



## South Dakota Retired School Personnel

# NEWSLETTER

*"To Serve, Not To Be Served"*

Affiliated with National  
Retired Teachers Association

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

March 2022, Vol. 54, No. 2

## SAVE THE DATE

Hello, guten tag, hola, hau.... Greetings in English, German, Spanish, and Lakota. An appropriate way to remind everyone about the diversity of South Dakota's culture.

SDRSP's 2022 Convention theme reflects our proud heritage:

*"Let's Fiesta: Celebrating South Dakota's Diversity"*.

May 10-11th are the "dates to save" and head to Cedar Shore Resort in the Oacoma/Chamberlain area. The Missouri River will be flowing, grass will be green, trees ready to show their leafy glory and retired school folks will have smiles on their friendly faces.

The convention agenda has something for everyone. There will be greetings from the mayor and superintendent. A perspective will be given about "teaching on the border" of Texas/ Mexico and a presentation from Sharmel Olson, Director of Education at St. Joseph Indian School. There will be information on technology tailored to retirees. Lakota Dancers will entertain us at our evening banquet. Banquet?

Food? Of course, the food will be delicious. In fact, two SDRSP Board members took a brief trip to Oacoma and Cedar Shore just to check everything out for you. The good news is that their food IS excellent, and the museums ARE impressive.

Our pre-convention tour is at 9:00 a.m. on May 10th to the Atka Lakota Museum, Dignity Sculpture and SD Hall of Fame. Wanda Bunker, Coordinator of the Atka Lakota Museum even plans to have a bag of information/goodies for each of our touring retirees.

Look for the registration form and additional information in the President's column in this newsletter.

See you in May! (Nos vemos en Mayo)



*Display at the Atka Lakota Museum*

# Community Health & Service:



I have discovered that a sincere compliment is as warming as a steaming mug of hot cocoa on a frosty, winter day.

With that in mind, I created an alphabetic tribute to praise all my fellow South Dakota Retired School Personnel colleagues.

My hope is that this article produces a BIG smile and the intended pat on the back is felt!

SDRSP Retirees Are:

Articulate  
Blessed  
Creative  
Dedicated  
Enthusiastic  
Flexible  
Genuine  
Humorous  
Inventive  
Jovial  
Knowledgeable  
Loyal  
Motivating  
Neighborly  
Optimistic  
Prepared  
Questioning  
Realistic  
Savvy  
Trustworthy  
Unstoppable Volunteers  
Worldly  
X-citing  
Young-at-Heart  
Zealous



and that is just on a MONDAY!

Go make a difference,  
Carm Tobin  
Community/Health

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# A Message from the President:



Greetings to all of you from this frozen tundra called South Dakota! If some of you are lucky enough, perhaps, you are reading this newsletter from sunny Arizona, South Texas, or Florida. Most of my teaching career took place in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, and in the winter months, I sure miss the palm trees, South Padre Island beaches and especially warmer temperatures.

This is my second year of serving as your South Dakota Retired School Personnel President and my time as President will come to a close after our 2022 Convention in May. At that time, I will become Past President and will still serve on the Board for another two years. Although, it has been a crazy two years with ups and downs of this Covid era, it has been my pleasure to be your President and plan two conventions.

Our May 2022 Convention will be held at Cedar Shore-Arrowwood Resort in Oacoma/Chamberlain on May 10-11th. The theme will be “Let’s Fiesta: Celebrating South Dakota’s Diversity”. We are so fortunate in South Dakota to have so much diversity in our culture, so I thought it would be a tribute to celebrate our many cultures and countries that emigrated to this area. From the Lakota Nation, who are native to the mid-west, to many European people who emigrated here, and more recently, we have had the Hispanic culture starting to move to South Dakota—all make up a wonderful mix of our great state.

Currently, our convention schedule has a variety of informational topics and lots of fun. So far, this includes, technology, a presentation from St. Joseph Indian School, Lakota Dancers, Teaching on the Border (my perspective), and a few other speakers.

What’s a convention without delicious food? Cedar Shore Resort has excellent snacks between presentations. Our evening meal will be a Fiesta Buffet with several entrees including chicken fajitas and beef barbacoa. Our Wednesday luncheon will have your choice of chicken parmesan or grilled salmon. Both meals, will have desserts.

Am I tempting you with an interesting convention agenda and good food? That is my intention! Please consider attending our 2022 Convention on May 10-11th. It’s a great way to see old friends and make new ones.

At our convention on May 10th, dress up in some type of cultural clothing if you wish. Also, it would be appreciated if each unit would donate a gift basket for the door prizes. It’s always fun to have a chance to win prizes.

Our pre-convention tour is at 9:00 a.m. on May 10th to the Atka Lakota Museum, Dignity sculpture, and time permitting, to the South Dakota Hall of Fame Museum. The price is only \$5. for transportation.

There are two types of award nominations for our Convention. Unit Presidents should consider nominations for “Outstanding Service Award” or the Florence Krieger Award. Forms and guidelines are located on our website ([sdrsp.org](http://sdrsp.org)). Nominations should be sent to me at [rrprel@aol.com](mailto:rrprel@aol.com).

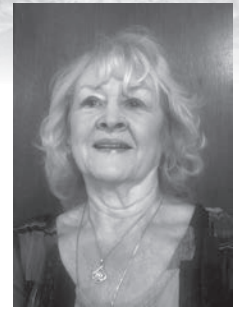
Stay safe and take care. See you in May.

Rhonda Preller  
SDRSP President

# From Executive Director:

SDRSP 2022 State Conference will be May 10-11 at Cedar Shores Convention Center. Please put it on your calendars. Invite a recently retired school personnel to come with you.

Continuing to work with the "5 State Project" there will be Ads running on PBS radio to inform the Public about SDRSP. They will be running immediately before the 2022 South Dakota A. AA. And B Basketball Tournaments. Also, they will be running within "In the Moment" and "Run of Schedule Saturday" programs in the next few weeks. An Ad will also be in SDPB Magazine.



AMBA (Association Member Benefits Advisors) will present at the May Conference. They are an insurance company that provides additional insurance for newly retired school personnel which includes dental, hearing, and other benefits. This could be a definite help to our members and membership. Hope you can attend to listen to their presentation.

Spring is around the Corner!!

Gerri Larson

SDRSP Executive Director



# Membership:

Thanks for all the information that has been sent to me after the October newsletter. It has been helpful as membership has continued to have renewals, new members and also some notices of the passing of members. Please continue to let me know if there are changes to your membership.

Here are a few statistics: Currently there are 367 lifetime members. Thanks to those who "took care of membership" when they retired. It has eliminated the need to renew each year. We have 348 renewing members for this 2021-2022 year. Hmmm, we are outnumbered by the life-timers!! Let's get going! On the membership roster there is a total of 896 members listed. That means there are 181 who have not renewed within the past two years.

Another hmmm... that is a concern. If you are someone who does not have an active unit, please take the time to send in your state dues. Then check to see if there are local dues, if your unit is still active. SDRSP would look forward to having you continue your membership, even if your local unit has dissolved. Send the \$15 to SDRSP treasurer, Pat Johnson at 1226 E. Kemp Ave. Watertown SD 57201.

We are preparing for the convention in May. Please take the time to contact me if you know of anyone who has passed away since the spring of last year. At the convention SDRSP has a memorial service where we recognize members who have passed. However, the only way we know is if someone takes the time to inform us.

The Membership point of contact for the rest of this term is Jacque Sly, jacsly48@gmail.com, 605-343-4956 (home) or 605-381-9116 (cell and texting). When new and renewal memberships have been sent to the treasurer, Pat Johnson, please send any additional address changes, deaths of members, etc. to Jacque.

Connect. Learn. Serve.

Jacque Sly  
SDRSP Interim Membership



# Unit News:

## **Black Hills**

Submitted by Vicki Sterling

January 11, 2022, meeting started our new year with Dakota Daughters: Wounded Knee 1890, Three Women, Three Lives, Three Cultures. The powerful program kept the members mesmerized with their message. The actors Geraldine (Jerry) Goes In Center, Joyce Jefferson and Lillian (Lilly) Witt wrote the presentation examining the hopes, fears, beliefs and values of their Lakota, Afro-American and Euro-American fore-mothers. We heard how foods, homes, songs, art, family connections, quilt designs were different, but all cultures were connected. Members wrote a glowing audience evaluation stating they went through emotions from laughing to tears.

We were able to obtain the Dakota Daughters through an easy to complete Humanities of South Dakota grant. We are continuing our Art Enrich Your Life program theme with three more meetings.



## **Madison**

Submitted by Eleanor Enga

The Madison Area Retired School Personnel met October 25 for a noon luncheon and meeting. Jade Wilkens, a Madison student, read his 2020 state contest winning entry about his grandfather. There was no state contest in 2021, however the MARSP held a contest involving local schools. Rachel Bonner, also a Madison student, won that contest and read her essay about her grandmother. New members Sue Moskness and Crystal Benning were welcomed. Each member introduced herself by sharing an amusing incident that happened during their years of school employment.

Several of our members attended the state convention. They shared highlights of the convention and encouraged others to attend future conventions.

Diane Spilde presented the October program on the importance of saving, organizing, and sharing pictures. She explained the use of Forever.com, a safe storage solution in the cloud. Spilde gifted everyone a journal. Members wrote briefly about an event in their lives. Several people wrote and shared amusing entries about learning to drive.

Barb Hyland reported on the Tour of Tables event, which supports the Domestic Violence Network. The MARSP table featured the children's book "Oh, the Places You'll Go."

The MARSP group held the Christmas party luncheon at Nicky's restaurant in Madison. Treasure Trivia and Bus Bingo were enjoyed, and everyone went home with extra cash and/or DQ coupons.



*Table setting at the Tour of Tables event*

# Unit News:

## Milbank

Submitted by Rhonda Preller

At MARTA's November meeting, our group had musical entertainment from Dan Lindholm, husband of one of our members. Dan enjoys composing his own music and even had CD's for everyone. Since the week before Thanksgiving is American Education Week, baskets were taken to all schools in Milbank, and also, transportation services. We continued promoting health, so fruit and granola bars were delivered.

In December, the holiday spirit was celebrated with games, prizes, and sweets to eat. All that joined in had fun. President Preller announced that MARTA received another grant. This time, it was a mini-grant of \$900 from AARP South Dakota and South Dakota Walking College organization. It will be used to implement a community action plan towards new bike racks in Milbank parks.

We took a winter break in January and with the snowy cold--it was a smart move.

February found MARTA "Off the Wall". Each member chose something from the walls of their home to bring to our meeting. There were a variety of interesting items and stories that were shared. Also, when everyone arrived, there was a snowman project to make out of Hersey bars and mittens. Eventually, the candy can be eaten! The Grandparent Essay Committee reported that 65 local fifth graders participated in the annual contest. Prizes will be awarded to the winners.

Our regular March meeting will be held on St. Patrick's Day, so why not have a St. Patty's Day Party? Wear green!



MARTA Members showing off their snowman projects



Saegers show off their snowmen projects



Mae Saeger sharing her "Off the Wall" picture of her and her husband, Ken's, Foreign Exchange students from over the years.

## Sisseton

Submitted by Linda Loberg and Irv Slaamot

Sisseton Area Retired Chapter has been busy this year. Members meet monthly, share a meal and plan for upcoming events. Members had the great opportunity to volunteer for the table and snack table. This was such a rewarding experience. SARSPA members also put together treats for the parent teacher conferences. The hard working teachers appreciate these treats. SARSPA members will have a pizza party in March for the participants in the grandparent essay contest. This contest is always an awesome experience for our local retired teachers, along with the students, parents and grandparents. These group of retired personnel enjoy our get togethers and planning our next volunteer project!

# Unit News:

## Sioux Falls

Submitted by Sharon Dierks, Co 1st Vice-President

The Sioux Falls Area Retired School Personnel is going strong in 2022! We meet the fourth Monday of each month at The Pizza Ranch on 41st Street. We take off June and July and begin again in August. We continue to do many service projects in the area. Some of our members help serve a meal for the St. Francis House for the homeless most months. We will pack lunches for Lunch is Served as a group 3 times this year and help when they are short of help. The Veterans group that meets at the Active Generations is provided with treats twice a month for their meetings. Recently, we gave Valentine contributions to the following agencies: St. Francis House, Family Connection, Union Gospel Mission, Children's Inn, and The Bishop Dudley Hospitality House. We collect items every month for various organizations – toiletries, calendars, containers, cards for Meals on Wheels and more.

In January, Jeff Schmidt from the City Planning Group shared with us what is going on around the city of Sioux Falls. Dr. Jane Stavem, the Sioux Falls District Superintendent, will be our featured speaker in February. We will have an update of the SD Retirement System in March and in April, Jodi Schwan will talk about the Growth and Development for Sioux Falls; "What's Next". In May, our program is "What's Up for Summer" from the SF Parks & Recreation Dept. with Jackie Nelson. We end our year with Installation of Officers and a Remembrance/Memorial Service.



*Here we are volunteering by serving lunch at the St. Francis House. Anne Maka, Cathy Anderson, Kathie Smith.*



*We are volunteering here filling Christmas gift bags for 500 Meals on Wheels clients and other seniors.*

## Winner

Submitted by Donna Brozik

We were able to meet this fall. For our September meeting, we toured the new addition to our local historical museum. Due to Covid and the construction of this building our museum was not opened most of the summer as it usually is.

For our October meeting our new local librarian, Misty Burns, came and gave us a presentation on what is happening at the library. Our library sponsors a summer reading program. For the past several years they have received a \$1,000 grant which they are no longer eligible to receive. Our unit brain stormed to think of ways in which we could help. Our president, Shelley Sharp, made a Christmas wreath. Tickets were sold on chances to win. Our local NHS helped with ticket sales. Cans for donations were also placed in local business. We were able to generate about \$1000. Honor Society raised almost \$200 of that amount. It was a great success! Our raising awareness brought in donations from our community that went direct to the library. You don't have to have a large membership to make substantial contributions to your community.

We used our November meeting to send Christmas cards to our members who are no longer able to be active and also a few who we might be able to recruit.

We decided not to meet this December and will be at it again in January.



# Unit News:

## Watertown

Submitted by Denise Ottenbacher

The Watertown Area Retired School Personnel (WARSP) have had a busy and fun fall and winter. In November, we honored our veterans with a program by Kay Solberg and Shari Stianson who represented the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1054. This chapter was named the 2021 Chapter of the Year and is the 11th largest in the United States. Shari told of her experience in the Navy during the Vietnam Era. One interesting statistic...South Dakota has 72,000 veterans, and we thank them for their service.

Bill and Cathy Zubke hosted our annual Christmas gathering. Members brought a "white elephant" gift to exchange. After dinner, each person drew a number that matched a gift. Lots of laughter and of course, BZ's fudge and backrubs. This meeting is also the last for many snowbirds.

Our chapter takes a break in January and will resume with a Valentine's meeting at the Elks. At that meeting the Glacial Lakes Harmonizers will entertain us. In March, we will have a tour of the Lake Area Technical College (LATC) focusing on what is new and what is in the future.

Take care and stay safe!



*BZ gives backrubs at our Christmas meeting at the Hy-Vee Club Room.*



*Al Raeder shows Nick Kranz and the group his "white elephant" trophy and treasures at our annual Christmas party.*



*Kay Solbery introduces Shari Stianson at our November meeting honoring veterans.*

## Yankton

Submitted by Donna Fischer

Yankton Area Retired School Personnel (YARSP) decided on a social setting for its gatherings rather than a formal meeting with program. Members felt it was a better opportunity to visit and to exchange "war stories." We kept the "Teachers Prayer" and Pledge of Allegiance to open the gathering which is held monthly at the Fryin' Pan Restaurant, where members could order from the menu, enjoy a leisurely breakfast and visit with limited business meeting.

As of June 17, 2021, \$2000 was given to the Yankton School District to fund this year's (2021) and next year's (2022) scholarships. Besides collecting local dues and receiving personal contributions, selling \$50 worth of tickets for door prizes provided some extra funding. Members volunteer to provide door prizes for each meeting.

We have acquired about twenty-five members so far. We, like many other groups, are facing difficulty recruiting new members, but we have decided to continue for those of us who enjoy the fellowship.

Our officers are Dave and Donna Fischer, Co-Presidents, Marilyn Kratz, Vice President, Gene Bormann, Treasurer, and Joyce Maggied, Secretary.



# Lobby Day at Pierre

Thank you AARP for sponsoring this.  
Pictures submitted by Lindsey Holmquest, AARP.



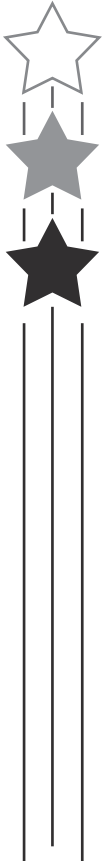
*Bob Rose talking to  
Sen. Michael Diedrich  
(District 34)*



*Bob and Sharon Rose, SDRSP  
Legislation Representatives, talking to  
Sen. Helene Duhamel (District 32)*



*A group, including the Roses, talking with Gov. Kristi Noem*



## SDRSP Scholarship

Perhaps the greatest effort SDRSP can put forth is to help make our profession better. To that end, in 2011, SDRSP began offering a \$1000 scholarship available to any South Dakota K-12 teacher with 5 years of 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. Please fill out the application found on the website and save it as a WORD or pdf document. E-mail the application and the two required essays as attachments to Jacque Sly ([jacsly48@gmail.com](mailto:jacsly48@gmail.com)).

Deadline for applying is April 5, 2022. Please be sure the application is electronically submitted by that date.

# **SOUTH DAKOTA RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL 2022 CONVENTION**



## **WHEN:**

**May 10-11, 2022**

## **WHERE:**

**Cedar Shore-Arrowwood Resort  
Oacoma/Chamberlain, South Dakota**

## **THEME:**

**“Let’s Fiesta:  
Celebrating South  
Dakota’s Diversity”**

## **FOR MORE INFO:**

[https://  
www.sdrsp.org/](https://www.sdrsp.org/)

## **REGISTRATION**

**Starts in March. Watch for  
details in our newsletter.**

## **Featuring:**

**Technology Training**



**Teaching on the  
Border Experience**

**TEACHING**



**Lakota Dancers and  
Drumline**



**St. Joseph Indian  
School Presentation**

# SDRSP STATE CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

May 10-11, 2022

Cedar Shore-Arrowood Resort and Conference Center  
1500 Shoreline Drive, Oacoma, SD

## Let's Fiesta: "Celebrating South Dakota's Diversity"

### Deadline for Rooms-April 9, 2022

Call and reserve your rooms at

Cedar Shore  
605-234-6376

Ask for a room with SDRSP  
\$99 (plus tax)

### Deadline for Registration-May 2, 2022

Mail this form and check payable to  
SDRSP to:

Rhonda Preller  
605 Fairview St

Milbank, South Dakota 57252  
Any questions? Email: rrpel@aol.com

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)

Dinner will be a **Fiesta Buffet** including Chicken Fajitas and Beef Barbacoa.

Wednesday Lunch Choice-Please select one of the following options:

\_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Parmesan    \_\_\_\_\_ Grilled Salmon

### **Convention Tour:**

I/We will go to the Atka Lakota Museum and Dignity Sculpture: 9:00 a.m. on May 10th \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no

Cost \$5. per person                      Number \_\_\_\_\_ x \$5 = \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL FEES: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*If you have some type of cultural clothing, hats, jewelry, etc. wear it on the 10th\*\*



South Dakota  
Retired School  
Personnel

Paula Brakke  
47604 150th St.  
Milbank, SD 57252

## 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

*Jacque Sly, 22560 Potter Rd., Rapid City, SD 57702*

*Phone: 605-343-4956 • Email address: jacslly48@gmail.com*



***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