees and surviving spouses to elect a lump sum benefits payment so they can consolidate their retirement funds.
- SB41 – Updated job titles for penitentiary staff.
- SB40 – This bill allows surviving spouses to choose to take benefits at age 55 at a reduced rate.
- SB43 – This bill eliminated fluctuating benefit stream – a generous initial benefit followed by lower benefits due to required reclassification.

Newsletter report – Chairperson Merry Bleeker reported that 3 issues of the *Newsletter* were created last year. Merry requested that Units keep the Zubkes informed of address changes and dropped addresses. Cathy Zubke further explained that it is expensive to mail out the *Newsletter*. It costs the Association \$1.06 for each copy which is returned due to a bad address. She asked Unit officers to encourage members to receive the *Newsletter* electronically to save on postage costs.

Community Service Report – Marrietta Catlin reported that, even with several unit not reporting hours this year, the number of volunteer service hours were higher than 2013-2014.

Marrietta outlined the numerous programs in which the Units participated to support With Our Youth. She also outlined the wide variety of volunteer services dedicated to Adult Benefits during this past year.

She explained that each year Independent Sector estimates the hourly monetary value of volunteer service. In 2013, that hourly rate was \$22.55. Even though not all volunteer hours were reported, the total number of hours increased. We can identify 43,115 volunteer service hours provided by South Dakota teachers. That relates to \$1,044,832 worth of value.

SDRTA Community Service Awards for 2014-2014 – Marrietta explained that in the past year people aged 50+ have been encouraged to reimagine our lives as we discover new life possibilities. Several Units rediscovered new and better life possibilities not only for themselves but for other they serve as well. The following awards were presented:

WITH OUR YOUTH

- Black Hills Retired Teachers
- Sioux Falls Retired Teachers

WITH OUR ADULTS

- Winner Area Retired Teachers
- Northern Hills Retired Teacher
- Pierre Area Retired Teachers

SDRTA Bus Trips – Pat Johnson and Annette Belkonen extended a thank you for everyone who went on any of the sixteen bus trips they organized over the years. They made good friends and had good times. The proceeds went to SDRTA. They announced that they would be stepping back from organizing trips and would not be planning any in the near future.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Officer Nominations – Pat Johnson announced the slate of Board Officer nominations:

- President – Betty Beyer
- Past President – Nancy May
- President Elect – Bill Zubke
- Secretary – Leni Healy
- Vice President – Kay Ainslie
- Treasurer – Pat Johnson

President May asked for nominations from the floor. Marcia West moved for approval of the officer nominations. Al Price seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Al Price installed the officers.

Organizational Name Change – Diana Glover explained that many other state organizations were changing their name to be more inclusive for members. She and Nancy May are asking members to consider an organizational name change to South Dakota Retired School Personnel.

There is a process to such a change. The proposed change must be announced to the membership for consideration. It will appear in the next *Newsletter* and voted on at the 2014-2015 state convention.

With no other continuing or new business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Leni Healy, Secretary