

2013 With Adults Awards

Sioux Falls Area RTA Unit, Harriett Wendt, CS Chair

Pierre Area Retired Teachers Association, Lynell Asher, CS Chair

Yankton Area Retired Teachers Association, Nora Lee, CS Chair.

2013 Innovation Awards

Black Hills Area Retired Teacher Unit, Cheryl Zimiga, CS Chair.

Philip AARP/RTA Unit, Kay Ainslie, CS Chair

WITH ADULTS AWARDS

One of our RTA Units serves adults in their area in a variety of ways but their project serving their veterans called the Homeless Veterans Project is the one this unit is most proud of this year. This unit donated kitchen, personal hygiene, paper and linen items to the Bereklah House as well as provided monthly bus passes and trac phone minutes to support the homeless vets in their community. It is my pleasure to present an Outstanding Award benefiting Adults to the **Sioux Falls Area RTA Unit.** Harriett Wendt, CS Chair

Another unit that is actively serving WOY and Adults in their community in a variety of ways is most proud of their work serving seniors/elderly. This unit benefits seniors by visiting, entertaining as well as assisting at monthly birthday parties at the Golden Living Center, by conducting computer classes for seniors, entertaining and lining up weekly entertainment at the Senior Center, providing AARP tax aide services as well as the SHINE program, delivering Meals on Wheels, boxing and delivering Senior Boxes through Feeding South Dakota, filling boxes for vets, Ringing Bells for Salvation Army or assisting in any way to make the older residents feel cared for and safe. It is my pleasure to present an Outstanding Service Award With Adults to the **Pierre Area Retired Teachers Association.** Lynell Asher, CS Chair

Yet another unit that is proud to serve their community in many ways states that perhaps their most rewarding project this past year is the volunteering program at their local hospital, Avera Sacred Heart. The past year this unit has spent many hours working at the information desk, delivering mail, delivering floral gifts, working the gift shop, escorting patients for admitting and dismissal, directing visitors, helping move patients to and from surgery, serving as patients liaisons, transporting equipment, goods and materials within the various hospital departments as well as helping with late meals/trays. It is my pleasure to present an Outstanding Service Award With Adults to the **Yankton Area Retired Teachers Association.** Nora Lee, CS Chair.

INNOVATION AWARDS

I would like to present an innovation award to a unit that is proud of many of their services but the project they feel benefits many in their community including new teachers, RTA members as well as their community is their website. This easy access community service link provides information on community volunteer needs, places to volunteer, social activities for members, speakers and community organizations needing assistance. This informational tool not only strengthens communications with members and the community but also encourages members to be active volunteers as well as increases social activities and fosters more active participation by

all members. It is my pleasure to present an Innovation Award to the **Black Hills Area Retired Teacher Unit**. Cheryl Zimiga CS Chair.

Another small unit is unique in that it is a combined group consisting of an AARP Chapter and RTA Unit. They meet monthly at their local senior center for a soup supper and a meeting. In the past they have done work on their Old Schoolhouse Park and this year they focused some of their meetings partnering with their local library director on discussions on old country schools in their county after reading the book “One Room Country School: South Dakota Stories” published by the South Dakota Humanities Council. Records, diaries, old school books and other memorabilia have been loaned or donated to the project. The project grew from discussions on the book, sharing personal stories of attending a country school, recording histories and mapping all the country schools in the county. This project is of value to both adults and youth in this area as they find out more about the country schools in Haakon County in the past 100 years. It is my pleasure to present an Innovation Award to the **Philip AARP/RTA Unit**. Kay Ainslie, CS Chair.