

SOUTH DAKOTA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
General Session and Business Meeting
Ramkota Convention Center
May 4, 2011

Prior to the business meeting, Bill and Cathy Zubke and Carolyn Paulson conducted a memorial service honoring fifty-seven SDRTA members who passed away in 2010-11. Stephen Yellowhawk from Rapid City provided beautiful Native American flute music during the service.

President Pat Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:28. The minutes of the May 5, 2010, general session meeting were presented by Secretary Donna Fischer. Don Kennedy moved to approve the minutes as read. Allen Price seconded. Motion carried.

The 2011-2012 Budget was presented by Treasurers Ron and Gloria Riherd. Projected expenses total \$19,200, with projected income totaling \$18,115. The difference of \$1,085 will be used from the unspent budget of 2010-11 to balance the 2011-12 budget. Lyle Kemnitz moved to accept the budget as presented. Annette Belkonen seconded. Motion passed.

Membership Co-chair Cathy Zubke reported that although SDRTA gained 98 new members during the past year, our total membership dropped by 82, from 1369 in 2009 to 1287 in 2010, or a loss of 6.3%. She noted that the 57 deaths recorded this year were an unusually high number. In addition, delinquent dues payments and invalid addresses also continue to cause problems for us. In the folders which Cathy is distributing to unit officers today she is including returned Newsletters from those units, in hopes that those presidents can contact the intended recipients and get correct addresses. Not only is this a problem for membership accounting, but each returned Newsletter costs SDRTA \$1 in return postage. She asked unit officers to double check the addresses of their “snow birds” and let those folks know they can receive the Newsletter on-line or even opt not to receive the publication at all. Finally, Cathy mentioned that the Board will work on streamlining our current procedure for handling units’ membership reports and dues submissions at the Summer, 2011 Board Meeting.

Regarding the topic of membership, Past President Allen Price asked for volunteers to help him with membership recruitment ideas for the upcoming year. He also will be seeking a slate of officers for the 2012-14 Board of Directors.

Hank Kusters, Legislative Chair, reported that the three bills of interest to SDRTA in this year’s legislative session concerned making South Dakota laws coincide with those of the Federal Government as well as with our state codes. He informed us that while he attended the Washington D.C. Advocacy meeting, he learned that SDRS is one of the best retirement systems in the nation. He also said that it will be about five years before resolution of the current lawsuit to restore the lost 1% COLA dating back to 2010.

Diana Glover, Newsletter chair, reported that she spent \$3914.05 of her \$4500 budget allowance for the past year. She reminded members to consider honoring current and deceased members with gifts to the Newsletter. In the upcoming year, Diana will publish three issues. The first will be in August, 2011, for which there will be no unit news deadline. This issue will include convention recaps and award winners, names of new officers, upcoming trip information, Leadership Workshop information, etc. The news deadlines for the remaining two issues are November 15, 2011, and March 1, 2012. Diana noted that the three publications will be shorter than the usual two annual issues. For those who prefer to receive the Newsletter on-line, email your request and your email address to Cathy Zubke. Also, the publication may be read on our website: www.sdrta.net.

Community Service chair, Marrietta Catlin, began her presentation with an enthusiastic proclamation of “R.T.’s (Retired Teachers) are AWESOME!” She then led the entire group in reciting this statement. SDRTA had another banner year in volunteerism and community service, as evidenced by the following awards given by Marrietta:

Innovation Awards: Black Hills RTA—Diana Glover, Community Service Chair
Emily Zacher, President
Watertown Area RTA—Ruth Olson, C. S. Chair
Bill and Cathy Zubke, Co-Pres.

Community Service Awards: Pierre Area RTA—Nancy Baker, C.S. Chair
Nancy Baker & Jean Easland,
Co-Pres.
Sioux Falls RTA—Harriet Wendt, C.S. Chair
Cathy Anderson, Pres.

With Our Youth: Aberdeen RTA—Lois Sully, C.S. Chair
Evelyn Blum, Pres.

With Our Youth Honorable Mention: Yankton Area RTA—Marilyn Kratz,
C.S. Chair & Pres.

Annette Belkonen gave a brief history/synopsis of the SDRTA bus trips conducted during the past seven years. We have sponsored fourteen successful trips with over 200 participants. She encouraged members to sign up for the August, 2011 trip to Winnipeg’s Folklorama using forms found either at the back table of the meeting room or in copies of the spring Newsletter. Passengers will be able to board the bus at several convenient locations in the state. Annette reminded us that SDRTA members receive a price reduction on trip costs.

NEW BUSINESS

Past President Allen Price presented the SDRTA Standing Rules proposed changes to the group. As amended, the Rules will read:

ARTIVLE VI. MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION

Section 1. The sum of \$500 will be budgeted annually for membership promotion.

Section 2. Local units may submit requests for membership promotion funds to the SDRTA treasurer.

Section 3. Approval of the request must be made by the SDRTA Executive Board. If approved, the treasurer will disburse the money in a timely manner.

Annette Belkonen moved to approve the changes to the Standing Rules. Diana Glover seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Donna Fischer, Secretary