

# Newsletter

Affiliated with National  
Retired Teachers Association

*"To Serve, Not to be Served"*



**South Dakota  
Retired  
Teachers  
Association**  
[www.sdrta.net](http://www.sdrta.net)

March 2010, Vol. 40 No. II

## **Retirement Bills Passed**

by Wyland Borth, Legislative Chair

All four bills which were introduced by the board of trustees have passed both the House and Senate. They have been sent to Governor Rounds for his signature.

### **Bills:**

**SB 18:** An Act to revise certain retirement provisions regarding retired members of the South Dakota Retirement System who return to covered employment and declare an emergency. (Retire/Rehire situation)

**SB 19:** An Act to increase contributions related to the optional spouse protection program with the South Dakota Retirement System and to prohibit any new enrollment in the program. (Spousal Option)

**SB 20:** An Act to revise certain retirement provisions within the South Dakota Retirement System. (COLA) This reduces the annual improvement factor for one year to 2.1% and then thereafter index the COLA to the CPI based on the SDRS funded ratio for future years.

**SB 21:** An Act to revise certain provisions regarding exclusive benefit requirements and the range of investments available to the South Dakota Retirement System member trust fund

The 85th legislative session will be history after March 29th which will be the 38th legislative day. I certainly wish to thank the RTA members for your persistence in contacting legislators and committee members.

*Continued on page 2*

## *State History Coming Alive at Convention* **Join Colleagues in Pierre May 4- 5**



### **John Timm**

- Native of Canton, SD
- Author of ...And the Last Shall Be First
- Graduate of Chabot College in California
- 23-year employee of Sioux Valley Hospital
- Examiner for Social Security Disability

**John (Jack) Timm will bring alive the convention theme, "South Dakota: Historical People and Places".** His portrayal of Governor Arthur Calvin Mellette, the last territorial governor and the first state governor, will be on Tuesday afternoon. His presentation is courtesy of the South Dakota Humanities Council. Timm has focused his studies on Governor Mellette and his family since 1999. His first living history character was Sioux Falls Mayor George Burnside. He was a costumed docent at the Pettigrew Home and Museum for five years.



### **Sylvia Henkin**

- Partner in KSOO Broadcasting
- Past host of TV show, "Party Line"
- First woman president of Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce
- Author of Sylvia, A Life in Three Acts
- Founder of YWCA Leaders Luncheon

**Sylvia Henkin, the keynote speaker at the dinner, will do a "flyover" of her book, Sylvia, A Life in Three Acts.** By "flyover", she means that she will elaborate on the parts that are of special interest to the audience. Sylvia holds dearly her hometown of Sheldon, Iowa where she grew up in "old world living" among a family of ambitious business people who ran the Wolff Brothers Stores. She credits her brothers for inspiring her to improve her community. And that she has done! She has served on many boards and president of many organizations.

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***Bus Trip Registration - Page 6***

***Convention Registration - Page 15***

Here is some general information about SD Retirement System, the Board of Trustees and the board members.

The South Dakota Board of Trustees is the governing authority with a 17-member board. There are 468 public entities participating in the South Dakota Retirement System. School Districts make up 172 units with 45.5% total active members enrolled. Active members enrolled in SDRS as of June 30, 2009 was 38,596 with about 20,000 members receiving benefits. Of the 17-member board, 14 are elected, 2 are governor's appointees, one is an Ex Officio non-voting member from the SD Investment Council. The following are the Board of Trustees and the membership each represents:

- Elmer Brinkman (Chair) – Watertown County Commissioners
- Steven Zinte (Vice Chair) – Pierre Judicial Members
- Jason Dilges – Pierre Governor's Appointee
- Sandra Zinter – Pierre Governor's Appointee
- Matt Clark – Sioux Falls SD Investment Council
- Laurie Gustafson – Pierre State Employees
- Ray Hofman – Vermillion Elected Municipal Officials
- James John – Black Hawk Public Safety Employees
- Steven Caron – Aberdeen Teachers
- Janice Coleman – Dante School Boards
- Cathy Druckey – Rapid City Municipal Employees
- James O. Hansen – Pierre Retirees
- Chuck Holmstrom – Sioux Falls Teachers
- Louise Loban – Brookings Classified Employees
- Eric Stroeder – Glenham State Employees
- Darwin Longieliere – Brookings Board of Regents
- Kathy "K.J." Peterson – Rapid City County Employees
- Robert A. Wylie – Pierre Executive Director of SDRS

John Timm and his wife Ella were recognized by Governor George Mickelson as South Dakota Volunteers of the Year in 1992. They volunteered over 4,000 hours of service to the Sioux Valley Hospice program over a 13-year period.

Sylvia Henkin was president of Junior Achievement, Sioux Empire United Way, Community Playhouse, Karl E. Mundt Historic Foundation and other organizations. Although she's not Irish, Sylvia has organized the St. Patrick's Day parade for 19 years.

Both Timm and Henkin live in Sioux Falls. They will have their books for sale at the convention.

Some interesting historical South Dakotans will also make appearances on Tuesday. Among them will be H. H. Beadle, John Banvard, J.L.W. Zietlow, Sitting Bull, Frank Leahy and some homesteaders' wives. After dinner Scotty Philips and Jim Taggart will show up. We can learn about John McCandish King and Peter Norbeck through visual presentations. Unit leaders will explain the background of their towns' names during the "Municipal Moments" scattered throughout the convention time.

Aren't you eager to get an update on the retirement system? On Wednesday morning, after the memorial service and business meeting, Wyland Borth, Dr. Jim Hansen and Rob Wylie will tell about legislative action which affects the system and our pocketbooks. AARP will be represented at the convention and also provide breakfast and refreshments – thank you! The business meeting, conducted by President W. Allen Price, will include voting on new officers and bylaws changes.

Who will the 2010 Grandparent Essay Contest winner be? It is always a joy to hear a 5th grader read the winning essay, and hopefully, the grandparent can share the stage with him/her. Who will be awarded the Florence Krieger Award? And might you be lucky enough to win a door prize?

You won't be turned away at the door if you are not dressed as a South Dakota historical character, but you might want to do that. Dig out an old coonskin cap – become Hugh Glass, the fur trapper. Sew a calico skirt, carry a book and be Laura Ingalls Wilder. Find an old bugle and pretend you are Felix Vinatieri.

It's time to think SPRING. Turn away from news of record-breaking low temperatures and 20 inches of snow. Throw off that wool coat. Don a light jacket and travel to Pierre for the SPRING convention on May 4 – 5. How glorious for you to drive along seeing baby calves and spring wheat welcoming the sun! How glorious for YOU to kick up your heels, socialize with friends and learn more about our "land of infinite variety".



*Marilyn Kratz of Yankton is the chair of the Grandparent Essay Contest. We will learn who the winner is at the Wednesday luncheon.*

*(see full convention agenda on p. 8-9)*

## SDRTA Officers Elected and Appointed Officers, 2008 – 2010

**President** W. Allen Price  
3305 Manor Cr.  
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**Past President** Dr. Charollene Coates  
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**President Elect** Patricia Johnson  
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**Vice President** Lyle Kemnitz  
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**Executive Director** Shirley Eisnach  
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# From the President's Desk



## Passing The Torch:

I'm sure most of you remember the phrase from President John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address "The torch has passed

to a new generation of Americans..." which I am paraphrasing. I am

referring to "passing the torch" to the new SDRTA administration to be led by Pat Johnson. This phrase could also pertain to the Olympic Torch that was passed to so many different athletes that began the 2010 Olympics that are underway as I write this.

**The following are some highlights and "lowlights" of the two years of my presidency.**

### Highlights:

- The 2009 Convention with the theme "Going Green For Our Grandchildren" with such prominent speakers as Dr. David Stone who spoke on "futurism", Megan Stevens Hookey, NRTA's Interim Vice-President, and Governor Mike Rounds. We also had great presentations by the Black Hills and Winner Units, Carolyn Elwood of Pierre sharing her experiences teaching in Alaska, and Bill Zubke of Watertown making some of his fabulous fudge.
- Pat Johnson and Annette Belkonen of Watertown guided two bus loads of retired teachers at different times to the Winnipeg Folklorama. In addition to the pavilions in Winnipeg we toured the Canadian Mint, visited a Mennonite Village, and paddled canoes in a marshland as well as many other highlights. My wife and I went on the 2nd tour and enjoyed it tremendously. In 2008 Pat and Annette guided tours to Minneapolis where the group saw the musical "Little House On the Prairie" performed at the Guthrie Theater. This tour continued on to see sights in Wisconsin also. After the convention in April another tour entitled "Capital

to Capital" traveled from Pierre to Nebraska's capital of Lincoln.

- The SDRTA Board of Directors created the position of Executive Director with Shirley Eisnach of Pierre being the first to take the position. She has been invaluable in so many ways, especially helping with the conventions!
- I enjoyed visiting the Yankton and Winner Unit meetings and speaking to them about SDRTA. I also attended most of the Sioux Falls RTA meetings as that unit is my home unit.

### Lowlights:

- Due to the economic crisis, AARP had to cut back on sponsoring many activities that benefited NRTA and SDRTA.
- Even our top-rated South Dakota Retirement System has had to revise some policies due to the previously mentioned economic down turn. Learn more about this at the convention.

**I am thrilled to learn that as many as ten of our active units will be making a presentation on a South Dakota Historical Character-our theme for the Convention.** We will have John Timm of Sioux Falls impersonating Arthur C. Mellette, first Governor of South Dakota, and Sylvia Henkin, a prominent Sioux Falls business woman and philanthropist. Please read the Convention Agenda on pages 8 and 9 of this newsletter for all of the other events occurring at this year's convention.

**Finally, I so very much appreciate the diligent efforts of our Executive Director, Board of Directors, Unit officers and AARP to keep SDRTA running smoothly.** I have enjoyed serving as your president!

**If you have enjoyed being a member of SDRTA, your local unit, and attending the convention, and/or going on the bus tours, please encourage a friend to join!**

I hope to see you at the Convention!

**Cordially, Your President  
W. Allen Price**

# How Will You Create The Good in 2010?

by Cathy McCleer, AARP Office

There's a lot of good being created all across South Dakota. Volunteers in South Dakota's four targeted communities are off and running with their Create the Good plans and are making a real difference.

The Watertown Area Retired Teachers are spearheading efforts to make their town a better place to live and visit, with a focus on healthy behaviors for all ages. Volunteers in Pierre are supporting the regional food bank, encouraging energy conservation, helping with the Back Pack program, and assisting with Medicare Part D education and enrollment. Plans are also in the works for helping with the Capitol Centennial celebration this summer.

The Huron chapter used Create the Good funding to support a project to provide lighting for the Huron Fine Arts building. But the contributions don't stop there! Volunteers will spend countless hours in 2010 helping at the local senior center, delivering Meals on Wheels and helping at the Thrift store.

AARP is currently looking for volunteers in Mitchell or the surrounding area to spearhead our Create the Good efforts there. All ideas and suggestions are welcome. If you'd like to get involved in one of these projects or if you have ideas or suggestions email us at [sdaarp@aarp.org](mailto:sdaarp@aarp.org). Whether you have a few minutes, a few hours, or an ongoing desire to help, together we can make a difference.



## Alert - Alert - Alert

Beginning March 1, 2010, the State of South Dakota will be participating in a Federal energy efficient appliance rebate program. The State will have \$738,391 to distribute to eligible applicants for the purchase of new appliances to replace less-efficient appliances. This will be done on first come, first served basis. The rebates will be handled by the State of South Dakota and will take 6 - 8 weeks to receive the rebate. The following information is provided so that you can get the details of the program.

Please visit this web site for specific details:

<http://appliancebate.sd.gov/>

Starting March 1, 2010, rebates will be available for the purchase of certain ENERGY STAR® qualified appliances that will replace existing appliances. The appliances and rebate levels are:

- Clothes washers: \$100 • Dishwashers: \$75
- Refrigerators: \$150 • Freezers: \$150
- Water Heaters: \$125

The rebates will be available on a first come, first served basis subject to availability of the limited funds. The amount of rebate funds available will be regularly updated on the website.

Appliances purchased before the March 1 program start date are NOT eligible for rebate. Please read the eligibility requirements before making your purchase.

*PLEASE HELP US GET THE WORD OUT TO SOUTH DAKOTANS. THANK YOU!*

“Create the Good” Committee, Pierre, SD

For volunteer opportunities in your community, check out [www.createthegood.org](http://www.createthegood.org) and enter your zip code.

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## create the Good in Pierre

The Pierre Area “Create the Good” committee and other AARP/RTA members were on hand at Lobby Day on January 26 to assist Sam Wilson in hosting legislators and staff to a luncheon served in the rotunda of the Capitol. Brochures from the “Create the Good” targeted communities (Huron, Mitchell, Watertown, Pierre) were distributed.



*Pictured on the left are Gail Ferris, Ron Catlin, Marilyn Teske and Peg Logan (front). On the right are Shirley Eismach, Greg Hall, Dennis Eismach, Wyland Borth, and Marrietta Catlin (front).*

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## AARP Seminars

March 24 - Huron Crossroads

March 25 - Watertown Events Center

March 30 - Pierre King's Inn

March 31 - Mitchell, James Valley Community Center

The seminars start at 11:30 with lunch provided. The topic will be “The Lure of Money”. They will be presented by Leni Healy of the AARP office, along with Mike Pease and Scott Wilson from the South Dakota Insurance Fraud division leading the discussion.

## *Create the Good in Watertown* by Bill Zubke

As we age, we become more likely to be targeted. There are rumors of age discrimination in employment. There's the myriad of charitable organizations asking (and asking and asking) for our money. There are the scam artists bilking us of our hard-earned dollars. All aiming at us because we have reached an enviable position of maturity (rough translation, we've gotten older!). How refreshing, that thanks to our age, we can be the recipient of something positive, something exciting, something GOOD! Watertown has the fortune of being one of AARP South Dakota's target communities for 2010.

Being the consummate professionals you always have been, you are now asking yourself, "What does this mean?" Well, for the Watertown Area Retired Teachers' Association, and all the over-50 crowd in Watertown, it means some pretty exciting plans to make our community a better place to live. Piggybacking on AARP's initiative "Create the Good", our committee of WARTA members, government employees, community leaders, and just plain good folk has spearheaded the "Create the Good in Watertown in 2010" campaign. It's an all-out effort to improve our quality of life.

We began with a kickoff event at the Watertown Regional Library. It was held from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, with seminars on such things as health programs on the internet, stretching guided by physical therapists, use of the library, and of course (contrary to popular expectations) a FREE lunch (not to mention some exciting door prizes)! Anyone over 50 was invited, and transportation was provided through the area transit authority. Appropriately, it was attended by over 50 "over 50's".

The actual program has been divided into four quarters. In quarter one, thanks to the generous grant from AARP, we have purchased two televisions and two Wii Fit programs to be made available at our senior center and our library. Who says exercising in the winter has to be dangerous? Our emphasis in quarter two will be on cultural awareness. CTGIW 2010 has purchased tickets for the South Dakota Symphony's "Jeans and Classics" concert to be held April 23. The tickets (originally priced at \$15.00) will be sold to anyone over 50 for \$5.00. Demand is running high! Quarter three will include active participation in a walking program, mileage markers on our walking paths, and events to highlight the summer activities in South Dakota's Rising Star. Our final quarter coincides with the senior Olympics, so our efforts will be directed toward that end.

Our AIM is to create good things for the entire community. We're LOADED with ambition, and thanks to AARP, the finances to make a difference. Hopefully, we'll hit the BULL'S EYE and Create the Good in Watertown, 2010.

## *Nominating Committee Report* by Charollene Coates, SDRTA Past President

The nominating committee is placing the following names in nomination for South Dakota Retired Teachers Association's 2010-2012 term:

President: Patricia Johnson, Watertown  
Past President: W. Allen Price, Sioux Falls  
(Both previously elected)

To be elected or re-elected on May 5, 2010:  
President-elect: Nancy May, Rapid City  
Vice-President: Lyle Kemnitz, Mobridge  
Secretary: Donna Fischer, Yankton  
Co-Treasurers: Gloria and Ron Riherd, Rapid City

Election of officers will be held at the convention. To complete the 2010-2012 SDRTA Board of Directors, four committee chairs will be appointed by the new president.

## *Dates to Remember*

**State Board Meeting**, Wednesday, July 14  
Ramkota, Pierre, SD 11:00 a.m.

**Leadership Workshops** – 1:00 p.m.  
Sioux Falls – AARP Office, Monday, August 16  
Redfield – Leo's Good Food, Wednesday, August 18  
Rapid City – AARP Office (Rushmore Mall),  
Thursday, August 19

**Fall Bus Trip to Iowa** – Oct. 3 - 9

## *NRTA's Regional Meeting* *March 22-25* *Eisnach and Johnson to Attend*

SDRTA President-elect Pat Johnson and Executive Director Shirley Eisnach are scheduled to attend NRTA's Joint Midwest-Southwest Regional Meeting in Washington, DC, March 22-25. The purpose of this meeting is to bring together the leadership from the state Retired Educators Associations in the two regions to share information, receive updates on key activities and identify areas of mutual interest for potential collaboration among SDRTA, NRTA, and AARP. State leaders will be guests of NRTA, with no expense to our state association. SD AARP director Sarah Jennings and SD State AARP President Pat Gross are also invited to the regional meeting.

# SDRTA Trip to Eastern Iowa October 3rd - 9th, 2010



If you are planning some autumn adventures before facing another SD winter, why not join SDRTA members and friends for a week of fun-filled activities in Iowa Oct. 3-9, 2010? We plan to experience a wonderful mix of history and modern innovations as we spend two nights in Cedar Rapids, three nights in Dubuque, and one night in Mason City. A day at the Amana Colonies will help us understand their lifestyle since the 1850's. Another day trip will take us to Galena, IL. to enjoy their small town charm and beauty.

The Cedar Rapids area was home to artist Grant Wood, and we plan to learn more about his work. Dubuque has the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium which is Iowa's number one attraction. They also have historic homes, Tiffany stained glass windows, and casinos. Mason City has the Music Man Square and childhood home of Meredith Willson. In contrast, nearby Clear Lake features the Surf Ballroom where Buddy Holly performed his last concert in 1959. These will be some of our visits. Trust us to find other Iowa treasures for you.

This trip will also offer an unscheduled evening in Dubuque without a group meal or activity. We will offer an optional visit to four Victorian mansions to enjoy a special five-course progressive dinner with entertainment. The cost for this is \$50 per person so we offer it as an option for those that are interested. You can choose this option or enjoy a free evening in this oldest city in Iowa.

This SDRTA Fall tour departs at 12:00 pm from **Sioux Falls Sunday, October 3, 2010** and will return early afternoon on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. Due to the sale of the Foreman Charter service to Harms Oil of Brookings, there is no longer a charter bus available from Miller. Therefore it is cost prohibitive to have a bus from Sioux Falls travel to Pierre as a pickup point. Cost per person is \$730 based on double occupancy with a \$20 discount for SDRTA members. This includes transportation, 6 nights lodging, 6 breakfasts, 5 dinners & 5 lunches, all admissions, taxes, and fees. An itinerary will be sent to participants in early September.

We must have at least 35 participants to make this trip feasible and the tour will be capped at 50. Reservations will be accepted on a first paid basis. **A deposit of \$50/person must be received by May 21, 2010 with the remainder due by August 27, 2010.** Checks should be made out to the Watertown Area Retired Teachers Association (WARTA) and mailed to Pat Johnson, 1226 East Kemp, Watertown, SD 57201.

If you have questions you can call or email Pat Johnson at 886-8756, email [sdpjohnson@mac.com](mailto:sdpjohnson@mac.com); or Annette Belkonen at 882-5937.

## Registration for the 2010 SDRTA Fall Trip October 3 - 9

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of emergency contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a check for \$50/per person to hold my reservation and understand that I will need to send a check for the remainder by August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

All rooms are no smoking rooms with 2 beds.

If double occupancy, please indicate with whom you will be rooming: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please check if you would prefer a single room.

Please indicate the number of individuals that will be taking the Historic House & Progressive Dinner Tour in Dubuque at an additional cost of \$50/person. \_\_\_\_\_ No. for Dinner Tour

# Community Service Spring 2010

by Marrietta Catlin,  
Community Service Chair/Health Chair  
mcatlin@pie.midco.net

“Volunteers don’t necessarily have the time, but they have the heart.”

Those of you who know me, know how much I love quotes. I think the above anonymous quote is quite fitting for my article for this issue of the SDRTA Newsletter.

Our 2010 South Dakota Retired Teacher Association Convention is slated for May 4-5 in Pierre. So, once again it is time for units to send me their volunteer service hours report by April 15. It is always a pleasure to get the reports and see the amazing things our units do in our communities. Most of the projects our volunteers do are done with a lot of heart and caring.

Volunteers everywhere unanimously agree that when they volunteer, they receive more than they give. Research shows that volunteers give of their precious time for a variety of reasons. Those reasons include a good feeling about themselves, building new friendships, learning new skills, setting a good example for others including children and grandchildren, opportunities to network, gaining a better understanding of people, leaving behind a legacy of community minded spirit and also gaining many health benefits. Studies have shown that volunteering at least 100 hours per year can bring meaningful benefits which can include lower rates of depression and heart attacks. Follow up studies have also shown that volunteering not only makes people healthier but happier as well. So, our gift of time is truly priceless to others as well as ourselves.

This year my conference calls with NRTA/AARP have been centered around the theme of “Create the Best Year.” We can create the best year yet by dreaming big and doing some planning and evaluating in our local units. What are your unit’s strengths and weaknesses? Identify the goals of your unit and then evaluate and see if you are meeting those goals. It is better to try something than do nothing at all.

Thank you to all the RTA Volunteers for their untiring efforts, for having a lot of heart and giving of their precious time to make their communities a better, safer and happier place for all. You are truly appreciated.



Marrietta Catlin

# Spice Up Your Life For Better Health

A harmonious body is a healthy and happy body. The spices in our kitchen can dish up great health benefits. Common herbs and spices may help prevent heart disease as well as depression. For example, rosemary is rich in antioxidants and is claimed to improve cognitive function. Red peppers are believed to boost metabolism for weight loss. Black pepper can boost overall health and reduce cognitive decline. Cinnamon is used to reduce glucose levels and help prevent type 2

diabetes. Sage has been said to boost memory and reduce artery damaging inflammation. Garlic according to some researches helps fight against cardio-vascular disease. Mint has been used to aid in digestion and is a good source of vitamin C. The list of spices to add spice to our lives are many both for eating healthier and for our overall well-being. As we age, we realize more and more the importance of eating healthier meals. We can learn to control our own health by being more aware of what affects our body and then choosing the foods and the activities that contribute to our total well-being.

As we spice up our lives with eating healthier foods and adding some herbs and spices to our meals, we need to spice up our lives, too, by doing activities that help with our physical and mental health. Learning a new activity or hobby is energizing for us. We know that one of the main obstacles to physical harmony as we age is unproductive stress. Although one cannot totally get rid of daily stress, we know that we can spice up our lives by learning new things, doing whatever physical exercise our body can withstand, getting out and socializing with others, reaching out and helping others, getting enough sleep and just relaxing over a cup of tea with a friend. All these things can add some spice to our lives and make us feel better about the world and ourselves.

What can we do this year to spice up our lives for better health and more happiness? Just by changing or adding a few things this year, perhaps we can seek body harmony, gain energy, eat better, get conditioned and have a more balanced and fulfilling life. Go ahead and add some spice to your life today.

## A Special Salute to All SDRTA Volunteers

Submitted by Marrietta Catlin

V Valuable is the work you do  
O Outstanding is how you always come through  
L Loyal, sincere and full of good cheer  
U Untiring in your efforts throughout the year  
N Notable are the contributions you make  
T Trustworthy in every project you take  
E Eager to reach your every goal  
E Effective in the way you fulfill your role  
R Ready with a smile like a shining star  
S Special and wonderful - that's what you all are

(Unknown)

**Monday, May 3**

**7:00 pm** State Board –  
Lake Francis Case Room

**Tuesday, May 4**

**10:00-12:30 REGISTRATION** (Pick up name tags & tickets) Fee: \$35 per person (includes Tues. banquet and Wed. lunch) Pre-registration form & fees due to Art Shaver by April 26, 2010 – see page 15.

**10:30-11:30 PRE-CONVENTION**

**EVENT** - Tour of the Capitol - Please indicate on your registration form if you will go on the Capitol Tour. Meet guide at the north door of Capitol at 10:15.  
(Centennial Celebration - June 19, 2010)

**11:45-1:00 Lunch on your own**

*Dress as a historical character of South Dakota, if you wish.*

**FIRST GENERAL SESSION**

**1:00 -1:45 Call to Order-**

President W. Allen Price

**Opening Prayer and Pledge to Flag –**

Treasurer Art Shaver

**“Hail South Dakota”** led by Mary

Tubandt, Redfield Co-President

**Welcome –** Pierre Mayor Laurie Gill

**Greetings and Welcome -** Pierre RTA

Co-Presidents, Jean Easland and  
Nancy Baker

**Introduction of SDRTA Board Members -**

President W. Allen Price

**Roll Call of Units –** Donna Fischer

*First “Municipal Moments” -* Aberdeen,  
Bennett Co., Rapid City, Brookings, Huron

**1:45 -2:45 “Mr. Arthur C. Mellett”  
portrayed by John Timm, Sioux Falls,  
Courtesy of SD Humanities Council**

Introduction by W. Allen Price

**2:45-3:00** *Second “Municipal Moments”*  
Madison, Milbank, Mitchell, Spearfish

**3:00-3:25** Break; snacks provided by AARP

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

“Historical People of South Dakota”

**3:30-3:55** Choose one:

Room A: **General Wm H.H. Beadle**  
portrayed by Gene Hexom, Madison

Room B: **John Banvard** portrayed by Bill  
Zubke, Watertown

Room C: **J.L.W. Zietlow** portrayed by Ted  
Kneebone, Aberdeen

**4:00-4:25** Choose one:

Room A: **General Wm H.H. Beadle**  
portrayed by Gene Hexom, Madison

Room B: **John Banvard** portrayed by Bill  
Zubke, Watertown

Room C: **Homesteaders' Wives** portrayed  
by Donna Fjelstad and Nancy Baker, Pierre

**4:30-4:55** Choose one:

Room A: **Sitting Bull** portrayed by Lyle  
Kemnitz, Mobridge

Room B: **Frank Leahy and Friends**  
portrayed by Winner RTA

Room C: **Homesteaders' Wives** portrayed  
by Donna Fjelstad and Nancy Baker, Pierre

**5:00-6:00 Visit Reminiscent Teacher  
and Historical Displays**

Power Point on **John McCandish King**  
prepared by Cliff Vitters, Milbank

Display Board on **Peter Norbeck**  
prepared by Mildred Ratigan, Redfield

**6:00-6:30 Social in Banquet Room**

**SECOND GENERAL SESSION**

**6:30-8:30**

**Prayer** – Charollene Coates

**Dinner**

*Third “Municipal Moments”* - Mobridge,  
Philip, Pierre

**Keynote Speaker** – “**Tell Your Story**”

**Sylvia Henkin, Sioux Falls**

Introduction by Cathy Anderson,  
President, Sioux Falls RTA

**Scotty Philip and Jim Taggart** portrayed  
by Mike and Marcia West, Doug West, and  
Del Bartel, Philip RTA

**Awards Ceremony and Photos**

Reminiscent Teacher and Florence Krieger  
Leadership and President’s Awards

**Wednesday, May 5**

**7:00-8:30 Continental Breakfast** *courtesy*  
*of South Dakota AARP*

**7:30 - 8:30 Past State Presidents’**  
**Breakfast** in Ramkota Restaurant

**7:30 - 8:30 Meeting of State Board**  
**Officers and all Unit Presidents** (or  
substitutes)

**THIRD GENERAL SESSION**

**9:00-10:00**

**Memorial Service** conducted  
by Vice President Lyle Kemnitz

**BUSINESS MEETING** - Pres. Price

**Minutes** - Secretary, Donna Fischer

**Treasurer’s Report** - Art Shaver

**2010-2011 Budget** - Wyland Borth  
and Pat Johnson

**Membership Report** – Bill/Cathy Zubke

**Legislative Report** - Wyland Borth

**Newsletter Report** - Diana Glover

**Community Service and With Our**

**Youth Awards** - Marrietta Catlin

**SDRTA Bus Tours Report** -

Pat Johnson and/or Annette Belkonen

**Nominations** – Charollene Coates

**Proposed Bylaw Changes** – Charollene  
Coates

Other committee reports

**Unfinished Business** – History booklet

**New Business:**

Vote on Proposed Budget and Bylaws

Election of Officers

Other business

**Installation of 2010-2012 SDRTA Officers**

Past President Charollene Coates

**10:00-10:15** Break - Refreshments

Courtesy of SD AARP

**10:15 – 11:30**

*Fourth “Municipal Moments”* - Redfield,  
Sioux Falls, Vermillion

**AARP Staff**

**South Dakota Retirement System**

**Report:** Rob Wylie, SDRS Administrator  
and Dr. James Hansen, SDRS Trustee

**11:30- 1:00** **Lunch**

**Prayer** – Wyland Borth

**Introduction of Grandparent Essay**  
**winner** - Marilyn Kratz, Committee Chair  
and member of Yankton RTA

**Reading of the Essay** by the winner

*Fifth “Municipal Moments”*: Watertown,  
Winner, Yankton

**Traveling Trophy** - Lyle Kemnitz

**Door prizes** (furnished by local units) –  
Bill and Cathy Zubke

**Closing Remarks** - 2008-2010 SDRTA  
President W. Allen Price

**Acceptance Speech** - 2010-2012 SDRTA  
President Pat Johnson

**“God Bless America”** led by Mary Tubandt  
*Please hand in convention evaluations*

**Adjournment**

# Unit News From Across The State

## Aberdeen Area - Awarding a College Scholarship

by Ted Kneebone

The Aberdeen Area Retired Teachers Association has met since September. The October meeting featured Lynn Lander, new city manager for Aberdeen. November was Julie Stevenson, Executive Director, Aberdeen Public School Foundation.

December's program was by Rev. Maryanne Nelson-Loefke, pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Christmas music was by members and solos by Nelson-Loefke. There was no meeting in January, but in February we heard the new President of Northern State University, Dr. Jim Smith.

March was our chance to hear about our state retirement fund from Rob Wylie. In April we will hear from Dr. Becky Guffin, Assistant Superintendent of Aberdeen Public Schools. In May, we will hear Georgia Smith, Executive Director of the Aberdeen Downtown Association.

During each meeting we hear two retired teachers present "Golden Nuggets" of their experiences while teaching. We will be awarding a scholarship to one of the students from Northern State University, and we will also hear a letter from a local student whose writing has been submitted to the state association.

At the May meeting, the executive board will present its slate of officers for next year.

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## Black Hills - Kenny Putnum Entertained at Christmas

by Cheryl Zimiga and Nancy May

Black Hills Retired Teachers is thrilled to announce the implementation of a new scholarship in memory of longtime Rapid City teacher, Dorothy Morris, who passed away in August 2008. The Dowlin Family (Jan Dowlin is Dorothy's daughter) has initiated a \$1,000 Scholarship for a junior and a \$2000 Scholarship for a senior at Black Hills State University, Dorothy Morris' Alma Mater. We hope to give the first scholarship this spring.

Program Chairman, Gerri Larson, again lined up a wonderful year for Black Hills Retired Teachers. We toured the newly remodeled Dahl Fine Arts Center in October, followed by a Bread and Soup event at a private home. A surprise topic, "The First Mrs. Korczak Ziolkowske," was presented by Ruth Ann Karlin in November.



*Gerri Larson and Ruth Ann Karlin following Ruth's presentation*

Brunch at the Ole Governor's Mansion on December 8th included entertainment by Harry Putnam (BHRT Member) and his son, Kenny. Harry read some of his poetry and Kenny played the fiddle. Delightful entertainment was enjoyed by over 60 of our members, and it was a wonderful way to begin the 2009 Christmas season.

The Rush Hockey Team's Denny Majeske was the program for our January meeting. He told us how they make everything happen in the world of hockey in Rapid City. This may be the fastest growing sport in the area.

Healthcare reform was of interest in February when Dr. Nancy Babbitt talked to us about her work as a Family Practice Doctor in Rapid City. Her perspective was helpful in attempting to understand some of the health care issues making the news.

Our hearts were warmed in February at Ardie Hinzman's home, an antique and collectible lover's delight, when she hosted the Valentine High Tea. Again, Catherine Dimock added a gourmet touch to the day with demitasse cups filled with strawberry soup, finger sandwiches, and yes, there were crême puffs. We thank Ardie and Catherine for the wonderful afternoon.

We finish the year with Dr. Jennifer May, Rheumatologist, talking to us about her specialty in March, and Cathie Draine, Master Gardener, presenting on "Gardening and the Environment," in April.

We gather at Arrowhead Country Club for our Spring Dinner and Memorial Service on May 11th, when we will also honor the 5th Grade Essay winners.

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## Brookings Area - Inviting You to McCrory Gardens

by Louis Skubic

The remaining programs for the year will be Suzanne Hegg about our city's new Children Museum (another lovely attraction to visit). Senator Pam Merchant will speak about our legislative issues and Jerry McClough about the Mongols.

One interesting place for all to visit in Brookings is the McCrory Gardens. One summer, some years ago, the Watertown unit made this one of their tour visits. Professor Maca, from the Department of Landscape Architecture made a presentation about the student involvement and all the new exciting structures that are being added. Two special attractions are the straw house with complete entities and a large new visitor center. We from Brookings invite all from other South Dakota locations to come and visit our McCrory Gardens.

Robert Wylie, the administrator of the South Dakota Retirement System, had things to say about our state retirement plan, especially with how it is now affected by the present recession. Also he explained any plans for necessary adjustments. This certainly was an important topic that all wanted to hear.

BARTA members are serving in many individual volunteer ways. For last year's volunteer hours survey, the BARTA members had accumulated 4540 hours with less than half of the members responding. The areas which received the highest count are: Brookings Schools, Church, Hospital, Meals on Wheels, Military, Nursing Home, Tax Aide and Visiting Elderly.

# Unit News From Across The State



Each year the Brookings High School entertains BARTA with one of their musical ensembles. This year it was the High School Jazz Choir which was total enjoyment for the group.

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## Huron Area - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

by Sharon Fuglsang

We continue to help at a local nursing home for the birthday party. At our December meeting our members donated items for the Salvation Army.

At our April meeting, we will be focusing on Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

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## Madison Area - Madison Mayor to Attend Convention

by Betty Beyer

The Madison Retired teachers meet only 6 times a year, so when we have a meeting, we get a lot done. In October, we gave a really good program on "Going Green". Pamida gave us a half price on their shopping bags, so every member received one of them. Becky Jenson from the Extension Office gave a very informative program with all members participating in quizzes and games. We also collected food articles for the Madison Food Bank. Our December meeting was simply a party with everyone eating, and we played games. It was also a food gathering for the Food Bank in Madison. Our Sunshine committee has been very busy this year, as several of our members have needed some cheer in their lives because of illness.

Our AARP Grandparent essay Chairman, Arlis Hanson, has been very busy. We got all the essays from our area judged and our winner in this district was from Dell Rapids, St. Mary's School, Jackie Wolles. Our second and third place winners were from Chester and Howard. We sure enjoyed reading these wonderful works of our students.

When our legislative season started, several of our members contacted members of the legislature pertaining to the retire-rehire bill. Madison had a "cracker barrel" session. Betty Beyer attended and asked all 3 of our representatives to help us with this issue.

Everyone looked forward to the February meeting as our weather had been horrible. I think everyone in SD has had the same problem. Lou Vogt of the Red Cross gave us an informative program about all the issues they address. Our city of Madison has a good volunteer group, including some of our members, and they do some awesome things. She said that house fires have been terrible this year, and they helped at many of them.

We are looking forward to the May 4-5 convention. We will have our mayor of Madison Gene Hexom give an impersonation of General Beadle. We hope to have several members attending. It should be a wonderful convention and it will be SPRING!!

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## Milbank Area - A Total of 78 Grandparent Essays

by Cliff Vitters

MARTA held its 2nd Annual Christmas Party on December third. Businesses donated items for a silent auction to raise funds to purchase a bench to be placed along the biking and walking trail near the windmill. Door prizes were brought by each member attending, and they played the brown bag game! Curious? Also the candy bar game.

January 21 – Nutrition by Julie Danielson

February 18– Back Pack project by Golden Living Center

March 18 – Police Chief Boyd VanVooren

April 15 – Accordion Music by Earl Lundin

May 20 – Grinding at the Windmill – provided the wind blows – Tim Stengel

June 17 – Lunch in Twin Brooks, SD at the Bird Feeder

July 15 – Social Event – A Big Surprise

August 19 – Summer Picnic

Meetings are held the 3rd Thursday each month, unless otherwise specified (11:15 am at Pizza Ranch).



Grandparent Essays were collected Jan. 29. Judging will take place Feb. 16. Our judges are Donna Larson, Shirley Schmidt, and Shirley Zahn. A good number of essays this year - 78. Our thanks to the teachers, principals and students who took part.

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## Northern Hills - Did You See Jerry Lee Lewis in Spearfish?

by Doris Richter

We have had some interesting speakers at our meeting. One of the speakers presented information about "Exploring the Biological Diversity of Deep Subsurface Ecosystems" at the Deusel Lab in the old Homestake Mine at Lead. Students in the area schools are invited to the lab and take information back to their classes.

Another speaker from the SS office in Spearfish spoke to us about services available in our area. She gave a very informative description of Hospice and how it is used.

# Unit News From Across The State

Paul Higbee presented the history of the Tretheway Pavilion in Spearfish at a recent meeting. Several well known bands such as "The Everly Brothers", "Jerry Lee Lewis", and "Conway Twitty" made appearances there. Dances were held there every Friday night for many years. Perhaps some of you enjoyed dancing there on Friday nights when you attended Black Hill State as many of us did. Today it is used for weddings, receptions and other activities by members and organizations of the community.

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## Oahe Area - Sponsors of Children's Theater

by Donna Sherwood

We sponsored the Children's Theater for the first time this year. Our members put in many hours and it was a great success.

The play presented was "The Bard of Ballyfiddle", and the young directors were from California. Lowell and Jane Looyenga, members of OART, hosted the directors. Fifty-four students from Mobridge and Pollock put in a week of intensive practice and then two public performances which were well received.

The Grandparent Essay Contest had participants from Timber Lake, Selby, Pollock, and Mobridge. The local winner was Danielle Beadle from Beadle School in Mobridge. Caroline Paulson was in charge of this project.

The annual spelling contest will be held April 24th. We expect entrants from all area schools. It is open to second grade through eighth grade. Monetary prizes and certificates are awarded.

We were involved in Kids' Fishing Day. This project is for kids, and their parents, who have never fished. They received fishing equipment from Cabelas. Cabelas has already made contact to be involved in another Kids' Fishing Day, and professional fishermen are interested in teaching these young people to fish.

Our membership continues to grow. We have 32 members, which is up from last year.

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## Philip Area - Join the Memorial Wagon Train in July 2011

by Marcia West

The Philip Area AARP/RTA had local speakers from County Commission, City Council, Chamber of Commerce and Long Term Care to keep informed of local issues. Each month SD History and Philip History were discussed with a quiz. Our Highway 14 from Philip to Ft. Pierre has been named James "Scotty" Philip Highway



*Marcia West presented Kay Ainslie with the 2009 Philip Area Volunteer of the Year award*

and a Scotty Philip Memorial Wagon Train from Philip to Ft. Pierre is being planned for July, 2011. Our soup suppers continue to be enjoyed by the members.

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## Pierre Area - Filling Food Sacks for Back Pack Program

by Jean Easland

PARTA meets the 4th Tuesday at Perkins Restaurant. We had an excellent program in February with Sam Wilson of AARP and Mike Pease with the State Insurance Division. Mike gave us good tips on Insurance Fraud and how to watch out for scams.

Pierre is one of four targeted communities selected by AARP to receive monies for Create the Good projects throughout the 2010 year. We are excited to a part of these volunteer projects and have already participated in some of them.

Members from our unit assisted Sam Wilson from the Sioux Falls AARP Office with Lobby Day January 26th, hosting legislators and staff to a luncheon served in the rotunda of the Capitol.

PARTA will be filling food sacks during the month of April for the Back Pack Program coordinating with Pierre Area Referral Service. Our National Day of Service will be in May.

We look forward to seeing you May 4-5 in Pierre for the State Convention.

For more information on "Create the Good" volunteerism, log onto [www.createthegood.org](http://www.createthegood.org).

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## Sioux Falls Area - Planning Memorial Service in May

by Cathy Anderson

The weather has played havoc with all of us this winter getting to places with all of the snow, wind and ice. And so it was for our first meeting of 2010. A brave group of 35 people came to our January 26 meeting on a very blustery, winter cold day. Then to add to the day, the speaker from the SD Penitentiary had to cancel because of an emergency at the penitentiary. She was going to talk to us about the spiritual programs there. We utilized the time by sharing stories from our teaching years. Needless to say, there were many touching and funny stories involving students. A couple of members led us in songs as we sang some "oldies, but goodies". Everyone left with a warm feeling.

The special short feature for the meeting was Lisa Howard from the Center for Active Generations. She gave us some ideas on how to share the stories of our life and save them for relatives. She said that we all need to write down, record or video tape our history. It is important to do it sooner than later. Her organization has a project called "Story Keepers" that has seniors video tape their stories in an interview setting. DVD's are then made available for purchase.

Our main feature for the February meeting was Bret Merkle, a Sioux Falls lawyer, who was paralyzed in a motorcycle accident while in college. He was told that he would never walk again, but after years of hard work, prayers, and a few miracles, he did recover. His story of "An Amazing Tragic Blessing" was very inspirational.

Rob Wylie of the South Dakota State Retirement System and Mark Clark, State Investment officer, will present an update of our SD Retirement System for our meeting on March 23. There is

# Unit News From Across The State

always a big group to hear about how SDRS is doing, especially after the recent financial woes.

Kim Noonan will present the April 27 program titled, "Growing Old with Joy or Just Growing Old". We are looking forward to her words of wisdom and inspiration.

During the first part of May, Harriett Wendt, Community Affairs Chair, and members of our group will be conducting tours of Pioneer Lane located at the Sioux Empire Fairgrounds. Pioneer Lane consists of four buildings: a log cabin built in 1869, an Episcopal church, the Rutland Train depot and a schoolhouse. These buildings will also be open during the Sioux Empire Fair in August of 2010.

To wrap up the 2009-2010 year, on May 25 we will have a special Memorial Service to remember our members who have died during the last year.

We continue to hold our monthly meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Royal Fork Buffet Restaurant, 4610 W. Empire, located south of the Empire Mall. Our meetings begin at 11:00 and end at 1:00.

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## Vermillion Area - Collecting for the Food Pantry

by Mary Ulrich

Our unit has enjoyed several interesting programs. Dr. Check, a musician who plays the concertina, led us in a rousing sing a long.

In honor of Veteran's Day, Ester Knutson read a series of letters entitled, "The Home Front, 1918: Letters from Millie to Elias". Millie was in Sisseton, and Elias was in France. These two people were Ester's parents. Other members brought Veteran memorabilia for display and discussion.

We had a good workout when Julie Walter, a physical therapist, showed us baby-boomer appropriate exercises using elastic bands and a ball.

We are looking forward to Liz and Bob Woods' Vietnam presentation. For a community service project, we will be collecting cans of food for the Food Pantry. At our May meeting we hope to welcome new members.

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## Watertown Area - Looking Forward to Convention

by Harry Johnson

WARTA members have been busy this year, and the key word is 'Involvement'. In addition to outstanding attendance at our monthly meetings, members have been active with working on a number of committees and community projects to include: Grandparent Essay Contest, community volunteering, planning bus trips, planning, organizing and executing the AARP 'Share the Good' community improvement grant, and state level committee work.

Monthly meetings during the year have included state level and community speakers, programs by WARTA members, programs involving Senior High School students in music and forensics and community leaders. In spite of the winter weather, it has been a busy productive year.

## Winner Area - Miss Teen South Dakota to Visit

by Donna Brozik

March 1, 2010 brings us thinking of convention time. The year has gone by quickly and soon we will be seeing you all at Pierre. Hope you will be able to "Come on down!" to our presentation. Since our last newsletter in October we have had four meetings with an average of 20 people attending. Our meetings are being held that third Wednesday of the month at the Winner Senior Center which seems to be working out pretty well. The noon meals are great and the price is just right.

The Oral Interp students, for the November meeting, planned an entertaining program sharing their selections with us. Christmas was celebrated at the December meeting by having a young group of AWANA preschool children act out the Christmas story. Instead of the regular Christmas Exchange this year, we decided to give a monetary gift (\$200) to the local PTA as they are in need of paper and things to help the teachers and students in the classroom. The PTA sponsors were ever so grateful for the gift and said it came at just the right time. We put our Christmas tree up in the courthouse for the Parade of Trees (a little bit of Pierre in our town.) This was our second year to participate in this special event. Due to the harsh winter we did not have a meeting during the month of January, but we had a wonderful fun meeting in February. For our program we had the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place Grandparent Essays read. The essay winners were accompanied by their parents and grandparent for the reading and luncheon.

Upcoming programs for the rest of the year include a visit from Rosie (Jo Hatfield), who will speak to us on keeping a healthy outlook on life. Rose Rush and Mary William had the opportunity to take a trip to the Holy Land last fall and will be sharing their experiences with the organization. The Winner Middle School chorus under the direction of Jan Ringstmeyer will sing for us. Plus we are anticipating a visit from Miss Teen South Dakota, Kristina Debus.



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## Yankton Area - Soon to Hear Music from Yankton High

by Don Campbell

Meetings are on the first Thursday of the month. The speaker at the March meeting was Ruth Scott from Great Plain Therapy who gave some timely tips and advice on health issues. In April our speaker will be Kathy Jacobs, librarian for the Yankton Community library, and in May the Yankton High School music department will provide a group of musicians for our listening pleasure.

*Continued on page 14*



The Yankton Retired Teachers continue to be active in the community. Recently, members of the unit gathered

to fill lunch sacks for school children to take home for the weekend. *The members who helped are left to right: Phyllis Christensen, Joyce Combs, Loretta Medeck, Myrtle Anderson, Howard Combs, Reynold Loecker, Marilyn Kratz, Nora Lee, Helen Bailey, Gwen Van Gerpen (kneeling).*

## Day of Service- New Opportunities to Give Back

by Cathy McLeer, AARP

In past years, many units have participated in AARP's Day of Service – typically the second Thursday in May. We're doing something different this year, with new and ongoing ways to give back with a total of four dedicated service opportunities. Units who are accustomed to planning service activities in May are certainly welcome and encouraged to continue to do so, but are also being encouraged to join AARP in several new ways to make a difference.

April 18-24 is National Volunteer Week and Earth Day. AARP is encouraging participation with "Acts of Green." Plant a tree, rake a lawn, help clean up a city park, or support local recycling efforts.

On September 11th we are encouraging groups to participate in a School Supply Drive. In South Dakota the school year is already in full swing by then, but the needs are the same. Sponsor a local child in need of supplies or collect a wish list from local teachers to help supply classrooms with additional supplies.

In the fall, we hope you can join us for Make a Difference Day on October 23rd. The focus for this event is food collection for local food banks. Conduct a food drive for your local pantry to fill the shelves before the holidays, or sponsor a local family to provide a needed boost.

Looking into 2011, Martin Luther King Junior Day presents yet another chance to give back and make a meaningful difference in your community.

For more ideas and tool-kits to support your community service activities visit [www.createthegood.org](http://www.createthegood.org).



## Closing Thoughts and Many Thanks

by Charollene Coates, Past-President, SDRTA

### Reflections

As I reflect on my six year SDRTA Board of Directors term, I am reminded of the power of dreaming the same dream (TOGETHER by George Ella Lyons), sharing/publicizing those dreams (that's the magic!) and pulling together (THE ENORMOUS TURNIP, an old Russian legend) to make those dreams happen.

Fortunately we entered at an opportune time to dream. SDRTA's "house was in order." An excellent line of communication had been established, there had just been a revision of the bylaws, SDRTA's voice was being heard in the legislature (thanks to Wyland Borth and Sam Wilson), our retirement system was under the watchful eye of Jim Hansen, Annette Belkonen and Pat Johnson were offering exciting bus tours and SDRTA and the Units were under enthusiastic and talented leaders.

But even with "the house in order," who could have imagined, as we entered 2006-2008, that much of our dream for increased security (membership and finances), increased attendance at the annual convention, a web site and an Executive Director would be reached before the end of 2006?

With SDRTA Board of Directors and Unit Leadership pulling together to come up with a prospective mailing list, the generous resources, training, support and services of NRTA and the continued support of SD-AARP it did happen!

Before Christmas of 2006, SDRTA had gained 234 new members (first increase since 2002), cut our delinquent list by 40%, received \$4500 in contributions and had developed a web site. As our term progressed, both 2006 and 2007 conventions had record breaking attendance, a new Unit was started at Philip (thanks to the efforts of Mike & Marsha West), SDRTA was invited to have a representative on the SD-AARP Executive Council and an Executive Director was added to the SDRTA Board of Directors (and we were blessed to have a very qualified volunteer).

Beyond our dreams the New Horizon band played for our 2006 Banquet and post-banquet dance (unbelievable!) and in 2007 the Over Forte' Big Band played for our post-banquet listening and dancing pleasure (wow!).

And our good fortune continues with an outstanding Board of Directors for 2010-2012.

### Many thanks to many

I am truly grateful to the many hardworking and supportive Board Members, Unit Leaders and SDRTA Members that made my job easier, more joyful and more successful. Also thanks to SD-AARP, NRTA and SDRS, your support has been incredible. Your support and encouragement resulted in achieving even more than we dreamed. Thanks, thanks, thanks!

And of course, as you might guess, a book just happens to come to mind: GRADY THE GOOSE! As author Denise Brennan-Nelson states: "Geese (are able to) fly thousands of miles by working together and sharing the responsibilities. Within our families, our communities, our schools, and the workplace there are many opportunities to follow nature's examples."

# SDRTA CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

May 4 – 5, 2010, Ramkota River Center, Pierre

Call for Ramkota room reservations by April 3 (see info' below)

Mail this Pre-registration Form by April 26

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Spouse Attending Convention \_\_\_\_\_

Convention Registration includes meals - \$35 for how many? \_\_\_\_\_

Individual guest meals: Dinner \$20 for how many? \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch \$10 for how many? \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check payable to **SDRTA**.  
Mail check and this form to:  
Art Shaver  
908 E 61<sup>st</sup> St  
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

**Pre-Convention Event:** Tour of State Capitol (no fee) May 4, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Names of persons attending tour \_\_\_\_\_

Meet at north door of Capitol Building at 10:15 a.m.

## Make Your Room Reservations

Block of Rooms for SDRTA will be  
held until April 3, 2010

**BEST WESTERN RAMKOTA, PIERRE**

Single \$81.99 plus tax • Double \$89.99 plus tax

Phone: 605-224-6877

## SDRTA Pre-Convention Tour

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of our State Capitol and in keeping with our “Historical Persons and Places” theme for the SDRTA convention, we have arranged for a one-hour guided tour of our Capitol building. Please meet at the north entrance of the Capitol at 10:15 A.M. on May 4. The tour will begin at 10:30.

Please indicate on your convention registration if you are going on the tour. The Bureau of Administration needs to know how many tour guides to schedule. This event should be a nice beginning to this “historical” SDRTA convention.

A Capitol Centennial Celebration was held on March 1 for legislators and other guests. Plan now to attend the public Capitol Centennial Celebration on June 19, 2010, in Pierre.

## Criteria for 2010 Traveling Trophy

Awarded for Convention Attendance

From Lyle Kemnitz,, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_ Local Unit Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Members

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Members Attending Convention

\_\_\_\_\_ Miles Traveled (one way, one car)

To determine the winner of the traveling trophy, it will be based on two criteria.

1) We will take the number of members attending the convention and divide that number by the number of total members.

2) We will figure the number of miles traveled, plus 1% additional for each 10 miles traveled.

Example: Unit A has 8 out of 42 members attending.

$8/42$  or 19.04%

Unit A traveled 253 miles which is 25.3%.

Add 19.04 and 25.30 = 44.34%

Unit B has 4 out of 31 members attending.

$4/31$  or 12.96%

Unit B traveled 220 miles which is 22%.

Add 12.96 and 22.00 = 34.96%

**Unit A is the winner!**

## Newsletter

South Dakota Retired Teachers Association  
Cathy Zubke, Membership Chair  
417 North Broadway  
Watertown, SD 57201

[www.sdrta.net](http://www.sdrta.net)

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### Check Membership Addresses!

It is important for all unit officers to check with each member for their correct address. Not having correct addresses costs the organization a great deal of money. Send all address changes, as well as names and dates of deaths, to

**Bill and Cathy Zubke, 417 North Broadway, Watertown, SD 57201.**

**Phone: 605-886-8637 • Email address: calz45@hotmail.com**

### Unit Presidents, Addresses, Phone Numbers, Email Addresses

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