



# South Dakota Retired Teachers Association **NEWSLETTER**

Affiliated with National  
Retired Teachers Association

*“To Serve, Not to be Served”*

[www.sdrta.net](http://www.sdrta.net)

Spring 2015, Vol. 47, No.1

## Convention News

This spring, after two years of our conventions not being in Pierre, we will be “back on the river”, this time on the west side of the river, not the east. The AmericInn at 312 Island Drive in Fort Pierre will be the convention site, and the theme is “Just Have Fun”. That, we will do!

Leading off the convention speakers will be Bernie Hunhoff of Yankton. He is the founder of *South Dakota Magazine*. Bernie attended country schools. A graduate of Yankton High School and Mount Marty College, he worked in the newspaper business until 1985 when he founded the magazine. He says he has been stuck on gumbo trails in Lyman County, been hissed at by rattlers at Porcupine and forced to eat everything from lutefisk to roast goat. It’s all part of the job of publishing *South Dakota Magazine*. Bernie has served both in the SD House and Senate from District 18. Currently he is in the Senate. He and his wife Myrna have 2 children and 4 grandchildren.



Stephanie Arne, formerly of Pierre, and now the wildlife expert and host of Mutual of Omaha’s Wild Kingdom will be the dinner speaker.

When she was 5 years old, she told her family that she wanted to help save wildlife and the planet. As a student at South Dakota State University, she spent a summer at the Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium in Omaha and traveled to Africa to experience wildlife safaris. She has worked in several states and overseas. Her experiences with the most impact so far were swimming with whale sharks and cleaning up oiled blue penguins in New Zealand. Through a nationwide search and many tests and interviews, Stephanie was chosen as Wild Kingdom’s wild guide in July of 2013 – her childhood dream come true!



Again we welcome to our convention Dennis Eisnach of AARP and Rob Wylie of the SD Retirement System. Usually they bring good news, and we hope it’s that way this year, too.

We are fortunate that the co-presidents of the Pierre Area RTA are willing to take care of registration. Check closely on the registration form for the two deadlines:

- making room reservations by April 5
- getting your registration form to Judy Rapp by April 22.

The registration fee has not been raised this year, and it covers only the cost of the dinner and lunch.

**2015 State Convention**  
**When: April 28 & 29th 2015 Where: AmericInn Fort Pierre, SD**

## Convention News continued...

As in the past, AARP-SD is supportive of our convention including the grandparent essay contest and some food costs. This year they will cover the Tuesday afternoon snacks, not a breakfast. Guests of the AmericInn will have a complementary breakfast, and for others, breakfast will be on their own. There will be no breakfast for past presidents; rather they will be seated at a special table during our dinner meal.

Remember the fun of the "kazoo patrol" in Sioux Falls last year? Sharon and Gretchen will reappear with prizes for you, many of them created by our President Betty Beyer, but also those that some units are bringing to show off someone's hobby. Besides learning of hobbies, we will learn about art centers and museums across the state with the displays created by units.

We've decided to bunch all the Recruitment Ad skits, given by the units, together on Tuesday afternoon . . . it may resemble a talent or variety show . . . or it may not! It's a chance to "let down our hair" and "just have fun".

There will be business, including the vote on a name change. There will be music and the memorial service. There will be a new grandparent essay to be read at the Wednesday lunch. There will be friends gathering around delicious food and conversation, and hopefully, right in the middle of it all, there will be YOU.

## Legislative Report

The five SDRS bills were signed into law by the Governor on 2/17/15./ There was no opposition to the bills in either house and none of the bills negatively impact current retirees and your increase on 7/1/15 will be at 3.1%.

**HB 1007** provides several significant changes as follows: updates board adopted actuarial mortality assumptions, interest rates and improvement factor; requires

SDRS board to approve actuary; updates IRS code citations; and removes cement plant employees from the excluded to the included SDRS list

**HB 1008** clarifies the methodology for payments of beneficiary of a member whose contributory service ended prior to 7/1/2010. That is the date when contribution rates changed and other statutory changes became effective.

**HB 1009** was a clean-up bill addressing old over-payment and under-payment issues.

**HB 1010** was a clean-up bill to correct a statutory citation.

**HB 1011** provides a new discretionary program for savings, in addition to the regular SDRS. This is an option for new and participating active SDRS members.

Dr. Hank Kosters

## Summer Meeting Dates

State Board Meeting –

Tuesday, July 14, Lewis and Clark Room, Ramkota, Pierre, SD

11 AM Central Time

Workshops – Open to all unit leaders and state board members.

**Choose the one most convenient for you.**

Wednesday, August 5, First Lutheran Church, Brookings 1 PM Central time

Wednesday, August 19, AARP Information Center, Rushmore Mall, Rapid City  
1 PM, Mountain Time

## SDRTA Elected and Appointed Officers 2014-2016

### **PRESIDENT Betty Beyer**

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# Message From the President

Hello everyone: I am excited. The convention is going to be FUN. Diana and others have been working and planning and it is all coming together with many excellent speakers and activities. I hope every unit will have a great time in planning their 3 minute ad so we can spark up the newly retired and lately retired personnel to join our group. Remember, the ads can be as silly or as sober as you want them, just so they speak to our retirees, and make them want to see what we are all about.

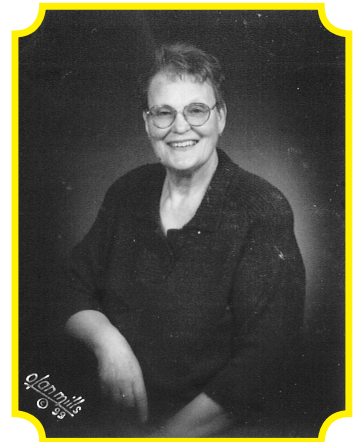
Every time I talk to some of our members, the memories come flooding back so I hope that many of you are writing your memoirs so we can all share in those times. It is always such a joy for us to hear the AARP Grandparent of the Year winner. I know that Donna Fischer and her group are working on that project now.

Lobby Day was very successful in January. The red vests took over and it was very interesting to see our government in action. Sarah Jennings and all the staff kept everyone going, and what a wonderful lunch they served us.

Remember that we will be voting on our name change and that is very important. We are having displays set up by museums from various cities. We want to call everyone's attention to these wonderful places. We can see our history and learn so many interesting facts, so be prepared to enjoy these displays.

Now, enough said, Come and let's have fun. Enjoy everyone's company and conversation. We Can do anything, WE ARE RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL!!!!!!!

Betty Beyer, President



## The object of the South Dakota Retired Teachers Association is:

- to promote the social, economics and professional welfare of retired teachers of the state
- to maintain affiliation with the National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA) Division of AARP and to cooperate with it by promoting membership, legislation, national programs and projects of NRTA
- to help retired teachers maintain identity with the teaching profession and to promote improvements in education

# Volunteering Improves Your Health

Spring is that time of year when unit community service chairpersons collect the volunteer hours completed by the 2014-2015 membership. State-wide totals will be shared at the state convention in April. Why is volunteerism so important? We could ask Diana Glover, the 2014 Andrus Award Honoree for South Dakota; but the question has a strong foundational answer we need to know.

As I researched the importance and beginnings of volunteerism in the Retired Teachers Association, I found the words of Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus. "The Challenge [is] to live up to our better selves, to believe well of our fellow men and perhaps by doing so to help **create the good**, to experiment, to explore, to change, and to grow." While we know the story of how she helped retired teachers out of poverty and homelessness, we need to realize how her guiding principle "to serve, not to be served" remains the focus of the National Retired Teachers Association, AARP, AARP-SD, and the South Dakota Retired Teachers Association.

Volunteerism unites our organizations and membership. Traditional volunteers know the value of the regularity of the volunteer position. In fact, the 46,334 hours recorded by South Dakota Retired Teachers in 2013-2014 were equal to 22 full-time job positions.

The Baby Boomers or flexible volunteers have made a difference to how volunteerism is conducted, choosing activities as one-time events. About 78 million Americans were born from 1946 to 1964. Many of the Baby Boomers are ready to volunteer but haven't been asked to help. The flexible volunteers have limited time and wide-ranging interests. They are looking for ways to experience life, share their skills, and follow their passions to enhance their community right now, today. For them, AARP established **Create The Good** as an avenue for volunteer opportunities. If we just gave them a card with **CreateTheGood.com**, they would be excited to find the plethora of ways to volunteer listed on the website, including volunteer vacations to Asia and Africa.

Volunteering, as discussed in the book *Life Reimagined*, is presented as an important aspect to include in one's retired life. Retirees are invited to find a passion to make a genuine difference in their community. So I hear the Baby Boomer say, "What does the world need me to do?"

Before we start a multi-year, multi-million dollar, world-wide project, let's look at the personal "world" of the retiree. Start by sharing your time, 5 minutes or 5 hours. The five-minutes could be a phone call to a caregiver to ask about their day. Five hours provide bigger projects. **CreateTheGood.com** lists projects that could be accomplished in any of our

home towns, such as: organizing a paper shredding event, helping individuals organize their medications for the day, a week, or a month, improving the look to your own street or sidewalk, starting a walking group, joining a garden club, sending books to U.S. troops, or hosting a used book sale or book exchange.

Probably the best location to find great volunteer projects both traditional and flexible is among our membership at every meeting. Our members are steeped in volunteer work. The *Black Hills Pioneer* published on December 11, 2013, an article by Jaci Conrad Pearson about NHRTA Dick and Mona Tinker entitled: "Retirees Do a Lot More Than Just 'Tinker' Around." The article stated in part:

With an admirable and honorable community service mission, Dick and Mona Tinker are on the go so much, family members have a hard time keeping track of them—it was even challenging getting an interview with them.

"Our daughters seem to think we do a lot of volunteering," Mona said. "They say it's hard to get a hold of us because we're always out." That comment was a first-hand testimony to the demanding service schedule the two retirees have kept for more than 20 years.

"They lead by example, are always a coach and a teacher, and are always there for us," Dick's daughter Deb Tinker said. "They give of their time, hands, money, and service. They are dedicated, loyal, caring, committed, and have stamina and boundless energy."

"They taught me to value community service and, along with that, compassion," Mona's daughter Cindy Specht said. "Volunteering is very important and I use that as teaching points with my own child. They've taught me that it's for the rewarding feeling you get. They have been great examples."

Volunteering makes an immeasurable difference in the lives of others. But more importantly it makes a difference in us. Volunteering is reinvigorating to our health. It can decrease the risk of depression, reduce stress, boost self-confidence, and keep you physically and mentally active. Feeling good about what you are doing triggers happiness that improves health. (Brain Benefit for Seniors Who Volunteer - Johns Hopkins University, by Researcher Tim Parsons of JHU, December 24, 2009)

Maximize your engagements and give back to society in a meaningful way. Finding purpose and connecting with others are the core values that generate a healthy life. Choose activities with goals you feel strongly about and follow your passion. Remember, Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus founded NHRTA in 1947 at the age of 62 and AARP in 1958 at the age of 73.

# Membership News

I Remember

I didn't carry coal, nor ride a horse to teach  
And oftener than not, my salary did not reach.  
Some days would truly test resolve to not give in  
Some days were crazy loud, true learning creates din.  
Administrative tasks would eat much of the day  
And homework not yet done would yield great grief  
to pay.

So why for 30 years plus four more did I stay?  
I must be weak of mind; at times it seemed that way!  
But all it takes is one—to say to me "I learned."  
The work was worth it all, for what had been returned.  
And now I'm done with that, the encore has begun  
That race is finished now, but thankfully, I run  
Another type of race...to serve not to be served  
For that's what members do and get what is deserved.  
And if you're reading this, the truth you surely know  
The benefits of group—say yes more than say no.  
So why not bring a friend? A flame, not dying ember  
And also pay your dues! It's time we all Re-Member!

It's true what they say—if we don't plant the seeds,  
the flowers will not grow. Bring someone new to your  
next meeting...and REMEMBER always, you are loved!

Bill and Cathy Zubke-Membership

# Standing In Line

I don't often say this, but I am privileged to stand in line. In front of me, an amazing litany of names who have served our organization with zeal and love. To learn from the amazing educators who have presided over this organization for the 10 years I have been a member has been inspiring and educational. Thankfully, I have another amazing person to teach me the ropes.

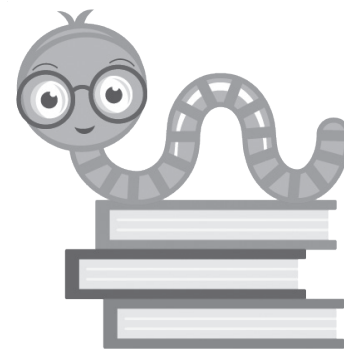
I have discovered that standing in line requires a little work. For example...have you encouraged scholarship applications? I hope so. We need to help grow our future members. Have you considered chronicling your experiences and writing a reminiscent teacher essay? I would suggest it! And are you joining us for FUN and FROLIC in Fort Pierre at the convention?! There's only one thing left to be said on that issue. Fudge!

Why not do all three, since you're thinking about them? After all, we all must toe the line!

And if you need a hug, you need not stand in line!  
You are loved!

See you in Fort Pierre!

Bill Zubke, President-Elect



# Grandparents Essay Snippets

"I admire my papa because he was in the Navy. My papa was in World War II. It made me feel special that my papa fought for our country. He is my hero." –H.P.

"I have gratitude for my grandma because she is a sports fan. She cheers for me, and it always makes me try harder to accomplish what I'm doing." –P.M.

# 2015 Convention Agenda

## 2015 SDRTA Convention, Fort Pierre AmericInn/TeTon Conference Center

312 Island Drive 57532  
Monday, April 27  
7:30 P.M. SDRTA Board  
Meeting in the board room

### "Just Have Fun"

### Tuesday, April 28

10:00 – 1:00 REGISTRATION  
Ballroom Foyer

Pick up name tags. Fee - \$45 per  
person, includes Tuesday dinner and  
Wednesday lunch

(Pre-registration form and fees due to  
Judy Rapp, 1610 Skerrols St, Fort Pierre, SD  
57532

Phone 605-280-7627 by April 22nd)

Museum displays may be set up.

10:15 PRE-CONVENTION TOUR  
Tour at Capitol with Bob Travis  
Restored Stained Glass Windows  
Meet in lobby for carpooling  
Lunch on your own

### FIRST GENERAL SESSION

1:00 Call to order – Betty Beyer  
*President, SD Retired Teachers*  
Opening Prayer – Brian Liedtke, Oahe  
(Mobridge Unit)

Pledge  
Music – Douglas Sargent  
"Hail South Dakota"  
"This Land Is Your Land"

Welcome – TBA  
Welcome – Gloria Hanson  
*Fort Pierre Mayor*

Welcome – Judy Rapp and Carol Pickering  
*Co – Presidents Pierre Area Retired Teachers*

## Events times are in the Central Daylight Time Zone

Roll Call/Units – Leni Healy  
*Secretary, SDRTA*  
Introduction of Board Members and  
Past Presidents – *President Betty Beyer*

1:45 Bernie Hunhoff – Yankton  
Founder, South Dakota Magazine

2:30 Break – Thanks to AARP for snacks

3:00 Liz Stokes and Denise Venner  
Pierre Memory Clinic

3:45 - "Promoting Membership Ad's"  
SD Retired Teacher Units

4:30 - Visit Museum and  
Reminiscent Teacher Displays

### SECOND GENERAL SESSION

6:00 – 6:30 Social and Music  
mEn@sChOOL – Bob, Bruce, Rodd and Larry

Prayer – Donna Brosnik or Jo Haffield  
Winner Area RTA

6:00 Dinner

Announcement of Scholarship Winners  
President-Elect Bill Zubke

Presentation of Awards – Betty Beyer  
*Leadership Awards President's Awards*  
*Reminiscent Teacher Awards*

Speaker – Stephanie Arne  
Wildlife Expert and host of Mutual of  
Omaha's Wild Kingdom

# 2015 Convention Agenda - "Just Have Fun"

## Wednesday, April 29

Breakfast – on your own - (complimentary breakfast for AmericInn guests)

7:30 - Unit Presidents/Representative Meeting with state board officers  
Section W

### THIRD GENERAL SESSION

9:00 Memorial Service  
*Conducted by Kay Ainslie,  
(V. Pres.), and Assistants*

### BUSINESS MEETING

President Betty Beyer  
Minutes – Leni Healy, Secretary  
Treasurer's Report/ Budget  
Pat Johnson  
Membership Report  
Bill and Cathy Zubke  
Legislative Report – Dr. Kosters  
Newsletter Report – Merry Bleeker

Community Service Report and "With Our Youth" Awards – Joanna Jones

Other Reports

Continuing Business

New Business – Change in Bylaws presented by Nancy May  
Vote on bylaws change



$$3 \times 8 = 24$$
$$a + b = c$$

Next Lesson:  
Long Division

10:00 – AARP Message –Dennis Eisnach,  
President AARP - SD

10:30 – 11:00 – Break

11:00 – SD Retirement System Report -  
Rob Wylie, Executive Director of SDRS  
*Introduced by Dr. Hank Kosters*

12:00 Luncheon Meeting

Prayer

Lunch

Introduction of State Winner  
AARP Grandparent Essay  
*Donna Fischer, Committee Chair, Yankton*

Thanks to AARP–SD  
for support of the contest!

Reading of Essay by State Winner

Florence Krieger Award  
*presented by Mike and Marcia West*

Traveling Trophy – *Kay Ainslie*

Closing Remarks - *Betty Beyer, President*

Closing Group Song – "School Days"

*Please hand in evaluations; adjournment*

Post Convention Event 2:00: meet in lobby  
for carpooling to Cultural Heritage Center,  
Pierre

# Convention Tours!

**Pre-Convention** – “Restored Stained Glass at the Capitol”, Tuesday, April 28; 10:15 a.m.

**Post-Convention** - “Visit to the Cultural Heritage Center” - Wednesday, April 29; 2:00 p.m.

Bob Travis, retired teacher from Pierre, will be our guide for both the pre and post convention tours. There is no fee at the Capitol, and thanks to Bob, we will be his guests at the Cultural Heritage Center. Donations will be welcome, however.

Stained Glass - Beautiful stained glass was installed in our state capitol over 100 years ago. For the 125th anniversary of South Dakota in 2014, it was time for a “clean-up”. Crews from Conrad Schmitt Studios in New Berlin, Wisconsin traveled back and forth as the cleaning and releading were done. In June of last year, the reinstallation began, and by November it was completed. Bob will share interesting tales of the \$3 million project which included a special gift from the restoration company.

Cultural Center – The state historical society was first organized as the Old Settlers Association of Dakota Territory in 1862. It occupied 3 “homes” before 1989 when the new center was opened on the hillside north of the capitol building. Five programs are included in its mission and activity 1) archaeology 2) archives 3) historic preservation 4) museum and 5) research and publishing.

Please indicate on your registration form your plan for the tours. Meet in the lobby of the AmericInn to accompany the group to the Capitol, or meet the group in the gift shop there. Again after the convention, meet the tour group in the hotel lobby or at the museum at 900 Governors Drive.

## Thank you for Donations to the Scholarship Fund

Patricia Johnson and Laura Dahle

In Memory of Jeri Drew, librarian at Chamberlain and Watertown, very active in SDEA

Karen Gross

In Memory of David Johnson, brother of Patricia Johnson

Aberdeen Area Unit

## Grandparents Essay Snippets

“One reason my grandma means the world to me is she calls me even when she’s busy. My grandma travels a lot, but she sends me post cards and she calls.” –A.H.

“The reason my grandpa is special to me is that he makes the BEST steaks in the world. He always grills the steak just how I want it. We sometimes sit on the deck and talk while we wait for the steaks to cook. It makes me full of joy when we talk together.” –K.F.

“My grandma is very funny. She tells hilarious stories from her kindergarteners. When I hear her stories, sometimes I pass out laughing.” –A.V.



# Unit News From Across The State

## SIoux FALLS AREA

BRRRRRRR.... It has been a cold, blustery winter, but we are on the way to Spring, so hang in there. With warmer days in between those frigid days, we can make it through this last month. We are a hardy bunch.

We continue to have great turnouts for our monthly programs. In January, Superintendent Dr. Pam Homan reported on what is going on in the school district. On that same day, a bus load of AARP and retired members left for Pierre for Lobby Day. It was a beautiful day with lots of conversation on the bus and with legislators during the day. At our February meeting, Jeff Gould presented his new program on the life of Theodore Roosevelt. Jeff presented his usual enthusiastic program with lots of anecdotal stories about T. Roosevelt.

Coming up in March will be an update from Tammy Otten, an investment officer with the South Dakota Retirement System and several others who work on our investments. Members always are interested in finding out how we are progressing with our retirement funds and it certainly has been good news lately.

In April Thea Miller Ryan from the Outdoor Campus will present a program on Campus Critters. They have lots of program all year long that are of interest to our members and their families. We encourage people to check them out.

We always conclude our year with a very touching Memorial and Remembrance Service to remember members who have passed away this past year. We also honor members' family members that have passed away.

We continue working with the Sioux Falls AARP Chapter on the Community Presence projects that we have organized because we are a Targeted Unit. We have provided several meals this year for the Ronald McDonald House. We will be serving breakfast at The Banquet and help prepare sack lunches at Lunch is Served this spring. We just had a monetary food drive for Feeding South Dakota and the Sioux Falls Food Pantry. We contributed hygiene products to the St. Francis House and the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House. We have also donated to several new projects. One of these programs is Sad Isn't Bad, a counseling program for kids and their caregivers who have lost someone through a death.

We also donated money to help out the GED program, for high school kids that need to finish school. Members have been very generous throughout the year with their time, talent, and treasures.

We continue to hold our monthly meetings on the fourth Tuesday of most months at the Royal Fork Buffet Restaurant. (November and December months are the exception.) Our meetings run from 11:00-1:00. All are welcome to join us.

## PIERRE AREA

December

The PARTA Officers hosted the 2nd annual Christmas Coffee at the home of Wayne and Carol Carney on December 10th. Members brought Christmas goodies to share with the group and donated money or canned food items for the Pierre Pantry. It was a great kick-off to the Christmas season and a wonderful time to share great food and conversation.

January

Our January meeting was held at the Oahe YMCA. We met at 10:30 and had a short business meeting. Then Karla Seyer visited with us about exercise and overall fitness for seniors. Oahe YMCA CEO Jeff Filippek told us about volunteer opportunities at the Y. We then adjourned to an exercise room and Karla showed us several exercises that we can do at home to help seniors in keeping fit. It was a very enjoyable and appropriate program. It was also Lobby Days so

several members went to the Capitol. Health is one of the incentive suggestions for this quarter. At the end of the meeting Treasurer Ruth Rehn passed out AARP Fraud Watch items to the members.

February

The February meeting was held on Tuesday, February 24th at the Pizza Ranch in Ft. Pierre. The buffet lunch was delicious. Our program was Asset Protection/Wealth Management(meeting another of the 1st quarter incentive goals) led by Brad Reinke of Reinke Gray Wealth Management. This was a very educational and much appreciate topic as members had many questions about how to plan for our needs and wants and those of our families at this time in our lives. Fraud Watch material was again made available to our members after the meeting.

# Unit News From Across The State

## NORTHERN HILLS

Volunteer is a pseudonym for the retired teacher members in our unit. One of our programs highlighted the Black Hills Parent magazine. As teachers, we wanted their very informative magazine shared with the young parents in the Black Hills. To that cause, we have helped them distribute the last two issues in our area. With our membership on the run volunteering, we hosted an information session about the exercise program Silver Sneakers.

Two of our meetings this spring will bring authors to present. Bobbi Sago who wrote Black Hills Ghost Towns and Betsey DeLoache who wrote about one room school houses should inspire us to write our reminiscent teacher stories. Program planning for 2016 is well under way as our Lobby Day contingent had so many ideas.

With the help of South Dakota AARP, we sponsored during February Wacky Wednesday Wake-up free coffee and cookies at the Spearfish Senior Citizens Center. When two of the local coffee shops went out of business, we wanted to assist with the growing of the Senior Center as the new coffee stop. 40-50 seniors attended each week. A senior coffee shop with caramel rolls is well on its way to success.

## HURON AREA

Huron Area Retired Teachers is one of 16 Units in the South Dakota Retired Teachers Association. We meet the first Wednesday of September.-December & March – May at the Huron Area Senior Center at 11:30 am in the Fireside Room. After lunch we have a program. This year we have heard about Scams & Frauds, updates on state activities with homemade fudge by our SDRTA President -Elect Bill Zubek, Superintendent Terry Nebelsick showed us the latest on the building projects here in Huron and answered questions on Common Core and other concerns, Pam Hegg of the Red Cross talked about being prepared for disasters and how we can help.

We will be hearing from Dr. Lehman of HRMC on Healthy Living in March, Abby Scheibe on garden-

## YANKTON AREA

The Yankton Area Retired Teachers Association reports with great sadness the unexpected passing of Joyce Wentworth on December 5th, 2014. Joyce was well-known throughout the state, and beyond, for her work in special education and school law. She was hired by the Yankton School District in 1972 to write a grant establishing a special education program for the district. She remained in Yankton and served the district as Director of Student Services for 39 years. Joyce went on to earn her Master's Degree in Special Education Administration and a Specialist Degree in Administrative Law, both from the University of South Dakota. Over the years, she served on many educational boards and committees at local, state and national levels. Joyce's expertise in school law was called upon by school administrators in many other districts. After her retirement, she volunteered many hours and covered many miles putting together a document on the history of education in Yankton. Our unit was looking forward to her presentation of her project later in the year. She is greatly missed by her family, friends, former co-workers, and all of her fellow YARTA members.

The Yankton Area Retired Teachers Association is trying out a new schedule this year. We had three fall meetings (September, October, and November) with interesting and timely programs presented by Amy Nelson, Yankton's City Manager; Dr. Jennifer Johnke, Principal of Yankton High school, and two YHS juniors who placed fifth in the nation in the National History Day competition.

We are currently taking a winter break from meetings; however, our service projects continue. We will meet again in April, May, and June. Our speaker for our April 2nd meeting will be Dr. Barbara Black, Department of Education, Wayne State University. We will have a musical program in May. In June, we plan to welcome our newly retired teachers and the recipient of our local \$1000 scholarship, which is awarded to a high school senior who intends to enter the field of education. We meet on the second Thursday of the month at 11:30 A.M. at JoDeans' Restaurant in Yankton, and all retired school personnel are welcome.

ing in April, and in May we will be hearing from our winning 5th grade essay winners and hosting their grandparents.

In the Fall we collect school supplies that are distributed to the schools as they are needed. We donate to the community by volunteering in a number of places and financially to Salvation Army and Helping Hands. We give to two statewide scholarships for teachers that are going back to school for further training. We sponsor the 5th grade essay contest along with AARP "Why My Grandparent Should Be The Grandparent of the Year.

All former school personnel and their spouses are welcome to attend any of our meetings.

# Unit News From Across The State

## SOUTHEAST VERMILLION AREA

The Vermillion Southeast Unit has three meetings until our summer break. We are looking forward to the March meeting when the AARP is presenting their fraud program. Several of our members have been confronted with that issue. In April the author of "It's Only Hair" will explain how she found serenity in gardening. Our May meeting will be a welcome for new retirees. This year we have been delighted with an increased number of members attending our meetings. We have enjoyed everyone's response. Have a great summer. Mary Ulrich

-Mary Ulrich, President

## MILBANK AREA

January 15  
Mark Leddy  
CEO Valley  
Queen Cheese  
Factory



February 19  
Bobbie Bohlen  
Executive  
Director  
Grant Co.  
Development  
Corporation

Grandparent Essay Winner of Milbank:

1st Kaden Krause of Koch School (Milbank)

2nd Corylee Fischer of Grant-Deuel (Revillo)

Upcoming Programs:

March 19 Jerry Janisch, Agriculture/Welding, Milbank High School

April 16 Bill and Cathy Zubke -We all "scream" for ice cream, but in this case~ we all scream for Bill's Fudge!

April 28-29th SDRTA Convention in Fort Pierre, SD

Secretary Carmal and Cliff are working on the 2-3 minute TV ad for convention and the Museum project is also underway.

## BLACK HILLS

Winter has been a busy time for members of the Black Hills Retired Teachers. Keeping with our traditions we provided bell ringers for the Salvation Army. At our Christmas Luncheon Gathering we enjoyed the fellowship of our members and listened to two presenters. Jessica Olson, the CEO of Wellspring Inc. spoke about their facility that assists teens, and their families, who are struggling with addiction and other issues. She invited our members to assist with volunteer opportunities at Wellspring. Pat Zent, one of our members, shared information about her ongoing mission to provide assistance to the poverty stricken and homeless persons in our community. Every Sunday, year around, she cooks a meal and serves it outdoors in a local park. Our members are assisting by bringing canned goods and clothing to each of our monthly meetings.

At our January meeting we had a presentation by Jean Kessloff about the Historical Preservation of the McGuillicuddy House. We were to have a follow-up tour of the home however, due to the ice and snow, the tour was postponed until spring. Several young people have written Grandparent Essays to be entered in the state competition. Some of our members

have also been attending the Crackerbarrel sessions offered on Saturday mornings during the Legislative sessions. Many of our members also attended the Martin Luther King Celebration to hear newly seated Supreme Court Justice Janine Kern speak. Also during January many of our members went to Pierre to participate in Lobby Day.

In February two BHRT members, Wayne Lang and Don Springhetti, presented a very interesting program about the history of the Crouch Railroad Line. We also have been working on our projects for the State Convention. Several members assisted other community members in filling backpacks with food items for the Backpacks for Kids program. This program helps children who otherwise may not have food over the week-end.

We are looking forward to our March meeting were Wayne Gilbert will do a "Portrayal of John Bremman"

If any of you are in the area please feel free to attend our monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month. We meet at 8:45 at the Canyon Lake Senior Citizens Center 2900 Canyon Lake Dr.

# Unit News From Across The State

## MADISON

The Madison Area Retired Teachers group has changed the name of their organization to Madison Area Retired School Personnel in order to include secretaries, business managers, janitors, nurses, i.e., all educational partners and their spouses. It is hoped that by doing so, we can increase membership numbers.

Since last spring our group has been searching for another group to partner with to serve The Gathering, a ministry sponsored by the Madison United Methodist Church that offers a meal and fellowship for anyone in the Madison community in need. Kaitlyn Thomas, administrator of Golden Living in Madison and MeLisa Elijah, Mills Property Management of Brookings have agreed to cooperate with us by providing monetary as well as human resources to serve a meal in August.

The Gathering meal is served every Monday evening except holidays. We will provide the main course, a vegetable, fruit (optional), bread and dessert. Our groups will prepare the meal, set up, serve, interact with our guests and clean up afterwards. We anticipate serving from 120-150 people.



Dr. Kimberly Kaveny-LaPlante, director of Be Free Ministries, presented an informative program on the issue of human trafficking. Be Free Ministries is a nonprofit organization working in partnership with law enforcement agencies and the District Attorney to identify victims and provide survivor support services, victim/issues advocacy, counseling, life coaching, inner healing, and prayer ministry. Their office is located in Sioux Falls, SD.

Because Be Free Ministries is a nonprofit organization, they rely on donations to provide support services, counseling, coaching, mentoring, and advocacy and prayer ministry for survivors and at risk women or teens. They also work to train and educate the community in order to increase awareness, prevention and contextual response strategies. According to Kaveny-LaPlante, "Our greatest desire is to see survivors become whole, healed, and restored. It is an incredible, life changing gift to offer a woman.....a place where she can come and feel safe, loved, heard, and healed at no cost."

The Madison Area Retired School Personnel invite fifth graders from local school to participate in the AARP Grandparent Essay Contest each year. This year, 144 students from Chester, Colman-Egan, Dell Rapids Public, Howard, Madison Central, Rutland and St. Thomas were involved.

Local winners were: Bella Maxwell, Madison Elementary, first place; Nickolas Litterick, Howard Elementary, second place; and Olivia Flemming, St. Thomas, third place.

In February, Lynn Ryan, retired DSU instructor, spoke about her experiences with Chinese and Japanese cultures and secretive women's friendship language and writing. In particular, she spoke about Nushu as one of the most interesting and least known writing systems. The words nu shu literally mean "Woman's Writing" in Chinese. This writing system was created and used exclusively by women in a remote area of China. Because traditional Chinese culture is male-centered and forbids girls from any kind of formal education, Nashu was developed in secrecy over hundreds of years in the Jiangyong county of Hunan province.

Ryan shared a handout of "The Secrets of Women's Language" and asked the group to suggest words that are generally used by women in their oral or written communications. Some of the contributions included words such as slimming, stylish, precious, accessorize and fashion conscious. She concluded her presentation by demonstrating the impact of word choices and body language, especially in the business world.

As spring approaches, our group will be gathering volunteer hours and preparing to attend the state convention.

# Name Change Proposal

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the State South Dakota Retired Teachers Convention April 28-29th in Fort Pierre. The following proposal will be voted on at the business meeting on April 29th.

## NAME CHANGE PROPOSAL

Please note the following proposal approved by the SDRTA State Board at the 2014 summer meeting:

South Dakota Retired Teachers Association proposes to change the name of the organization from South Dakota Retired Teachers Association to South Dakota Retired School Personnel.

At the convention, it was reported that only 16 State Retired Teachers Associations in the US have not changed their names to be more inclusive. Our by-laws state that school personnel are welcome to become members and in that regard, at the Summer Board Meeting, the SDRTA Board approved to begin the procedure to change our name to South Dakota Retired School Personnel.

Please Note:

This proposal was published in the Fall 2014 State Newsletter and there will be a vote at the annual meeting of the South Dakota Retired Teachers Association on April 29, 2015. The change will take place May 1, 2015.

Submitted by Nancy May, Past President, SDRTA

"My grandma will kill you with kindness! She always tells me how you should be the better person in the worst of times. She's your glistening sun on your gloomy rainy days." -K.S.

*From Diana Glover*

## VOLUNTEER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

All retired school personnel have been welcome to join our Retired Teachers Association at the state level and at most local units. So if the vote of a name change to South Dakota Retired School Personnel coming up at our April convention passes, it may not change much. Granted we will need to get used to saying "SDRPS", not "SDRTA", and the website may have a new "handle". Hopefully, all of us will work harder at inviting a retired secretary, kitchen worker, custodian, principal, etc than we have in the past. And hopefully, if the new name is adopted, there will be a feeling of more inclusiveness which the new name would indicate.

This is a good time to consider how we welcome newcomers to our meetings. Do you remember the first time you attended a meeting? Did you go on your own or did someone offer you a ride? What made you feel welcome once you were there? A handshake? A cup of coffee? An opportunity to introduce yourself?

Let's look at the word "Welcome" and some ways to reach out and involve new members ~

W - "We are so glad you are here. Tell us about yourself".

E - "Each month we invite a speaker. Do you have a suggestion?" (Programs)

L - "Lend me a hand, please, in reading these 5th grade grandparent essays". (State contest)

C - "Come with me, please, to pack backpacks for kids". (Community Service)

O - "Oh, your grandson is teaching and getting a Masters? He could apply for one of our state \$1000 scholarships" (Scholarships)

M - "Marvin and I are going to the state convention in Fortt Pierre. Want to go with us?" (Convention)

E - "Every dollar of our dues is worth it. We have support in Pierre to monitor our retirement system".  
(Legislative lobbying)

Here's to a handshake! Here's to a cup of coffee!

# POP QUIZ!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

1. South Dakota became a state in \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ was the last Dakota Territorial Governor and the first Governor of South Dakota.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ runs north to south through South Dakota dividing the state into two distinct regions.
4. On the second floor of the Capitol Building you will find a statue of \_\_\_\_\_ known as "The Father of Education" in South Dakota. (Hint: there is a county named after him.)
5. The current State Capitol Building was completed in \_\_\_\_\_ while \_\_\_\_\_ was Governor.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ is the oldest continuously occupied white settlement in South Dakota. History of the French Verendrye explorers, Lewis and Clark, and Scotty Philip, the man who "single-handedly saved the American buffalo," can be found here.
7. In 1949, at age 19, \_\_\_\_\_ became the youngest man ever to win the national saddle bronc-riding crown. Between 1949 and 1955, he won a total of six PRCA saddle bronc-riding championships, a record still unchallenged.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ took office as governor in 1965, becoming South Dakota's only bachelor governor.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ was sworn into office after Governor George S. Mickelson was killed in an airplane crash and was the first governor to be married in office.
10. The SDRTA 2015 State Convention will be held in \_\_\_\_\_, South Dakota on April 28 and 29.

Please complete (with correct answers), clip, and bring to the Convention to be entered for a prize!  
Note: this is an open-book, e-book, internet, copying sharing from friends test. Must be present to win.

# **SDRTA Convention Registration Form**

**April 28 – 29, 2015, AmericInn, 312 Island Drive, Fort Pierre, SD**

**“Just Have Fun”**

## **Deadline for Rooms– April 5**

**Call and reserve your room at  
AmericInn, Fort Pierre, SD  
312 Island Drive  
605-223-2358  
Ask for a room with SDRTA  
\$89.00**

## **Deadline for Registration – April 22**

**Convention registration  
Mail this form and a check to:  
Judy Rapp  
1610 Skerrols St  
Fort Pierre, SD 57532  
605-280-7627**

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**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **Unit** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_ **City, State, Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of spouse attending convention** \_\_\_\_\_

**A. Complete Convention Registration \$45**      **Number** \_\_\_ x \$45 = \_\_\_\_\_  
**(includes all sessions, dinner and lunch)**

**B. Registration by Individual Event**  
**Registration Fee \$15**      **Number** \_\_\_ x \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_  
**(May attend all sessions, no meals)**

**Dinner @\$25**      **Number** \_\_\_ x \$25 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Lunch @ \$20**      **Number** \_\_\_ x \$20 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Convention Tours:**

**I/We will go on the Stained Glass Tour, 10:15 April 28.**    \_\_\_yes, \_\_\_ no    **How many?** \_\_\_\_\_

**I/We will go to the Cultural Heritage Center, 2:00 April 29.**    \_\_\_yes, \_\_\_ no    **How many?** \_\_\_\_\_

## Newsletter

South Dakota Retired Teachers Association  
Cathy Zubke, Membership Chair  
417 North Broadway  
Watertown, SD 57201

[www.sdrta.net](http://www.sdrta.net)

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## Check Membership Addresses!

*It is important for all unit officers to check with each member for their correct address. Not having correct addresses costs the organization a great deal of money. Send all address changes, as well as names and dates of deaths, to*

**Bill and Cathy Zubke, 417 North Broadway, Watertown, SD 57201.**

**Phone: 605-886-8637 • Email address: calz45@hotmail.com**

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