

# **SOUTH DAKOTA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

## **SPRING BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

Monday, April 27, 2015

AmericInn – Ft. Pierre, South Dakota

7:30 PM

### **Minutes of the Meeting**

**Board Members present:** Kay Ainslie, Betty Beyer, Merry Bleeker, Marrietta Catlin, Diana Glover, Leni Healy, Pat Johnson, Hank Kosters, Nancy May, Bill Zubke and Cathy Zubke.

President Betty Beyer brought the meeting to order.

**Approval of the Minutes** – President Beyer asked the group to review the Minutes of last year's meeting. Bill Zubke moved that the Minutes be approved as distributed. Merry Bleeker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report** – The Audit Committee reported that they had reviewed the financial books and found everything to be in order.

Pat Johnson reviewed the proposed budget. Bill Zubke moved to approve the budget. Nancy May seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pat further reported that she had some concerns concerning the Horace Mann account:

- All of the account information and documents are in Ron Riherd's name and Social Security number.
- The investment is an individual annuity.
- The investment is based on Ron's age as if it were a life annuity.
- The contract indicates an annual minimum contribution.

Pat has attempted to contact a Horace Mann representative to get answers and correct the information but has had no luck. She will attempt to stop by a Horace Mann office to visit with a representative in person.

### **Committee Reports**

- **Membership**–Cathy and Bill Zubke reported that the current trend is that the organization loses about 100 members each year. The NRTA recruitment mailing sent in 2002 did increase membership for a few years but the numbers have leveled off. Hank Kosters indicated that a few years ago there were 3000 school districts in the state and now there are only 150.
- **Legislative** – Hank Kosters reported that there were 5 bills concerning SDRS during the past session. The bills were mostly clean-up language changes. He reported that Jim Hanson and the Board have been doing a great job. Mr. Hanson may be retiring from the Board. Hank said that Matt Clark, who oversees the investment, indicated that the returns were not as good as previous years and the upcoming year will be hard to predict. Hank indicated that next

legislative session may need to review some inequities in the system. For example, judges and law enforcement get a better deal than all other groups.

- **Newsletter** – Merry Bleeker indicated that she would be doing one more newsletter. The Board needs to find someone else to fill the position. She reported that the costs of the three issues of the newsletter was \$5245.14.
- **Community Service** – Joanna Jones reported that 46,892.25 volunteer community service hours were reported by South Dakota Units for a monetary value of \$1,081,804.20. She also reported on the following awards:
  - WITH OUR YOUTH
    - Watertown Area Retired Teachers Association – The Unit spends a lot of time letting current teachers know that the Unit supports them. The Unit provides treats to teachers and staff members (over 400) to thank them for their dedication. Members are also quick to respond to the needs of people in the area with time and financial support.
    - Black Hills Retired Teachers – Members maintain the Keystone Living History Classroom where the public is able to experience pioneer ways of living.
  - BENEFITING ADULTS
    - Philip Area Retired Teachers Association – The Unit is preserving the history of the Masonic cemetery and burial records.
    - Sioux Falls Area Teachers Association – Volunteers pack lunches for the working poor through the Lunch Is Served program.
    - Pierre Area Retired Teachers Association – The Unit is fighting hunger by holding two food drives to replenish the Food Pantry which assists 1,943 households.
    - Winner Area Retired School Personnel – The Unit members undertook a project of the school at the county museum. The school looks good inside and out.
  - HONORABLE MENTION AWARDS
    - Huron Area Retired Teachers for collecting and delivering school supplies to Madison, Washington and Buchanan Schools.
    - Yankton Area Retired Teachers for volunteering to the Sack Pack and scholarship programs plus local 4-H activities.
    - Milbank Area Retired Teachers for mentoring and volunteering for unpaid substitute teaching.
    - Oahe Area Retired Teachers for building self confidence in the community youth.
    - Redfield Area Retired Teachers who focused on the Back Pack program to provide weekend food and drinks for needy students.
    - Northern Hills Retired Teachers for helping retirees find volunteer opportunities.
- **Executive Director** – Diana Glover summarized the yearly reports from the Units in the state. Most Units meet monthly with some meeting fewer times. Recruiting new members is the biggest challenge to the Units. Vermillion, Milbank and Sioux Falls were able to attract some new members with retirement

parties, personal invitations for coffee meetings, and covering the costs for their first meeting.

Volunteerism is high across all Units with great community projects. All Units helped with SDRTA scholarships as well as local collegiate scholarships. Each Unit has different programs which are interesting and informative.

Diana circulated a sheet with the proposed name change which included the following language:

Proposal: Change the South Dakota Retired Teachers Association Bylaws to read Article 1: Section 1 as follows:

Article 1. Name and Object

Section 1. The name of the organization shall be South Dakota Retired School Personnel (SDRSP.)

Information concerning this issue was distributed through the newsletter so that members had a chance to review and think about the change.

If this amendment passes, all references in the bylaws to South Dakota Retired Teachers Association (SDRTA) will be changed accordingly.

Individual Units do not need to change their name.

This will be put to a vote during the Association Business Meeting for the membership.

- **Old Business**
- **State Scholarships Update.** Bill Zubke indicated that they received 5 applications statewide. Four were from Watertown and one from Madison.
- **Reminiscent teacher essays.** Bill reported that they had received one submission from Marilyn Kratz.

### **New Business**

- Leadership Workshops – Diana wondered how to make the workshops more informative. Merry Bleeker asked about the purpose of the workshops. Diana explained that the workshops were the new Unit officer orientations. Pat Johnson suggested that Units be asked what kind of training they would like and what their expectations of SDRTA were.
- Convention Registration Supplies – Merry Bleeker and Judy Rapp were the convention registration volunteers. They worked with the Chamber of Commerce to get name tag materials but didn't have the clear plastic name tag holders. Pat Johnson moved to purchase the plastic holders which would be collected after the convention and given to the President for use in following years. Bill Zubke seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 2016 State Convention
  - Diana reported she had an offer from Aberdeen to host the convention. General discussion indicated that that offer should not be accepted.
  - Cathy Zubke indicated that job descriptions should be created for each Board position with a checklist of duties.

- A checklist of duties for the host committee should also be created.
- 2015 Convention expenses. Pat Johnson listed the following honorariums to be paid for convention activities:
  - Bernie Hunhoff - \$50
  - Countryside Hospice - \$50
  - mEn@sChool (music) - \$50
  - Douglas Sargent - \$25

Pat distributed expense reports for Board members to complete.

- Next Board meeting: July 14<sup>th</sup> at the Pierre Ramkota.

Bill Zubke moved to adjourn. Merry Bleeker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Leni Healy, Secretary