

SDRTA SUMMER BOARD MEETING

Ramkota Inn
Pierre, South Dakota
July 16, 2008

Present: Charollene Coates, Wyland Borth, Diana Glover, Al Price, Donna Fischer, Cathy and Bill Zubke, Art Shaver, Pat Johnson, Lyle Kemnitz, and Shirley Eisnach.

As an "ice breaker" to open the meeting, each member present related the most exciting thing that had happened to him/her so far this summer. Following that, President Allen Price called the meeting to order at 11:16. He then appointed Charollene Coates as our parliamentarian.

Re: the meeting agenda, Shirley pointed out that the dates for the 2009 convention are incorrect. They should be changed from April 30-May 1 to April 28-29. Art Shaver moved to approve the amended agenda; Bill Zubke seconded. Motion carried.

Secretary Donna Fischer presented the minutes of the April 29, 2008 Board Meeting. Charollene Coates moved to approve the minutes as written; Cathy Zubke seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer Art Shaver reported that total estimated income for 2007-08 was \$15,498, while estimated expenditures were \$14,280. Receipts minus expenses leaves a balance of \$1,218. Art stated that the monthly spreadsheet format approved last year is a boon to his record keeping and reporting. He has also devised a code system for use on expense statements submitted to him. Finally, Art plans to comply with the Pension Protection Act of 2006 by using an IRS E-Postcard. The Board approved Art giving his name and address as a principal officer of SDRTA on the IRS form. Lyle Kemnitz moved to approve the treasurer's report; Bill Zubke seconded. Motion carried.

Next, Wyland Borth presented the audit report which shows that SDRTA has ownership of CD's totaling \$33,514.38. The exact figures for 2007-08 were \$15,497.71 in deposits and \$14,279.67 in expenses. The report received a unanimous vote of approval.

Cathy Zubke, Membership co-chair, has already received several renewals so far this year. She will send out new registration cards as requested by units and will see that membership cards are distributed at the fall leadership meetings. She will also send renewal letters during the second week of November as reminders to members who have not yet paid their dues. The Board agrees that we need to continue recruitment efforts in the coming year in order to reach our goal of 1500 members.

Diana Glover, Newsletter chair, reported a favorable response to the post-2008 convention she sent out in May. The Board discussed modifying our present publication system to combine one or two short newsletters and one longer one. However, we decided to continue as we have before, with multi-paged publications twice yearly.

Diana will e-mail the units requesting “snowbird” addresses for those who are away from home at the time of the fall Newsletter mailing. She will also add a Return Address Requested label on mailings. The news deadline for the fall publication is October 15.

Legislative chair Wyland Borth was pleased with the increase in SDRS benefits beginning in July of this year. We are receiving our usual 3.1% COLA plus a benefit improvement of 4.6%. He doesn't foresee any major bills pertinent to SDRTA in the 2009 legislative session. Wyland noted that Dr. James Hansen is up for re-election in 2009. He hopes Dr. Hansen will run for election again, since he has been an excellent representative for SDRTA.

Charollene Coates presented the Community Service/Health Report in the absence of Marrietta Catlin, who was unable to attend the meeting. A number of units gave generously of their time and talents to make the AARP Annual Day of Service successful once again. The report also contained a number of good suggestions for “Going Green for Our Communities” in 2008.

Shirley Eisnach, Executive Director of SDRTA, reported that she, Al Price, and Charollene Coates have talked at length about South Dakota becoming part of AMBA (Assoc. Member Benefits of America). However, getting the required information from our units has been tedious. She plans to use the website in the process and will pass the information on to Leni Healy. Shirley plans to attend the NRTA Leadership Conference, Life@50+ Events, and Volunteer Summit Conference in Washington, D.C. in September.

Pat Johnson, SDRTA Bus Tour Co-Director, handed out a list of the names of 87 people who have registered for the fall trip. She projects that SDRTA will make a profit of about \$1800 on this tour. Due to the tremendous amount of work involved in planning the tours, Pat and Annette Belkonen have agreed to continue as tour organizers but they suggest we set a limit of one tour per year.

Shirley Eisnach, our representative on the AARP Executive Council, updated the Board on her activities, including an AARP 50th birthday celebration at the Crazy Horse monument of July 1. The Council will meet August 20 in Sioux Falls. Shirley noted that her two-year term ends on December 31 of this year, so President Price will need to appoint a replacement for her.

The SDRTA website is now under the auspices of our Executive Director, Shirley Eisnach. She has begun updating the site, as Charollene Coates had done in the past. Jackie Wray of the Yankton Area RTA, who is in charge of the 2009 Grandparent Essay contest, will work with Shirley to post contest information including the 2009 winning essay, on the website. Shirley also plans to include reminiscent teacher essays and the two latest Newsletter issues on the site.

The September Leadership Training Workshops will take place in Rapid City on Sept. 17, in Huron on Sept. 18, and in Sioux Falls on Sep. 19.

Board members discussed their activities as unit liaisons for the upcoming year. Charollene Coates agreed to check on the Platte unit.

OLD BUSINESS

The Board discussed several stipulations re: SDRTA bus tours: 1) a \$100 honorarium will be presented to the tour escorts' local association; 2) tour escorts' expenses shall be limited to the cost of non-compensated meals; and 3) the tour escorts will agree to conduct a minimum of one trip per year. Diana Glover moved to accept these proposals; Charollene Coates seconded. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Re: units' requests for membership promotion funds, such requests usually fall in the range of \$75-\$100. The units applying for these monies should submit their plans to Membership Chair Cathy Zubke. She will forward the requests to treasurer Art Shaver, who will write the checks to the units.

Allen Price and Charollene Coates have been checking into SDRTA participating in AMBA (Association Member Benefits Advisors). However, several obstacles have arisen. First, by state law we cannot give them a list of our members. Second, we have so few members (1418 at present) that AMBA considers our group too small for consideration at the present. Shirley will try to work something out with AMBA when she is in D.C. Al will contact the SD Attorney General's office for clarification on the law regarding release of members' names.

As mentioned earlier, Shirley Eisnach's term as SDRTA representative on the AARP Executive Council expires December 31, 2008. President Al Price asked her to continue in that capacity for another term, and Shirley graciously agreed to do so.

Development of an SDRTA Handbook was the next item of discussion. However, all the pertinent information on our organization is already on the website; there is no need for a handbook at this time.

President Price and Executive Director Eisnach presented the results of their collaboration on a job description for the Executive Director. The Board unanimously approved the list of duties they formulated.

In other new business, the Board approved the Yankton unit's taking over the Grandparent Essay program and Lyle Kemnitz assuming the management of the Traveling Trophy project.

Re: liaison expenses, after some discussion Bill Zubke moved that liaison expenses over 50 miles be paid by SDRTA at 32 cents per mile. Diana Glover seconded. Motion carried.

The Board decided that in the upcoming year, unit presidents should encourage as many as possible of their members to become involved in volunteer activities in addition to the social aspects of SDRTA membership.

The theme of the 2009 convention will be "Going Green for Our Grandchildren." A number of ideas were brainstormed in addition to the suggestions President Price presented. One idea is to have a general presentation on "going 'green'" followed by breakout sessions on other topics. Another idea was to invite a futurist to speak to us, which would tie in with the green theme. Several Board members volunteered to get more information on selected topics or to seek commitments from possible speakers and presenters. Al will also work on securing bus transportation to the convention.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Donna Fischer, Secretary