

**SOUTH DAKOTA RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Wednesday, May 8, 2024**  
**Ramkota, Watertown**  
**8:55 a.m.**

**Call to Order:** President Jacque Sly called the annual business meeting to order at 8:55 a.m.

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes from the 2023 Convention and Annual Meeting were highlighted by Secretary, Carm Tobin. A motion was made by Anita Manning and seconded by Janelle Jones to accept the minutes. Motion carried and minutes stood as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer, Pat Johnson, was hospitalized and unable to attend the Annual Meeting so in her absence President Sly shared her very comprehensive treasury reports. Johnson had tracked SDRSP's financial activity from June 2023 through April 2024. The projected budget for the upcoming year of 2024-2025 was included in her thorough outline. Bill Zubke made the motion to approve the budget and it was seconded by Gayle Bortnem. The motion passed with 100% approval. The treasurer's report is on file and correct.

**Community/Health Service:**

Diane Odland began by boasting that SDRSP members are so generous with their time. Our organization's strong and loyal commitment is depicted by the long list of volunteer service ideas shared by the ten (10) units participating in the Community Service Project this year. The Project ran from April 2023 to March 2024.

**Membership:** Mary Wilson, head of this committee, shared that as of May 2024, our SDRSP membership had increased by 109 members. Forty-three (43) of these new additions were submitted by AMBA. Currently our SDRSP membership stands at 852. Mary also stated that our mailing list MUST BE accurate.

Jacque Sly and Wilson have been working diligently to update the membership list to remove members that have moved or passed. This was Mary Wilson's final update as she will be resigning from her position effective May 2024.

**Legislation:** Bob and Sharon Rose explained to every South Dakota Retiree in attendance that it was a very quiet legislative session this year. The main focus was to "clean up" language which did not affect our very healthy funds.

**Newsletter:** Diane Spilde, head of the Newsletter Committee, was unable to attend the Watertown convention. In her absence, President Jacque shared a handout that Spilde had created. In her report she wrote that during the 2023-2024 year two mailings, August 2023 and February 2024, were sent out at the cost of \$3,208.04. Borns Group from Watertown were contracted to print and mail the SDRSP newsletters. The November 2023 edition was emailed to each member at the cost of \$0. Diane concluded her handout by sharing that she had enjoyed working with SDRSP but at this time needed to resign from her position because of caregiving responsibilities at home.

**Executive Director Report:** Gerri Larson, Executive Director, explained that the 5 State Project is completed and no more grant money is available. There is, however, mini grant money that units need to apply for and are strongly encouraged to use.

NRTA (National Retired Teachers Association) Advocacy Conference was held in October 2023 in Washington DC. Since COVID, this was the first time the Conference was held in person. Representing South Dakota were Jacque Sly; SDRSP President and Gerri Larson; SDRSP Executive Director. While attending the Conference, they meet with Representatives from each of South Dakota's three Congressional Offices, as well as, visiting with Senator Mike Rounds. Sly's and Larson's main focus was advocating for family caregivers. This trip was paid entirely by the National Office.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

There being no Old Business we immediately moved on to New Business.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Rhonda Preller, Past President, presented the new slate of State Officers. LaRee Mayes made the motion to approve the presented slate. Merry Bleeker seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

#### **SLATE OF OFFICERS:**

**Past President - Jacque Sly\***

**President - Cathy Anderson\***

**Vice-President-Rhonda Preller**

**President-Elect- Vicki Sterling**

**Treasure - Myron Fuerst**

**Secretary - Carmal Tobin**

\*not elected this session\*

Gerri Larson, Executive Director, inducted and swore in the six officers. They were installed for the two-year term from May 2024 to May 2026.

**July Board Meeting:**

The summer Board Meeting will be held in Fort Pierre at 11 a.m. Wednesday, July 17th at the Pizza Ranch.

**August Leadership Meetings:**

An agenda and information will be emailed after the meeting dates and locations have been decided.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, Mary Jane Chilies made the motion to adjourn. Rhonda Preller seconded the motion. A vote was taken. Motion carried. The SDRSP business meeting was adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Carm Tobin*

SDRSP Secretary

6-5-24