

## **Awards Ceremony for Community Service, 2008-2009**

**Marrietta Catlin-Community Service Chairperson**

**All eighteen active retired teacher units sent in community service reports this year. With the volunteer service theme of “Volunteers Are A Gift To Our Communities” our members did an amazing job of giving of their time and talents again this year.**

**This year our members turned in a total of 10,801 volunteer hours for With Our Youth. For services benefiting adults, members turned in 34,962 volunteer hours of service. Members gave a total of 45,763 hours back to our South Dakota communities. The estimated amount used by charitable organizations to show the value of service per hour in 2008 was \$20.25 up from \$19.52 for 2007. Even though that estimated dollar amount may not be realistic, it gives us an idea of the valuable services we as retired teachers give back to our communities. Even in these times of an unstable economy, members did their part to provide valuable services to our communities in the estimated amount of \$926,700.**

**One RTA Unit provided services to With Our Youth but also provided a variety of services to adults in the area of health care activities, museum work, community theater, driver safety programs, and service work like Humane Society, Chamber of Commerce, Salvation Army, Meals on Wheels, blood drives, Council on Aging and so on as well as serve on a variety of boards and committees.**

**It is my privilege to present the Outstanding Service Award to the Aberdeen RTA Unit. (CS Chair-Lois Sollie, President Jerome Rosonke)**

**This year I would also like to present an honorable mention award to a unit for Outstanding Service. This unit only had 15 reporting members but they provide valuable services to their community in the areas of serving and preparing meals, working in a thrift store, libraries, hospital, blood mobile, churches as well as visiting and providing encouragement to the elderly, shut-ins, hospitalized patients as well as nursing home residents.**

**I am pleased to present this honorable mention award to the Milbank RTA Unit. (President and Community Service Chairperson, Cliff Vitters)**