

South Dakota Retired School Personnel NEWSLETTER

Affiliated with National
Retired Teachers Association

"To Serve, Not To Be Served"

www.SDRSP.org

March 2020, Vol. 53 , No. 1

Go West Retirees!!

At this time of year, we are ready for lilacs, crocuses, and tulips to bloom! Spring will be here soon and I encourage you to GO WEST! , in May, to The Lodge in Deadwood, and mix and mingle with South Dakota Retired School Personnel members! The Northern Hills Unit has done a great job in helping organize a tour, and activities, and of course, you can gamble!

Lobby Day, January 28th, was very successful, and for the first time in a few years all three buses were able to transport members to Pierre. There were nearly 100 in attendance. It is always nice to see people from across the State. Thanks to AARP for sponsoring this event.



As we prepare for our annual SDRSP Convention in Deadwood, be aware of the "5 Pilot Project" we are initiating in accordance with NRTA and AARP. Gerri Larson is the "5 Pilot" Coordinator and she just returned from a conference in St. Petersburg, Florida, with participation from Florida, Kentucky, Idaho, and South Dakota. We were fortunate to be selected as partners in promotion of Recruiting New Members and Retaining Members, With our Youth Program, Voter Participation and Retirement and Pension Awareness. More information will be forthcoming as we work with AARP and SDRSP members.

GO WEST! TO DEADWOOD MAY 5th AND 6TH AND MIX AND MINGLE AT THE LODGE.

Please be aware you can register on line at sdrsp.org, as well as mailing in your registration. Mail checks to Jacque Sly.

Looking forward to seeing you in Deadwood in May! Remember, "Alone we can do little, Together we can do much."

Nancy May, Executive Director

Convention Notice

While convention plans progress, changes in government corona-virus rules may alter said convention. Please check front page, bottom, at <https://www.sdrsp.org> for any updates by April 20, 2020. Not all members have an email address on file, so Unit presidents will be notified of any change. Please check with your local leaders.



Community Service:

Let's celebrate NRTA's 20th annual With Our Youth Program

The NRTA With Our Youth! program was established to provide opportunities for retired educators and youth to work together and use the resources provided by NRTA to organize local self-sustaining service projects. In 1997, NRTA made a three-year pledge at the President's Summit for America's Future to serve 1.5 million youth in 2,000 communities with a total of 45 million service hours through the local units. That goal was exceeded, and the program continues today. This year is the 20th year for celebrating how we support the NRTA With Our Youth! Program.

Al Campos, NRTA director, reminds us that retired teachers, after spending a career nurturing and educating our nation's children, remain a powerful, steady and respected presence in our communities today.

At our state convention, we will recognize a few of our members who exemplify the With Our Youth program goals in their service to youth. While recording their activities, I had an opportunity to interview them and to hear first-hand their dedication. I won't share their stories before convention, but I found in the decade-plus quantity of Grandparent Essays on our SDRSP website similar stories being told through the voices of our children. Listen to the youth thank you for all your volunteer hours for what you do and have done for them!

"My grandpa is so supportive. There is not one gymnastic meet, dance competition, volleyball match, archery shoot, musical play or band performance that he doesn't come to. My grandpa always cheers the loudest. Often times he even tears up because he is so proud of me."

"Grandma believes in the importance of getting a good education. She has shown us this by teaching for over forty years! She tells us to call anytime we have a question about our homework. Oh, she won't tell us any answers, but she'll review the rules it will take to figure them out! Sometimes I wish

she would just quickly say the answer, but I know her way is the best."

"Another reason she is the best grandma is because she likes to go to church. She shows me the importance of faith. My grandma plays the organ, sings, and sometimes directs the choir. When she plays the organ it sounds beautiful. She sings like an angel. My grandma never misses going to church."

"My grandpa is a farmer. When I farm with him, he points out how beautiful the country is or tells me stories about when he farmed with his grandpa. I enjoy listening to all his stories when we're farming. It makes it fun."

"Over the summer my grandma, my three sisters, and I had a lemonade stand. It was different from other lemonade stands because we raised the money to donate to Mission Haiti. We also made baked goods and raise money for an orphanage in Guatemala."

"My grandma knows lots of elderly people and she takes us along to visit them because she says they enjoy visiting with kids."

"My grandma has thirty-six grandchildren and forty-five great-grandchildren with more babies on the way. She knows and remembers to send a card on everyone's birthday."

"No matter how busy my grandma is, she always makes time for me."

"My grandpa never misses anything when it comes to me!"

Look at the power of your work: mentoring, providing safe supportive environments, constant encouragement, and knowing the importance of meaningful education. As one child stated at the end of his essay, "My wish is that every child could have a relationship with an older person like I have with my grandpa."

-Joanna Jones

PRESIDENT Ron Riherd
Rapid City, SD 57702

PRESIDENT ELECT Rhonda Preller
Milbank, SD 57252

PAST PRESIDENT Bill Zubke
Watertown, SD 57201

VICE-PRESIDENT Kay Ainslie
Philip, SD 57567

SECRETARY Amy Ramsey
Aberdeen, SD 57401

TREASURER Patricia Johnson
Watertown, SD 57201

COMMUNITY/HEALTH SERVICES
Joanna Jones
Spearfish, SD 57783

**MEMBERSHIP /PUBLICITY/
NEWSLETTER**
Paula Brakke
pabrakke@yahoo.com
(605) 949-1054
Milbank, SD 57252

LEGISLATION Henry "Hank" Kosters
Pierre, SD 57501

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Nancy May
nancymay@rushmore.com
(605)718-0666
Rapid City, SD 57702

A Message from the President:

Greetings to one and all!!

Are you ready for some western hospitality? I certainly hope so.

I will repeat what Nancy May has already sent -- The Northern Hills group has done an outstanding job of getting things ready for the SDRSP state convention. Thank you for coordinating their efforts, Nancy May, Joanna Jones and Jacque Sly.

Please encourage your members along with you to attend the state convention May 5 and 6. It looks to be great fun. You may win up to \$250 in the slot tournament sponsored by the Lodge.

You will find information for online registration at sdrsp.org for the state convention at the Lodge in Deadwood, SD. Bill Zubke does a great job of updating and running our website. The directions are also online. If you have any problems with these please email me or call me and I will help. (Notice I did not say I would solve)

Spring Is Here! That's my motto-until it actually arrives!

Cowboy/Cowgirl Up and see you in Deadwood.

President SDRSP

Ron Riherd



Sioux Falls RSP

Submitted by: Cathy Anderson

This is the Sioux Falls RSP group putting together Christmas gift bags for 350 Meals on Wheels clients. The ladies on the left are Anne Maka and Elaine Tatge. The two people on the right are John and Dolores Gauer.

Thank you!! Thank You!!

for the following donations to the Scholarship Fund!

In memory of Linda Flaherty - Watertown ARSP

In memory of Linda Flaherty - David & Rhonda Preller

In memory of Linda Flaherty - Pat Johnson

In memory of Arlys Lambrechts - Milbank ARTA

Scholarship donation - MARSP



Unit News:

Redfield

Submitted by: Marlene Eimers

With only 14 days until Spring, I am looking back over the winter activities of the Redfield Area Retired School Personnel. During the winter, the group prepared two baskets for the silent auction fundraiser for the Nutrition Mission project. The money raised helps to provide nutritious food for children in need. Also in December, we held a Christmas party at the Historic Northwestern Railroad Depot that was decorated beautifully for Christmas. Bingo was played, treats were enjoyed, and Christmas carols were sung by the 4th grade students under the direction of the elementary music teacher, Mrs. Roseland.

In January the Foreign Exchange students from the local high school shared pictures and presented information about their countries. The students were from Italy and The Netherlands. After our February meeting, we updated the spelling words that will be used in the local spelling contest which will be held in April.



Marlene Eimers and Peggy Morris with Nutrition Mission silent auction baskets.



Fourth grade carolers at RARSP Christmas



Deann Zens and Deb Stroud with Nutrition Mission silent auction baskets.

Watertown

Submitted by: Denise Ottenbacher

Our Watertown Area Retired School Personnel group has been busy having fun and learning this year. February's meeting was cancelled due to the cold temperatures and inclement weather.

In March, Codington County Heritage Museum director Christy Lickei will introduce sisters Jane Miner and Lois Hart who will explain WHY and WHAT they've been writing for the museum these days. Jane has written books on the history of Lake Kampeska and downtown Watertown, and Lois has published a children's novel set in historic Watertown.

Future meetings include a visit from the mayor and a music or drama presentation by high school students. Our year will culminate with lunch and a tour of the newly remodeled Goss Opera House.



Unit News:

Winner

Submitted by: Donna Brozik

Winner Area has had entertaining, informative, and group participating activities at our meetings. Entertainment has included the Fifth Grade After School Chorus, the Winner High School Oral Interp. team, and our Grandparent essay winners. This year we moved our meeting where they present their essays to Golden Prairie Manor. Many of the residents enjoyed hearing about their peers. We also presented our Margret Sawyer good citizenship award at this time. We have learned new ways of helping in our community by donating to the Crisis Center and the Girls on the Run programs. Completing craft activities that can then be donated seem to be a hit with our members.

We are still busy with the preparing and cleaning of the Dorian Schoolhouse at the Tripp County Historical Society museum. Distributing the back packs for the elementary students is fun because we can keep in touch with current teachers. Continuing the tradition started by one of our first members of taking care of the bulletin board at our local long term care facility offers enjoyment for the ones putting it up and the residents who are always looking forward to the new month's design. We have a new twist with the elementary students, with the help of their respective teachers, the students are making the material for the displays.

We have also changed our meeting location to the Winner City Building, in the old Middle School. Some of us have memories fond and not so fond ones every time we walk in there!

We are looking forward to continuing with our various activities and programs and finding new ones.

Milbank

Submitted by Rhonda Preller

The Milbank Area Retired Teachers Association (MARTA) had a fun Christmas Party in December with gift exchanges and entertainment. The local award-winning Schulte twins played classical and Christmas music on their violins for our group. Also, MARTA collected a large variety of canned goods for the Grant County Food Pantry and provided Angel Tree gifts for local children.

In February, Vicki Strege, a MARTA member, gave a presentation on her trip to Vietnam. She was part of a church group that flew to Vietnam to do mission work. It was interesting to find out all of the activities the group did to help those less fortunate including giving out eye glasses, toothbrushes and showing hygiene related to teeth. Also, they held sponsored game days and the church gave money towards building a church. Vietnam continues to be Communist country so they do have to be careful with spreading the Word of God.

In March, MARTA is holding a Quarter Auction fundraiser at their monthly meeting, in which, members and guests can "bid" quarters and hope their number is drawn to win a variety of baskets and gift cards.



Unit News:

BHRSP

Submitted By: Jacque Sly

The January meeting was called “Socializing, the More the Merrier.” Nursing staff from Western Dakota Tech inspired and informed the members about the importance of getting out and doing things with others. Relationships are vital for good emotional health. Resources were shared and members were engaged in sharing.

The February meeting was called “Sharing Your Love.” Beth Massa from the South Dakota Community Foundation spoke on the “Spirit of Generosity.” Each of us have gifts we can share whether monetary or in another form.

March’s theme is “Staying Connected with Those You Love.” Gladys Storm, a BHRSP member, will share ways to stay connected with grandchildren in order to establish a legacy for them.

April’s theme is “Be a Lifelong Learner.” Tammy Sellers, from the Career Learning Center, will share options for community courses and how we can be involved. Doris Ann Werlinger from AARP will share opportunities at the state and national level.

May is our spring banquet. We have a memorial service for members who have passed away during the year. Also, this year we are going to invite the students who are receiving the Mary Lark and Florence Krieger scholarships.

BHRSP is planning a trip to Medora ND the end of June. It is another new traveling adventure for the group. Last summer a group went to Ecuador. In December there was a trip to Pierre to see the Capitol and decorated trees. Now off we go to North Dakota to explore the Badlands, the Medora Musical and a host of other interesting things that have been arranged.

“Live Your Life – Forget Your Age”

Visit our website at bhrsp.weebly.com

Madison

Submitted By: Eleanor Enga

Beginning with the September 2019 meeting, the Madison Area Retired School Personnel meetings have focused on a series of programs based on the theme “Rediscovering DSU,” especially the teacher education program. Many of our members received their teaching degrees from Dakota State University and have enjoyed hearing about the current program.

Crystal Pauli, Dean of the College of Education introduced the series at our September meeting. Dan Klumper described the use of VALE in the teacher education program. VALE is a mixed virtual reality experience designed to help students become better prepared for teaching. Future teachers can practice their responses to challenges they will face in the real world classroom. DSU is the only university in South Dakota to offer this experience to their education students.

Dr. Kevin Smith demonstrated the use of Dewey the Robot to the group. The robot can be used by a student unable to physically attend classes. The robot allows the student to travel between classrooms, interact with others, and participate in the class in real time.

Dr. Dave Midland and Stacey Anderson introduced the Sanford Harmony program, which is a Pre-K -6 social emotional teaching program that helps teachers cultivate strong classroom relationships between all students. It is designed to be flexible and used to meet the unique needs of students and classrooms. Teacher kits and training is provided at no cost by the support of T. Denny Sanford and National University.

(Continued on page 7)



Unit News:

Madison *(Continued from page 6)*

Dr. Katie Anderson and Kindra Schneider presented the Sanford Inspire program to the group. This program is designed to be integrated into teacher-prep courses as well as Pre-K-12 professional development training. An expected outcome is that teachers will be better equipped to motivate and encourage children to be enthusiastic, active learners. Both programs are available online and anyone can access them.

Our last meeting in this series was the Service Learning Belize program presented by Jennifer Munger. Students in the student teaching program are eligible to apply to be a part of the group. Nine DSU students were scheduled to make the two week trip this spring.

In November our MARSP group sponsored a table at the Tour of Tables event, which supports the Domestic Violence Network in the Madison area. We also made an additional monetary contribution to their building project.

Volunteer hours are recorded at each meeting and Dollars for Scholars are collected. A door prize is awarded, and members have enjoyed playing "Quarters for Trivia."

Aberdeen

Submitted by Betty Beyer

The Aberdeen Area retired personnel met in February. We had a guest speaker, an Aberdeen specialist spoke on heart health. Many of our members go to the south for the winter. We always have a good time, eating, talking and we take up a collection for a scholarship to Northern. We have a door prize every time and I think we are going to start a trivia game at our next meeting.

Join Today!



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

SDRSP Convention Registration Form

May 5-6, 2020 The Lodge at Deadwood
100 Pine Crest, Deadwood, SD 57732

GO WEST RETIREES!!

Deadline for Rooms-April 30, 2020

Call and reserve your rooms at
The Lodge in Deadwood
605-584-4800
Ask for a room with SDRSP
\$100.00 (plus tax)

Deadline for Registration-April 30

Send this form and a check payable to
SDRSP.
Mail to: Jacque Sly
22560 Potter Road
Rapid City, SD 57702

NAME: _____ UNIT _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Name of guest attending convention _____

A. Complete convention registration: \$50 Number _____ x \$50 _____
(Includes all sessions, dinner, breaks, lunch)

B. Registration by Individual Event:
Registration Fee: \$15 Number _____ x \$15 _____
(May attend all sessions - no meals)

C. Dinner @ \$25.00 Number _____ x \$25 _____

D. Lunch @ \$20.00 Number _____ x \$20 _____

Dinner Choice - Please select one of the following options:

_____ Chicken Marsala _____ Top Sirloin Steak _____ Pork Tenderloin

Convention Tour:

Alkali Ike Tours: Narration of downtown Deadwood, the Cemetery, Nob Hill
and Chubby Chipmunk. May 5 9:00 AM \$10 per person.

Number _____ x \$10 _____

Total Fees _____



Lobby Day at Pierre:

More from a successful Lobby Day in Pierre. Thank you AARP for sponsoring this. Pictures submitted by Lindsey Holmquest, AARP.



Tentative Program for South Dakota Retired School Personnel

5/4 - 5/6

GO WEST RETIREES!!

TIME TO COWBOY/COWGIRL UP!



- 5/4** 7:30 pm Annual Board Meeting
5/5 **Tuesday Morning FIRST GENERAL SESSION**
8:00 Registration Opens
8:50 Boarding for Pre-convention Tour: Alkali Ike Tours leaves from the Lodge
Tour: Narration of downtown Deadwood, Mt. Moriah, Nob Hill and Chubby Chipmunk Hand-Dipped Chocolates.

The Convention
GO WEST RETIREES!!

Tuesday Afternoon

- 1:00 First General Session
Call to order
Pledge to Flag
1:10 Welcomes
Dr. Dan Leikvold Lead-Deadwood Area Schools Superintendent
Honorable Mayor of Deadwood — Mr. David Ruth, Jr
1:25 Roll Call (Identify a Western Event, movie, cowboy/cowgirl, etc. from your area)
1:40 Presentation: Jacque Sly
2:15 Hot Tea/Coffee/Water/Cookies/Brownies/Fudge
(This break is sponsored by AARP)
SPECIAL FEATURE Line dancing presented by the Spearfish Senior Center Line Dancers
2:45 Presentation by Erik Gaikowski State Director of AARP
3:30 Randy Bender presents : Songs and stories of Old Fort Meade
4:30 SLOT TOURNAMENT COURTESY OF THE LODGE!!
PAY OUT: 1. \$250 2. \$100 3. \$75 4. \$50 5. \$25

Second General Session

- 6:00 Social Hour and Music with Cash Bar
6:30 Prayer
Dinner
7:00 Presentation of Awards
7:15 Entertainment

End of Second Session

South Dakota Retired School Personnel

5/6

Wednesday Morning



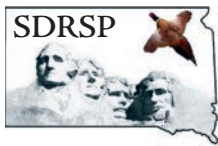
Third General Session

- 7:00-9:00 Breakfast-Carmel Rolls, orange juice, sliced fresh fruit, ice water, hot tea and coffee
- 7:30 Unit representatives meet with the Board
- 9:00 Memorial Service
- 9:20 Third General Session Business Meeting**
- Call to order
 - Officers' Report
 - Board Reports
 - Scholarship Winners
 - Old Business
 - New Business
 - Adjourn

End of Third Session

Fourth Session

- 10:00 National Retired Teachers' Association: Al Campos
- 10:45 Break Coffee/Water
- 11:15 South Dakota Retirement System Report: TBD
- 12:00 Lunch
- GRANDPARENT ESSAY WINNER!**
- Awards
 - Closing Remarks



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

Newsletter printed by Borns Group

1610 14th Ave. SE, Watertown, SD 57201 • 605-882-3365

Convention Notice

While convention plans progress, changes in government corona-virus rules may alter said convention.

Please check front page, bottom, at <https://www.sdrsp.org> for any updates by April 20, 2020.

Not all members have an email address on file, so Unit presidents will be notified of any change. Please check with your local leaders.



Volunteer

Hello to All,

With our recent emails about the state convention on May 5-6 in Deadwood, I wanted to send a reminder about recording volunteer hours.

At the state convention, we report volunteer work from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020, in two areas: With Our Youth category and the Benefiting Adults category. When asked what will count, count everything! Big projects right down to the visit with your neighbor; count everything! SDRSP recorded 40,177 hours in 2019.

Once your unit has recorded the hours of volunteerism, complete the end-of-year report that is online at [SDRSP.org](https://www.sdrsp.org). We announce the collected information at the state convention in May.

Thanks for taking time to volunteer!

Joanna