

South Dakota Retired School Personnel

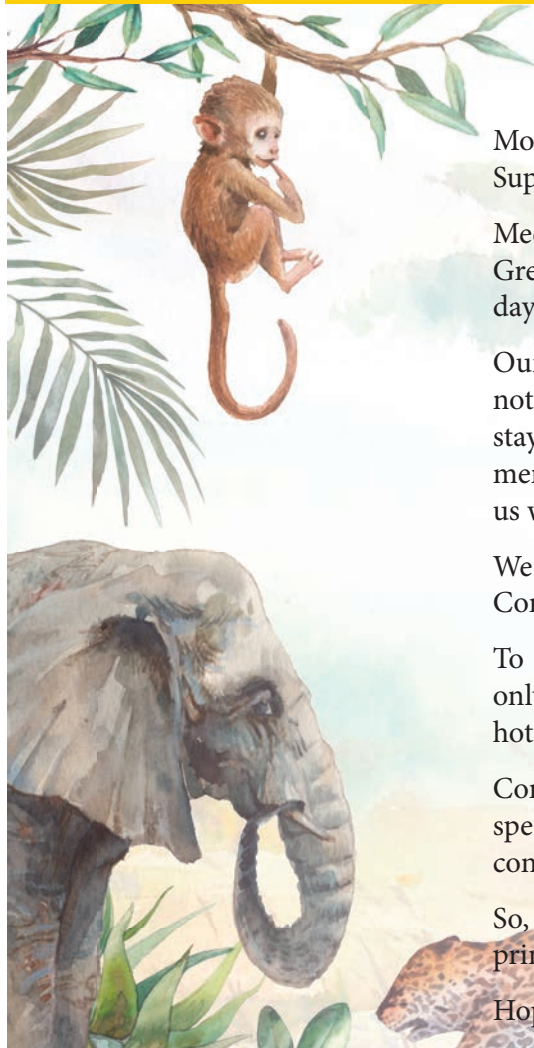
NEWSLETTER

Affiliated with National
Retired Teachers Association

"To Serve, Not To Be Served"

www.SDRSP.org

July 2021, Vol. 53, No. 4



Welcome to the Jungle

Motivational speakers! Trip to the zoo and a museum! Mayoral greetings... Superintendent welcome... Meet the Sioux Falls Unit President!

Meetings designed to help unit locals get geared up for the next year. Good food. Great conversation. AARP and retirement updates. All for you in one and a half days. \$50 drawings throughout both days!!

Our organizations need "tender care" to survive the pandemic. After months of not having meetings and/or not being able to attend, it can be easy to continue to stay home. I encourage you to begin attending local meetings and see your fellow members of SDRSP. Of course, I promote safety for everyone. Hopefully, most of us were able to be vaccinated and if you prefer to continue mask wearing—do it.

We have approved the 2021-2022 budget, discussed a new We Care grant, reviewed Convention information, and set Convention rates.

To give everyone a "good deal" this year, we have a one-time convention rate of only \$25 for the entire convention including speakers, meals, and snacks. Also, the hotel rate at the Sioux Falls Downtown Holiday Inn is only \$75 per night plus tax.

Consider attending our September Convention in Sioux Falls. Besides excellent speakers, programs, and food, we are having many \$50 drawings throughout the convention.

So, look for registration information in this newsletter, sign up, find your animal print clothes or safari hat and "Welcome to the Jungle"!!

Hope to see you at our September convention.



South Dakota Retired School Personnel Board members: Bob Rose, Sharon Rose, Jacque Sly, Rhonda Preller, Patricia Johnson, Kay Ainslie, Gerri Larson, Carm Tobin

Not pictured: Ron Riherd, Paula Brakke, Amy Ramsey



Community Health & Service:

Submitted by: Carm Tobin

5 Tips for Successful Volunteering in 2021

Masks. Lockdowns. Quarantine. These are a few of the words that sum up life in 2021. However, if you dig deeper you will also find: Togetherness. Opportunity. Volunteering.

The needs of nonprofits and charities for volunteer assistance have continued unabated during the pandemic, and for most have increased exponentially.

Here are five suggestions on how to be a successful volunteer during this unique time of public safety restrictions and extra caution.

1. Location, location, location.

Look for an organization or club that is in close proximity to you, because there is nothing like being able to see the fruits of your contributions. That positive reinforcement sustains your volunteerism.

2. Volunteer to do tasks you enjoy.

Know your limits and don't be shy about voicing what you don't want to or are unable to do. It is extremely important you enjoy the activity otherwise it will not be a successful volunteer effort.

3. Follow your passion.

Find what resonated with you, and you will find you are able to engage in continued volunteerism. Many people's efforts are in response to their former selves. That is their way of giving back

and showing their appreciation. If it was important to you as a child to have someone read to you, then find a reading program that will pair you with a child with that same desire. Figure out what brings you joy because that is exactly what will keep you coming back week after week.

4. Volunteer with a friend.

It can be a little daunting the first time if you go to a new location by yourself. Encourage a buddy to join you and that will make it not only easier but much more rewarding.

5. Start your own volunteer effort.

Community service can make a huge impact on the lives of others and at the same time make you feel happy, positive and alive. With time, effort and creativity you can not only be making an active difference but also, leaving behind an honorable, community-minded legacy. Now isn't that the very best way to be remembered: contributing to the greater good!

Go make a difference!
Carm Tobin
Community/Health

Submitted by: Gerri Larson, SD Executive Director

Greetings

South Dakota has again been awarded a "We Care" grant. The funds will be used to help Units maintain and increase their membership with assistance with their members dues. Some of the funds will be used to educate the membership on new technology and various social media that is available. Invite recently retired school personal and friends to join SDRSP. Encourage them to attend social gatherings, meeting, and to keep informed about the SD Retirement System.

The SDRSP 2021 State Convention is being planned for September 28 and 29 in Sioux Falls. Please consider attending and bringing along a friend. Information on the Convention is included in this newsletter. It will be good to meet in-person this year and catch-up with old friends and acquaintances.

South Dakota continues to be involved the "5 State Pilot" project. The ASRTE conference will be in Chicago in August. First time conference will be held in two years due to Covid. Many topics on the agenda deal with membership so I hope to learn some helpful information.

It has been an extremely hot summer so hope everyone has stayed hot and healthy. Looking forward to seeing many of you in September.



A Message from the President:

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Often, when I am writing a column, I like to call it, “Ramblings with Rhonda” since when I write, I feel like I am “rambling on” from one topic to another. So, consider that title, as you read my rambling writing!

We are well into the dog days of summer where the heat is prevalent, and unfortunately, the rain is lacking. Our flowers and gardens need tender care by watering and pulling weeds. In fact, care is a necessity for the survival of our garden produce and plants.

The same might be true for the “survival” of our local SDRSP units. Our organizations need “tender care” to survive the pandemic. After months of not having meetings and/or not being able to attend, it can be easy to continue to stay home. I encourage you to begin attending local meetings and see your fellow members of SDRSP. Of course, I promote safety for everyone. Hopefully, most of us were able to be vaccinated and if you prefer to continue mask wearing—do it.

Our SDRSP Board members were able to meet in person on July 13th in Ft. Pierre. Our last meetings have been virtual Zoom meetings, so it felt great to see everyone. We approved the 2021-2022 budget, discussed a new We Care grant, reviewed Convention information, and set Convention rates. To give everyone a “good deal” this year, we have a one-time convention rate of only \$25. for the entire convention including speakers, meals, and snacks. Also, the hotel rate at the Sioux Falls Downtown Holiday Inn is only \$75 per night plus tax.

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So, look for registration information in this newsletter, sign up, find your animal print clothes or safari hat and “Welcome to the Jungle”!!

Hope to see you at our September convention. (Plus, we are already starting to plan for our 2022 Convention which will be held in the Pierre area in May.)

Rhonda Preller

SDRSP President



Unit News:

Yankton

On Thursday, June 3, the first post-pandemic meeting of the Yankton Area Retired School Personnel took place. The group gathered at the Fryn’ Pan at 9:00 a.m. for the first time since November of 2019. Twenty members and guests were present to meet the 2021 YARSP Scholarship recipient Grace Christianson. She was chosen from a field of applicants who had expressed a desire to enter the field of education. Grace plans to attend the University of South Dakota pursuing a double major in education. Her future plans include a desire to ultimately join the Yankton Public School System.

After thanking Grace and her father Tom Christensen for being our guests, Co-president Donna Fischer called the meeting to order.

Secretary Nora Lee presented the minutes of the last meeting which were approved without addition or correction. Treasurer Gene Bormann assured the group of its financial viability stating that, in addition to funding this year’s scholarship, there are sufficient funds to start on next year’s.

At this point Co-President David Fischer cleared the agenda of old business and opened the discussion on the future of the organization.

The Future of YARSP

Following a brief but informative discussion of both possibilities—dissolution or continuation—the group decided to continue the organization with a revised format. The first major change is that the number of meetings will increase from six to nine (the first Thursday of September through May). The second change is the the format will be informalized, i.e. there will be not set agenda, allowing for a more casual interaction among members. The group also decided to continue the Dues as presently set (\$10 local; \$15 state) to maintain local projects, especially the scholarship program, and to support the state organization’s lobbyist and information service. In addition, members are encouraged to contribute directly to the scholarship fund through memorials and donations.

The Co-Presidents (David and Donna Fischer) will continue in office, as will Vice-President Marily Kratz and Treasurer Gene Bormann. However, Joyce Maggied did usurp Nora Lee’s office of Secretary. Arlene Young maintains her position as Social Secretary, with Reynold Loecker and Joyce Maggied on the scholarship committee. To placate members, door prize drawing will continue to support scholarship fund.

Winner

We had our first meeting last year at the city park. It wound up being our only meeting until our spring meeting in May,

We were able to put up our tree in the courthouse for Christmas and judge the local ‘What Christmas Means to Me’ yearly essay contest. The winner receives a bicycle.

We had our local Grandparent essay contest and had some really awesome entries.

In May we got together and made centerpieces from old coffee mugs for Elder Inn. It was so nice to be able to visit personally and not just over the phone. We also discussed some plans for the fall, but nothing was finalized.





Unit News:

Oahe

Submitted by Darlene K Binfet, Secretary

We may not have met in person for months, due to COVID, but that did not stop OUR group from completing projects. We held an organizational meeting in September and made plans for the upcoming year. The following projects were completed: Financial support for the National Honor Society for the many projects they embark on for helping the community, one of which was painting the home of a needy family in Mobridge, putting ads in the local newspapers and radio station, supporting staff for American Education Week, donating money for the Rides for Kids program, judging and giving a monetary prize to a student entry for the local art show, entry in the Homecoming parade and “GOODIE BAGS” for the One Act Play students who qualified for State.



We are looking forward to a more “NORMAL” year for 2021-2022, so we can partake in more projects like the Grandparent’s Essay contest, which was not held last year. We are expecting an exciting year ahead as some new members plan to join our small, but enthusiastic group.

Northern Hills

Submitted by Dianne Hemminger

Northern Hills Retired School Personnel went dormant during COVID, with our membership coming from many towns, we felt it was best to stay home and stay safe.

On May 17th, we celebrated vaccinations and some freedom as we gathered in Sturgis for a picnic pot luck. A brisk breeze was held off by the warm greetings as many enjoyed the gathering.

NHRSP will resume our regular meetings on August 16 at the Senior Center in Spearfish. We have Irene Brenner scheduled to speak on her teaching experiences in Alaska. It will be a potluck so lots of good food is expected. We will also be saying goodbye to Joanna Jones who is moving to Arizona full time. Her enthusiasm and leadership will be greatly missed.

Our officers are:

President-Dianne Hemminger

Secretary-Julie Walkins

Treasurer-Howard Perry

Membership and Community Service-

Legislative Committee-Bob Schneider

Immediate Past-President-Suzanne Phillips



Unit News:

Madison

Submitted by Eleanor Enga, Secretary

Since our last submission to the newsletter the Madison Area Retired School Personnel missed several meetings because of Covid precautions. We have resumed regular luncheon meetings and are enjoying being together once again. Last fall Mona Reisig presented a memorial service in honor of former member Betty Larsen.

At our next meeting Chad and Jodie Larson presented a program about the Leah's Kids organization. It supports orphans and widows in Guatemala, which has the highest rate of malnutrition in the Western Hemisphere.

Our group held a local grandparent essay contest since the state contest was not held. Rachel Bonner, a fifth grade student at Madison Elementary School, was selected as the winner of this year's contest.

Phil Pudenz of Wild Bird Connections in Sioux Falls presented the program in April. He suggested tips for attracting birds. He showed pictures of birds typically sighted in our area and explained nesting and feeding characteristics of each of them.

The MARSP group continues to provide upkeep of the Prairie Village Library. We recently applied for a grant to assist in paying for replacement blinds. We clean the library and provide hostesses during the Prairie Village Jamboree the last weekend in August. Stop in and see us at the library if you plan to attend the Jamboree.

We continue to collect Dollars for Scholars and record our volunteer hours. A door prize is awarded at each meeting. We usually play a few rounds of Treasure Trivia, which is an enjoyable way to add quarters to our treasury.

Aberdeen

Submitted by Betty Beyer

The Aberdeen Area School Personnel met for our last meeting of the year. We gave one scholarship to a student at NSU. Our Grandparent essay winner, Tara Jacobs, who won first place here and second place in the state will read her essay to our group. We will hear plans for the summer. We always meet at The Flame Café, Aberdeen, the second Monday of the month. Hopefully we will be able to start again. We have the names of the new retirees and will contact them. See everyone in September!



Unit News:

Milbank

The Milbank Area Retired Teachers/Personnel Association (MARTA) resumed meetings in June after a 15-month hiatus due to Covid. We were fortunate to have two student speakers read their Grandparent Essays for our group at the June meeting. Although, there wasn't a state contest for the essays this year, we still had a local winner. The 2020 winner, Bailey Schwagel, and 2021 winner, Samuel Garcia attended the MARTA meeting with their grandparents. Pizza Ranch gift certificates were given to the contest winners and their grandmothers.



In July, our members met for breakfast at the Millstone restaurant and enjoyed catching up with each other. Also, school supplies were collected for the local food pantry.

Currently, our program committee is working on an interesting and fun schedule for the 2021-2022 year of MARTA meetings.

Black Hills

Submitted by Vicki Sterling

Black Hills Retired School Personnel planners are excited about the upcoming year. Three hundred letters went out in July inviting last year members and newly retired teacher to attend a potluck picnic in August. This is our second picnic at the lovely St. Martin's Village. The board will introduce the yearlong programs with the theme of "Arts Enriching Your Life." The programs include plays, artists, poets, authors, and singers, so our lives will be enriched with art.

Members of BHRSP are involved with a variety of community service activities. Some are volunteering at schools (this year), teaching at Keystone School so children can understand country schools, supporting Storybook Island's plan of installing tools to help children with all abilities, assisting churches in many ways and of course, it takes many volunteers to make a local retired school personnel unit to flourish.

BHRSP is fortunate to have members involved at the state and national level. Jacque Sly is President Elect. Sharon and Bob Rose research and report Legislation. Gerri Larson is Executive Director to connect us with what is happening outside of South Dakota. We thank you for taking on these extra responsibilities.

Amazing that our organization has the word "retired" imbedded in the title. Yet, school people seem to relish the continual challenge of learning and strive to keep people connections. Retirement should also remind us to look for what brings us, as individuals, joy.



Unit News:

Watertown

Submitted by Denise Ottenbacher

The Watertown Area Retired School Personnel (WARSP) has not held in-person meetings for over a year, but that doesn't mean our members haven't been busy. We continue to volunteer and help serve our community. Members helped with a local sandwich ministry, a food pantry, Meals on Wheels and have delivered treats to a local school.

Plans are underway for a membership drive picnic in August and to continue monthly meetings. Many thanks for the "We Care" grant that helped pay for memberships during the Co-Vid restrictions and meeting cancellations.



Bill Zubke, Cathy Zubke and Betty Chadwell are pictured with Tyra Ronke, recipient of a scholarship (complete with fudge) in memory of Linda Flaherty, Bill's sister.



Emma Caulfield, fifth grader at Florence Elementary, stands next to her teacher Dawn Gross. Emma shows her medal for placing first in our local Grandparent Essay Contest.



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

Highlights of the 2021 SDRSP Convention:

Robert Prentice

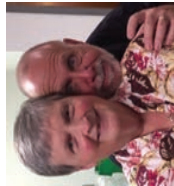
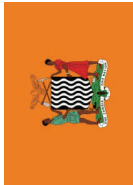


Mr. Attitude - Motivational Speaker - Business Development - Sales/Leadership/ Life Coach



The Wild Life World Tour " by Great Plains Zoo-mobile

Zubke's "Zambia" Presentation, food/snacks, informational booths, fun, laughter & friends



Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful.

— Albert Schweitzer



BOARD MEMBERS:

- PRESIDENT** Rhonda Preller
rrprel@aol.com
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- PAST PRESIDENT** Ron Riherd
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Welcome to the Jungle!



SDRSP Convention 2021



****Tentative Program
for South Dakota
Retired School
Personnel Convention
September 27-29th**

**Welcome to
the Jungle!**



9/27 7:30 p.m. Annual Board Meeting

9/28 **Tuesday Morning**

8:00 Registration Opens

8:50 Boarding for Pre-convention tour

Tour: Great Plains Zoo and
Delbridge Museum of Natural History

The Convention

1:00 **First General Session**

Call to Order

Pledge to the Flag

1:10 Welcomes:

Mayor Paul TenHaken

Superintendent of Sioux Falls

Schools-Dr. Jane Stavem

Sioux Falls Unit

President Cathy Anderson

1:30 Roll Call:

Favorite jungle animals

1:45 ZooMobile Presentation:

Wildlife World Tour

2:30 Break-coffee/snacks

**Dancers

3:00 Bill & Cathy Zubke-

Tour of Zambia, Africa

3:30 **Wild Life Artist/Photo

4:00 Unit Reps meet with the

SDRSP Board

Second General Session

6:00 Social Hour and Music

6:30 Prayer/Dinner

7:00 Presentation of Awards

7:15 Keynote Speaker:

Robert Prentice- "Mr. Attitude"

END OF SECOND SESSION

9/29 **Third General Session**

8:00-9:00 Breakfast available

9:00 Memorial Service

9:25 **Business Meeting**

Call to order

Officer's Report

Board Reports

Scholarship Winners

Old Business

New Business

Adjourn

Fourth General Session

10:00 Presentation by State

AARP Director Erik Gaikowski

10:30 Break/Snacks

11:00-11:30 Michelle Humann—SD

Retirement System in Pierre

12:00 Lunch

Grandparent Essay Winner (2020)

Awards and Closing Remarks

SDRSP STATE CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

September 28-29, 2021

Downtown Holiday Inn 100 W. 8th St., Sioux Falls

"Welcome to the Jungle"

Deadline for Rooms - Aug 30, 2020

Call and reserve your rooms at
Holiday Inn
605-339-2000

Ask for a room with SDRSP
\$75.00 (plus tax.)

Deadline for registration-Sept. 15

Mail this form and check payable to
SDRSP to:

Gretchen Tweet
717 S. Holt Ave.

Sioux Falls, SD 57103

Questions? email: gtsue66@gmail.com

NAME _____ UNIT _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Name of spouse if attending convention

A. Complete Convention Registration: \$25 Number ____ x \$25= _____
(Includes all sessions, speakers, snacks, dinner, and lunch)

Dinner Choice - Please select one of the following options:

_____ Parmesan Crusted Chicken _____ Bacon Pork Ribeye _____ Garlic & Herb Prime Rib

Convention Tour:

I/We will go to the Great Plains Zoo and Delbridge Musuem--9:00 am Sept. 28th yes no

Cost \$10.00 per person. Number ____ x \$10= _____

Total Fees _____

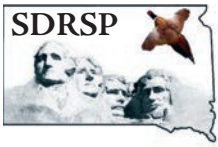
Note:

*Each unit should bring ONE gift basket for giveaway drawings. It can be items from your hometown area or Welcome to the Jungle theme.

** If you have animal print clothes or jungle safari gear, wear on the 28th. FUN!

*** Looking forward to giving away fifty dollar bills (\$50)—total amount \$1,800 !

WOW.....36 winners, so you have a great chance!



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.

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

See you all in September!!

See pages 9-11 for
registration and
event details.