

SDRTA SPRING BOARD MEETING

Ramkota Inn
Pierre, South Dakota
May 3, 2010

Present: Allen Price, Charollene Coates, Pat Johnson, Lyle Kemnitz, Art Shaver, Donna Fischer, Bill Zubke, Cathy Zubke, Marrietta Catlin, Diana Glover, Wyland Borth, and Shirley Eisnach (Executive Director)

President Allen Price called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Art Shaver moved to approve the adoption of the agenda as presented by Al. Pat Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Secretary Donna Fischer asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the July 16, 2009, Board meeting. Diana Glover moved to approve the minutes as written. Bill Zubke seconded. Motion carried.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORTS

Executive Director Shirley Eisnach gave the Board an impressive account of her activities on our behalf during the past year. In addition to keeping the website updated and making convention arrangements, she attended the ASRTE annual meeting in Chicago in August of 2009, and an NRTA/AARP leadership meeting in Washington, DC, in March 2010. She recommends that we continue our ASRTE membership. Other activities included arranging for a 2010 Convention speaker through the SD Humanities Council. Shirley also attended several face-to-face SD AARP Executive Council meetings and participated in several conference calls. Last fall she represented the Executive Council at a "grass tops" meeting in DC, where the big push was Health Care Reform.

Treasurer Art Shaver asked the Board if he may destroy old records as per the Bylaw guidelines (See Article IV, Section 5, item c). Charollene Coates moved that we approve the treasurer's cleaning out old files as Art suggested. Diana Glover seconded. Motion carried.

Next, Art presented the Treasurer's report, which he has reformatted. He has condensed the number of items listed and has added clarifying explanations next to each item. The summary for the 2008-29 year shows an account balance on May 31, 2009, of \$10,362.73 and an investment balance of \$34,168. Another item of business was the request by the Vermillion unit for \$50 for membership promotion. We currently have \$25 left in that fund, but the Board indicated that Art should grant Vermillion the money they requested. Pat Johnson moved to approve moving \$25 into the Membership Promotion fund to meet this expense. Art Shaver seconded. Motion carried. The Treasurer's Report was approved by the Board.

The 2010-2011 Budget was presented by Wyland Borth, Pat Johnson, and Art Shaver. Again, the new format combines categories into fewer items. One change is

increasing the amount budgeted for Officers/Committee Chairs from \$600 to \$700. Art Shaver moved to approve the 2010-11 Budget. Lyle Kemnitz seconded. Motion carried.

Membership co-chair Cathy Zubke reported that SDRTA total membership dropped 3.36% during the past year. Although we gained some new members, the number of non-renewals, delinquents and deaths offset those numbers to account for the lower numbers. Zubkes sent letters to those who were delinquent within the last two years and got some responses as a result. The Board agreed that we need to encourage locals to do more to contact their delinquent members as well as to recruit newly-retired teachers to join SDRTA.

Cathy also reported problems with illegible handwriting on the purple membership cards. She suggests that we tell the local units to keep those for their own records, instead sending/e-mailing a typed list of members including each person's name, address, year of membership, and local's name. This information, along with the membership check(s), should be sent to the state treasurer, who will forward the list to Cathy. Art Shaver moved to accept Cathy's recommendations that purple cards be kept locally, with only typed lists being sent to the treasurer. Lyle Kemnitz seconded. Motion carried.

The Board next discussed providing a possible incentive for locals to be more proactive in seeking new members. Bill Zubke moved that SDRTA hold a drawing next spring for two free registrations for the 2011 Convention. Those units who report a positive percentage increase in SDRTA memberships by April 1, 2011, will be eligible to take part in this project. Art Shaver seconded. Motion carried.

Wyland Borth, Legislative Chair, gave the Legislative report. Four bills of interest to SDRTA passed this year, including SB18: Retire/Rehire and SB20: Cola Adjustment. Wyland reported that SDRS is currently funded at 93-95%. Members will receive a 2.1% increase this year, but can expect to return to 3.1% once we are funded over 100%. Currently, there is \$7 billion in the fund. Rob Wylie, SDRS administrator, and Jim Hansen, SDRS trustee, will present more information to us at the General Session on Wednesday, May 5. Donna Fischer moved to accept the Legislative report. Pat Johnson seconded. Motion carried. A final note: Wyland will be resigning his position as Legislative chair at the end this fiscal year (May 31) to be replaced by Henry Kusters. The Board expressed their gratitude and best wishes to Wyland for his years of dedicated service as our legislative liaison.

Newsletter chair Diana Glover reported another successful year of publication. She would like to publish three issues in 2010-11. Discussion on this project was tabled until the July, 2010, Board meeting. News deadlines for the coming year are October 15, 2010, and March 10, 2011.

Community Service chair Marrietta Catlin presented a summary of all the activities reported by the locals during the past year. Once again, SDRTA members distinguished themselves by giving of their time and talents in numerous volunteer

services around the state. The total hours reported by SDRTA members for With Our Youth was 10,646 hours, including 233 involved working with the Grandparent Essay Contest. The total recorded for Other Services was 35,318. At the General Session Business Meeting, Marietta will be recognizing those units who demonstrated outstanding efforts in community service for 2009-2010.

Vice President Lyle Kemnitz, who is in charge of the Memorial Service to be conducted prior to the General Meeting on Wednesday, reported that thirty-nine SDRTA members passed away in 2009-10. He handed out copies of this year's memorial program which, as usual, is beautifully and tastefully done.

The winners of the 2010 AARP/SDRTA Grandparent of the Year Essay Contest were announced: First place—Jadyn McCready, Winner Middle School; Second place—Livia Hiland, Newell Elementary (Northern Hills unit); and Third place—Jimmie Berkner, Koch Elementary, Milbank.

Pat Johnson reported that last summer's SDRTA bus trip to Winnipeg was a whopping success, with SDRTA making an extra \$500 because of the favorable exchange rate at that time. That brought the total profit of the trip to \$700. Unfortunately, this year's March trip to Nebraska was cancelled due to low registration. Currently, Pat and Annette Belkonen are planning an October trip to Iowa that will include a number of points of interest, including the Amana Colonies.

Shirley Eisnach asked Board members to help her monitor website information to avoid out of date or erroneous material appearing there. She noted that there is an extra charge for the domain every 3 years. The webmaster, John Rayner, has incurred expenses of \$215. He has used 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours of his 8 hour contract which was issued August 25, 2009, and will be using many more hours on post-convention updates. The amount paid so far to Black Hills.com is \$212. The amount budgeted for the website is currently \$700. Shirley noted that unit presidents had to use the website for this year's report forms. Also she placed a Create the Good widget on the site which allows members to find volunteer opportunities in their home communities.

Lyle Kemnitz will place the Traveling Trophy forms on the registration table. He suggested some possible changes to the formula for determining the winner of the trophy. This will be discussed at the summer Board meeting.

Re: SDRTA Board Liaisons to Local Units—Gloria and Ron Riherd will assume responsibility for Black Hills (Rapid City), and Henry "Hank" Kusters will visit the Madison unit. Other assignments remain unchanged from last year.

President Al Price's President's Report was an impressive summary of his duties, trips, visits to units, etc. for 2009-2010. In spite of spending part of the year in Nebraska, Al continued to guide SDRTA through a busy, productive year. We appreciate his dedicated, tireless leadership and look forward to his continued participation as Past President next year.

NEW BUSINESS

Pat Johnson spoke to the proposed new budget item of \$750 for a scholarship to be awarded by SDRTA to a teacher currently teaching. The money must be used to help defray the costs of obtaining either an advanced degree in education or working toward national certification. Pat further suggested that one unit be in charge of processing applications and choosing a winner. She would like to implement this process so that SDRTA could award the first scholarship at the 2011 Convention. Cathy Zubke moved that we accept Pat's proposal. Bill Zubke seconded. Motion carried. The Board will work out the details of this project at the July Board meeting.

The final agenda item, compiling a list of possible program speakers with names, addresses, and phone numbers for use by the local units, was tabled until the July Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Donna Fischer, Secretary