

**Let's Fiesta:
Celebrating South
Dakota's Diversity**

**SDRSP 2022 State Convention
Oacoma/Chamberlain**

May 10-11, 2022

Tuesday, May 10th, 2022

The day kicked off with a 9:00 pre-convention tour of the Atka Lakota Museum, Dignity Sculpture and South Dakota Hall of Fame.

The First General Session:

The afternoon began with President Rhonda Preller calling the 2022 State Convention to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Preller introduced and welcomed Mayor Chad Mutziger. He was very welcoming and shared his respect of educators in the classroom, as well as, retired. He encouraged us to take in the sights of his city during our two-day stay in Chamberlain.

The next guest that President Rhonda welcomed was Chamberlain Superintendent Dr. Justin Zajic. He was a strong promoter of education as he feels it is the backbone of South Dakota.

Taryn Riedt, the President of the Chamberlain-Oacoma Chamber of Commerce shared additional information on their thriving community and tourist industry. She concluded by warmly welcoming everyone to the 2022 State Convention.

Attendance was taken next. Each convention attendee was to share their very favorite place/culture to visit when their unit was called. Roll Call was taken with the following units present: Aberdeen 2, Black Hills 12, Brookings 0, Huron 0, Madison 5, Milbank 2, Mitchell 0, Northern Hills 0, Phillip 2, Pierre 0, Redfield 1, Sioux Falls 9, Sisseton 0, Vermillion 2, Watertown 3, Winner 2, Yankton 3.

A break was taken for the drawing of five \$10 bills and two gift baskets.

Diversity—Teaching on the Border was the title of the presentation shared by President Rhonda Preller. She candidly and humorously gave her perspective on teaching and living in South Texas for twenty-five years. It was an entertaining, informative, and educational presentation!

A snack break was taken. Followed by five \$10 bills and two gift baskets were given away.

Sharmel Olson, Director of Education at the St. Joseph's Indian School in Chamberlain was the next guest speaker. Her presentation was very detailed as she had over 24 years of experience at St. Joseph's. Olson began as an elementary teacher, then taught Special Ed, followed by Curriculum & Testing Coordinator and is currently St. Joseph's Director of Education.

As we had a few minutes prior to the next guest speaker, the remainder of the gift baskets were won and passed out.

To conclude our first general session, Dr. Kevin Smith, Program Coordinator for the Master of Science in Educational Technology of Dakota State University of Madison, was our final speaker of the Tuesday afternoon session. He shared his clever tricks of navigating the world of technology. He constantly emphasized that we must be safe, aware, and vigilant when using technology.

At 4:30, the Unit Reps Leadership Meeting was called to order by President Rhonda. The following Units were in attendance: Aberdeen, Black Hills, Madison, Milbank, Phillip, Redfield, Sioux Falls, Vermillion, Watertown, Winner, and Yankton. Many questions and concerns were addressed at this time. Ideas were discussed to increase attendance at monthly Unit Meetings throughout the state.

The Second General Session:

The evening began at 6:00 with Social Hour. Following Social Hour, President Rhonda Preller spearheaded the presentation of awards. The Florence Krieger Award was presented to Ron Riherd. Next, was the dinner prayer followed by a delicious, Mexican Buffet.

After dinner, our entertainment was the Lakota Dancers from St. Joseph's Indian School. Their presentation was authentic, upbeat and very enthusiastic. When they departed that evening, they took with them boxes and boxes of school supplies that SDRSP members generously donated for St. Joseph's upcoming school year.

Wednesday, May 11th, 2022

The Third General Session:

Memorial Service:

At 9:00, the Memorial Service was held. We honored 42 members lost in 2021 and 2022 by displaying a flower blossom in their memory as their name was read aloud.

Business Meeting:

At 9:10, the Business Meeting was called to order by President Rhonda. A drawing for several \$10 giveaways was held.

Secretary's Report:

The secretary's minutes were read by President Rhonda Preller due to Amy Ramsey being absent. Bill Zubke made the motion, and it was seconded by Paul Harens to accept the minutes from the September 2021 Convention as stated. Motion carried with 100% approval.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Pat Johnson passed out her Budget Report for all in attendance to read and study. Pat explained in detail the projected budget for 2022-2023. Donna Fischer made the motion to approve the budget and it was seconded by Carol Miller. Motion unanimously carried.

Membership Report:

Jacque Sly, Interim Membership Director, shared a PowerPoint. She stated that our SDRSP membership stands at 861 members.

Legislative Report:

Bob and Sharon Rose shared that the 2022 Legislative Session was a very good one for South Dakota retirees.

As of July 2022, SD retirees will receive a 3.5% cost of living raise.

Scholarship Fund:

President-elect Jacque Sly announced that the Scholarship Winners for 2022 were Jordan Bakken of Watertown and Marcie Wallenmeyer also of Watertown. They are each recipients of a \$1,000 scholarship to be used to further their education.

Old Business:

Executive Director Gerri Larson was unable to attend the State Convention so in her absence President Preller highlighted her report as follows:

*Convention Gift Bags filled with pad folders, sanitizer and pens were given out to all attendees.

*Magazine and radio ads ran during the State sporting events this Winter and Spring of 2022.

* Printing and postage was provided to mail out a postcard to all members of SDRSP.

New Business:

Ron Riherd, Past President, made the motion to present the new slate of State officers for 2022-2024. Betty Beyer seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

Officers for 2022-2024

Past President - Rhonda Preller

President - Jacque Sly

President Elect - Cathy Anderson

Vice President - Kay Ainslie

Treasurer - Pat Johnson

Secretary - Carm Tobin

The swearing-in was held, and the officers were installed for their two-year term.

Community Service Hours:

Carm Tobin, Community Service Representative, shared the following report. Eight (8) units submitted 13,089 volunteer hours for 2021-2022 at the monetary value to South Dakota of \$261,780. Never forget SDRSP members make a huge impact yearly.

Betty Beyer made the motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Kay Ainslie. The Business Meeting of the 2022 Convention was adjourned at 10:05.

The Fourth General Session:

State AARP Director Erik Gaikowski was the first guest speaker of the morning. He shared that he always looks forward to speaking to SDRSP because a highlight of his job is advocating for the 50 Plus in South Dakota. Erik works hard so that we can enjoy health security, financial resilience, and personal fulfillment during our retirement years.

Our second guest speakers were the AMBA Insurance Team. They were Omarr Guerro, Garrett Mowrey and Tom Miller. AMBA stands for Association Member Benefits Advisors. The team shared highlights, benefits and advice to all attendees. The men joined us for lunch and were available during and after the meal to answer all concerns and questions.

The third presentation of the session was entitled Fraud. Fraud experts, Bill and Cathy Zubke, outlined how to be aware of scams, fraud and hoaxes. They warned us to never lose sight of the fact that there are swindlers, extortioners and blackmailers out there. They will find us if we are not vigilant. Bill concluded their presentation with this sage advice, “The only way that EVIL can triumph is when GOOD people do nothing!”

Wednesday’s noon lunch was provided by AARP. During the luncheon, Kylynn Schwandt, a fifth grader from Milbank, read her 2022 winning Grandparent Essay about her grandmother, Julie Schwandt. Julie, who also resides in Milbank, was present at the luncheon. Potted plants were given away as door prizes at the luncheon.

To conclude the two-day event, President Rhonda Preller thanked everyone for attending the “Let’s Fiesta!” Convention, as well as, for a great two years during her term of office. She ended by wishing everyone safe travels home and a healthy, exciting summer!

Respectfully submitted,
Carm Tobin
for Amy Ramsey, SDRSP Secretary