

SDRSP Minutes
Special Board Meetings
10/19/2021 and 3/1/2022

During the September 2021 Board meeting, it was briefly discussed to consider having insurance available for current members and the newly retired. Gerri Larson was informed about this possibility while attending conferences for executive directors. It was determined to have an additional meeting (s) to decide the merits of allowing Association Members Benefits Advisors (AMBA) access to our organization.

October 19, 2021

Zoom Board meeting:

Attending: Rhonda Preller, Jacque Sly, Pat Johnson, Ron Riherd, Paula Brakke (iPad—poor reception), Gerri Larson

Purpose-Membership and Where to hold May 2022 Convention

Several units are not meeting or barely hanging on with membership. Pierre is one of these units.

Discussion took place if May's Convention should be held in Pierre if there wouldn't be a host unit to assist with implementation of the convention.

Consideration was to have the convention in Watertown or Aberdeen. Members felt those towns were a long way for people in the Hills to drive.

Suggestion was to move the convention to Oacoma at the Cedar Shore Convention Center. Preller said she'd check into availability in May and prices.

Membership across the state continues to be a concern. We will keep making SDRSP visible to retired school personnel and hope to gain new members. Covid has been a problem with units not being able to meet the last couple of years.

We will have a Zoom informational meeting with AMBA a few weeks after the holidays. Gerri will set one up.

Meeting adjourned.

March 1, 2022

Zoom Board Meeting:

Attending: Rhonda Preller, Jacque Sly, Pat Johnson, Gerri Larson, Paula Brakke (Bob & Sharon Rose and Carm Tobin gave information to be presented at the meeting)

Purpose-AMBA gave a presentation on their services to the Board via Zoom meeting in February. Discuss their pros and cons of services. They have provided a contract for the Board to review.

The Board discussed the AMBA presentation given by representative Omarr Guerro of Austin, Texas.

Positive comments included that AMBA will give a \$3000 stipend to SDRSP on an annual basis. Also, they will help maintain the SDRSP website and could assist with the Facebook page. AMBA promotes that they can bring a minimum of 100 additional people to our organization per year just by allowing them to market their insurance products on own website page. In order for retired personnel to purchase products, they must be a member of SDRSP.

Concerns include the stipulation of an eight-year contract between SDRSP and AMBA. That seems like a long amount of time. Also, concerns were discussed if people will think we (SDRSP) are promoting certain types of insurances over others. Preller stated, initially, she wasn't on-board with AMBA, but after doing research, talking to members of other state's retired officials, and looking at State websites with AMBA's products, she felt differently and no longer had a problem with allowing AMBA access. Most members felt the pros outweighed the cons.

A motion was made by Pat Johnson to have the AMBA contract reviewed by Attorney Nancy Oviatt of Watertown and seconded by Rhonda Preller. All were in favor. An attorney can objectively determine if the contract is sound and if revisions are needed.

If the contract is sound, the Board will vote through email if to go forward with the AMBA insurance.

In other business, all Board Members agreed to allow Gerri Larson to set up contracts with PBS/radio/Magazine with advertising about SDRSP. Grant money is available and earmarked to use for these ads.

The meeting was adjourned.

March 24, 2022

Addendum to 3/1/2022 Meeting:

*Attorney Nancy Oviatt had comments/suggestions about the contract between AMBA and SDRSP:

*Feels the contract “sides with” (favors) AMBA.

*May seem that SDRSP is endorsing their products.

*Thinks eight years is a long time for a contractual agreement.

*For signatures, only elected positions should sign—not appointed positions.

*In misc. section: the last section of the first paragraph....after “shall be” _____ and before “operative”-there appears to be words left out. Does not make sense.

There appeared to be no red flags and corrections were made to the contract by AMBA:

*Instead of eight years, the contract has been corrected to reflect a five-year time frame.

*Only elected officials for SDRSP are to sign any contracts or official forms.

A revised contract was sent out to all Board members on April 10, 2022, to review for determination if we agree with having AMBA promote SDRSP and sell insurance products to current SDRSP members and to gain newly retired members through a revamped website that includes a “drop down” box with AMBA.

After SDRSP Board Members reviewed the revised AMBA-SDRSP Contract, and per decision at the 3-1-2022 Zoom meeting, a vote was taken through email if we proceed with AMBA and sign the revised contract.

Those voting-

Yes: Rhonda Preller, Ron Riherd, Jacque Sly, Pat Johnson, Carm Tobin, Bob/Sharon Rose, and Gerri Larson (nonvoting, but in favor)

Maybe: Paula Brakke (Felt AMBA has merits, but wanted to check with other insurances)

Did not respond: Kay Ainslie, Amy Ramsey

The majority of SDRSP Board voted “Yes”, so the contract will be officially signed. AMBA representatives will attend the SDRSP 2022 Convention in May and give a presentation.

A committee will be set up to help with the process.

Rhonda Preller

SDRSP President