



South Dakota Retired School Personnel

NEWSLETTER

Affiliated with National
Retired Teachers Association

“To Serve, Not To Be Served”

www.SDRSP.org

February 2023, Vol. 56, No. 3

Convention Information

Year Book – Bill Zubke has offered to make an SDRSP Yearbook. Each convention registrant is invited to participate by sending him a couple of pictures and telling a bit about yourself. See another article in this newsletter with more specific details.

Bill's info is bzubke@hotmail.com or Bill Zubke, 417 N Broadway, Watertown SD 57201. Be sure to put SDRSP Yearbook in the subject line.

To give Bill time to compile, please have the pictures and info to him by April 10.

Book Exchange – Each convention attendee is invited to bring a used book or two or three to exchange. **If you bring two, you can take two, etc.**

Door Prizes – Each Unit is invited to bring a gift basket for a door prize.

Pre-Convention Tour – Tatanka, Story of the Bison. On Tuesday, May 2, be at The Lodge entrance at 8:45 a.m. for loading the bus.

A Peek at the Program –

- History of SDRSP from the beginnings to present
- Betsey DeLoache – country schools
- Diane Spilde – preserving memories
- The Zubke's – brain health
- Al Compton – NRTA
- AARP
- AMBA

TWO DATES to remember and act on before the convention.

Monday, April 10 – pics & info to Bill Zubke

Friday, April 21 – hotel deadline

Friday, April 21 - registration deadline.

The easiest way...get it all done early, with April 10 as a goal.



Community Health & Service:

Happy 2023!! I hope that 2023 is a *GREAT YEAR* in everything you do!

Let me first introduce myself and give you a little background with my personal life as well as my professional life. My name is Diane (Patnoe) Odland and I grew up and graduated from Milbank High School in the Class of 1971. I then graduated from Northern State College –at the time, in 1975 with a Double Major in Speech Therapy and Elementary Education. Sisseton has been my one and only job as Speech and Language Pathologist for 44 years, retiring in 2019. My husband is a retired Registered Holstein dairy farmer and we have 2 married children along with 3 wonderful grandchildren! I never thought being a grandparent could be *SOOOO FUN!!*

I am glad to be involved with our own local organization—*SARSPA--Sisseton Area Retired School Personnel Association* along with beginning my involvement with the State Community Health & Service. Our local group does A LOT of service both with our schools along with service to our community including blood drives and activities with our residents at Assisted Living and area Nursing Home Centers.

It is so important to keep your community service activities going and continuing to always expand on these activities. Remember your volunteering can involve so many activities and that it is *SO IMPORTANT* to get these Volunteer Hours sent to me by *APRIL 10, 2023* to give me time to compile everything before the State Convention in May! The Yearly Hours runs from *APRIL 2022-MARCH 2023*. My E-Mail Address is: odlandjoel@yahoo.com

Here are some *WEIRD BUT TRUE* facts to get us through this LONG WINTER

- A snowflake can take up to 2 hours to fall from a cloud to the ground
- Winter lasts for 21 years on Uranus
- The first Candy Canes were made WITHOUT Stripes
- The North Pole is warmer than the South Pole
- Almost 90% of Snow is AIR
- 8962 people made Snow Angels at the SAME Time on the grounds of the North Dakota State Capital

Diane Odland

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Greetings from President Sly:



Have you already broken your New Year's Resolutions? I have not. However, keep in mind that I did not make any resolutions this year. I have read that the busiest month for gyms is January. By February almost every machine is available any time you go there.

The first part of November I was invited to join an AMBA Round-up in Austin TX. Because of SDRSP's new partnership with AMBA, South Dakota was represented for the first time. There is a wide variety of groups represented. One commonality is that each group's members are part of that state's retirement system. There were small states that may have only two units of retired school personnel. There were large states that have several groups represented such as retired firefighters, retired school personnel, retired state workers, etc. Some states have paid staff and many have volunteers like SD.

What I found is that South Dakota faces similar challenges as other states. As a result of this gathering, small membership state leaders are now meeting once a month via Zoom to discuss and share things that are working and not working. Jeff Kail with AMBA is helping organize and lead SD, WY, ID, MT, OR and NM as we work to increase new retiree membership and retain the current members.

One of the areas SDRSP could consider adjusting is membership requirements. Who can be a member of SDRSP? According to our by-laws, membership is open to any retired person formerly employed as a professional educator, administrator or support staff. In addition, the non-educator spouse of a member may also join.

Many other states have changed their by-laws to include associate members such as pre-retirees, others who support education, and even virtual members. In most states the language in the by-laws allow associate members to vote, but not hold elected office.

An example - One near-by state offered the administrators in the K-12 schools a free membership. That established a relationship with the district, which then provided more possibilities for access to pre-retirees in the districts. With AMBA benefits helping administrators, they began to realize the opportunities for their staff.

I am not saying SDRSP needs to do the same thing, but it is time to think outside of the usual way things have been done. For the whole state we have increased new members by under 30 this year. That is not a large enough number to cover the non-renewals and members who pass in a year's time.

Recently the SDRSP board members had a Zoom meeting. Rhonda is heading up a small committee to review our current by-laws. Everyone is open to suggestions. Any changes to the by-laws would be shared with the membership before the convention and voted on at the convention. Input is appreciated.

Where Were You in 1966? Mark your calendar for the convention (May 2 and 3). Find a couple pictures of yourself for the yearbook. (See details on another page.) Call for a room at The Lodge in Deadwood. Send in your registration. There are some firm deadline dates in April, so do it now. That is my New Year's resolution...call, register and find some 60's memorabilia in a box somewhere in my closet.

Dates to remember and act on before the convention:

Monday, April 10, pics and info to Bill Zubke

Friday, April 21 – hotel deadline

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The easiest way...get it all done early, with April 10 as a goal.

Jacquie Sly
SDRSP President

From Executive Director:

South Dakota continues to be involved with the 5-State Pilot Project sponsored through NRTA. This year the emphasis will be on “Ready to Retire” events. These events will be focusing on the younger Retiree (50’s) as well as those contemplating retirement. Emphasis will also be on why its important to get involved with SDRSP.

NRTA celebrated its 75th Birthday this Fall in Washington, DC. Vickie Sterling from Black Hills Unit and Cathy Anderson from Sioux Falls Unit represented South Dakota. Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, a retired teacher/Administrator is the founder of NRTA. After discovering an elderly woman teacher living in a chicken coop, Dr. Andrus became angry and knew something had to be done to help with the welfare of the elderly educators. Because of this Dr. Andrus established the National Retired Teachers Association. After this group became successful in helping the retired teachers with insurance and improving the quality of their lives others approached her asking for help in starting an organization for other retired people. Thus, Dr. Andrus helped form the American Association of Retired Persons, now known as AARP.



President Jacque is busy planning a great conference in May.

Wishing A Happy “2023” New Year to you all!

Gerri Larson
SDRSP Executive Director

Membership:

Snow Days! Snow Days! I feel like singing those words. As a student I was thrilled with a snow day, and now as a ‘senior’ I still am! Snowed in? Marvelous! Give me a warm cozy home, plenty to snack on, a vanilla steamer, and a good book, what more can a gal ask for? After four days snowed in at my house and several books later, my youngest daughter and her husband came over and dug me out enough so they could load me up and take me out to supper. Snow days---just as good as when I was a child.

But down to business. Thank you. Thank you, for the new membership names and renewal members, as well as those who have chosen the lifetime member option. What a good bunch you are. Don’t forget to get the names in of those members who died this past year, your attention is appreciated. See you in May at the Convention. God willing.

Mary Wilson
Mary.Wilson@mit.midco.net



Unit News:

Madison

Madison Area Retired School Personnel Highlights Submitted by Marilou Scheafer, Secretary

MARSP had a presentation in September from Dean Baumberger who is director of the Colony Cyber School program in Chester, SD. This state funded program provides 9-12 school curriculum via internet to SD colony students who meet SD requirements for graduation. The students receive a high school diploma upon completion of the required work.

The group sponsored a table for the annual tour of tables which raises funds to support the on-going work of the Madison Domestic Violence home. The speaker presented a very informative talk on missing and murdered indigenous women. Group member Barb Hyland themed our table "This was my computer when I was a kid"- (a pencil). The eraser was delete, the sharpener was refresh and the lead point was print.

Our December group enjoyed a presentation by group member Sue Larsen and her husband Jerry. Over the years the Larsens have collected sleighs, sleigh bells, clothing, winter gear, tools and gadgets. The couple present frequently and travel to Ft. Sisseton for a winter and summer event.

Watertown

Submitted by Denise Ottenbacher, WARSP

Watertown Area Retired School Personnel (WARSP) started the year with a membership drive potluck picnic at the Elks. Highlights included meeting new retirees and presenting money and gift cards to Castlewood elementary teachers whose rooms were destroyed by a tornado. The gifts will help teachers buy supplies for their classrooms. WARSP members donated \$500 to help them.

In September, Superintendent Jeff Danielson presented an update on what was happening in the Watertown School District focusing on the new football stadium and track. We also met the new Assistant Superintendent Derek Barrios.

City Manager Amanda Mack presented at our October meeting. She highlighted many of the building projects currently taking place in Watertown from a new hockey rink to multiple apartment complexes.

In November, Codington County Museum director Christy Lickei and WARSP member Jane Minor educated and entertained us with "Buried Treasures at Mt. Hope Cemetery." They shared biographies of people buried at Mt. Hope including a Mississippi senator and a famous actress.

The year ended with our annual Christmas party and white elephant gift exchange.

Future programs include learning about brain health, musical entertainment and tour of newly renovated areas of Watertown High School, tour of the Beacon Center and entertainment provided by retired school teacher and school board member Jean Moulton.



WARSP President Pam Raeder presents money and gifts to retired teachers from Castlewood (from left: Rochelle Rudebusch, Deb Mack, Pam and Lois Hyde).



Superintendent Jeff Danielson (right) and Mr. Derek Barrios (left) show a diagram of the proposed football stadium and track.

Unit News:

Redfield

Ramblings from Redfield



We have been busy for the past year. In December of 2021 we donated money to the Redfield Nutrition Mission Project. The money was used to help purchase food to be put into take-home sacks for students in need of food for the weekends. We also helped sack the food products twice in March and twice again in October. Pictured at left is member Deb Stroud presenting to Laura Gabriel, Nutrition Mission chairperson.

In February we conducted our Grandparent Essay Contest. There were three area schools with 58 students that participated. We are busy getting ready to get the schools involved for the new contest in 2023. Pictured at right is President Arlie Rodman with one of our local winners.



In May we conducted our Spink County Spelling Bee. We had 6 schools and 2 Colonies participate. The students were in grades 1 through 8. It was held at the United Methodist Church in Redfield. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards were presented in each grade level. We are in the planning stages for the 2023 Spelling Bee.



A mixture of happiness and sorrow was also part of our group's history. A lifetime member of RARSP was given the honor of Outstanding Service Award. Mildred was dedicated to her profession, community, church, and family. Shortly after hearing Mildred had received the award, she passed away. She will be greatly missed by our group.

Our last meeting of 2022 was held in November. Redfield Elementary Principal Angela Falk presented the program entitled "What's Happening at Redfield Elementary". She is encouraging our members to volunteer at the school during enrichment days. We are planning to end the year with a Dutch-treat Christmas meal at the local restaurant.

May 1, 2021 - April 30, 2022 Memorial Names

James Anderson
Myrtle Anderson
Willa Austin
Helen Baily
Bonnie Barz
Delbert Beck
Betty Block
Rosemarie Brashier
Clarice Chauncey
Sylvester Clifford
Sharon Dahlgren
Ruth Engman
Dorothy Erhart
Raymalee Fladebo
Janice Gregory
J. Arthur Harris
Elaine Heinecke
John Hirsch
CA Hosmer
Verlin Hosmer
Robert Huber
Bee Huddleston
Linda Johnson
Martha Johnson
Bill Kennedy
Donna Kennedy
Gladys Kubic
Luena Lent
Forrest Lothrop
Douglas E Nelson
Dee Sanford
Robert Schneider
Twyla Sine
Ruth Spencer
Vera Sunne
Alice Thomsen
Richard Tinker
Nelda Titus
Rodney Unruh
Gwen Vallery
Pauline Votteler
Ruth Walth

Unit News:

Aberdeen

Submitted by Gayle Bortnem, President

The Aberdeen Retired teachers and school personnel meet once per month for a lunch meeting. This year we are having speakers to share about current events. In October, we heard from Linda McQuillen, a representative from League of Women Voters. She shared about the upcoming initiative D, the expansion of Medicaid.



In November, we had an Aberdeen former principal/teacher who is on our school board speak on current issues that may come up in the legislative session. He joined our group after the meeting!! Our goals this year are to support teachers and personnel in the field and to build our membership. Also, we are promoting the convention this year and hope to take a group to Deadwood in May! Our next meeting will be in February.



Sisseton

Submitted by Linda Loberg

The Sisseton retired personnel chapter has been busy this fall. Members provided a variety of donuts to welcome ALL School Personnel back to school at both Sisseton and Tiospa Zina schools. They also recognized the teaching staff with pen/notepad gifts at both schools as well. SARSPA members participated in the Sisseton Homecoming parade. Members always love to have group outings. They enjoyed a Fall Road Trip in September for lunch in Rosholt at Vintage Inspired and an afternoon of wine tasting at the local winery, With the Wind Winery. Winter plans for the SARSPA chapter include a service day in Milbank at the Orphan Grain Train and our annual help with the February blood drive. SARSPA continues to meet for lunch the 3rd Wednesday of each month. We will be celebrating "I Hate Winter" in January since our Christmas Party had to be postponed because of SNOW!!



Unit News:

Black Hills

Submitted by Vicki Sterling



Black Hills members enjoyed the speakers in October and November. Craig Groseth traveled by bicycle from Canada to Mexico in 2021. He went alone carrying everything he needed on this bike. His title was “Bikepacking the Great Divide.” The minimalist planning was impressive because everything causes extra weight on the bike and the strength of the biker. But still you need: clothing for winter, summer and rain, water (but not too little or too much), water filters, peanut butter/bread (protein), tools to take care of a bike and more.

I need a suitcase just for a weekend visit. Of course, he did not address curling irons and make up.



In November, author Noel Hamiel talked about his book which was about South Dakota’s unsolved mystery of the murders at Mr. Vernon in 1981. Hamiel wrote the story sequence from the night of the murders to the end of the trial. In his last chapter, just before publishing he had followed up with people in the book to see how this mystery changed them and if their point of view changed over the years. He held our BHRSP members’ attention whether they had read the book or not.

In December, we missed hearing the 20 piece band of Milo Winter and his retired band members. We missed the tea, cookies, games, and the party at West Hills Village Retirement Center. When schools are called off so are our meetings, but we missed the Christmas fun.

We are looking forward to our 2023 meetings and programs. Happy New Year from BHRSP to you.

Sioux Falls

Submitted by Sharon Dierks, Co 1st Vice-President

The Sioux Falls Area Retired School Personnel had a great year in 2022! We had many wonderful programs and ended the year with a Christmas Sing-a-long and Christmas trivia. We continue to meet the fourth Monday of each month at The Pizza Ranch on 41st Street, except for June and July.

We will start off January with a program by the Sioux Falls Convention and Tourism Center. In February, we will have an update of the Sioux Falls Police Department with Brady Lieuwen. The SD Retirement System will present a review for us in March. Paige O’Farrell will let us know what is happening at the Outdoor Campus in April. Many of us hope to attend the SDRSP State Convention on May 2nd and 3rd. We end May with Brandon Hanson, who will give us a review of the Sculpture Walk. Also, we have a Remembrance & Memorial Service and Installation of Officers.

We continue to do many service projects in the Sioux Falls area and collect items each month for various organizations – toiletries, calendars, cards for Meals on Wheels and many more.

Unit News:

Milbank

Submitted by Rhonda Preller

The Milbank Area Retired Teachers/Personnel Association (MARTA) had regular meetings in August, September, October, and November.

In August, Milbank Parks & Fitness Manager, Dan Keyes, of Unity Health and Fitness Center spoke to our group about programs in Milbank and improvements to the center and area parks.

To coincide with the month Mexico celebrates its Independence Day on September 16th, Rhonda Preller gave her “Teaching on the Border” program. It was the same presentation given at the May SDRSP Convention with the theme, “Let’s Fiesta”. Preller had different Mexican items to display and food for MARTA members to snack on during the discussion topics.

In October, “Celebrate Milbank” was on the agenda to acknowledge the AARP Community Challenge Grant received by MARTA last summer. Besides MARTA and community members, the celebration was attended by Erik Gaikowski, Director of South Dakota AARP, John Forman, City of Milbank Administrator and Mindy Rogers, representing the City Council. Much of the \$14,000 has already been used for improvements to parks, although a couple of items are back ordered or need to be installed in the spring due to cold fall weather.

Have you ever tried to “fool” anyone? In November, our MARTA members played detective with “Two Truths and a Lie”. Each member came up with two facts and one fiction statement and the group needed to guess which was not true. Everyone had a fun time!

December’s Christmas Party was snowed out and we do not meet in January, so plans are to have a Christmas-Valentine’s Day Party in February.



Northern Hills Retired School Personnel

The Northern Hills Retired School Personnel have moved on from the COVID confusion and are happy to be back to regular meetings with friendly faces.

As we started the 2022-23 session, we have our officers in place: Janelle Jones – President; Sue DeGooyer – Vice President; Julie Walkins – Secretary; Sandy Prante – Treasurer. We meet the third Monday of each month at the Spearfish Senior Center and welcome members from several Northern Black Hills communities.

The program for our October meeting brought us Jim Hoxie who spoke about being visually handicapped. He, along with Joanna Jones, created a book entitled Grandpa’s White Cane. Jim makes visits to grade school classrooms to share his book and experiences with the young students. Copies of the book were handed out to all in attendance at our meeting. We were treated to a special appearance by his seeing eye dog.

In November our program featured John and Natalia Allsup who spoke about their experiences as Global Volunteers. They traveled to Poland to work with the families displaced by the Ukrainian war.

In December we held a Christmas gathering. We shared refreshments, entertainment by the Matthews Opera House Readers Theater Group and a white elephant gift exchange.



January’s meeting graced us with a program by our SDRSP leaders, Jacque Sly and Gerri Larson. We heard about the history of our group and how we connect with AARP. We were also informed about the legislative process. Special interest was shown in what was happening with the new social studies standards.

We are looking forward to the State Convention on May 2 & 3, 2023 in Deadwood and hoping to see many of you join us in our beautiful Black Hills.

ARP Lobby Day

January 24, 2023 - South Dakota State Capitol, Pierre



Association Member Benefits Advisors

South Dakota Retired School Personnel (SDRSP) is partnering with Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) to give members options for supplemental insurances. There is no waiting period, there is open enrollment, and there are competitive group rates. Some policies include dental, vision, long-term care, Medicare supplement plans, plus discounts on travel, dining, computers and more.

One might be asking how SDRSP connected with AMBA. Gerri Larson, SDRSP Executive Director, was at a national meeting. She heard a presentation by AMBA and heard positive reviews and comments from directors from other states that have AMBA. Actually, South Dakota is one of the few states that did not have AMBA supplemental insurance options. After meeting several times with the AMBA leadership the board determined that there could be a benefit to offering members the insurance options.

There is no obligation, no commitment, but only an opportunity to explore what is offered through AMBA. If it works for you, great. If not, that is fine.

Tom is willing to speak to your local unit or speak individually. If you want to be contacted by the AMBA representative, here is his contact information.

Tom Miller

District Manager

Association Member Benefits Advisors

CO, WY, MT, ID, WA, OR, SD

D: 720.787.7982

C: 714.337.1607 (use if texting)

T: 800.258.7041

NRTA Convention

Submitted by Vicki Sterling



The NRTA 75th Anniversary Celebration Convention was held in Washington, DC. Cathy Anderson and Vicki Sterling represented South Dakota. NRTA stands for National Retired Teacher Association. South Dakota chose to include school personnel in our SDRSP membership.

NRTA focused on Membership Best Practices. The first topic was membership recruitment. What can be done at the state and local levels to gain members. Leaders from across multiple states thought that offering AMBA insurance helped newly retired teachers decide to joining the organization. It was viewed as a bridge of moving away from school insurance to retirement insurance.

Once members join came the second important issue: membership retention. Listen to members. What does the membership like the most, dislike, greatest strengths, and weaknesses? Knowing members' abilities and interests helps strengthen the meetings. Leaders need to recognize individual abilities and be open to suggestions. Listening and honoring members' thoughts helps to personalize membership. Use those skills to help all members realize they are an asset and can make a difference in the organization they joined.

Year Book

Bill Zubke has offered to make an SDRSP Yearbook. Each convention registrant is invited to send:

- A current picture and one from 1966 (or thereabout) either digitally or a copy by mail.
- Tell where you lived in the 60's photo and also where you are living in the current photo.
- Share the name of your favorite song/group from the 60's, if you had one.
- Include where you have taught and the year you graduated (actually, year you retired).
- Finally, a hint or word of advice to those still teaching that was successful or helpful during your career.

Include "SDRSP Yearbook" on the subject line of the email. Bill's info is bzubke@hotmail.com or Bill Zubke, 417 N Broadway, Watertown SD 57201

To give Bill time to compile, please have the pictures and info to him by April 10.

Nominations for Florence Krieger and Outstanding Service Awards

Each year SDRSP accepts nominations for two awards to be given at the convention.

The first one is called the Florence Krieger award. It is given to someone who has served both SDRSP as an officer or in committee work and has also been active as an officer or committee member on the local unit level. Find the nomination form at <https://www.sdrsp.org> under the "More" dropdown and listed under Awards.

The second one is the Outstanding Service Award. Each unit may submit this nomination of a person in their unit who has given outstanding service to the unit and community. The form is also under the "More" dropdown and listed under Awards at <https://www.sdrsp.org>.

Both award nominations are to be sent to Jacque Sly, SDRSP President, by April 5.

Get to Know your Officers

Rhonda Preller – SDRSP Past President, 2022-2024 “As a Northern State University graduate in education, I taught 32 years before retiring at the age of 54. Most of those years were teaching in the rewarding area of special education. Twenty-five years were educating children in South Texas. Besides serving as SDRSP Past President and Board member, I am President of the Milbank Area Retired Teachers/Personnel Association (MARTA). Other local activities that keep me busy are both VFW and American Legion Auxiliaries, church activities and a city committee for bike/walking trail development. Reading is a favorite past time as well as enjoying outdoor flowers and wildlife. My husband and I have one daughter, Brittany, who is in college and our family has had lots of fun traveling. We’ve been to 49 states including Alaska and Hawaii and 11 interesting countries. In fact, I’m heading to Texas in February for fun on South Padre Island with friends and taking a family trip back to Hawaii in May. Two other members of the family are the fur babies, Jack and Mady. They are adorable Shih Tzus.”

Cathy Anderson – President-Elect - I have lived in SD, except the first two years of my life, graduating from Aberdeen Central and Northern State College. After graduation, I started teaching in Sioux Falls and spent my whole career in SF at the same school for 38 years, retiring in 2007. I joined Retired School Personnel that next fall and have been an officer ever since that first meeting, being president for the last 14 years. Over those years our unit has gotten involved in many volunteer projects through our association with AARP and their Create the Good committee. The teachers in our group are so generous with their time, talent, and treasures and it has been a wonderful group to lead with the help of all the other officers. I keep busy by taking Osher Lifelong Learning (OLLI) classes and am on their Leadership Council. I volunteer at several food service agencies, at my church, and am on the SF Community Concerts Board. I am single and have 23 nieces and nephews, 11 greats and 2 great-greats. Family gatherings are a fun time and there is always an event coming up. We had three weddings this past year and we have two graduations this spring. My involvement in Retired School Personnel has been such a wonderful part of my retirement. The wonderful people you meet, the informative programs, and the activities that you share are all part of that.

Bob and Sharon Rose are the legislative reps for SDRSP. Sharon graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead MN with a degree in Family and Consumer Science. Her Master’s degree is from Chadron State College. She taught school for 30 years and finished the last 20 years teaching science and Family and Consumer Science in the Rapid City Area School District.

Bob earned a Bachelor’s degree from Black Hills State University, a Masters from SDSU, and a Specialists from Chadron State College. He was a principal for twenty years in Hot Springs and Rapid City. He was Director of Federal Programs for eight years in Rapid City and after retirement from the school district, he had a consulting company called EduPeaks. That company provided oversight for the SD Department of Education on how school districts spent federal money.

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Retired Teacher Groups Rally

Submitted by Cathy Anderson

On September 19, the Dept. of Education held a public meeting in Sioux Falls to give the public an opportunity to express their opinions on the revised social Studies standards. Since the meeting was held on a school day, SDEA-Retired and Sioux Falls Retired School Personnel teachers picketed outside before the meeting and then attended the meeting to voice their concerns.

Teachers are concerned about several areas of the revised standards, especially since the revised standards were developed by a second committee with only two teachers on the committee. Other concerns include the age appropriateness of some standards for the lower grades and lack of higher-level thinking skills for the upper-level grades. They have many other concerns, which you can check out on the SDEA website. Look under the tab for News and Events tab, then the Freedom to Learn tab to read about their other concerns.

The third public meeting will be held on Friday, February 11, in Rapid City.



Scholarship Application

In 2011 SDRSP began offering one \$1000 scholarship, available to any South Dakota K-12 teacher with at least 5 years of experience who is working on an advanced degree or national board certification. The idea was so popular and economically supported by our members that we now offer two \$1000 scholarships a year.

The scholarship application form is on the SDRSP website (<https://www.sdrsp.org>). Send the application digitally to Cathy Anderson (cander451@msn.com) by April 10, 2023.

Scholarship Donations 2022-2023

Bill Zubke in memory of Judy Bruchhof

Pat Johnson in memory of Judy Bruchhof

Watertown ARSP in memory of Judy Bruchhof

Bill Zubke donated his grant money for maintenance and upkeep of SDRSP website

Milbank ARTA, Madison ARSP, Vermillion South East ART and a Special Thank You to AARP for their generous contributions in support of SDRSP activities and conventions!!

Vision and Dental Plans Approved for South Dakota

GUIDE TO YOUR SDRSP MEMBER BENEFITS



Medicare Solutions

Medicare doesn't provide all the coverage you need and can lead to high out-of-pocket costs such as deductibles, co-insurance and co-pays. That's where a Medicare coverage plan comes in.



Medical Air Services Association (MASA)

MASA is dedicated to providing life-saving emergency assistance from home or while traveling. The coverage is designed to protect members against catastrophic financial loss when emergencies arise.



Long Term Care Insurance

AMBA will build a policy to match your needs. You select the daily benefit amount, elimination period, and benefit period which best suits your needs for care. The policy features include no prior hospital stay and no waiting period for pre-existing conditions.



Start Hearing, Inc.

Start Hearing, Inc. offers members a complete hearing evaluation, warranty on digital technology aids in any style, loss and damage protection, and batteries with a complete benefit package.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call us at 1-800-200-5701 or visit www.starhearing.com/partners/AMBA



Cancer, Heart & Stroke, Accident, and Disability Insurances

Benefits paid directly to you. Members select the benefit level that best suits their needs.



Hospital Stay Coverage

A plan designed to help protect members' savings and security for the future. This insurance can help offset the cost of deductibles, co-pays, and unexpected or additional expenses incurred but not covered by other insurance plans.



Final Expense Whole Life & Guaranteed Acceptance Life Insurance

Members can choose plans that protect their families now and at the end of life. Easy issue and Traditional plans available.

GET YOUR BENEFITS NOW!

With South Dakota Retired School Personnel (SDRSP), you have access to exceptional member benefits. Are you wondering if certain benefits are right for you?

Contact us for a free benefits review!

866.619.6463 | myAMBAbenefits.info/SDRSP

SDRSP State 2023 Convention Registration Form

May 2-3, 2023 The Lodge at Deadwood
100 Pine Crest Deadwood SD 57732

“Where Were You in 1966?”

SDRTA (now SDRSP) was in its infancy in 1966, were you?

Deadline for Rooms: Friday, April 21, 2023

Call 605-584-4800. Ask for SDRSP block of rooms - \$104 plus tax

Deadline for Convention Registration: Friday, April 21, 2023

Mail completed form and check payable to SDRSP to:

Merry Bleeker, 1435 City Springs Road, Rapid City SD 57702

Name: _____ Unit: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name of spouse if attending convention: _____

Complete Convention Registration: \$50 Number _____ x \$50 = \$ _____

(Includes all sessions, speakers, snacks, dinner and lunch)

Pre-Convention tour: Tatanka, Story of the Bison

8:45 a.m. transportation from The Lodge on Tuesday, May 2

Cost \$8 per person (includes transportation) Number _____ x \$8 = \$ _____

Total \$ _____

** Dinner choice for Tuesday dinner, please select one of the following options:

Chicken Marsala _____ Atlantic Salmon _____ Roast Beef _____

SDRSP Yearbook: Send digital or hard copy pictures of you in 1966 (or about then) and one from the present, plus a bit about you to bzubke@hotmail.com or Bill Zubke 417 N Broadway Watertown SD 57201. If sending by email include “SDRSP Yearbook” on the subject line. See article with more specifics in the newsletter. **Deadline for pictures and info is April 10.

Questions? Email: jacsly48@gmail.com or call 605-343-4956



South Dakota
Retired School
Personnel

Diane Spilde
45389 225th St.
Ramona, SD 57054

Check Membership Addresses!

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

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

Mary Wilson, 400 N. Kimball St., Mitchell, SD 57301

Home: 605-996-4053 • Cell: 605-999-0669



I want to join South Dakota Retired School Personnel.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Send the above information and \$15 (annual state dues) to:

SDRSP Treasurer, Pat Johnson

1226 E Kemp

Watertown, SD 57201