

SDRTA SUMMER BOARD MEETING

Ramkota Inn

Pierre, South Dakota

July 27, 2011

Present: Pat Johnson, Allen Price, Nancy May, Lyle Kemnitz, Donna Fischer, Gloria Riherd, Marrietta Catlin, Diana Glover, Henry "Hank" Kosters, and Shirley Eisnach.

The meeting began with a presentation by Marrietta Catlin, who referenced the book Simple Truths of Service to show how small individual acts of "thinking outside the box" can have amazing cumulative, positive results in our communities. She suggested that we need to consider such strategies in helping the struggling units in our state.

Secretary Donna Fischer distributed copies of the Spring 2011 Board Meeting minutes. Lyle Kemnitz moved to accept the minutes as presented. Hank Kosters seconded. Motion was approved.

Treasurer Gloria Riherd gave the financial report. Our total CD account balance is \$35,383.61, and the checking account balance is \$12,982.38, for a total of \$48,365.99. Regarding the budget, we currently have \$180 remaining in the Membership Promotion Fund. The Board realized that we had failed to present the annual audit report at the General Session of the May 2011 Convention. That oversight will be corrected by presenting the audit report of the 2010-11 books at the 2012 convention next spring.

An extensive discussion of membership reporting followed, with Pat Johnson directing the discussion in the absence of Membership co-chairs Billl and Cathy Zubke. First, the Board reviewed proposed language changes to be made in the By-Laws as follows:

ARTICLE IV. DUTIES OF OFFICERS Section 5, b—Records the source and amount of all moneys received and (change records to retains) the names...

Gloria Riherd moved to approve this change. Al Price seconded. Motion carried.

ARTICLE VIII. DUTIES OF STANDING COMMITTEES Section 2, b—
Revise "May keep a card file or computer record of members, both active and deceased" to read "Shall keep a card file or computer record of members."

Diana Glover moved to approve revision of S. 2, b. Al price seconded. Motion carried.

These proposed changes to the By-Laws will be published in the November Newsletter before being voted upon at the General Session of the 2012 Convention.

Next, the Board turned its attention to streamlining the membership reporting form(s) and processes to improve efficiency for both the local units as well as the state officers of Treasurer and Membership. Pat presented a tentative format devised by Bill

and Cathy Zubke for Board consideration. Again, after considerable discussion, a revised document was agreed upon, which Pat will review with the Zubkes before final approval for usage is given. Local officers will have access to the form on the SDRTA website, www.sdrta.net. There will be more information on membership in the August Newsletter. In addition, Pat will discuss membership, including the revised reporting process and forms, at the August Leadership meetings on August 22, 2011 (Brookings) and August 24, 2011 (Pierre).

Newsletter chair Diana Glover announced that the next publication should be out by August 10, 2011. In addition to the membership article, she will include a recap of the 2011 Convention, including award winners, plus other timely pieces designed to inspire the units as they begin their new year. This edition will also contain a “Return Service Requested” notation.

Legislative chair Hank Kosters reiterated what we heard at the spring convention: our South Dakota Retirement System is on a good course at the present, one of the best in the nation.

Marrietta Catlin, Community Service Chair, gave the Board an inspirational talk on the successes of our members and how key words and positive attitudes can inspire and motivate us all to achieve even more as we serve our communities, our units, and one another. Her presentation, entitled “If Coffee Cups Could Talk...” included the following statistics: we reported 46,174 community service hours in our local units last year; we had 15 of the 18 active units participate in the Grandparent essay, with 47 schools and 1168 students taking part in the contest. In addition, we awarded two teacher scholarships this year in a pilot program that is proving to be a great success. She urged all of us to share our successes in our local units with others across the state.

Executive Director Shirley Eisnach gave a summary of her duties and activities, which include working on the conventions, attending a meeting of Executive Directors from small-state associations in Chicago, keeping the website updated, and revamping the homepage. She has also devised a web quiz that will appear in the Newsletter. Those who submit correct answers will be eligible for one of three \$15 prizes. Hank Kosters moved that the total prize money amount, \$45, come from the Website Maintenance Fund and be paid by check to each winner. Marrietta Catlin seconded. Motion carried.

One of Shirley’s ongoing concerns has been trying to encourage the continued existence of several struggling units. There is a discussion of this topic further on in the agenda.

Finally, Shirley announced that she plans to resign as Executive Director at the end of her current term, which will be in May 2012. She has found a tentative replacement for herself, and reminded President-Elect Nancy May that Nancy will need to appoint someone to replace Shirley on the AARP Executive Council.

Pat Johnson reported that the August 2011 bus trip to Folklorama has only 27 participants at this point, which means that SDRTA will lose about \$200 dollars on the

trip. However, we made \$3,000 on last fall's trip, so we are okay. For the upcoming Fall 2011 trip, 27 people are registered, but Pat hopes to get that number up to around 40.

Pat will be handing out the list of Board Liaisons to local officers who attend the Leadership Workshops next month. She reminded Board members to let our assigned units know that we are available to them at any time. Shirley pointed out that one topic at the workshops will be flexibility as units work to maintain their viability. We must help them "think outside the box" as they rejuvenate their organizational structures and programs. The Workshops this year are on August 22 (Monday) in Brookings at 1:00 PM at the Mission Coffee House, First Lutheran Church; and on August 24 (Wednesday) in Pierre at 1:00 PM at the SDHSAA conference room, 804 N. Euclid Ave.

OLD BUSINESS

President Pat Johnson noted an oversight on our part regarding a membership promotion approved by the Board at the May 3, 2010 meeting. Any unit reporting a positive percentage increase in SDRTA memberships by April 1, 2011, would be eligible to participate in a drawing for one of two free convention registrations worth \$40 apiece, funds to come from budget item Convention Expenses. Belatedly, the Board drew from the five eligible units: Black Hills, Milbank, Northern Hills, Vermillion, and Watertown. The two winning units, Milbank and Vermillion, will each receive a check for \$40 to be awarded at their discretion to their members for attendance at the 2012 convention.

The Board next discussed providing a stipend for the Executive Director. Our current Director, Shirley Eisnach, has not requested additional funds in addition to the budgeted amount of \$2000, but did admit that she uses her own computer, supplies, etc. at her own expense. The \$2000 allotment goes toward meetings and travel which are required by her position. President-Elect Nancy May suggested that a fair amount would be \$100 per month (\$1200 per year). The Board will consider this topic next spring at the 2012 Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Past President and Nominating Committee Chair Allen Price presented the slate of candidates for the 2012-14 Executive Board. The position of Treasurer was unfilled, but after the Board suggested that the host city's unit, rather than the Treasurer, handle convention registration starting in 2012, Gloria Riherd agreed that she and Ron will take the office again. The nominees are:

President—Nancy May, Rapid City

President-Elect—Betty Beyer, Madison

Vice-President—Lyle Kemnitz, Mobridge

Secretary—Leni Healy, Sioux Falls

Co-Treasurer—Gloria and Ron Riherd, Rapid City

In addition, we will have a new Executive Director (to be determined) as well as possible changes among the appointed officers.

Next, the discussion turned to help for struggling local units. At the current time, Northern Hills and Bennett County have presidents, but Mitchell and Aberdeen have none (Aberdeen does have a contact person). Executive Director Shirley Eisnach has been trying to get 5 members from each unit to meet with her in their towns, but so far this has not happened. Shirley asked the Board to send her any ideas they may have for helping these units.

The new scholarship program for active teachers has proved to be a success, as noted earlier. Pat Johnson has given these files to President-Elect Nancy May. Information re: the 2012 award process will be sent to locals in January.

The next item of new business was planning the 2012 convention. President Pat Johnson would like a “joyous” theme such as “Relax, Rejoice, Rejuvenate” or “Restore, Renew, Rejuvenate” that would encourage members to come to the convention to have a good time as well as learn new things. Some of the ideas generated by the Board included:

- Involve units by having them provide a program that was successful for them
- Encourage units to present programs that highlight a notable hometown person
- Provide some sort of vocal or instrumental music program
- Have entertainment, rather than a speaker, at the banquet
- Invite someone (perhaps Lily Liu) from the national office of AARP
- Provide programs of interest to both men and women
- Invite Hank and Marianne Fridell to present a program
- Plan large group presentations, rather than break-out sessions

Pat asked the Board to e-mail ideas for speakers, programs, and entertainment to her and she will start a folder to help with planning the convention.

Executive Director Shirley Eisnach suggested that beginning with the 2012 Convention, we charge a registration fee for everyone, including those who do not eat the meals. Otherwise, those who come just for the programs and meetings are contributing nothing toward the cost of the convention. The Board agreed to institute this policy.

The next topic was that of moving the location of the annual convention from one year to the next. For example, one year it might be held in Rapid City, the next in Pierre, the next in Sioux Falls, etc. The Board liked this idea and will discuss it further next spring.

Shirley asked the Board to approve her sending information about a request she received from Studentnest.com regarding hiring retired teachers as “independent contractors” to tutor students from South Dakota and other states in math. The Board gave their approval for her to make the information available to unit presidents, who may then choose to pass it on to their members.

At the August Leadership Workshops, Pat Johnson plans to ask units to continue their collections to fund the SDRTA teacher scholarships. She recommended the 50-50 raffle strategy which was so successful for the Watertown unit as an example of how a unit can have fun and raise funds. Pat will also distribute Key Contacts booklets to unit presidents at the Workshops.

Allen Price moved to adjourn the meeting. Marrietta Catlin seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:35 PM.

Donna Fischer, Secretary