

SDRTA SPRING BOARD MEETING

Ramkota Inn
Pierre, South Dakota
April 30, 2012

Present: Pat Johnson, Allen Price, Nancy May, Lyle Kemnitz, Donna Fischer, Gloria and Ron Riherd, Marrietta Catlin, Diana Glover, Henry "Hank" Kusters, Bill and Cathy Zubke, and Shirley Eisnach (Executive Director)

President Pat Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. She read "The Next Survivor Show," a story of a hypothetical business person being "dropped into" an elementary classroom. The contestant is overwhelmed by all the work expected of him in his new role as a teacher compared to his job in the business world.

President Johnson appointed Cathy Zubke parliamentarian for the meeting.

Secretary Donna Fischer asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the July 27, 2011 Summer Board Meeting. Lyle Kemnitz moved to approve the minutes as written. Gloria Riherd seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurers Ron and Gloria Riherd presented the financial report, which shows that SDRTA has total CD accounts of \$35,873.69 and a checking account balance of \$22,916.78 for a total balance of \$58,790.47. (See Attachment A.) Re: the 2011-2012 budget (See Attachment B) Ron noted that the website expense was \$92 over budget, reflecting increased rates charged to us during the past year. The budget also included \$1,000 deposited into the General Fund from trip profits. The projected end-of-fiscal-year balance is \$18,000-\$19,000.

Pat Johnson suggested that the Board explore the possibility of archiving web site materials (past minutes, Newsletters, etc.) on CD once a year. This would be an added expense, of course. The Board decided to add \$400 to the Web Site budget for 2012-2013 bringing the total to \$1,000. Ron and Gloria will rework the 2012-2013 budget sheet for presentation at the General Session meeting on May 2.

President-elect Nancy May appointed Pat Johnson and Lyle Kemnitz to audit the books in June of this year, prior to the Summer Board Meeting.

Membership co-chair Cathy Zubke reported that numbers for 2011-12 were up, for a total of 1,301 members. There are still 39 people on the invalid lifetime list, however. Shirley Eisnach suggested running those names in the Newsletter. Cathy also suggested a further "tweaking" of the membership reporting system as follows: a copy of the reporting form (See Attachment D) along with a check for dues collected should be sent to treasurers Ron and Gloria Riherd, and another copy of the membership form should be sent by either email or regular mail to the Zubkes. It was suggested that the form be modified to add check boxes at the bottom to indicate that the form and a check were sent to the Treasurer, and a separate form only was sent to the Membership chair.

Nancy May moved to approve the amended form; Hank Kusters seconded. Motion carried.

Newsletter chair Diana Glover reported that in spite of printing three issues of the publication this year, she once again came in under budget by \$171.91. The three issues totaled 32 pages, rather than the traditional 2 twenty-page issues, but were very well-received.

Hank Kusters, Legislative chair, reported that thanks to the hard work of the SDRS Board, our retirement system is in good financial health. We will receive a 3.1% COLA as of July 1, 2012, and the system's investment returns will be evaluated at the end of June of this year to determine the 2013 payouts. Hank also noted the court case being brought against SDRA was recently thrown out of court, although the plaintiff may yet appeal that decision.

Community Service chair Marrietta Catlin handed out copies of her 2011-12 report which indicated that SDRTA members recorded 8,000 more hours of service this year than they did last year. Adding the 11,070 With Our Youth hours to the 43,310 Adult hours gave a total of 54,380 reported hours, or approximately \$1,185, 500 worth of services retired teachers gave back to our South Dakota communities.

Executive Director Shirley Eisnach once again presented an impressive list of her efforts and accomplishments on behalf of SDRTA during the past year. Among her activities were her efforts to help struggling units in Mitchell and Aberdeen, help plan the 2012 Convention, and keep the website updated each month. Shirley has submitted her letter of resignation to the Board effective May 31, 2012.

Next, Shirley updated the Board on website costs and management. The web master charges \$20 per hour, the server/host charges \$212 yearly, and the domain registration rose from \$55 to \$110 this past year. The additional \$400 to be added to the website 2012-2013 budget should cover these extra expenses.

Lyle Kemnitz handed out forms for the 2012 Traveling Trophy and said the same guidelines from previous years will be used to determine this year's winner. Lyle also gave the Board copies of the Memorial service to be held on May 2 prior to the General Session meeting. The unusually large number of those being memorialized (98) is a result of units belatedly reporting names of those who have passed away in the last several years but who had been previously unaccounted for by their units due to their moving away, going into nursing care, etc.

Liaison reports made by the Board indicated that while many units are doing well, others are struggling to survive. Board members as well as our Executive Director have been trying to help those units and must continue our efforts in their behalf.

Pat Johnson gave a report summarizing the 13 SDRTA-sponsored bus trips from 2004 through 2011. A total of 524 passengers have traveled on the trips, with a total

generated profit of \$16,596. Pat noted that some people have gone on multiple trips. She also reported that she and Annette Belkonen, her fellow trip guide/hostess, have been able to refund the total cost of the trip to anyone who has had to cancel, even at the last minute, and still make a profit on each trip. The next trip, to Wisconsin in September 2012, is nearly filled at this point.

OLD BUSINESS

The 2010-2011 audit report, conducted by auditors Nancy May and Diana Glover, was presented. Lyle Kemnitz moved to accept the report. Marrietta Catlin seconded. Motion carried.

A discussion of the \$500 budgeted amount for membership grants brought out several points: not all the budgeted monies have been granted; requests must be submitted to the Treasurer (Riherds) who must then seek Board approval for each grant (by email) before disbursing the requested funds; and units will be reminded of this grant option at the summer Leadership Workshops. Finally, the Board approved grants of \$100 to Watertown and \$50 to Vermillion.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board accepted Shirley Eisnach's resignation as SDRTA Executive Director. Cathy Zubke moved to accept; Bill Zubke seconded. Motion carried. Next, Hank Kusters moved to appoint Diana Glover as the next Director; Allen Price seconded. Motion carried. We are indeed fortunate to have had two such capable members who are willing to serve SDRTA in this key position.

Next the Board discussed allotting a \$1200 stipend to the Executive Director for his/her personal expenses. However, Diana Glover declined such a stipend, so the issue is moot at this point.

Both the 2010 and 2011 Audit Reports will be presented at the General Session on May 2.

As retiring Newsletter editor, Diana Glover agreed to publish the summer issue. Nancy May will find someone to replace Diana as soon as possible.

The next topic of discussion was the SDRTA Scholarships for current teachers to further their degrees. The two winners this year are Tom Keck and Jennifer Gilbert, both of Rapid City. They will be honored at the banquet on May 1, although neither will be able to attend. A proposal re: raising the amount of each scholarship followed. After discussion, Diana Glover moved to raise the amount from \$750 to \$1,000 per recipient beginning in 2013. Bill Zubke seconded. Motion carried.

A further discussion re: archiving SDRTA materials from the website resulted in a motion by Cathy Zubke that the new president, Nancy May, should check the cost to archive our records as suggested. Ron Riherd seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion of SDRTA bus trip profits resulted in the following action: Cathy Zubke moved that the first \$1,000 of total profits be put in the General Fund of the budget, and any remaining monies be put into the Scholarship Fund. Nancy May seconded. Motion carried.

While on the topic of bus tours, the cost of the FAM trips (\$150-\$185 each) that Pat Johnson and Annette Belkonen have been paying out of their own pockets was brought up. After discussion, Ron Riherd moved that the trip coordinators be reimbursed for the research tour (FAM) expenses by deducting those amounts from the trip profits. Diana Glover seconded. Motion carried.

Bill Zubke moved to accept the amended budget. Hank Kusters seconded. Motion carried.

The Board has received some inquiries as to its position on the referral of HB1234. We decided to take no official position on the issue but do encourage individual SDRTA members to get involved locally and/or through their units.

Because of personal identification security problems involved in purchasing and redeeming bonds, the Grandparent Essay winner for 2012 will receive \$500 in cash rather than a bond, as in past years.

President Pat John went over the head table assignments for the General Sessions and also indicated that she will be giving a President's Award to the unit showing the most growth in 2011-12. She ended the meeting by presenting out-going Executive Director Shirley Eismach a Distinguished Service Award plaque in appreciation of her service and dedication to SDRTA, AARP, and Pierre Area Retired Teachers.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Donna Fischer, Secretary