

South Dakota Retired School Personnel NEWSLETTER

Affiliated with National
Retired Teachers Association

“To Serve, Not To Be Served”

www.SDRSP.org

June 2019, Vol. 52 , No. 2

Convention Summary

RAIN, RAIN GO AWAY, LET THE SUN COME OUT TODAY!!

I hope by the time you read this, the sun is out and you are enjoying spring flowers!!

The Pre-Convention Trail of Governor’s Tour was very interesting and well attended. Thanks to Shirley Eisnach for helping to organize it. Also special thanks to Shirley for her registration duties! Great job!!

Many thanks to the Pierre Unit for the successful convention May 7th and 8th at the Ramkota in Pierre. We learned about motivation from SDSM&T Coach Roger Trennephol, the History of Women’s sports from Yankton retired teacher and coach, Ginger Larson, and the Family Caregiver’s Journey and NRTA and AARP History from Lily Liu, National NRTA Presenter from Washington, DC. All were very interesting and useful.

Lily Liu also left us with recruitment tips as we invite new members and former members to join our units. I will state them here, but you may find them on the web page also.

WHY SHOULD I JOIN?

- * Advocacy - We seek to protect your retirement funds and keep our finger on the pulse of legislative concerns.
- * We provide scholarships to existing professionals.
- * Social time with peers.
- * Educational opportunities.
- * Newsletters to keep you informed.

* An annual convention which allows state-wide interaction.

Eric Gaikowski talked about working with SDRSP and gave us information on AARP programs that support and include units. Lobby Day, Fraud Watch Seminars, and Shredding Services are three well-know events they share with units.

Hank Kosters introduced Rob Wylie, Executive Director of the South Dakota Retirement System, with a proclamation from the Governor upon his upcoming retirement in December 2019. Rob stayed for lunch and visited with us.

Of course, we concluded with the luncheon and the Grandparent Essay Winner, Molly Engebretson, from Madison.

SAVE THE DATE: May 5 - 6, 2020 for our Annual Convention at The Lodge in Deadwood. Details will follow, but we are beginning to work on plans.

It is so nice to see people from across the State of South Dakota at the annual conventions. I hope to see you in Deadwood!!

Let’s make it a record year!

Happy Summer!

Nancy May,
Executive Director

Black Hills Retired School Personnel enjoyed the SDRSP convention in Pierre. There were 16 members who attended. Because of the commitment and energy of those 16 members, the Unit received the traveling trophy based on miles traveled and the number in attendance.

We are grateful for the opportunities offered to members, doing something together as members of a larger group, reconnecting with other retired school personnel. It is always an added treat to meet new South Dakotans who share a common bond of working with kids in our schools throughout their professional career.

BHRSP will end the year with a Spring Banquet, honoring the local winner of the Grandparent Essay Contest. In addition, there is a Memorial Service for members who have passed during the year.

A group of members will be traveling to Ecuador this summer, visiting the homeland of one of our members.

We continue the outreach to newly retired school personnel in the area. As they look forward to retirement, BHRSP looks forward to engaging them with our organization that strives to connect, learn and serve.



Pierre Convention:

It was so nice to see all the SDRSP units in Pierre. It was a good convention. Even though the weather was rainy, inside the Ramkota we had nothing but sunny smiles.

This year Pierre (PARSP) has endeavored to entertain and enlighten. We have learned about Meals on Wheels and enjoyed one of their meals. Several of our members deliver those meals. We went to Edgewood Senior Living and learned about the life style of many of our older friends.

And the first meeting of the year was to acquaint our members with the new OLLI classes that provide edu-

cational opportunities to seniors. For a flat fee of \$70 dollars you can take 44 different classes in a period of seven weeks. The classes vary. There are cooking, history, exercise and music classes. And almost every Friday there is a free movie.

PBS had a special called 'Floating Horses'. We wanted to learn more about that and went to visit the Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center in Fort Pierre.

Then we wanted to learn about the Trail of Governors statues. So before the convention on Tuesday twenty conventioners hopped on a bus and went to see all the statues.

Our year has been busy. We are now adjourning for summer and we'll see what we can come up with for next fall.

SDRSP Memorial May 8, 2019

Earnest Kerby, Aberdeen
Ted Kneebone, Aberdeen
Lu Thompson, Aberdeen
Edna Wulff, Aberdeen
Diane Christensen, Black Hills
Ruth E. Foudray, Black Hills
Evelyn J. Lenton, Black Hills
Grace Mickelson, Black Hills
Louis Skubic, Brookings
Ben Henry, Northern Hills

Dora Ann Jones, Northern Hills
Elsie Petula, Other
Margaret Ruckdaschel, Other
Marrietta Catlin, Pierre
Lois Thompson, Pierre
Leone Haux, Redfield
Ada Armin, Sioux Falls
W. Don Erickson, Sioux Falls
Linda Evans, Sioux Falls
Lyle Farrand, Sioux Falls

Muriel Gors, Sioux Falls
Jeanette Horn, Sioux Falls
Bob Leiferman, Sioux Falls
Evelyn Irma McKillop, Sioux Falls
Margaret R. Schmidt, Sioux Falls
Ernest Skidmore, Sioux Falls
Mary Cypher, Watertown
Geri Mahlen, Watertown
Kenneth Henseler, Watertown

Memorials towards Scholarships.

Memorials may be submitted to our treasurer, Pat Johnson at sdpjohnson@mac.com.

South Dakota Retired School Personnel (SDRSP) feels that it is important to put forth an effort to help make our profession (of education) better.

Keeping that in mind, in 2011, this organization began offering a \$1,000 scholarship, available to any South Dakota K-12 teacher with 5 years experience.

The idea was so popular and economically supported by our members that we now offer two scholarships a year.

To qualify for this scholarship, the teacher must be working on an advanced degree or national certification and have five years of experience in the area of teaching.

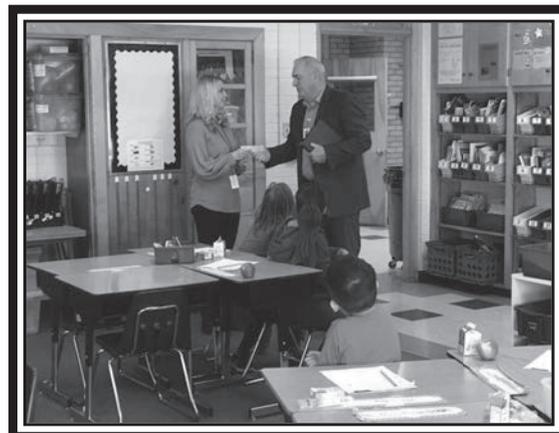
Winners of the 2019 Scholarships:

Ashley Ludwig, a Special Education Instructor (K-5) at Koch Elementary School of Milbank.

Amanda Bauer teaches 2nd grade in Rapid City at Horace Mann Elementary. Amanda indicated she would use the money for paying off loans or paying some of her upcoming tuition costs. "She expressed excitement and was happy to receive the scholarship," President Riherd explained.



Ashley Ludwig receiving her \$1000 scholarship check from Rhonda Preller, President Elect. Her director, Keri Schliesman, looks on.



President Ron Riherd presents scholarship to Amanda Bauer as students watch.

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A Message from the President:

Greetings to all TEAM members!!

Thank you so much for your participation and comments. The Pierre Convention Committee did an outstanding job of having things organized and ready to go! Special thanks to all the presenters and speakers for sharing. Molly did a wonderful job on her grandparent essay. The door prizes were a great hit.

We need to continue to work together (team work) towards our goals of larger membership (more players), continued commitment to volunteerism (coaching staff), along with the great programs (game planning) each unit puts on for their group. Keep working towards a commitment to the TEAM!!

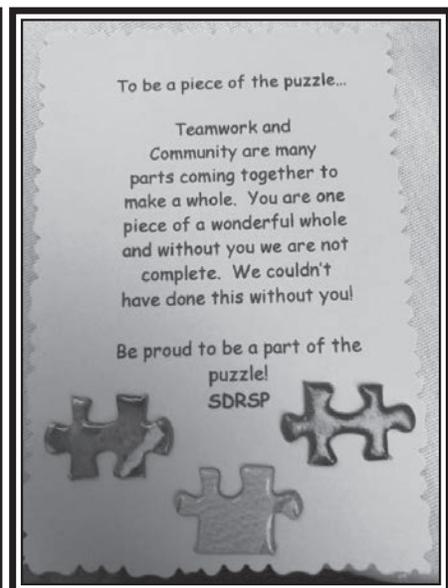
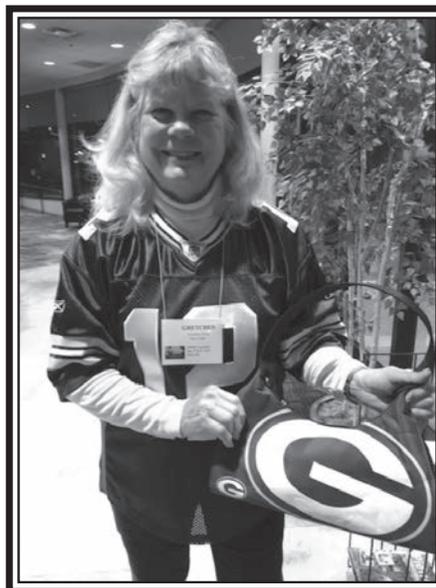
Thanks to all who attended; those of you that didn't surely missed out on a great SDRSP State Convention! Don't miss the next one, May 5, 2020 at The Lodge, in Deadwood, SD.

Keep smiling and pursue your dreams,

Ron Riherd
President SDRSP



Lily Liu visits with President Riherd



Gretchen Tweet, Sioux Falls, created gifts, puzzle messages for the convention.

SDRSP Community Service Report 2018-2019:

Value of Volunteer Services

by Joanna Jones

National Volunteer Week is an opportunity to celebrate the impact of volunteer service and the power of volunteers to tackle society's greatest challenges, to build stronger communities and be a force that transforms the world. April 7-13 was that week of celebration this year. Currently in the US, 63 million Americans volunteer 8 billion hours of their time to their communities. At this convention, we recognize how our members have made a difference in South Dakota.

Each year the Independent Sector website gives a national estimate that charitable organizations use to show a dollar value for volunteer service provided to local communities. The hourly wage including a 12% fringe benefit is \$25.43 US average and \$21.91 SD average. From our units we recorded 40,177 total hours for a value of \$880,278.07 in SD value. Of those hours, members worked "With Our Youth" for 8,671.5 hours and "To Benefit Adults" for 31,505.5 hours.

Since AARP has identified that the figures per unit represent probably only one third of service reported (AARP Bulletin 4-19 p. 44), then multiplied by three, SDRSP had 120,531 hours. Using my own unit, Northern Hills Retired School Personnel, we recorded 150 hours per person. That is about 3 hours per week. Therefore, with the total SDRSP membership of about 1000 people, the total volunteer time would be 150,000 hours or \$3,814,500.00 or 79 teachers paid \$48,000 per year.

Recognition of Community Service for 2018-2019

With Our Youth:

Huron Retired School Personnel - In the fall when school supplies were abundant and on sale, our members purchased the supplies and brought them to our meetings. We kept them until January and then distributed the supplies to the local schools to be given to students who have lost, broken, or used all of the supplies that they started with in September. The teachers were very appreciative of this donation since more than 50% of the Huron Public School students are new to America and their parents do not always understand or cannot afford to purchase more supplies.

Sioux Falls Area Retired School Personnel - Each May, volunteer retired teachers host third grade students at Pioneer Lane located at the Sioux Empire Fair Grounds. A total of 750 students from eight elementary schools listened to oral histories at each of the four buildings (log cabin, church, school, and depot.) Many questions were answered about the life and times of the pioneers. It's important that students who study South Dakota history see with their own eyes the history in order to form a better understanding of the struggles and lives of the pioneers.

Yankton Area Retired School Personnel - A member logged 978 volunteer hours with the American Red Cross who helped after Hurricane Florence. Another couple logged a total of 223 hospital volunteer hours.

Redfield Area Retired School Personnel - Our group prepared two baskets (1. a wine basket and 2. a sports basket for children) that were auctioned at a fund raiser for the Nutrition Mission Backpack Program at school. The money raised will help purchase food for the Nutrition Mission program which serves students who are in need of food for the weekends.

Milbank Area Retired Teachers Association - A Treat Street on Halloween MARTA gave out 1,000 little packs of candy with our "MARTA" name inside the mini-bag. This gave 1,000 children and their parents treats and positive feelings towards retired teachers who took the time to think about them! During Teacher Appreciation Week and American Education Week, MARTA provided food, snacks, and notes of appreciation to all adults working in the Milbank School District including the transportation department.

Sisseton Area Retired School Personnel Association

There is a group of people in our community who enjoy painting rocks and placing them around town for acts of random kindness. This group has a Facebook page where people post their found rocks. A recent volunteer project involved SARSPA members helping children paint the rocks at the local library. The children painted the rocks with either encouraging words or their favorite objects. Then the children would place the rocks in places where people would smile and pick up the rocks to continue the random acts of kindness. During our last SARSPA meeting, members gave a report on this project, recommendations for what they would do differently and a plan for the next year's rock painting project. This project benefited SARSPA members, the children and our community.

Northern Hills Retired School Personnel

Within our group, a member made toys for kids who live in families that can't give their children Christmas gifts. The toys were made by the Woodworkers Association of Rapid City SD and have 42 gifted members who build the toys. They made 3,600 toys last year. The toys were given to 20 organizations who distribute the toys to underprivileged boys and girls in the Black Hills, Native American children in SD, and some toys were shipped to Sioux Falls.

To Benefit Adults:

Watertown Area Retired School Personnel - The Watertown Sandwich Ministry is an all-volunteer group of people who make anywhere from 150-200 sack lunches every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. These lunches are then delivered to the elderly, physically and mentally disadvantaged, and the financially disadvantaged citizens of Watertown. These meals are provided free to the individuals. The program runs on donations alone. Most of the volunteers of this program are retired teachers who feel the need to help reduce the number of hungry people in our area.

Pierre Area Retired School Personnel - Many PARSP members make a valiant effort to remain young by helping the elderly in our community! For those seasoned citizens who still live in their own homes, we completed housecleaning, yard work, snow shoveling, chipping ice off sidewalks, bringing in meals, and just plain visiting.....because we wanted to. In nursing homes and other senior living facilities, our members called Bingo, worked at potlucks, provided entertainment, helped with birthday parties, assisted with worship services....and again, visited those who could use a friend! While some of our group delivered Meals on Wheels, others helped pack Senior Boxes each month (at Feeding SD) for those who are less fortunate. Assistance was given concerning Part D enrollment and income taxes. Our members efforts are important to assure a continued quality of life and to help ward off loneliness experienced by some of these folks in their golden years.

Madison Area Retired School Personnel - Our major group project was the cleaning and upkeep of the Prairie Village Library. Our members staff the library during Prairie Village Days. This activity aids the preservation of the area history and contributes to the success of the annual celebration.

Winner Area Retired School Personnel - We are proud of all the projects our small group continues to work on. We believe the most rewarding project this year was making Valentines for the Winner Regional Long Term Care facility. After our January business meeting, our group shared items they brought to decorate with and all members set to work creating original homemade cards for the residents. We made sparkly jazzed up cards. The completed Valentines were displayed on the hallway bulletin board at the facility. There were lots of compliments from the people there. Since there were so many cards, a volunteer changed them every week. Later the Valentines were distributed to the residents. We were pleased to have shared a bit of joy with them. We continue to work on other adult and children projects and look forward to the future of helping others.

Philip AARP/RSPA - One of the members goes to the senior citizens to make coffee in the morning so the coffee can be used as a fund raiser. We cooked a breakfast during the month of September and a lunch four other times during the year. We have pot luck once a month for a social activity.

Aberdeen Retired Teachers Association - One of our gals is 98 years old and helps to lead a gym class that is one hour long, three days a week. She does not do the whole thing but she volunteers about 300 hours a year. She stays active!

Oahe Retired School Personnel - Mobridge, Selby, Pollock - They are one busy group! They are one of the organizations that recorded over 5,000 volunteer hours.

Unit News:

Aberdeen Area

By Betty Beyer

The Aberdeen Area School Personnel is meeting June 3 for our last meeting of the year. We gave one scholarship to a student at NSU. Our Grandparent essay winner, Tara Jacobs, who won first place here and second place in the state will read her essay to our group. I'll give them a convention report and we will hear their plans for the summer.

The rain here has slowed many plans. We have the names of the new retirees and will contact them.

See everyone in September!

Madison Area

By Eleanor Enga

The Madison Area Retired School Personnel cancelled the February meeting because of bad weather. However, members submitted their volunteer hours online. We reported a total of 1,152 hours for the year, which included a variety of volunteer activities.

Members were happy to be able to meet for our regular meeting in April at the Trojan Center on the campus of Dakota State University. We decided to pay the convention registration fees for Mona Reisig and Elaine Brown. Our treasurer reported that \$170 was donated to the Dollars for Scholars Fund.

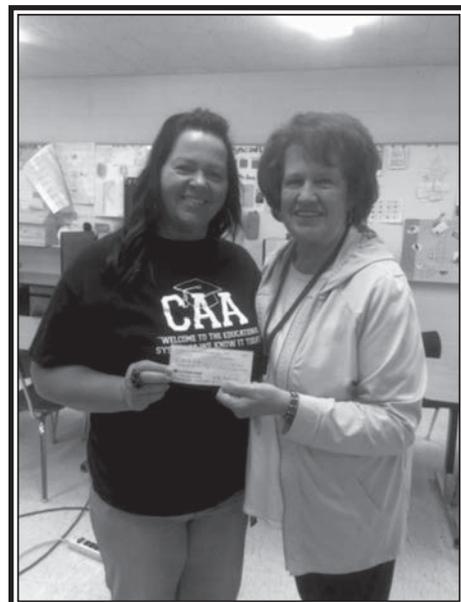
The essay committee announced that our local winner of the grandparent essay contest, Molly Engebretson had also won at the Southeast Regional and the state level. Molly wrote about her grandfather, Larry Horstmeyer, from Watertown. Molly and her family will be guests at the June 17th meeting at the Prairie Village Library, when she will share her winning essay with us.

After the business meeting, Elaine Brown shared memories of her tour of Ireland last fall. We then enjoyed a guided tour of the new Beacom Center technology building and the newly converted Courtyard apartment building on campus.

Watertown Area

The Watertown Area Retired School Personnel (WARSP) will wrap up the year with a field trip to Abbey of the Hills for a tour and luncheon. Our May meeting, held at the Watertown Middle School, included entertainment from the jazz band and swing choir.

This spring included awarding the local grandparent essay winners with medals. High school teacher, Anita Bach, received a \$500 scholarship. Our group also sponsored a girls state delegate and donated to two Destination Imagination teams that went to Globals in Kansas City.



Pam Raeder, co-president of WARSP, presents local scholarship to Anita Bach.

Membership Promotion:

The five units that will be receiving \$100 for membership promotion, have been selected.

Those that applied but did not receive a grant should apply again next year. They would have a good chance since they didn't receive a grant this year.

Those receiving the grants are Pierre, Redfield, Brookings, Philip, and Vermillion.



Hank Kusters introduced Rob Wylie, Executive Director of the South Dakota Retirement System, with a proclamation from Governor Noem, upon his upcoming retirement in December 2019.

Grandparents Essay:

The essay committee announced that the winner of the grandparent essay contest, Molly Engebretson, won at the state level. Molly wrote about her grandfather, Larry Horstmeyer, from Watertown. Molly with grandfather and family in attendance were guests at the noon luncheon where she presented her essay.



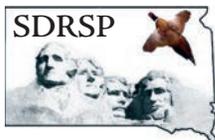
Thank you from Dianna Glover

Dear SDRSP Friends,

On Tuesday evening Jacque Sly presented me with the award given to me by you, Ron Riherd, at the recent convention. Wow! What a nice honor! Again, so sorry I couldn't be at the convention. 2020 - Deadwood, right? And I certainly hope I can be there!

Thank you so much for the award. I do have to say I truly enjoyed the time I gave to this association, and I know all of you on the board are carrying on in great strides.

Have a wonderful summer ~ Diana Glover, past SDRSP board member



South Dakota
Retired School
Personnel

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SDRSP.org

Check Membership Addresses!

It is important for all unit officers to check with each member for their correct address.

Not having a correct address costs the organization a great deal of money.

Send all address changes, as well as names and dates of deaths, to

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