

# South Dakota Retired School Personnel NEWSLETTER

Affiliated with National  
Retired Teachers Association

*“To Serve, Not To Be Served”*

[www.SDRSP.org](http://www.SDRSP.org)

December 2019, Vol. 52 , No. 3

## ***Riherd, May Attend National Conference***

State President Ron Riherd and Executive Director, Nancy May enjoyed the view from the 14th floor conference room in Washington DC, where the National Retired Teacher Advocacy Conference was held October 21-24. We enjoyed the Capitol City and were given time to visit our State Legislators Wednesday afternoon.

The Advocacy Conference was attended by presidents or legislative chairs and executive directors across the country. There were 58 in attendance from 34 States.

Ron and I were able to meet with Senator Thune in his Capitol Office and we left a message of concern for lowering prescription drug costs, and pension protection among other things. He was very cordial but quite busy, so the meeting was brief. Representative Johnson was not available, but his Aide met with us and we stated our purpose for meeting. The entire Capitol area was very busy.

Our time at the conference was very informative regarding prescription drug costs, Federal and State Retirement Security issues; Support for Public Pensions; Elder Financial Exploitation and Recruiting Multicultural Leaders. We in South Dakota are very concerned with the first two items, but need to keep an eye on the state legislature regarding pension benefits.

We were able to visit with Al Campos, Director, NRTA: AARP’s Educator Community, and he has agreed to speak at our annual Convention May 5th and 6th. He is looking forward to visiting South Dakota.

All in All, Fall Colors, Presenters, and Legislative Meetings were most enjoyable. It was nice to see retired school personnel from across the country and to reacquaint with those we have met at previous conferences. The conference was very informative and important to SD and its national representatives. Ron and I are pleased to have had the opportunity to represent South Dakota Retired School Personnel.

Hope to see you Lobby Day, January 28 2020!

Enjoy the Holidays,

Ron Riherd, President,  
Nancy May, Executive Director  
South Dakota Retired School Personnel





# Community Service:

## ***2020 Census and How You Can Impact Your Community***

By Joanna Jones

Census Day is April 1, 2020. In the US, census data are collected every 10 years. Then the data will be used to draw lines for legislative districts thus determining how millions of federal funds will be distributed to states, local budgets and programs.

*But, here's what's new.* The 2020 Census may be taken as paper-based data collection AND, in this digital age, the members of households may choose instead to respond to the census survey online, by phone, or by mail. The census questionnaires will be sent to all households by early 2020. AARP's census efforts will be to educate older adults about the importance of the census and to provide consumer tips to protect the senior community from bad actors intent on committing census-related fraud.

However you decide to complete the 2020 Census questionnaire, **just do it!** Any loss of data will impact your community for a decade.

*May I be a census taker?*

The 2020 Census provides a unique opportunity for 50+ Americans to supplement their income. The US Census Bureau has already begun to recruit an estimated 400,000 census workers to update addresses, answer phones, oversee field staff, and go door-to-door to help people fill out the census forms. The current salary pay listing for Lawrence County, SD is \$13.50 per hour and the work schedule is somewhat flexible. Additional information indicates that the census taker position will receive reimbursement for work-related mileage and expenses. Complete Count Committees are helping to ensure hard to count communities like Lower Brule are reached.

Job qualifications are: 18 years of age, have a valid Social Security number, be a US citizen, have a valid email address, complete the application, pass fingerprinting and background checks, complete the on-line training, and be available for flexible hours. Men, also, needed to have registered with the selective service system. Personally, the applicant must have access to a car and have access to a computer. For more information review [2020census.gov/jobs](http://2020census.gov/jobs).

According to a 2011 follow-up report on the 2010 census, the US bureau received 3.9 million applications. Of those accepted, 2.8 million were deemed eligible for employment; 857,000 eventually were hired. The most common position for census employment was enumerators, those who go door-to-door, to collect paper-based information.

*Remember:* Don't miss taking the census; any loss will impact your community for a decade.

***Thank you!! Thank You!!***  
for the following donations to the Scholarship Fund!

Mike West - memorial for Marcia West

Shirley Eisnach - memorial for Jo Chandle

Bill Zubke – in honor of Arlys Lambrechts

Huron Retired Teachers

Convention Speaker Ginger Larsen - donated her speaker honorarium

Pat Johnson – in honor of Arlys Lambrechts

Diana Glover - In honor of her SDRSP Friends

Pierre Area Retired School Personnel

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Rapid City, SD 57702

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# Unit News:

## Milbank

The Milbank Area Retired Teachers Association (MARTA) continues with an active agenda.

In April, a Quarter Auction Basket fundraiser was held. In July, MARTA members met for breakfast and socializing only.

The August meeting took place at the Milbank Avera Hospital and we toured Big Stone Therapies where physical therapy and occupational therapy take place. Lunch was eaten at Alfred's Cafe, in the hospital.

In September, MARTA welcomed Doug Dexter, owner of Glacial Lakes Taxidermy. He had an interesting presentation about his business and how taxidermy is done.

MARTA then met on Thursday, November 21st at Pizza Ranch in Milbank. Members brought items for the Grant County Food Pantry. Also, tree decorations were completed for the Festival of Trees display. Presents will be purchased for a boy and girl from the Community Christmas tree.

Following the meeting and project, members ate the Pizza Ranch buffet and socialized. Shirley Schmidt gave a humorous reading. A tribute to Arlys Lambrechts, treasurer of our unit and mother of Rhonda Preller, local president, and state President-Elect, was shared and memorials planned. New members were treated to a free Pizza Ranch buffet. We welcome all past or retired school teachers, support staff, paraprofessionals, nurses, secretaries and librarians to join us. (Continue to spread the word!!)

State and local dues were collected this month. Drawings were held for prizes.

December meeting will be a Christmas party. Bring a gift worth around \$5 to exchange, if you wish to participate.

MARTA will meet again in February.



*Members decorated Christmas ornaments for the annual Courthouse Festival of Trees.*

## Redfield

Submitted By: Marlene Eimers

The 2019-2020 Redfield Area Retired School Personnel got off to a "tasty" start. On September 26th a Pie Social was held at the Historic Northwestern Railroad Depot in Redfield. Retired school personnel from the area were invited to attend. The Pie Social was funded by money from the State Retired School Personnel in an effort to help each Unit procure more members. During the afternoon the group was presented with a background of the different school buildings that had been at the area where the new school is presently by Jerry Hansen. He had diagrams and pictures to illustrate his presentation. After the presentation a lunch of homemade pies, coffee, and lemonade was served. There were many prospective members on hand for the presentation and pie. Following the pie Deann Zen, co-president, conducted the installation of new officers. The new officers installed were Marlene Eimers, co-president; Deb Stroud, treasurer; and Peggy Morris, secretary.

At our October meeting Janelle Fortin and Penny Ihnen presented information about the services offered by Tri-County Crisis Center. With November being our month to be thankful for all that we have, the group will be collecting paper products for the Redfield Crisis Center.

We will be looking forward to a travel presentation at our November meeting by two of our new members, Ann and Jamie Fisk. They have volunteered in underprivileged areas in Mexico.

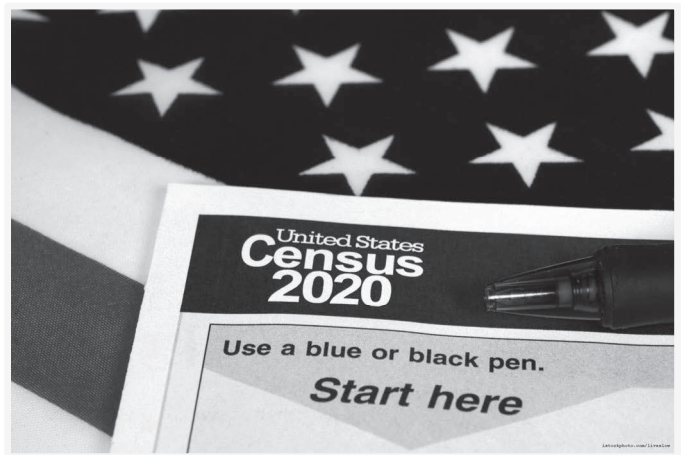
# BEWARE OF CENSUS SCAMS



**April 1, 2020 is Census Day — the due date for Americans to take part in the decennial national headcount. Until then, and possibly beyond, you'll hear a lot about — and a lot from — the U.S. Census Bureau. But census activity isn't limited to years ending in 0, and neither is census fraud.**


Census scammers contact you by phone, email, regular mail or home visit, or direct you to phony websites, seeking personal and financial information. They adopt the mantle of the U.S. Census Bureau to win your trust — with the added advantage of spoofing an agency that is tasked with asking questions.

Along with its once-a-decade population count, the actual U.S. Census Bureau conducts more than 130 surveys each year. The biggest, the American Community Survey (ACS), is sent yearly to more than 3.5 million homes to collect data that helps determine how billions of dollars in state and federal money is distributed. With its detailed questions about things like income, assets, job status, household amenities, even your commute, the ACS does set off scam suspicions — it's a frequent subject of calls to AARP's Fraud Watch Network Helpline — but it is legitimate, and relatively easy to verify (see tips on reverse).



## CENSUS SCAM WARNING SIGNS

- You get an email claiming to be from the Census Bureau. For household surveys and the decennial Census, the agency almost always makes contact by mail.
- A supposed census agent asks you for money or financial data, such as your bank account number and balance. Census will never ask for this information.
- A supposed census taker threatens you with arrest. Taking part in the Census is required by law, and you can be fined for not doing so, but you can't be imprisoned.



No genuine census survey or agent will ask for your Social Security, credit card or bank account numbers. They won't ask when you leave for or return from work. They won't ask for money. They won't threaten jail time if you don't answer their questions. Any of these is a sure sign that a supposed census taker is looking for ways to steal your identity, money or possessions.

Census fraud can hit at home or at work (the Census Bureau conducts business-related surveys, too). Be especially watchful for impostors in early and mid-spring of 2020, when the actual Census Bureau will be sending out reminders to fill out your form and following up in person at households that don't respond.

### **TIPS TO SPOT CENSUS SCAMS**

- 1) Verify that a census taker is legitimate. All should have a Census Bureau photo ID badge (with a Department of Commerce watermark and an expiration date) and a copy of the letter the Bureau sent you. You can also search for an agent's name in the Census Bureau's online staff directory.
- 2) Confirm that a questionnaire you've received is on the Census Bureau's official list of household or business surveys.
- 3) Contact the Bureau's National Processing Center or the regional office to verify the validity of an American Community Survey or other census communication.
- 4) Check that a census mailing has a return address of Jeffersonville, IN, the site of the National Processing Center. If it's from somewhere else, it's a scam.
- 5) Check the web address of any supposed Census website. Make sure it has census.gov in the address and look for https:// or a lock symbol in the browser window.
- 6) Don't give your Social Security number, mother's maiden name, or bank or credit card numbers to someone claiming to be from the Census Bureau. Genuine Census representatives will not ask for this information.
- 7) Don't reply, click links or open attachments in a suspicious census email.
- 8) Don't trust caller ID — scammers can use "spoofing" tools to make it appear they are calling from a real Census Bureau number. Call the National Processing Center at 800-523-3205, 800-642-0469 or 800-877-8339 (TDD/TTY) to verify that a phone survey is legitimate.

**To report a scam call, or for help if you've fallen victim, call the AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline at 1-877-908-3360.**



*SARSPA officers Left to Right— Diane Odland, Linda Loberg, Co-Presidents, Jeanette Larsen, Treasurer, Trish Arbach, Secretary, Kathy Peterson, Membership.*

## Sisseton

Sisseton Area Retired School Personnel Association have had a busy fall beginning their 2nd year of their State affiliation! We have increased to 25 members, meeting the 3rd Monday of each month. This fall already we have made new teacher gift bags for 23 new teachers between the Sisseton Schools and Tiopsa Zina. This month, in the picture below, we have just completed filling 273 treat bags for all employees of the Sisseton and Tiopsa Zina schools for American Education Week. We are also in the process of collecting donations of new and gently used outer wear for our students in need in our schools. The project is called WOW (Winter Outer Wear) for Kids involving all of our churches in collecting the donations.



*We filled 273 treat bags for American Education Week.*

## BHRSP

Submitted By: Jacque Sly

Black Hills Retired School Personnel (BHRSP) has 2019-2020 programs and activities based on the theme: “Live Your Life – Forget Your Age.”

This past summer a group from BHRSP went to Ecuador to visit one of our member’s homeland. They had a memorable time exploring the wonders of a country most had never been to before. Between Manuel and his brother and family, the group experienced things that many tourists would miss.

The August kick-off potluck picnic was held at the St. Martin Village Community Room. It was a beautiful setting for the current members and the newly retired who came to “check us out.” A travel survey was shared to get some options for a day trip or a two or three day-trip in the surrounding area. Members had lots of ideas. One of the most frequent suggestions was going to see the Christmas trees at the Capitol in December and an overnight trip to Medora ND in the summer.

In September Travis Almond from the South Dakota Retirement System shared news and updates regarding our monthly “pay check.” Each of us can be thankful that we have a retirement system that is one of the best in the nation.

October was based on “A Lifetime of Learning” theme with an interesting presentation from the members who traveled to Ecuador. The pictures and descriptions took each one of us into the taste, smells and sights of the country.

November’s program was called “Keeping Up with Technology.” Wayne Lang and Lennie Symes shared the challenges and benefits of the world of technology. They are both experts who have an understanding beyond the usual emails, texts, and Facebook that many of us experience. The tips and suggestions for privacy and protection of one’s information is something all of us can use.

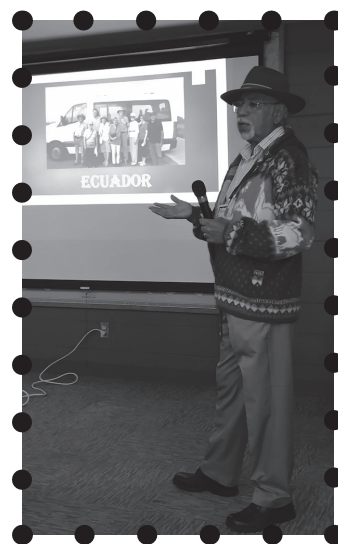
A Christmas Luncheon is scheduled for the December meeting. This year we are meeting at a space in the Rushmore Mall with the meal catered by Olive Garden. The Well-Done Players will be the entertainment.

Each month we have a member share something “Off the Wall (or Shelf).” It is something special to the person sharing and almost always triggers memories from the past with the members.

A new addition this year is a version of 50/50 called Queen of Heart. BHRSP administers scholarship dollars for high school students and another one for post-secondary students. The scholarships were started years ago by two different people who wanted to help through scholarships. BHRSP is using the income from the sale of 50/50 tickets to cover the cost of meals for the recipients at the May banquet where we recognize them.

The trip to the Capitol to see the Christmas trees is coming to fruition. We are navigating the pathways for travel arrangements and details. Since this is a new venture, we have moved into our “teacher” mode to take things step-by-step and figure it out.

Visit our website at [bhrsp.weebly.com](http://bhrsp.weebly.com).



*The picture from the trip to Ecuador (people by van) and Manual Penalzoza presenting at our October meeting. Ecuador is his home country*

## Sioux Falls

by Sharon Dierks

The Sioux Falls Retired School Personnel started the year back in August with a program by Former Mayor Mike Huether. He shared some of the stories from his new venture for KELO-LAND'S "On The Road". In September, we had an update from our Superintendent, Dr. Brian Maher. He shared with us what is going on in the district and answered our questions.

Our October meeting had a special presentation from the Minnehaha County Historical Society. "What's Next for Sioux Falls?" was the topic for November presented by Jodi Schwan, Growth and Development Leader for Sioux Falls. A Christmas Music program will be presented by some Sioux Falls students in December.

We continue to do many service projects in the area. We made and took treats for the 9-11 Day of Remembrance for our local Firefighters, Police Officers, Highway Patrol, and National Guard to thank them for their service.

We provide a meal for the Ronald McDonald House four times a year. Members from our group help serve a meal for the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House and the St. Francis House for the homeless each month. The Veterans group that meets at the Active Generations is provided with treats for their meeting each month.

Currently, we are collecting items for the Banquet's Children's Christmas Shopping event and 2020 calendars for the guests at the Banquet. Volunteers will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army at a local Lewis Drug store. We have collected a variety of cards all year to include in a special Christmas gift bag for the Meals on Wheels program in Sioux Falls. Our group is very generous by donating money and other items each month for various groups in the area.

Happy Holidays!!



*Sioux Falls Retired School personnel's first meeting in August at Royal Fork with Mike Huether, former mayor of Sioux Falls presentation, "On the Road".  
Photo-Gretchen Tweet*

## Aberdeen

Aberdeen president, Betty Beyer, reports that they have met twice this year. Members have renewed dues, which have been submitted to the state treasurer. "We meet, greet, talk, and eat," according to Beyer. The Mayor of Aberdeen spoke to us in October. We will meet again in December.

## Vermillion

by: Sharon Donahoe, SE Area-Vermillion President

The Vermillion/SE Area did not meet in September, since there was a social for Vermillion retired teachers held in the library the first week of school starting. We, instead, met at the new Pizza Ranch in Vermillion for our October meeting. We discussed members' summer adventures and ideas for programs for the year.

It was noted that two of our state life members had passed away last year, so we need to notify the SDRSP member chairperson. A book will be donated to the public library as a memorial in their names.

November 13, we met at the library where members shared stories and memorabilia from veterans in their families. There were family veterans from the Revolutionary War, World War I, World War II, Korean, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Afghanistan, and current Army, Marine, and National Guard family members to remember and honor with our memories. Because of the busy holidays and weather worries, we will not meet again until February 12. See you there!

### *Thank you for All Donations*

**Brookings ARTA**

Donation to SDRSP

**Betty Hart Memorial**

Gift from Bill Zubke, Watertown

**Betty Hart Memorial**

Gift from Watertown ARSP

**Clayton Carlson Memorial**

Gift from Watertown ARSP

**Muriel Ryan Memorial**

Gift from Shirley Eismach, Pierre

**Barb Newman Memorial**

Gift from Shirley Eismach

**Ruth Olson Memorial**

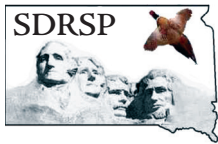
Gift from Watertown ARSP

**Barb Newman Memorial**

Gift from Pierre ARSP

**Erma (Fiedler) Mikkelsen Memorial**

Gift from Shirley Eismach



South Dakota  
Retired School  
Personnel

Paula Brakke  
47604 150th St.  
Milbank, SD 57252

**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

**Paula Brakke, 47604 150th St., Milbank, SD 57252**

**Phone: 605-949-1054 • Email address: pabrakke@yahoo.com**

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## It's about privacy!

In this age of scumbags and scammers (I'm sorry, that is repetitive), publishing the private data of our leader members has become potentially dangerous. To that end, our web page, and now our newsletter (which is published on the web page) will no longer contain all of that information.

Instead, a form document has been created on the web page to allow contact with these people without publicizing personal information. If you wish to contact any member of the executive council or the leadership of any local unit, you can do so at our website, <http://SDRSP.ORG>

Simply access the appropriate Drop-Down Menu tab and that form will appear.

We deeply apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but we choose to err on the side of safety for our members. On a brighter note, I have learned a lot! Have the very merriest for holidays and never forget you are loved! BZubke

***(Note: Three members of the executive council have been receiving emails to send money gift cards to another member immediately. If you get such an email from SDRSP officers, delete and empty your trash. We did not send it! Thanks, PBrakke)***