

SOUTH DAKOTA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
General Session and Business Meeting
Ramkota Convention Center
May 1, 2008

Prior to the business meeting, Pat Johnson, Annette Belkonen, Cathy Zubke, and Bill Zubke conducted a service memorializing fifty-nine SDRTA members who passed away during the past year. At the conclusion of the service, Bill read "A Memorial for Deceased SDRTA Members" by Elizabeth Lewis of Yankton Area RTA.

President Charollene Coates called the business meeting to order at 9:15.

The minutes of the 2007 General Session and Business Meeting (see Attachment A) were handed out by Secretary Donna Fischer. Annette Belkonen moved to approve the minutes as written. Peg Logan seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer Art Shaver presented the treasurer's report. (See Attachment B1 & 2.) Our investments plus cash on hand equal approximately \$39,000. He hopes that SDRTA can gain 100 new members in the coming year to help offset projected increases in expenses for the new position of Executive Director, plus additional convention 2009 expenses.

Membership co-chair Bill Zubke reported that our current membership is 1418. He echoed Art Shaver in stressing that we need to gain new members this year. The Zubkes will be happy to send letters to prospective members. Any membership changes or additions need to be sent to Cathy Zubke. Be sure to identify the unit for each name submitted.

The legislative report was given by Wyland Borth. He thanked members for their lobbying efforts in response to his requests during the past legislative session. Around July 1, each member will receive a letter clarifying this year's increase in retirement benefits. Wyland then reported on his February, 2008, trip to Washington, D.C., to attend the NRTA Advocacy Conference. While there, he spent time on "the Hill" meeting with the staffs of Sen. Tim Johnson and Rep. Stephanie Herseth-Sandlin. He also met with Sen. John Thune.

Publicity/Newsletter chair Diana Glover asked that units be sure to send address changes to Cathy Zubke, who will pass them on to Diana. The cost to SDRTA for returned newsletters last fall was \$90.19. Diana urged those in attendance to take extra Newsletters to use as recruitment aids.

Marietta Catlin, Community Service chair, reported a very successful year for SDRTA volunteerism. Eighteen units reported, many of who participated in the Grandparent Essay contest. The combined hours from With Our Youth and Other Service totaled 43,749. Assigning a fair marked value of \$19.52 per hour, the total value of services provided to units' communities is \$853,980.48.

Marietta presented Community Service awards to the following units.

WITH OUR YOUTH

Black Hills Area RTA for their With Our Youth project, a living history school in Keystone

Madison (Honorable Mention) for a project to assist Spanish-speaking students with reading and language

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Pierre Area RTA for projects including providing food to the needy and conducting a blood drive

Yankton (Honorable Mention) for helping provide Christmas bags included in the meals on wheels in December, 2007

Past President Shirley Eismach presented the nominating committee report. The proposed slate of officers for the 2008-10 term is President, Al Price, Sioux Falls; Past President, Charollene Coates, Rapid City; President-elect, Pat Johnson, Watertown; Vice-President, Lyle Kemnitz, Mobridge; Secretary, Donna Fischer, Yankton; and Treasurer, Art Shaver, Sioux Falls.

Shirley also read the changes the SDRTA Board of Directors is recommending be made to the Bylaws and Standing Rules (see page 9 of the April, 2008, Newsletter).

Pat Johnson announced that this fall's bus tour to Wisconsin and Minnesota will be the last tour that she and Annette Belkonen will organize for SDRTA. There are two Sioux Falls RTA members who may replace Pat and Annette on future trips.

Under items of New Business, Diana Glover moved that we accept the proposed budget (see Treasurer's report). Al Price seconded. Motion passed.

Shirley Eismach moved to accept the proposed changes to the Bylaws and Standing Rules. Bill Zubke seconded. Motion passed.

The last item of business was the installation of the 2008-10 officers, conducted by Shirley Eismach.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05.

POST-SESSION BOARD MEETING

Al price moved to approve Shirley Eismach as the Executive Director for 2008-10. Cathy Zubke seconded. Motion carried.

Donna Fischer, Secretary