

SDRTA SPRING BOARD MEETING

Ramkota Inn

Pierre, South Dakota

May 2, 2011

Present; Pat Johnson, Allen Price, Nancy May, Lyle Kemnitz, Donna Fischer, Gloria and Ron Riherd, Bill and Cathy Zubke, Marrietta Catlin, Diana Glover, Henry "Hank" Kusters, and Shirley Eisnach (Executive Director)

President Pat Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. She read "Plan for Survivor" for next year to break the ice.

Secretary Donna Fischer asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the July 14, 2010 Summer Board meeting. Bill Zubke moved to approve the minutes as written. Lyle Kemnitz seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurers Ron and Gloria Riherd presented the financial report. As of April 28, 2011, the checking account balance was \$22,639.94 and the total CD accounts balance was \$35,364.59 for a total balance of \$58,004.53. Convention 2011 expenses will be deducted from the checking account. After reviewing the 2011-12 Budget Suggestions handout, the Board suggested several adjustments to that document, including an allocation of \$1500 to the Scholarship fund and the addition of Scholarships to the Honors/Memorials fund which will contain surplus scholarship money from fundraising.. The Riherds will implement these changes before presenting a final draft for approval of the general membership at the General Session on Wednesday, May 4. Hank Kusters moved to accept the financial report. Marrietta Catlin seconded. Motion carried.

Next Cathy and Bill Zubke presented the membership report. SDRTA lost 82 people, or 6.37%, for a total membership on May 1 of 1287. Cathy noted that we lost 57 members to death in the past year, so that accounts for a large portion of the drop in numbers. We also gained 98 new members. Invalid addresses continue to be a problem for us. Most are lifetime members who may now have a new address which has not been forwarded to the Zubkes.

Cathy expressed frustration with the inefficient reporting system we now have in place, whereby membership dues and names are sent first to the treasurer who then forwards the names to the membership chair. The Board discussed amending the By-laws for improvement of the reporting system. This will be an agenda item for the Summer, 2011 Board Meeting.

Newsletter chair Diana Glover reported that her 2010-11 expenses came in under budget by \$585.95. She noted that several SDRTA members have requested receiving the Newsletter on-line, which would be more cost-effective. The Board then discussed Diana's proposal that she produce three newsletters each year. Bill Zubke moved that SDRTA publish three newsletters, with shortened formats, beginning with fiscal year

2011-12. Nancy May seconded. Motion carried. Diana will present this information tomorrow (Wednesday, May 3) at the General Session.

Hank Kusters, Legislative chair, reported on his attending the D.C. Advocacy meeting where he contacted our congressional delegates and heard from their education staffs. He was told that South Dakota's retirement system is currently one of the soundest in the nation. He also attended a meeting in Chicago January 24-26 where he was one of 30 participants from around the country. He reports that most other states have much bigger budgets and resources. Regarding the South Dakota court case being brought against the SDRS by several judges, Hank told the Board that it is slowly pending with no resolution in sight right now.

Next, Marietta Catlin presented the Community Service Report for 2010-2011. The total volunteer hours reported by SDRTA members this year was 46,242 (7,615 WITH OUR YOUTH and 38,627 ADULT benefits). At a 2010 estimated value per hour of \$21.36, the total value of SDRTA volunteer hours for the past year is a whopping \$987,729.12. Unit volunteer activities included Food Programs for families, Food Bank Programs for seniors, and the Weekend Backpack/Sack Pack Program for students. In addition, 15 units participated in the Grandparent Essay contest. Marietta stressed that SDRTA can be proud that we are giving back to our youth, adults, communities, and now with our new scholarship program, to current teachers.

Executive Director Shirley Eisnach reported that she will attend the ASRTE meeting in New Orleans in August. She has been hard at work organizing the 2011 SDRTA Convention, as well as keeping the website current. She asked members to let her know of any needed updating of the site. It is especially important for unit presidents to update their rosters of officers on the website.

Vice-President Lyle Kemnitz presented the newly revised form for the Traveling Trophy Award. He feels that he has addressed some inequities in calculating total points that were inherent in the old form. Lyle also handed out copies of this year's Memorial Service program. Once again, he has prepared a beautiful, tasteful tribute to those SDRTA members whom we have lost during the past year.

President Pat Johnson reported on bus trips planned for later this year. The Winnipeg Folklorama trip scheduled for August 8-12 currently has 10 reservations. We will need more participants if this trip is to materialize. Pat and her trip partner Annette Belkonen are also planning a late September-early October trip to the Twin Cities. The August Newsletter will contain more information about this excursion.

OLD BUSINESS

President Pat Johnson solicited volunteers to give the prayers at the General Session (Diana Glover), the banquet (Nancy May), and the luncheon (Al Price). She also clarified head table assignments. Since the traditional opening day morning meeting with

unit officers has been omitted this year, we will put the necessary information into folders to be distributed to unit presidents at the General Session meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

President Johnson will respond to a recent letter sent to Board members from Ted Kneebone re: SDRTA policy for taking photos at the Convention. She will clarify to Mr. Kneebone how privacy laws have necessitated our decision in this matter.

Al Price discussed the necessity for units to actively recruit new members to SDRTA. The Board will discuss this further at the Summer Board Meeting.

The final item of business concerned the SDRTA Scholarship for current teachers to further their degree. We had two scholarship winners this year: Annie Borns, Brookings; and Carla Ramlo, Deubrook Elementary, Toronto. Pat and the Zubkes presented the awards to the two teachers at their respective schools and videoed the presentations. These videos will be played at the Wednesday night presentation during the banquet. Cathy Zubke suggested that we ask each scholarship winner to write a letter by the next year's state convention to report on how the scholarship money helped them to work toward their goal. After some discussion, the Board decided that \$750 will be paid by check to each recipient, not to the school which they will be attending for their graduate work. We are also paying each winner's mileage to the Convention banquet as well as the cost of the meal for the winner and his/her spouse.

Ron Riherd suggested that each unit should get the winners' names to be published in their local papers to promote how SDRTA is giving back to the profession.

Finally, Pat Johnson proposed that next year the President-Elect be in charge of the Scholarship program.

Meeting adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

Donna Fischer, Secretary