

# **SOUTH DAKOTA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

2014 State Convention Business Meeting

Wednesday, May 4, 2016

Ramkota Inn  
Pierre, South Dakota  
9:30 AM

## **Minutes of the Meeting**

President Betty Beyer called the meeting to order.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting** - Minutes of the May, 2015 meeting were read by Secretary Leni Healy. President Beyer indicated that the Minutes would stand approved as read.

**Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Pat Johnson reviewed the financial documents indicating that the checking account balance was \$19,659.62 which included the scholarship monies. In addition there is \$38,069.49 invested in Horace Mann accounts. This gives the organization a total of \$58,069.49 in cash assets.

Pat presented the proposed 2016-2017 budget. A total of \$20,600 was proposed which is a \$1000 increase over the 2015-2016 budget. Hearing no additions, corrections or questions, President Beyer indicated that budget would stand approved.

**Membership Report** – Cathy Zubke circulated materials and reported that the membership was down by 86 from the previous year. Currently there are 1142 statewide members which includes local and lifetime members. Nationwide, organizations are experiencing membership declines.

Cathy reviewed that in the past, Units had been asked to report information in two different directions which caused some confusion. This year the process will change. Everything should be submitted to the Treasurer who will share the information with the Membership Chairperson. Cathy reminded the Units to reported only NEW members.

She encouraged everyone to receive the Newsletter electronically since it saves the Association quite a bit of money. Those who are receiving the electronic version should let the Membership Committee know when they change their email addresses.

Cathy also explained that it has been hard to keep track of Lifetime members as they move or die. It would be very helpful if the local Units could assist in keeping Lifetime member information up-to-date.

**Legislative Report** – Hank reported the South Dakota Retirement System (SDRS) backed a set of bills (SBs 13, 14 & 15) during the 2016 Legislative Session to maintain the health and vitality of the system. The bills received the support of the Governor and passed the session with overwhelming support. These bills were set forward:

1. To maintain the level of the current system for retirees;

2. To maintain the level of the current system for current employees and those individuals employed prior to July 1, 2017;
3. To create a NEW retirement system for those employed as of July 1, 2017 and thereafter. This takes into account the changes in longevity and the economy since the SDRS was established in 1970 which assures a continued quality level of return for SDRS members.

Hank indicated that current SDRS recipients would receive a 3% COLA in July.

**Newsletter report** – Diana Glover reported that the four-page newsletter had costs of \$746 associated with its distribution. The 8-page newsletter had costs of \$1158.

Diana indicated that she will continue to produce the newsletter with assistance from Marcie Ferrand. The fall newsletter will have 8 pages and will contain the Unit news. The 4-page summer newsletter will contain convention, membership and scholarship news.

**President's Awards** – President Betty Beyer presented awards to the following people:

- Rita Brown, Madison
- Kay Lang, Black Hills
- Cathy Wire, Black Hills
- Rhonda Preller, Milbank

**Community Service Report** – Joanna Jones informed the Association that 70,119 volunteer hours were reported during the past year. The monetary value of those hours would be \$1,617,645.33. Joanna announced the following awards:

- **WITH OUR YOUTH**

- Milbank Area – instituted a Student of the Month project. Current teachers nominate a student from their class and writes a paragraph on why the student deserves the recognition.
- Huron Area – Believe Fest, a youth group fundraiser, generated enough revenue to provide 398 backpacks for needy persons.
- Winner Area – “Weekend Bags” were filled with healthy foods. Bags are provided twice per month.
- Pierre Area – Their Reading Buddies program has members sitting with students to help them read, sound out words, smile and interact.

- **LONGEVITY AWARD – WITH OUR YOUTH**

- Redfield Area – Members of this Unit have help an area Spelling Contest for grades one through eight for 25 years.

- **TO BENEFIT ADULTS**

- Watertown Area – On Teacher Appreciation Day, each current teacher receives a handwritten note of thanks.
- Yankton Area – The Unit volunteers with the local historical society. Volunteers clean, file and photograph items to be moved to the new museum. They also help greet guests, help with mailings and organize displays.

- Sioux Falls Area – The Unit collected greeting cards which were repackaged and given to Meals on Wheels recipients at Christmas. Each recipient received about 10 cards. Gift bags were also created of hot chocolate, tea, snack bars, toiletries and note pads were also distributed.
  - Madison Area – The Unit has taken responsibility for the oldest library in the state located at Prairie Village. The maintenance, siding and window replacement were part of their efforts through matching grants.
- **INSPIRATIONAL VOLUNTEERING**
    - Northern Hills – The Unit distributed 8,000 bottles of water to motorcyclists on their way to the Sturgis Rally. 400 bottles of water were provided for the MS Walk.
    - Philip Area – Members have cleaned, recorded and posted signage for the Philip Masonic Cemetery.
- **MENTORSHIP VOLUNTEERING**
    - Oahe Area – This Unit is involved in many activities including board of education, art association, development corporation, regional council on aging, county economic development, community concerts, Red Hats, Lions and the American Legion.
    - Black Hills - Their motto: We Volunteer Everywhere! The Unit has recorded over fifty activities and organization that received their help.
- **HONORABLE MENTION AWARDS**
    - Brookings Area – The Unit helped with book storage, filling back packs and supporting United Way.
    - Southeast Area – The Unit members are active in their community in many ways.
- **DETERMINATION AWARDS**
    - Mitchell Area – Mitchell has a strong school system and good people. They hope to become active again.
    - Aberdeen Area - They have made efforts to restart the organization.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Board Officer Nominations** – Betty Beyer announced the slate of Board Officer nominations:

- President – Bill Zubke
- Past President – Betty Beyer
- President Elect – Ron Riherd
- Secretary – Judy Kroll
- Vice President – Kay Ainslie
- Treasurer – Pat Johnson

President Beyer asked for nominations from the floor. Marcia West moved for approval of the officer nominations. Joanna Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Past President Nancy May installed the officers.

With no other continuing or new business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Leni Healy, Secretary