

Hooray for Hollywood  
South Dakota Retired School Personnel  
State Convention  
Ramkota Inn, Sioux Falls, SD

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

95 members attended the convention from 15 units within the state. President Bill Zubke called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Cathy Anderson gave the welcome for the Mayor of Sioux Falls.

President Bill Zubke introduced the five past presidents who were present: Shirley Eisnach (Pierre), Al Price (Sioux Falls), Pat Johnson (Watertown), Nancy May (Rapid City), and Betty Beyer (Aberdeen). Then the executive board and committee appointees were introduced.

Roll Call was taken with the following quantities: Aberdeen 4, Brookings 1, Black Hills 11, Mitchell 1, Huron 0, Milbank 4, Madison 4, Oahe 0, Northern Hills 4, Philip 4, Pierre 7, Redfield 3, Sioux Falls 17, Vermillion/SE Area 2, Watertown 13, Winner 2, Yankton 2

At the break, door prizes were drawn.

Tom and Tammy Roberts from the Children's Home Society presented information about the home. Tom recited the texts of some of his books in rhyme and other short stories.

Bev Austin led chair yoga. Members stretched, wiggled, and moved all parts of their body. During deep breathing exercises, no one napped, maybe!

Jeff Hanson introduced SculptureWalk of Sioux Falls. These sculptures are for sale to the public and on loan to the city for one year. He commented about the importance of all the educational disciplines; art and culture matter.

Following the dinner, President Bill Zubke presented the Leadership awards to Manuel Penaloza (Rapid City) for his work on the Black Hills RSP website and to Bonita Ley (Rapid City) for her work at the Keystone School.

For the scholarship recipients, Ron Riherd announced the winners: Danelle Johnson from Sturgis Brown High School and Anita Bach from Watertown High School.

Tom Nicholls from NRTA complimented the organization with a speech entitled, "How to Keep a Good Thing Going." He said there are five things you are doing right in South Dakota: work as a team inside NRTA, follow the legislative work, step-up to work on volunteer projects, participate in a defined benefit retirement plan, and continue to build relationships with your legislators. Handwritten notes that are personalized are best.

John Mogen entertained the group with Broadway songs.

Wednesday, May 2, 2018

The unit presidents meeting began at 7:30. President Bill Zubke announced that units could apply for the \$100 membership promotion money until May 15, 2018. The 2019 volunteer form was distributed. Units were requested to submit updates to their officer list at anytime during the year. The Reminiscent Teacher essays currently on the website will remain there but be placed under a heading reflecting their historical nature. Bill asked the group to remember to honor your members whenever possible.

From the membership, a request was to have the forms on line be fillable PDF forms.

Cathy Zubke explained the membership list codes and how the unit totals were achieved.

The unit presidents were asked to present their best practice for the year and a comment about membership retention.

Sioux Falls – Cathy Anderson discussed how her unit enjoyed doing something for someone else. Church on the Street is a place where once a month, people on the street are served. People get involved helping others.

For membership, they work diligently to get the list of newly retired teachers and school personnel. This task is becoming more difficult due to privacy laws.

Pierre – Lu Heibel commented that many people came to their meetings when they were learning about the new hospital, when the Superintendents from Pierre and Ft. Pierre came to talk, and when the topic was Japanese prior to the Humanities program about Japanese Culture.

For membership, they beg, write letters, and talk with possible members in hopes that one of the communications will bring them into the membership of the organization.

Black Hills – Jacque Sly reported that they spent the year talking about “What’s Happening in Our Schools.” When Charity Doyle spoke about the Homeless Transition Campus, our members were very interested.

For membership, we send an announcement sheet, The Bulletin Board, to 150 members every month. It includes specific times and places for the meetings. There are also general announcements for other educational events.

Watertown - Pam Raeder noted that people come for fudge and to hear Bill Zubke! She said we take other groups’ ideas: hobbies, what’s on your wall, have Chesters Chicken. We are going to the Vinegar Museum. We gave sack lunches to everyone in the school.

For membership, we need your ideas.

Brookings – Judy Kroll announced that their folks are talking about disbanding. The best programs were when the legislators came to speak and when SDRS talked about the retirement funds.

Winner – Donna Brozik shared that their best and most informative meetings were when the Chamber of Commerce Executive Director told us what they do and when the kindergartners sing at our last meeting of the year.

For membership, we have special invitations to the new retirees. She invites them to her home to talk about the value of belonging to the organization.

Redfield – Deann Zens was proud of the 27 years of the county spelling bee for grades 1-8.

For membership, she said she joined when someone called her on the phone.

Milbank – Rhonda Preller noted that their best meetings were the Mini-Health Fair, Spa Day (where seniors in high school did their nails), and Feature Teacher (where they tap their own talent). For their last meeting of the year, they will be going to the school where the students will perform on the stage and the retirees will have their own furnished lunch.

Northern Hills – Joanna Jones commented that one member shared the wooden toys that his group makes for children.

For membership, we hope that tapping the third year retiree will have better results.

Vermillion – Sharon Donahue indicated that they had the new Superintendent and the local pharmacists.

For membership, they are going to try the “Protect your Pension” as a reason to join.

Philip - Kay Ainslie said that they have AARP & RT meetings together with a soup supper. Their speakers have included the mayor, the business manager from school, the CEO of the hospital, and the Attorney General.

For membership, people come to the meetings but they don't join.

Madison – Deann Molskness beamed when she shared the information about the Prairie Village. The Merry-Go-Round will return this summer after being gone for two years for repair. The members come out to clean the Prairie Village school building and host visitors during Prairie Village Days.

Other presentations were about having women know something about the family finances and women traveling alone. They also learned about the Lions Eye Bank and a local domestic violence program.

Yankton – Donna Fischer reflected on their year of honoring the past, present and future. The Back to the 50's meeting was very good. They also had programs on what the law enforcement is doing in their town, Innovative Art, the Mead Cultural Education Center, and the sack pack program.

Aberdeen – Betty Beyer is pleased to have gotten new members and they had programs presented by the librarians from the new library and by the museum folks. For one meeting, we asked everyone to bring a joke.

President-Elect Ron Riherd invited everyone to next year's state convention in Pierre at the Ramkota on May 7-8, 2019. The Executive Board meeting is on July 11, 2018 at 10:30 am at the

Ramkota in Pierre. The Regional Workshops are August 14, 2018 at 10:30 am at the AARP Office in Rapid City and on August 15, 2018 at 10:30 am at the First Lutheran Church in Brookings.

Executive Director Nancy May thanked everyone for coming to the convention.

The memorial service began the morning general session.

Following roll call, the officers' reports were given; the secretary's report was accepted as printed.

Treasurer Pat Johnson presented the budget information. A budget of \$19,200 was approved for 2018-2019. The Scholarship fund has \$10,192.69 after paying the two \$1,000 scholarships for this year. The Horace Mann Account as of 4/29/18 has \$39,579.18. Her report was accepted by the membership.

Cathy Zubke reported the membership total is 971. The good news was in the six units who increased their memberships.

Joanna Jones presented the community service check of \$947,312.09 for 38,368.25 hours of volunteer work recorded by the units.

Diana Glover requested that a new editor for the newsletter be identified. She thanked everyone for their support for this organization.

President Bill Zubke notified the membership to watch for upcoming ByLaw changes that will be published 30 days prior to the next convention.

New Business was the election of officers. The slate was accepted as presented. Nancy May installed the 2018-2020 officers. President Ron Riherd (Rapid City), President Elect Rhonda Preller (Milbank), Vice President Kay Ainslie (Philip), Secretary Amy Ramsey (Aberdeen), Treasurer Pat Johnson (Watertown). The appointed positions were: Membership Cathy Zubke (Watertown), Community Service and Health Joanna Jones (Spearfish), Legislation Hank Kosters (Pierre), Executive Director Nancy May (Rapid City), and the Newsletter position is vacant.

AARP information was presented by AARP State Director Eric Gaikowski. This year in SD, AARP has had 15,654 personal engagements; 50% event volunteers; 8.6 million media impressions. The major programs are Livable 605, Telehealth Summit, Veteran Engagement, ACT Caucus, Operation Stop Scam, HomeFit, Advocacy, and Game, Fish and Parks outdoor life. The next big project will be Voter Engagement for the 50+ population.

South Dakota Retirement System information was presented by Travis Almond. He said the funds are 100.1% or fully funded for 2017. The return was 13% on the investments. We are the most conservative program in the nation. A COLA of 1.89 will be paid beginning July 1, 2018.

At the noon luncheon, Donna Fischer invited Bennett Gordon goes to Sturgis Intermediate School (Northern.Hills Region); Alivia Dimmer goes to Beadle Elementary School (Yankton Unit, Southeast Region); Colin Hughes goes to Hitchcock-Tulare Elementary (Redfield Unit, Northeast Region).

The traveling trophy went to Black Hills.

The Fudge-for-All tray went to Pierre for bringing the most gifts for the Children's Home Society.

Executive Director Nancy May presented the Florence Krieger Award to Donna Fischer for her years of service to the Grandparent Essay Contest.

Past President Bill Zubke gave closing remarks through his original poetry written about his aprons worn during the convention.

Cathy Anderson reminded everyone to turn in their evaluation forms and then said in Hooray for Hollywood style, "That's a wrap." Another wonderful convention came to an end.