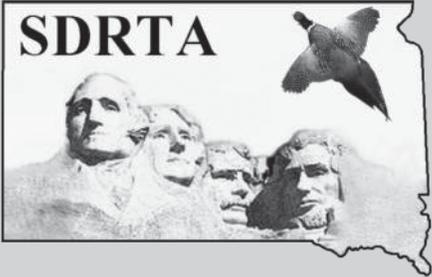


SDRTA



# South Dakota Retired Teachers Association **NEWSLETTER**

Affiliated with National  
Retired Teachers Association

*“To Serve, Not to be Served”*

[www.sdrta.net](http://www.sdrta.net)

Spring 2013, Vol. 45, No. 1

## Legislative Report

by Dr. Hank Kusters, Legislative Chair

Four bills were submitted to the 2013 Legislature by the SDRS staff at the request of the Board of Trustees. It doesn't appear that any of these bills has the potential to impact your retirement income in the near future. The SDRS Board of Trustees and the SDRS staff constantly monitor the fiscal health of the system in order to protect the integrity of member investments- they are good stewards of our retirement investments.

The following is a brief summary of each of the bills, a report on the legislative action where there were questions but no real opposition, and signing by the Governor.

HB 1024 Allows for the addition of new hires from the City of Sioux Falls to the SDRS. Individuals hired before 7/1/13 will continue to be members of the "old" Sioux Falls retirement system. The hires of 7/1/13 and thereafter will become SDRS members thus increasing the number of new contributing members to the SDRS system. The Governor signed this measure on 2/20/13.

HB 1025 Revises the reporting requirements of the SDRS to the legislature. This is viewed as a

Cont. Page 2

## Conference News

Theme: Reunite, Reconnect, Reminisce

**Rebecca Villarreal, Chicago is scheduled to speak at our first general session.**

Rebecca Villarreal works at NRTA: AARP's Educator Community, with a nationwide network of volunteer leaders and affiliates including the South Dakota Retired Teachers Association. Collectively, they focus on meeting the needs of local populations of all ages and finding new and inventive ways to recruit, motivate and recognize association members. As a Senior Advisor for NRTA, she also provides a range of resources from membership recruitment and communications to leadership development.



Rebecca will provide our keynote speech, "Find Your GPS: Greater Power Source" with a focus on enhancing your personal energy levels and elevating SDRTAs membership to new heights with creative ways to attract quality members. Here's what her past audience members wrote, "You energize people. What a worthwhile event! I learned so much!"

Prior to NRTA, Rebecca managed the dissemination grants program at the AARP Andrus Foundation and worked at Ogilvy Public Relations where she was a member of the education group serving clients such as the Job Shadow Day Coalition and the Department of Labor's National School-to-Work office. She formerly served on the board of Teaching for Change. Featured in The Washington Post and The Chicago Tribune, Rebecca is a published poet and visual artist who taught creative writing workshops to public school teachers and children. Her blog is available at [rebeccainspiresnow.com](http://rebeccainspiresnow.com).

Founded in 1947 by retired educator Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, NRTA is the largest national organization that represents the interests of 50+ educators, with a membership of more than one-million active and retired higher-ed and K-12 educators and school personnel at the local, state and national level. The NRTA network includes a national office in Washington, DC, 52 state and city associations, and more than 2,700 local associations. NRTA members share a commitment to learning, voluntary service, and civic participation. Visit NRTA's Website at [www.aarp.org/nrta](http://www.aarp.org/nrta) for more information or become a friend on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/NRTA.AARP>.

**CONVENTION - MAY 1 & 2, 2013  
RAPID CITY, SD**

clean-up measure, but don't underestimate the importance of keeping the Legislature well informed of the status of SDRS. The turmoil in some states (i.e. Wisconsin) highlights the need for our legislators to be well informed of the status of SDRS. The dollars in the system are dollars earned and paid by the members or on behalf of the members. There is no annual appropriation necessary. The Governor signed this measure on 2/20/13.

HB 1026 simply amends and updates SD law to comply with the internal revenue code. This is necessary clean-up to keep the SD law in compliance with changes at the federal level. The Governor signed this measure on 2/12/13.

HB 1027 clarifies elements of the SDRS special pay program and clarifies existing statutes to eliminate questions. The Governor signed this measure on 2/12/13. . .

### **The object of the South Dakota Retired Teachers Association is:**

- to promote the social, economic and professional welfare of retired teachers of the state
- to maintain affiliation with the National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA) Division of AARP and to cooperate with it by promoting membership, legislation, national programs and projects of NRTA
- to help retired teachers maintain identity with the teaching profession and to promote improvements in education

Dorothy Rosby, columnist for the Rapid City Journal will reconnect with her topic: "School Daze." She will speak following our dinner on Wednesday evening.

Dorothy Rosby is a syndicated humor columnist whose work appears in newspapers in eleven Western and Midwestern states, as well as in Exceptional People Magazine and Black Hills Woman magazine. She is a three-time winner of the South Dakota Press Women's Communications Contest/Humor Column category and two-time second-place winner of the National Federation of Press Women contests. She is the Community Relations Director at Black Hills Works, a facility which supports individuals with disabilities, and is married to an elementary school principal.



Following break time, Peggy Schlechter and Leacey E. Brown will address the topic: "Preparing for Success as South Dakota Ages."



The average age across the globe is increasing. South Dakota is not immune to this demographic change. Over the next 20 years, the number of adults over the age of 65 is projected to increase from 14.3% to 23.2% of the population. The number of adults over age 85 is projected to double. Demography is not destiny. The citizens of South Dakota can influence how population aging affects their state. What affect does this shift in population have on our state? What actions can be taken to address some of these affects?

Peggy Schlechter, Community Development Field Specialist

Peggy has a BS degree and an MS degree in Family & Consumer Science Education from South Dakota State University. She has 25 years of experience in education; 7 in middle/high school and 18 in higher education. She has served as state president for both the SD College Personnel Association and the SD Association of College Career Centers. Peggy also owns a direct sales business and leads a team of over 100 successful direct sales consultants. She is a graduate of Leadership Rapid City. Peggy received the Patrick Merrigan Distinguished Service Award for her leadership to student services in South Dakota, the SD Young Careerist Award from SD Business & Professional Women and was named an Outstanding Educator of the Year by the National Association Teachers of Family & Consumer Sciences. Peggy is very proud that she is a native of South Dakota. She grew up on a ranch north of Highmore that has been designated as a Century Farm. Peggy is currently a Community Development Field Specialist for SDSU Extension where she is involved in projects such as Stronger Economies Together, Growing Leaders SD, Small Business Beginnings and many others.

Leacey E. Brown, Gerontology Field Specialist

Leacey is a veteran of the United States Air Force. While a member of the armed forces, she was promoted six months ahead of her peers. In addition, she was awarded an AAS in electronic systems. During an event hosted by Minot Air Force Base, Leacey discovered her love of working with older adults as she served them Thanksgiving Dinner. When she completed her commitment to the United State Air Force, she pursued her educational goals. Leacey has a BA in psychology and sociology and an MS in Gerontology. Leacey is from Alachua, Florida. Leacey has been in the Great Plains since 2005. The people and way of life have charmed her. She is currently a Gerontology Field Specialist with SDSU Extension. She looks forward to helping the citizens of South Dakota meet the opportunities and challenges of an aging population.



On Thursday morning, a memorial service will be held and a business meeting will follow. Reminiscent essays about teaching experiences will be on display. Is this the year your essay will be shared?

Sarah Jennings, State Director, AARP South Dakota will talk about "AARP Community Presence" and Bob Wylie, Administrator South Dakota Retirement System will bring up-to-date information about the SD Retirement System. There will be awards and a 5th grade student who has written the top essay about a grandparent will be honored. What a beautiful way to conclude our convention.

## Pre and Post Convention Events by Diana Glover

**Pre-Convention** - One of the most exciting additions to Rapid City in recent years is Main Street Square. Those of us around Rapid for a long time say, "It's where the Sears Store was". That was way back . . . back in the '70's. What a transformation it has been! And we want you to experience it. On the first morning of our state convention, Wednesday, May 1, we invite you to gather in the lobby of the Best Western Ramkota a little after 10 a.m. The hotel shuttle will be available, or you can use your own car to go downtown.

The director of the Main Street Square will tell us the history, present happenings and future plans for the square. She will explain some of the financing of downtown projects, share stories of kids skating in winter and discuss the upcoming sculpturing on site. You may shop and have lunch in the area. There are eateries right at the square and others within a block. We will introduce you to 2 of our US Presidents, and there may even be some surprise visits!

**Post-Convention** - Following the convention, hang around for the after-

noon and evening by joining a group to Keystone and Hill City. Keystone is about 30 minutes out of Rapid City, and we will go to the old, original Keystone where the 1898 Victorian Schoolhouse still stands. This is the school where Rapid City retired teachers provide living history classrooms for students during the month of May. By the time we get there, the kids will be gone for the day, but you can don an old-time cap or bonnet and become a pioneer child yourself.

From Keystone, we will continue our convoy to Hill City where we can enjoy dinner at one of their fabulous restaurants. If you haven't been to Hill City for a few years, you will be surprised at the art galleries, jewelry shops and overall energy of this little mining/lumbering/tourist town. What an amazing way to end the convention, whether it will be 5 of us, 15 or 35! Come join the fun!

Please indicate your pre and post convention plans on your registration form, page 15, but if you have to make last minute decisions, that will be OK, too.

Donations are Appreciated

Thanks to:

> Pierre Area Retired Teachers

In memory of:

- Dorothy Hewlett
- Ruby Kosters

> Shirley Eismach  
In memory of:

- Dorothy Hewlett
- Karen Leuning
- Marie Stensby
- Margaret Gelhaus
- Ruby Kosters

- > Roy Lindsay
- > Elizabeth Swanson
- > Karen Erickson
- > Area Units
- > The 2012 Bus Tour

## SDRTA Elected and Appointed Officers 2012-2014

**President Nancy May**  
4619 Bellewood Dr., Rapid City, SD 57702  
605-718-0666  
nancymay@rushmore.com

**Past President Pat Johnson**  
1226 E. Kemp Ave, Watertown, SD 57201  
605-886-8756  
sdpjohnson@mac.com

**President-Elect Betty Beyer**  
46002 233rd St., Wentworth, SD 57075  
605-483-3255 and 290-0215  
bjb61@itctel.com

**Vice-President Lyle Kemnitz**  
1011 1st Ave W, Mobridge, SD 57601  
605-845-3839  
lkemnitz@westriv.com

**Secretary Leni Healy**  
4206 S. Minnesota Ave  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105  
605-360-8949  
CLHealy@aarp.org

**Co-Treasurers Ron and Gloria Riherd**  
3945 Corral Dr, Rapid City, SD 57702  
605-343-3221  
riherglo@netscape.net

**Membership  
Bill and Cathy Zubke**  
417 N Broadway, Watertown, SD 57201  
605-886-8637  
calz45@hotmail.com, Cathy  
bzubke@hotmail.com, Bill

**Community/Health Services  
Marrietta Catlin**  
321 N Taylor, Pierre, SD 57501  
605-224-7815  
mcatlin@pie.midco.net

**Publicity/Newsletter  
Merry Bleeker**  
1012 Woodview Dr. # 18  
Pierre, SD 57501  
605-224-8423  
lbleeker@pie.midco.net

**Legislation Henry "Hank" Kusters**  
326 S. Jackson, Pierre, SD 57501  
605-224-1825  
hank.g.kusters@gmail.com

**Executive Director Diana Glover**  
4781 Sturgis Rd, Rapid City, SD 57702  
605-787-4631  
rdglover@rapidnet.com

# Message From the President



REUNITE, REMINISCE,  
RECONNECT

Say Howdy

Dust off your boots and mosey on out West to enjoy the South Dakota Retired Teachers Convention in May. We took a chance and made a choice to change the convention site to Rapid City in 2013. Our Executive Director, Diana Glover, and I have been organizing and arranging for this event. Kudos to those of you who have done this in years past!! We are thankful for your example and effort, and we also appreciate the assistance of the Black Hills Unit.

REUNITE with friends and make new friends as you participate in the pre-convention tour of downtown Rapid City's Main Street Square and meet the Presidents on downtown street corners. REMINISCE as you listen to the Members of the Shrine of Democracy Chorus kick-off our First Session at 1:00 on May 1st.

RECONNECT with your personal GPS as you listen to our Keynote Speaker Rebecca Villarreal, NRTA Community Educator, talk about elevating your membership contacts to new heights. Reconnect with retired teachers in the community and encourage them to become SDRTA Members.

REMINISCE at the Banquet Wednesday evening, preceded by Milo Winter's New Horizon's Jazz Band's performance during the Social Hour. We want you to Reunite, Reminisce, and Reconnect with friends from around the state.

Thursday morning enjoy caramel rolls with a Continental Breakfast at the Ramkota, and attend the Memorial Service. We will also hear from the winner of the AARP Grandparent Essay Contest.

Note the agenda in this issue for registration information and costs. Our locals look forward to welcoming you on May 1st, at 1:00 at the Ramkota Best Western, just off Interstate 90 in Rapid City. You can also check the [sdrta.net](http://sdrta.net) web site for information.

Deadlines are necessary for our May Convention. Please send your Reminiscent Teacher Essay to President-elect Betty Beyer (bjb61@itctel.com) by April 1. Scholarship applications are also to be sent to Betty by April 12. Submission and application forms are available on the [sdrta.net](http://sdrta.net) website.

Think about the goals of SDRTA and socialize, learn, and hear about your retirement system. A recent article in the Rapid City Journal states that the pension funds are up 12.4% since July. Rob Wylie, South Dakota Retirement System, will update us on the pension system Thursday morning. Please know your SDRTA Membership is appreciated.

Invite your retired friends to mosey out West and share in convention festivities in the Black Hills Area.

It will be my pleasure to welcome you all May 1st and May 2nd to enjoy fellowship and friendship at our State meeting. Nancy May

"To Serve, Not to be Served"

# How To Ignite a Winning Attitude

By Marrietta Catlin SDRTA Health Chairperson



Have you ever wondered in your local RTA units just how to go about igniting change? We all know how difficult

change is for a lot of us. But we also know that with time we need to change with the times. How do we go about providing that “Yes, we can attitude” when it comes to change?

Just recently, I had the opportunity to be a part of NRTA’s “conference call on “Ignite Winning Attitudes/How to Revolutionize Your Volunteer Base.” This was the first of a four part series on this topic. It was presented by Kristi Daniels. The purpose of the series is to help REA leaders develop an action plan to inspire member leaders, create a dynamic culture and plan strategic efforts to help recruit and retain members as well as incite enthusiasm to the “Yes, we can attitude. Daniels suggests we start with small changes as we keep the lines of communication

open and welcome suggestions from members.

All of our SDRTA Units are valued for what they do. Each unit is different and unique as far as membership, projects, programs and availability to do volunteer work in their communities. As retired teachers we all know the importance of being a part of something bigger than ourselves. That is why volunteering is a vital part of our organization. We need to be connected to one another to make a difference in our local communities.

Perhaps some questions we should ask in our units could include: What is the mission of our unit? Does our unit have interesting programs? Would it help to change the time, location or day for meetings? Is our unit a welcoming one for new retirees? Does our unit mentor, encourage and appreciate our unit leaders? Is our unit open to change whether big or small? As a unit do we know what is working and what is not working in our organization? Does our unit provide some time for socialization and getting to know one another? Does our unit know what our

volunteers have a passion for in helping in our community? There is nothing more welcoming at a meeting than a friendly smile and a friendly comment such as “We are so glad to have you join us today.”

When you think of that friendly smile perhaps remembering what the letters of the word SMILE can stand for will be helpful.

- S Social time is important to members
- M Meetings & programs should be meaningful
- I Ignite small changes when necessary
- L Look for new members as well as volunteer opportunities
- E Enthusiasm is key to catching the “Yes, I can ATTITUDE”

Until next issue, I urge all of you to remember the children’s book *The Little Engine That Could* by Watty Piper with the words I think I can, I Think I can, I THINK I CAN! As your state community service chairperson, I KNOW WE CAN!

## RECOVERY WISHES-

to Lyle Kemnitz. Lyle fell from a ladder on February 9. He shattered both heels and will not be mobile for several months. Due to this he is unable to continue his duties as Vice President for SDRTA. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

## - Thank You for the Donations -

You may make a contribution to SDRTA for teacher scholarships by sending a check to:  
**Gloria Riherd, 3945 Corral Dr.  
Rapid City, SD 57702**

## SDRTA Fall Trip!!

The SDRTA bus will be heading south to Kansas City for the 2013 fall trip! Pat and Annette are still in the planning stages, but we will have registration forms with details of the trip ready for the state convention in May. We are planning on leaving from Sioux Falls on Monday, Sept. 30 and returning on Saturday, Oct 5. We will likely also spend one or two nights of the trip in Nebraska.

Those who have traveled with us know that we try to include something educational, something dealing with nature, and something entertaining. We are hoping to schedule a city tour of Kansas City with a local step-on guide, plus side trips to Independence for the Harry Truman Library and Museum and the nearby Powell Gardens.

If you haven't been to Kansas City for a few years, you might be surprised at the sporting events and shopping opportunities available. It is a city well known for Kansas City barbecue, jazz, and Hallmark cards. It also is the city of about 200 fountains. The Country Club Plaza has been a shopping mecca with Spanish architecture since 1923.

If you think you might be interested in this trip, please email Pat Johnson at [sdpjohnson@mac.com](mailto:sdpjohnson@mac.com), or give her a call at 886-8756 or send her a note at 1226 East Kemp, Watertown, SD 57201. She will send more information to you as soon as we have the details ready. Of course, you are under no obligation until you actually register with a down payment.

We have had lots of fun traveling together as an SDRTA group for the past ten years. We hope you will consider this trip as we travel to a new area.

# Membership News

Sometimes, it takes just one to go above and beyond to make everything brighter. Sometimes it takes just one to make an amazing difference in work load. And sometimes we forget to brag on that "just one". For several issues, we have faced the problem of returned newsletters. We didn't know if the members were still with us. We didn't know if they had moved. We just didn't know. You've seen the list of "returns". Economically and ergonomically, they were a boondoggle. Enter "just one". Cliff Vitters from Milbank took the initiative (and

the TIME) to utilize his internet expertise and his membership to Ancestry.com and diminished the list by over 30! So here is the brag! WELL DONE, Cliff, and thanks! We'll keep working to finish the list, and welcome any other "ones" who can help. Keep finding new members. Keep enjoying life. And Thanks!

We are still searching for the following lifetime members with a limited amount of information regarding a last known address. If you can help please contact our Membership Chairs: Bill and Cathy Zubke.

Albert	Doris	Unknown	Amherst	SD
Bailey	Grace	1321 Columbus St #36	Rapid City	SD
Borkirchert	Irene	Box 36	Roscoe	SD
Clark	Bea	1115 W. Haven	Mitchel	SD
Daley	Juanita F.	Unknown	Sioux Falls	SD
Delire	Fern	PO Box 105	Platte	SD
Dutt	Thelma	Unknown	Omaha	NE
Foglesong	Allene R.	2720 Sunnyside Rd #18	Montrose	CO
Hansen	Joyce E	Unknown	White	SD
Nissen	Margaret	Unknown	Mesa	AZ
Schultz	Mary A.	211 E Washington	Elk Point	SD
Swedensky	Evelyn	Box 62	Letcher	SD
Walker	Gordon	313 S 7th Ave	Brandon	SD
Wildberger	Alice	UNKNOWN	Peoria	AZ



# Hello Everybody!

It's March and in February the groundhog did not see his shadow so we must be having an early Spring!

I want to remind each and every one of you that you have time to write a reminiscent article or essay about your teaching or education experience. When we get together, what do we talk about? Our times in education, Right??? Well, let's write them down and

share them with others.

Please encourage your members and others to write them up and send them to me, either by email, typed, or long hand. We want to share your memories with others at the Retired Teachers Convention in May.

You can go on line at [sdrta.net](http://sdrta.net) to read essays from past years and the rules are there also.

One last idea, maybe your grandkids or children might give

you some ideas. It never hurts to ask.

Last year, we were disappointed as no one took the time to write. Let's change it this year and give everyone a chance to read your stories.

Thanks so much,

Betty Beyer

I can't wait to read your stories!!!!!!

## Summer Dates:

State Board Meeting - Wednesday, June 26  
11:00 AM, CDT Ramkota, Pierre

Brookings - Tuesday,  
July 16  
1:00 PM, CDT  
First Lutheran Church

### Workshops -

Rapid City - Thursday,  
July 18  
1:00 PM MDT  
AARP Information Center,  
Rushmore Mall

*Join  
Today!*

Yes, I want to join the South Dakota Retired Teachers Association

Name \_\_\_\_\_

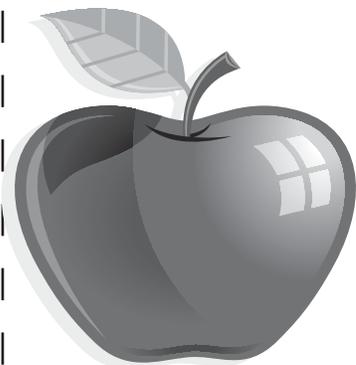
Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive the online newsletter

Send this form and \$15 (annual state dues) to:  
Gloria Riherd  
3945 Corral Dr.  
Rapid City, SD 57702



# TUESDAY, April 30

7:30 P.M. SDRTA Board Meeting  
in the Badlands Room

# WEDNESDAY, May 1

"Reunite"

## 10:00 – 12:30 REGISTRATION

Sylvan Rooms I & II, northwest corner  
of Ramkota Hotel, 2111 N. LaCrosse  
Pick up name tags and tickets.

**Fee** - \$40 per person, includes  
Wed. dinner and Thursday lunch

(Pre-registration form and fees due to  
Judy Johnson by April 23, 2013.  
See page 15.)

School displays may be set up.

## 10:30 PRE-CONVENTION EVENT

-Visit to Main Street Square,  
downtown Rapid City.

Meet in Ramkota Lobby  
at 10:15 for rides.

Lunch on your own

## FIRST GENERAL SESSION

Sylvan Rooms I and II

1:00 **Call to order** - Nancy May  
President, SD Retired Teachers

**Opening Prayer** – Marrietta Catlin  
Pierre Retired Teachers

**Pledge and Song** – Del Beck and  
Members of Shrine of  
Democracy Chorus

**Welcome** – Sam Kooiker Rapid City  
Mayor

**Welcome** – Gerri Larson, President  
Black Hills Retired Teachers

**Roll Call/Units** – Leni Healy,  
Secretary, SDRTA  
Introduction of Board Members  
–President Nancy May

## 1:45 "Find Your GPS:

Greater Power Source" Rebecca  
Villarreal, Chicago National  
Retired Teachers Assoc.  
~ introduced by Shirley Eisnach

2:30 **Break** – in memory of  
Ernie Van Gerpen, sponsored by  
Highmark Credit Union

## 3:00 "Preparing for Success as South Dakota Ages"

Leacey Brown and Peggy Schlechter,  
South Dakota State Extension  
~ introduced by Don Kennedy

## "Reconnect"

4:00 **"The Three R's"**  
Well-Done Players Theater  
Group  
~ introduced by LaRee Mayes

- Visit School Displays and  
Reminiscent Teacher Display -

## SECOND GENERAL SESSION

Sheridan Room

5:30 – 6:30 **Social and Music by New  
Horizons Jazz Band,**  
Director Milo Winter

**Prayer** - Cathy Zubke, Watertown RT

**Dinner**

**"School Daze"** – Dorothy Rosby,  
keynote speaker, columnist for  
Rapid City Journal  
~ introduced by Nancy May

**Announcement of Scholarship Winners**  
by President-Elect Betty Beyer

# THURSDAY, May 2

"Reunite"

**7:00 – 8:45 Continental Breakfast,**  
thanks to SD AARP

**7:30 – 8:30 Past State Presidents'**  
**Breakfast** in Minerva's Restaurant  
Greeter – Don Kennedy

**7:30 Unit Presidents/Representative**  
**Meeting** with state board officers,  
Sheridan Room

## **THIRD GENERAL SESSION**

Sylvan I and II

**9:00 Memorial Service**  
Music-Anne Henrichsen,  
Emily Iverson

**BUSINESS MEETING**  
President Nancy May

**Minutes**  
Leni Healy, Secretary

**Treasurer's Report/ Budget**  
Ron and Gloria Riherd

**Membership Report**  
Bill and Cathy Zubke

**Legislative Report**  
Dr. Henry Kosters

**Newsletter Report**  
Merry Bleeker

**Community Service and With Our**  
**Youth Awards** – Marrietta Catlin

**SDRTA Bus Tour Report**  
Pat Johnson and Annette  
Belkonen

**Other Reports**

**Continuing Business**

**New Business**

**Break**

**10:00 "AARP Community Presence"**  
Sarah Jennings, State Director,  
AARP South Dakota

**11:00 State Retirement Report**  
Rob Wylie, Administrator  
South Dakota Retirement System

**"Reminisce"**

**12:00 – 1:30 Lunch**  
Sheridan Room

**Soloist** Janet McCaskey, Black Hills RT

**Prayer** -Janelle Jones, Northern Hills  
RT  
Lunch

**Introduction of AARP Grandparent**  
**Essay** Winner – Marilyn Kratz,  
Committee Chair, Yankton Retired  
Teachers

**Reading of the Essay** by State Winner

**Awards Ceremony** –Nancy May  
Florence Krieger

**Leadership Awards**

**President's Awards**

**Reminiscent Teacher Awards**

**Traveling Trophy** - Lyle Kemnitz

**Closing Remarks** - Nancy May  
Please hand in evaluations;  
adjournment

**Post Convention Event; 3:00;** meet  
in lobby for carpooling to  
Keystone History School and  
dinner in Hill City



# Unit News From Across The State

## NORTHERN HILLS

The Northern Hills Retired Teachers met at the Spearfish Senior Citizen Center on February 18, 2013.

A short meeting was held after our program. The Reminiscent Teacher Essays are due April 1, 2013. This is not a contest. The essays are to be written by teachers or any other people working in the educational field. Members of the South Dakota Retired Teachers have been sharing their stories for many years. The purpose is to collect the history of teachers and others in education.

The South Dakota Retired Teachers Association is offering two scholarships to K-12 teachers with five years experience. To qualify for these scholarships, the teachers must be working on an advanced degree or national certification. Applications are due April 12, 2013.

The SDRTA will be holding its annual convention in Rapid city on May 1st and 2nd, 2013 at the Ramkota. The theme is Reuniting, Reminiscing, and Reconnecting.

Our upcoming meetings will be held at the Spearfish Senior Citizen Center: March 18, 2013--Sturgis is hostess, the program is "Peace Corps in Korea" by Delbert Blume; April 15, 2013-- Belle Fourche is hostess, the program is "The Outdoor Campus in Rapid City"; May 20, 2013 is a pot lunch at noon.

A short board meeting was held following the regular meeting.

Todd Eckles gave us a program on Daisy House. It is located at 430 Oriole Drive in Spearfish, South Dakota. The Daisy house offers: Adult day services, RFL (Recycle for

Life) - leasing of used durable medical equipment, Loving hands home care, Teen and young adults with a disability

such as companion care, respite, or teen club, and Monthly caregiver support groups. It is open Monday through Friday from eight to five and can be used for the time indicated when registering such as from 1/2 hour to all day and charged for only the time used. The charge is \$12.00 per hour. Medicare and Title 3 are available. Volunteers are welcome, The Daisy House has only been in Spearfish for about two months. They have two work-



## REDFIELD

Redfield Area Retired Teachers Association is busy preparing for their Annual Retired Teachers Spelling Contest for grades 1-8 to be held the end of April. Eleven area schools, including area colony schools, are invited to participate. There are normally around 100 participants.

Letters were also sent to the same schools with information for participation in the Grandparent Essay Contest for fifth graders.

We are encouraging our members to write Reminiscent Teacher Essays.

Arlie Rodman, Co-President, Redfield Area Retired Teachers Association

## WINNER AREA

By Jo Haffield, President

We have had an interesting and varied number of programs the past few months. In November we made a vicarious journey to the Holy Land by having Jo share her DVD of pictures, maps, books, and artifacts from her recent trip to Israel. In December we decided to help stock the local Food Pantry and each member was asked to bring several items of food instead of a gift exchange. We collected three large cartons of food and enjoyed several rounds of Bingo at the Christmas Party. In January we invited Marla Bull Bear, the Director of the American Indian Advocacy Project in the Winner Area. She explained all the services and assistance provided through the advocacy program. Of special interest was the equine program, Sunka Wakan Otakuye, which consists of

a four day Equine Camp and after-school equine sessions. The Grandparent Essay Winners and their families were our guests at the February meeting. The winners read their essays and the local paper did a front page story with pictures as well as publishing the winner's essays.

We collect money for a Door Prize drawing at each meeting. This year we will be donating \$125.00 to the scholarship fund.

We meet on the third Wednesday of each month from September through May, at the Senior Center. Our meeting time is at 11:00 AM. We have an average attendance of 18.



I'VE BEEN ATTENDING LOTS OF SEMINARS IN MY RETIREMENT. THEY ARE CALLED NAPS. \* Merri Brownsorth

## MADISON

The Madison Area Unit ended 2012 with our annual Christmas party at Betty Beyer's home. Everyone brought items for the Madison Food Pantry and "Dollars for Scholars" were collected.

Our group has taken on a challenging task. We have always helped maintain the first library in Dakota Territory that is now located in Prairie Village west of Madison. It was moved from Howard, SD. It is in need of residing as the wood is rotten. With the help of the Prairie Village management, our member DeAnn Molkness prepared the paper work and applied for a grant from the DAR in Sioux Falls. They were successful and a large grant was received.

As we need more funds for this project, two of our members, Barb Hoff and Mona Reisig have donated 3 beautiful quilts. One is queen sized, another is a wall hanging, and the third is a lap robe. We are in the process of selling raffle tickets for further funds.

So, anyone? WANT TO BUY SOME RAFFLE TICKETS????

It's for a good cause.....

Betty Beyer

## SIoux FALLS AREA

By Cathy Anderson

Once again the winter weather played a part in our plans. Cold, icy, and windy weather cancelled our plans to travel to Pierre for Lobby Day. On the other hand, we had beautiful weather for the January and February meetings and had record attendance for winter months.

In January Superintendent Dr. Pam Homan gave us an insight into the various behavior programs in the Sioux Falls School District. At our February meeting Ron Robinson from the Minnehaha County Century Fund spoke about the groups' role in preserving historical buildings at Pioneer Lane located at the Sioux Empire Fairgrounds. Our group works with them as volunteers to talk about each building to students at the Sioux Empire Fair.

Coming up in March will be an update from Matt Clark, State Investment Officer, on the South Dakota State Retirement fund. This spring we will hear from Marian Henjim

about Surviving As An Artist in Sioux Falls. We always conclude our year with a Memorial Service to remember members who have passed away. We also honor members' family members that have passed away.

We continue working with the Sioux Falls AARP Chapter on the Community Presence projects that we have organized. Our main projects this year for each quarter will be: helping homeless veterans, helping the hungry, helping kids, and helping seniors. There will be many projects throughout the year to benefit those areas. Members have very generous with their time, talents, and treasures to help out with these projects.

We continue to hold our monthly meetings on the fourth Tuesday of most months at the Royal Fork Buffet Restaurant, located behind the Empire Mall. Our meetings are from 11:00-1:00. Call Cathy Anderson at 338-7053 for more information.

## PIERRE AREA

The Pierre Area Retired Teachers Association has had an exciting year for meetings. We continue to have our meetings on the fourth Tuesdays of the month, but have met in different locations around town, and the time changes monthly. Our first meeting in September was an evening get together at a local bed and breakfast for brick oven pizza. Programs have included a tour of an old historic home that is in the process of being refurbished, wine tasting at a local winery, an afternoon of court whist, legislative and retirement system updates, and a program by one of our members who does a book club at the women's prison. In March we will have a

morning meeting at the Cultural Heritage Center and one of their employees is going to give a program on how to start tracking your family tree.

At the beginning of the school year, our Association donated money to the backpack program, as well as sending a check to the elementary guidance counselors to help purchase school supplies for needy students. PARTA often receives calls for help in filling senior boxes at the Food Bank, we have helped fill backpacks for students, we have members that help in the schools as "reading buddies", and members that help with programs at the Discovery Center.

We planned a bus trip to Branson, and early on a Monday morning the first week in November, 13 couples departed. On the way down we stopped at the Truman Library and Museum in Independence, Missouri. While in Branson we attended 6 shows and went to the Titanic Museum. On the way back home we made a stop at the Steamboat Arabia Museum in Kansas City - we would all recommend that museum to anyone that is going to the Kansas City area. We packed a lot into six days, but everyone had a wonderful time.

-WARNING- -WARNING-  
Retiring is easy for teachers. Staying happily retired  
- now that is the harder part of successful retirement.

## YANKTON

Yankton Area Retired Teachers Set to Meet on March 7

After a 3 month winter hiatus, the Yankton Area Retired Teachers Association is once again resuming regular meetings on the first Thursday of each month.

President Gene Bormann and his officers invite all retired school personnel from any level of education and any geographical area to meet, eat and enjoy the company of this group.

The March meeting will be held on Thursday, March 7th, at 11:30 a.m. at JoDean's Steak House, 2809 Broadway, in the south dining room. A brief opening will precede the meal, followed by the month's program and a business meeting. The March program presentations will be given by Bill Sohl and Bob Thuey, who will provide information on the Yankton Men's Shelter and by Dr. Michael McVay who will explain the importance and work of Habitat for Humanity.

Business of the day will include discussion of the YARTA Scholarship to be presented to a YHS Senior in the spring.

If you would like to attend but need transportation, please call Phyllis Christiansen at 668-0659. For further information please contact Membership Chairs Susan Buxcel at 665-2745 or Donna Fischer at 665-9252.

There is always good companionship, good food and a door prize or two.

I ENJOY WAKING UP AND NOT HAVING TO GO TO WORK. SO I DO IT 3 OR 4 TIMES A DAY. ☘ Gene Perret

## PHILIP AREA

The Philip Area AARP/RTA and the Haakon County Public Library Director, Annie Brunskil hosted Dorothy Liegle, SD Humanities with a presentation about SD Rural Schools at the January 28

meeting. This prompted discussion of the Haakon County Rural Schools (Past and Present). A follow-up discussion will be held to identify and reminisce at the February 25 meeting.



## MILBANK AREA

Our members enjoyed the music by Leonard Stengel and his Golden Tunes [Band] December 6th, 2012. On January 17th, Pastor Keith Bicknase showed slides of his trip to the "Holy Land." February 21st, we had to cancel the packing of food at our local Orphan Grain Train. [Weather Report did not sound too good]

March 21st we were entertained by the music dept. from the High School. Mr. Tim Graf, our Superintendent spoke to our group also. [School Funding] We look forward to April 18th - Mr. Jerry Janisch, local agriculture teacher at the school.

Upcoming Events:

May 1-2 State RT Convention – Rapid City, SD [Come One, Come All!]

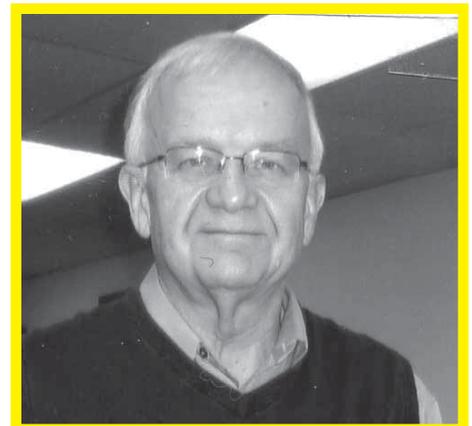
May 16 - Visit to the Chiropractic Clinic

[Dr. Aaron Micko]

June 20 - Fire & Ambulance [Speakers]

July 18 - Earl Lundin –Accordion

August 15 - Picnic



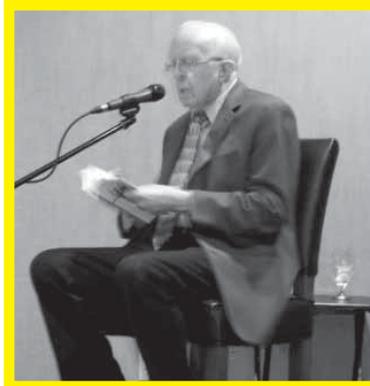
Pastor Keith Bicknase  
The Holy Land Slideshow  
Presentation January 17, 2013

## BLACK HILLS

The Black Hills Chapter of Retired Teachers started the new year off with a very interesting and inspirational talk by an international student attending SDSM & T from Afghanistan. She shared her determination to get an education and how she has made her way to the US. Our February program was presented by Kenny Putnam who gave an interesting talk on picture restoration. Our programs for the remaining of the year will be in March on information from the BH Health and Education Center and in April a talk on "Green" environmental cemeteries.

We are preparing for our Spring Tea which has become an annual event. It will be held at Ardee Hinzmann's quaint home which is on West Blvd, on April 12 and again on April 15. This year we will use the money raised from the tea as an incentive for members attending the state con-

vention, being held in Rapid City. Each month a name will be drawn at the close of the meeting and this member will receive a free meal at the convention. The Scholarship Committee is busy planning fund raisers and hope to raise \$500 this year. A Bunko party and a walk and breakfast in the park are being planned so far. We are looking forward to the State Convention in Rapid City this year and encourage everyone to come and see what RC and the Hills has to offer.



Photos are of Harry Putnam (retired RC Teacher reciting poetry) and his son, Kenny Putnam, playing the fiddle for our Christmas Brunch Third photo is of Gladys Storm giving a Christmas Reading and Blessing at the Brunch.



## WATERTOWN

It's a good year to be a Watertown Area Retired Teacher. Membership is up. Enthusiasm is up. Generosity is up. And our bank balance is still in the black. How could we do anything but celebrate? And celebrate we do, every second Thursday (okay, except January and July) of the month. With titillating programs, support for a local educator scholarship, and general good will, we attempt to live the NRTA credo—to serve, not to be served. Well, we do let them serve us breakfast, but I think that's different, isn't it? We've geo-cached, traveled to Ireland, learned about the Constitution, heard about the

retirement system, celebrated Christmas with a home entertainment center for each member, and celebrated Valentine's Day with Love Stories from Mount Marty.

We've a reminiscing teacher, amazing Grandparent essays, and local support of activities. Sorta makes you want to join us, doesn't it? We'd love to have you visit. As you finish yet another year, know three things. WARTA appreciates the work of our state association. WARTA appreciates the work of every other local. And WARTA wants you to know you are amazing, and you are loved!

## VERMILLION

The Vermillion Southeast Unit, after a holiday break, resumed meetings in February. Charles Rogers, the author of, "A History of South Dakota", was our speaker. He gave us insights into some well known people and events in South Dakota. In March we will have a speaker from First Dakota Bank in Yankton present information on investments and estate planning, an interesting and timely topic for many members. Our April meeting will feature our member, Ruth Williams, discussing her trip to Brazil, which will be the next site of the Olympics. In May we will have a welcoming party for newly retired teachers. Vermillion takes a summer break until September. Mary Ulrich

## Focus on Essays and Scholarship!!

Each unit is encouraged to participate in these three state projects:

1. 5th Grade Grandparent Essay Contest – the guidelines have been emailed to local leadership of all units. They are also on the website, [www.sdrta.net](http://www.sdrta.net) The time frame, beginning Feb.1 with the first submission, is the same as past years. There will still be medals available, but no plaques. The essay may be hand-written or typed. The state winning prizes will be cash amounts of \$250, \$150 and \$100. The cash prizes are replacing the savings bonds which were awarded in the past.
2. Reminiscent Teacher Essays – This project is not a contest, but a way for all school personnel to share their own stories of working in the field of education. Essays will be on display at the state convention and submitted to the SDRTA website. The guidelines are on the website, but if you need a hard copy, request one from Betty Beyer or Diana Glover (both names and info' on page 4 of newsletter). Submissions can be made electronically or hand-written.
3. State Scholarship for Teachers – There will be two \$1000 scholarships awarded in May 2013 to two South Dakota teachers who are working on a masters or national certification. Please pass this information on to anyone you know who could benefit from such a scholarship. It could be your grandchild, neighbor or a friend's child. Again the information is on the website, [www.sdrta.net](http://www.sdrta.net) or contact Betty Beyer or Diana Glover. Applications will be received electronically.

## Obituary of Richard Anderson

Richard Clarence Anderson, 72, of Yankton, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2012, at Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls surrounded by his family after a brief renal-related illness.

Richard "Dick" Anderson was born in Spencer, Iowa on Aug. 29, 1940 to Clarence and Vera (Woodford) Anderson. He attended Garfield School and graduated from Webb High School in 1958. He attended Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa, graduating in 1962 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English. He earned his Master's Degree in English from the University of South Dakota, Vermillion, in 1968. Dick moved to Yankton and began his teaching career at Yankton Junior High in 1962 fulfilling a calling that he recognized when he was in the 3rd grade. On June 22, 1963, Dick and Louise DeSaix were married at Washington, Iowa by The Rev. Will Yard who had married Louise's parents and maternal grandparents.

Dick is best remembered for his years teaching at Yankton High School. In his 46-year career, only teaching in the Yankton School District, he served as English department chairman for 40 years, and, along with an excellent team of instructors, was responsible for shaping the English Department into one of the finest in South Dakota. In addition to his other courses, he also taught journalism and was the adviser of the YHS newspaper, *Woksape*, for his entire teaching career. Under his leadership, between 1963 and 2008, the *Woksape* earned 36 All-State awards from the South Dakota High School Press Association, with a 19-year unbroken streak of All-State newspapers from 1973 to 1991. During the same time, well over

100 YHS students were named as All-State Journalists and Photographers. For 30 years, Dick taught at the High School Press Association's summer workshops in Brookings.

"In recognition of outstanding service to high school journalism through teaching the principles of good journalism," he was recognized with the High School Press Association's Founders' Award in 1986 and again in 2005. In the 50-year history of the Founders' Award, Anderson is the only person to have won that award twice. Dick served as a member of the South Dakota High School Activities Association's Journalism Advisory Committee for two terms: 1979 to 1984 and 1999 to 2004. In 2004, Dick received the Distinguished Service Award from the South Dakota High School Activities Association. This award is given to coaches and directors in South Dakota to recognize outstanding service to the youth of the state through various high school activities programs.

In other journalistic endeavors, Dick worked at the copy desk at the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan on weekends and during the summers for many years, and he wrote copy for the Gurney Seed Catalogue. Dick was also the adviser of the YHS literary magazine, *The Cellar Door*, for several years. In addition, Dick was an adjunct instructor at both Yankton College and Mount Marty College, and had been adviser for the Mount Marty newspaper, *The Moderator*. Dick's expertise was called on numerous times as a committee member to North Central Accreditation teams in evaluating the English departments at other area high schools. Dick was a past-president of the South Dakota Teachers

of English, member of the South Dakota Reading Council and South Dakota Education Association. Locally, Dick served on the Yankton Federal Prison Camp Community Relations Board, Yankton Public Library Board of Directors, Community Concert Association and the Yankton Education Association. Dick was also a member of United Methodist Church Yankton, where he had been a Sunday school teacher for many years.

Upon Dick's retirement from teaching in 2008 he enjoyed spending time with his most prized possession, his family. His other pleasure was spending much of his time working at his wife's store, The Pantry, in downtown Yankton. He loved when former students would come in and ask him: "Mr. Anderson, do you know who I am?"

He enjoyed cooking, gardening, reading and talking to former students and colleagues.

He is survived by his wife Louise of Yankton; sons, John (Missy) Anderson of Rapid City and Benjamin Anderson of Sioux Falls; two grandchildren, Jackson and Chloe Anderson of Rapid City; sister, Linda (Robert) Rust of Webb, Iowa; an aunt, Eleanor Essick; numerous nieces nephews and cousins; past and present members of the Yankton High School English Department; and thousands of former students. He was preceded in death by his parents.

In lieu of flowers the family requests gifts be directed to: Avera McKennan Kidney Transplant Fund, 1325 South Cliff Ave, P.O. Box 5045, Sioux Falls, SD 57117 or charity of choice.

Yankton Press & Dakotan; November 30, 2012

# SDRTA Convention Registration

May 1 – 2, Best Western Ramkota, 2111 N. Lacrosse Street, Rapid City

Call Ramkota, 605-343-8550 for Room Reservations by April 1.

Ask for a room in the block of rooms for SD Retired Teachers  
\$79.99 (1 or 2 persons)

Convention Registration Deadline by April 23 - Mail this form and check payable to SDRTA to:

Judy Johnson  
3602 Ridge Drive  
Rapid City, SD 57702  
Questions? Call Judy, 605-343-3435

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name of spouse attending convention \_\_\_\_\_

A. Complete Convention Registration: \$40      Number \_\_ x \$40 = \_\_\_\_\_  
(Includes all sessions, dinner and lunch)

B. Registration by Individual Event:  
Registration fee: \$15      Number \_\_ x \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_  
(May attend all sessions, no meals)

Dinner \$25      Number \_\_ x \$25 = \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch \$15      Number \_\_ x \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

**Pre and Post Convention Events (See page 3 for details)**

**In order to help with planning, please indicate:**

I/We will go to Main St, Square, 10:30 May 1: \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no How many? \_\_\_

I/We will go to Keystone & Hill City, May 2, 3 p.m. \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no How many? \_\_\_

## Newsletter

South Dakota Retired Teachers Association  
Cathy Zubke, Membership Chair  
417 North Broadway  
Watertown, SD 57201

[www.sdrta.net](http://www.sdrta.net)

PRSRT-STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PIERRE, SD  
PERMIT #35

## Check Membership Addresses!

*It is important for all unit officers to check with each member for their correct address. Not having correct addresses costs the organization a great deal of money. Send all address changes, as well as names and dates of deaths, to*

**Bill and Cathy Zubke, 417 North Broadway, Watertown, SD 57201.**

**Phone: 605-886-8637 • Email address: calz45@hotmail.com**

## Unit Presidents (or Contact), Addresses, Phone Numbers, Email Addresses

### ABERDEEN AREA

Ron Johnson,  
contact person  
1710 Royal Road  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
605-225-7968  
E-contact:  
ronjohnson15@abe.midco.net

### BENNETT COUNTY

Shirlee Rice  
29122 231st Ave  
Tuthill, SD 57574  
605-685-6123  
riceas@gwtc.net

### BLACK HILLS

#### (RAPID CITY AREA)

Gerri Larson  
2515 Junction  
Rapid City, SD 57702  
605-721-4550  
rlarmart@rushmore.com

### BROOKINGS

Clark Hanson  
811 7th Ave.  
Brookings, SD 57006-1309  
Phone # 605-692-6698 (H)  
clhanson@brookings.net

### HURON AREA

Donna Uttenhove  
716 Idaho SE  
Huron, SD 57350  
605-352-0328  
Preludes88@hur.midco.net

### MADISON

Elaine Brown  
101 Spring Meadow Dr. #4  
Dell Rapids, SD 57022  
605-351-5492  
elbro@goldenwest.net

### MILBANK AREA

George Smith, leader  
707 S. 5th St.  
Milbank, SD 57252  
605-432-6851  
gsmith@midco.net

### MITCHELL AREA

Norma Bietz, contact  
person  
2202 E. 1st St.  
Mitchell, SD 57301  
605-996-5792 & 999-3496  
hnbietz@yahoo.com

### NORTHERN HILLS

Co-Presidents:  
Janelle Jones  
835 W. Hill St.  
Spearfish, SD 57783  
605-722-5911  
jljones@rushmore.com

Gwenn Vallery  
12293 Vallery Rd.  
Nisland, SD 57762  
605-257-2264

### OAHE (MOBRIDGE)

Lowell Looyenga  
1322 Kennedy Drive  
Mobridge, SD 57601  
605-845-2040

### PHILIP AREA

Marcia West  
Box 430  
Phillip, SD 57567  
605-859-2213  
cmmwest@gwtc.net

### PIERRE AREA

Mary Jo Johnson  
1204 E. Franklin  
Pierre, SD 57501  
605-224-9135  
ljohnson@pie.midco.net

Connie Palmer  
1110 Lakewood Dr.  
Pierre, SD 57501  
605-224-5202  
gcpalmer@pie.midco.net

### REDFIELD AREA

Arlie Rodman  
926 E. 2nd St.  
Redfield, SD 57469  
605-472-0553  
arlier@abe.midco.net

### JEROLD BENDER

Jerold Bender  
925 E. 7th Ave.  
Redfield, SD 57469  
605-472-0225

### SIoux FALLS

Cathy Anderson  
925 S. 4th Ave.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104  
605-338-7053  
cander451@msn.com

### SOUTHEAST AREA

#### (VERMILLION)

Mary Ulrich  
922 Crestview Dr.  
Vermillion, SD 57069  
605-624-8434  
rulrich@vyn.midco.net

### WATERTOWN

Bill & Cathy Zubke  
417 N. Broadway  
Watertown, SD 57201  
605-886-8637  
bzubke@hotmail.com  
calz45@hotmail.com

### WINNER AREA

Jo Haffield  
P.O. Box 133  
Winner, SD 57580  
605-842-2079  
haffield@gwtc.net

### YANKTON AREA

Gene Bormann  
104 S. Finottie POB 68  
Mission Hill, SD 57046  
605-660-4594  
gbormann@svtv.com