

Unit Presidents, Addresses, Phone Numbers

Aberdeen Area
Ted Kneebone
1528 S Grant St.
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605-226-3344
tkneebone1@abe.midco.net

Bennett County
Shirlee Rice
29122 231st Ave
Tuthill, SD 57574
605-685-6123
riceas@gwtc.net

**Black Hills
(Rapid City Area)**
Diana Glover
4781 Sturgis Rd
Rapid City, SD 57702
605-787-4631
rdglover@rapidnet.com

Brookings
David C. Peterson
2026 Kansas Dr
Brookings, SD 57006
605-692-7757
petersdave@brookings.net

Huron Area
Keitha Neuharth
21714 392nd Ave
Alpena, SD 57312
605-849-3440
kneuharth@santel.net

Kimball Area
Elsie Petula
Box 279
Kimball, SD 57355
605-778-6511

**Lake Region
(Britton)**
Lillian Dwight
41991 126th St
Langford, SD 57454
605-493-6494

Lemmon
Hilma Randen
Box 132
Lemmon, SD 57638
605-374-5437

Madison
Betty Beyer
46002 233rd
Wentworth, SD 57075
605-483-3255
bjb61@rapidnet.com

Milbank Area
Jane Popowski
47747 150th St
Milbank, SD 57252
605-432-5475
poppers@tnics.com

Mitchell Area
Belle Herman
40851 259th St.
Mitchell, SD 57301
605-996-8611

**North Central
(Faulkton)**
Evelyn I. Cooper
Box 281
Faulkton, SD 57438
605-598-6563

Northern Hills
Mary Ellen Warren
1320 9th Ave
Belle Fourche, SD 57717
605-892-3418
mewarren@blackhills.com

Helen Auer
5 Horseshoe Lane
Spearfish, SD 57783
605-642-3423
helenauer@hotmail.com

Oahe (Mobridge)
Lyle Kemnitz
1011 1st Ave W
Mobridge, SD 57601
605-845-3839
lkemnitz@westriv.com

Philip Area
Marcia West
Box 430
Philip, SD 57567
605-859-2213
cmmwest@gwtc.net

Pierre Area
Peg Logan
912 E Erskine
Pierre, SD 57501
605-224-7274
yknot14@pie.midco.net

Margaret Ellefson
413 W Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
605-224-6020
margknote@pie.midco.net

Redfield Area
Angela Hansen
213 E 2nd St
Redfield, SD 57469
605-472-1463
Email contact:
mratigan@nvc.net

Sioux Falls
Maxine Leaders
3001 W 33rd #306
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
605-334-3248
lmleaders@sio.midco.net

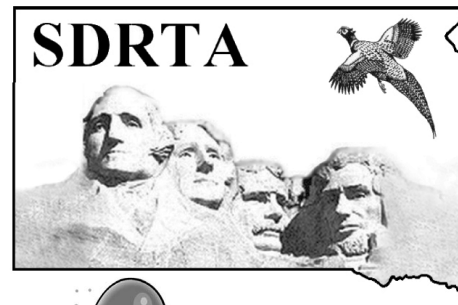
Mary Ann Hofer
1900 S Lincoln Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
605-338-4535
marimba16@aol.com

**Southeast Area
(Vermillion)**
Mary Geffre Johnson
1516 E Cherry St
Vermillion, SD 57069
605-624-3747
Email contact:
dbmartens@iw.net

Watertown
Annette Belkonen
611 ½ 3rd St, NE
Watertown, SD 57201
605-882-5937
Email contact:
sdpjohnson@mac.com

Winner Area
Rose Rush
909 Roosevelt Ave
Winner, SD 57580
605-842-2241
rnrush@gwtc.net

Yankton Area
David Fischer
308 E 21st St
Yankton, SD 57078
605-665-9252
ddfisch@mchsi.com



South Dakota Retired Teachers Association

Newsletter

November 2006, Vol. 37 No. 2

Affiliated with National Retired Teachers Association



Happy 40th Anniversary to Us!



Strengthening the Association One Letter at a Time

A Successful Letter Campaign.

“Fantastic!” exclaims Charollene Coates, President of the South Dakota Retired Teachers Association. “We have over 200 new members, more than \$4400 in contributions, and both are still coming in!”

“A warm, warm welcome to all you new members and a heartfelt thanks to all you contributors,” continues Charollene, “I look forward to meeting you, perhaps at a unit meeting, at Lobby Days and hopefully, at the state convention.”

The success of the recent letter campaign for membership and financial support is an exhilarating and encouraging way for Charollene to begin her presidential term. She knows it will help achieve the #1 priority of South Dakota retired teachers – preserving their retirement benefits.

So what is the background on this membership and fundraising campaign?

President Charollene reports that in March 2006 she received a phone call from Sharon Smith of the National Retired Teachers Association in Washington, DC. Sharon knew that a major goal for the SDRTA board was to increase membership, and she was looking for a state with a quality retirement plan and a strong educational system to pilot a model toward that goal.

A task force of Diana Glover, Judy Lage and Jim White was set up. They helped generate names of prospective members for the mass mailings. Draft letters were made, and Ellis Robinson, a private consultant from Florida, as well as Sharon Smith and other NRTA staff members, offered their expertise.

On August 21, 2006 the first appeals letters with remit envelopes were sent to all South Dakota Retired Teachers Association members. Recruitment letters and remit envelopes were sent to 3,240 prospective members. A few weeks later another mailing went to 4,733 more prospective members.

Immediate and Positive Response



Soon Treasurer Art Shaver, Sioux Falls, began to find his mailbox overflowing with remit envelopes and checks. Within the first two weeks, over 100 members had made donations of almost \$3000.

“I wasn’t sure what our goal was or if we even had one, but after two trips to the mailbox, I figured we had already met it,” marveled Art. “Retired teachers are very generous people when they know the cause is right”.

From Art’s mailbox to Jim White’s computer database went the names of new members and contributors. Jim White of Rapid City is the membership chair, and he commented, “I am astounded at the number and size of the donations to the organization. It makes me proud to be a part of such a professional group”.



This Campaign Not the Outgrowth of a Crisis

This campaign was for strengthening the membership and financial resources in a time of non-crisis. That is a lot to be thankful for in this time when some retirement plans have been threatened, even cut or eliminated by executive and legislative bodies.

In 2005, Alaska’s state legislature voted, and the governor signed into law a change from a defined benefits plan to a defined contribution plan. The Alaska Retired Teachers Association, with the help of the national association, did a mass mailing for recruitment and contributions at that time. The membership tripled, and contributions were generous. The result? The state law was changed!

Check Membership Addresses!

It is important for all unit officers to check with each member for their correct address. Each time a newsletter is returned to the editor, it costs the organization a great deal of money. Send all address changes, as well as names and dates of deaths, to **Jim White, 5308 Timberline Trail, Rapid City, SD 57702. Phone: 605-341-4412**
Email address: whiz@swsupply.com

Newsletter

South Dakota Retired Teachers Association
Diana Glover, Editor
4781 Sturgis Rd
Rapid City, SD 57702

Return Service Requested

PRESORTED
STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
RAPID CITY, SD
PERMIT #22

Strengthening the Association One Letter at a Time Cont.

Defined Benefit and Defined Contribution Plans

South Dakota state employees have a defined benefit plan. That means there will be a retirement check you can count on for as long as you live. A defined contribution plan means that retirees will get only a savings account, similar to a 401 K program. It is helpful for retirees to understand the difference and to be able to help educate others about the two plans.

Retired educators and other school personnel are willing to “still be teachers”. They will pass the word about retirement plans, volunteer in schools, begin new hobbies and take up a multitude of new ventures. They want to continue giving back to colleagues, children and their communities. The recent response to the membership/finance campaign is an example of that.

How Will the Success of the Campaign Benefit Members and the Association?

- What can members, both new and renewing, expect?
- diligence in protecting retirement benefits
 - assurance of the association to monitor and lobby the legislature
 - sharing of skills in leadership and community service projects
 - continued education and socializing at local and state events

What does the membership and financial support mean

- to the association?
- ability to continue working for retirement and legislative issues
 - “get the word out” of South Dakota’s strong educational system
 - offering high-quality state conventions to all members
 - establishing of a website to share news and teacher essays

“Hats Off” to Many

“Thanks to the National Retired Teachers Association for totally funding this project,” says President Charollene. “They paid for all consultant assistance, designing, supplies, printing, labeling and postage. We could never have done it without NRTA”.

“And again, thanks to all new members who responded to the invitation to join. Thanks to all who so generously contributed financially. TOGETHER . . . the Power of 3: AARP, NRTA and SDRTA . . . we can make a difference for all school retirees”.

Keep the Momentum Going!

It was impossible to get the names of all retired teachers, administrators, custodians, secretaries, etc. so they could be included in the mass mailing which President Charollene Coates made in August. Please look on page 19 to find an enrollment form. Use it and this newsletter to recruit another new member for South Dakota Retired Teachers!

Greetings from the AARP State Office!

by Sarah Jennings, AARP, Sioux Falls

Fall arrives and brings with it football, cooler weather, and...planning for the upcoming year!!

Yes, it is that time of year again when our volunteer leaders and the staff at the State Office are focused on what our priorities will be for 2007. Our dilemma each year is how to choose among the countless issues with which we WANT to be involved, so that we can focus in on a handful of issues that we can make a meaningful impact on considering the resources we have available.

At this point, we anticipate continuing our work to:

1. rebalance our long term care system
2. educate South Dakotans about ensuring their personal economic security
3. conduct outreach to Medicare beneficiaries about the Part D benefit
4. strengthen our communities through service projects
5. reach out to employers regarding older workers

If any of the above issues interest you, we would love to get you involved in the implementation of our 2007 plan so let me know by sending me an email at sdjennings@aarp.org.

As all of you know, AARP and RTA work together as a team in South Dakota.

AARP South Dakota has always been grateful for this tight

relationship because we get the best results when AARP and RTA are working in sync, supporting each other whenever possible. As recognition of the integral role that SDRTA plays for AARP in South Dakota, the AARP South Dakota Executive Council voted to add a position on the Executive Council for a RTA representative. The Executive Council believes that having a permanent representative of RTA on the Council will ensure that all of our interests continue to be met and that our close working relationship remains effective in the future. I am pleased to announce that Dr. Coates has appointed Shirley Eisnach to fill the RTA position on the Executive Council. We are thrilled to have her on board, and I hope you are thrilled to have her representing you on the AARP South Dakota Executive Council.

Finally, MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

Dates for our **2007 Lobby Days** have been set, and we hope to see you in Pierre! If you have come before, wear your red vest and join us again! If you have never been to a Lobby Day, make 2007 the year you do it – it’s a fun day, and all of us should see our Legislature in action! The dates are:

- Monday, January 22 – Western Region**
- Tuesday, January 23 – Northeast Region**
- Wednesday, January 24 – Southeast Region**

So, please save the date and watch for more information in the coming months!!!

South Dakota Retired Teachers Association Officers

2006 – 2008

<p>President Dr. Charollene Coates, 6662 Wellington Dr. Rapid City, SD 57702 605-348-1958 charollene@mncomm.com</p>	<p>Vice President Patricia Johnson 1226 E Kemp Ave. Watertown, SD 57201 605-886-8756 sdpjohnson@mac.com</p>	<p>Membership Jim White 5308 Timberline Trail Rapid City, SD 57702 605-348-3696 whiz@swsupply.com</p>	<p>Legislation Wyland Borth 110 W Prospect #E Pierre, SD 57501 605-224-5194 WyAuBo@aol.com</p>
<p>Past President Shirley Eisnach 125 Lakeview Dr. Pierre, SD 57501 605-224-2228 deisnach@pie.midco.net</p>	<p>Treasurer Art Shaver 908 E 61st St. Sioux Falls, SD 57108 605-338-3358 ashaver2@sio.midco.net</p>	<p>Community/Health Service Marrietta Catlin 321 N Taylor Pierre, SD 57501 605-224-7815 mcatlin@pie.midco.net</p>	
<p>President Elect W. Allen Price 3305 Manor Cr. Sioux Falls, SD 57103 605-335-5575 aprice@sio.midco.net</p>	<p>Secretary Donna Fischer 308 E 21st St. Yankton, SD 57078 605-665-9252 ddfisch@mchsi.com</p>	<p>Publicity/Newsletter Diana Glover 4781 Sturgis Rd Rapid City, SD 57702 605-787-4631 rdglover@rapidnet.com</p>	



Let’s Keep the Momentum Going! Not all retired school employees were reached through the recent membership campaign. Please ask others to join! You may pass this enrollment form on to a retired school employee with whom you are acquainted. Remember the theme “Each One, Get One”. For more information, contact Dr. Charollene Coates at (605) 348-1958.

Yes, I want to join the South Dakota Retired Teachers Association

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Send this form and \$15 (annual state dues) to:

**Art Shaver
908 E 61st St.
Sioux Falls, SD 57108**

Getting Acquainted with the Board Members



Elected Officers are left to right: Treasurer Art Shaver, Secretary Donna Fischer, President-Elect William Allen Price, Vice-President Pat Johnson, President Dr. Charollene Coates and Past President Shirley Eisnach.

President **Charollene (Vander Pol) Coates'** fifty-year teaching and administration career ranged from kindergarten through graduate school. She started her career teaching kindergarten at Archer, Iowa and retired from Chadron State College, NE. Other experiences were in Rapid City, Douglas, Provo, Platte and Corsica K-12 Schools, at Black Hills State University and as Executive Director of School Administrators of South Dakota. Much of her time now is spent at grandchildren's activities (sports, music and drama). She loves to read and is especially fond of children's literature. Charollene and her husband Keith have lived in Rapid City since 1964. They have three grown sons and seven grandchildren.

William Allen Price of Sioux Falls is the newly-elected President-Elect. He is originally from Orange City, Iowa. He received his bachelor's degree from Northwestern College in his hometown. His Master's is from the University of South Dakota. He was employed 23 years at Eugene Field Elementary, 9 years at Axtell Park Middle School and 2 years at Robert Frost Elementary, all in Sioux Falls. He also enjoys collecting Hot Wheels and 1:18 die cast vehicles. He likes going to the family cabin at Yankton, along with traveling, camping, swimming and walking. Al's family includes his wife, Cherri; 3 stepsons and 4 grandchildren.

From Watertown is **Pat Johnson**, the vice-president of SDRTA and a member of the Watertown Retired Teachers Association. Pat attended the University of South Dakota, then worked 42 years with the Watertown School District. Her hobbies include gardening, reading, traveling and computers. In her family are one brother and one sister, 5 nieces and 2 nephews. Pat is probably best-known in the "retired teachers' family" as one of the travel coordinators of the four trips South Dakota Retired Teachers Association has sponsored in the last two years.

Treasurer **Art Shaver**, Sioux Falls, grew up in Clear Lake, SD. One of his earliest jobs was delivering milk with a horse-drawn milk wagon. He also herded cattle, delivered the Argus Leader and worked the counter for a dairy and locker store. He served in the US Army in Germany from 1954 - 1956. From 1960 - 1969, he was a director with the Dept. of Public Instruction in Pierre. In 1969, he began work with the federal programs, research and development, staff development and public relations with the Sioux Falls Public Schools. Art likes golf, computer video, family tree research, bridge and going to coffee. He and his wife Vivian have one daughter and two sons.

Continuing in the office of secretary is **Donna Fischer** of Yankton. She grew up in Alma, NE and moved to Yankton in 1970. She attended Hastings College, Hastings, NE, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, and South Dakota State University, Brookings. Husband Dave and Donna have a daughter and six sons, as well as 6 grandchildren and 2 more due this fall. Donna taught in Nebraska and Oklahoma for short periods of time, then 28 years at Yankton. She enjoys reading, walking, crosswords and volunteering. Besides the Yankton Area Retired Teachers Association, Donna belongs to the Yankton Federated Women's Club.

Beginning her 5th year on the board is **Shirley Eisnach**, now the past president. She is originally from Estelline, SD but has called Pierre home for many years. In her role as president, she enjoyed meeting retired school personnel from all around the state. She realizes how lucky South Dakota is to have had very dedicated people in the classrooms, and she now sees those same dedicated teachers giving back to their communities by volunteering their time and talents. Shirley taught at Estelline, Hector, MN, Rapid City and Pierre. Her hobbies include reading, traveling, letter writing and family time. Her husband Dennis and she have 3 daughters and 8 grandchildren.

Marrietta (Vander Pol) Catlin, Pierre, is serving as chair of Community and Health Services. She grew up in the Corsica/Platte area and graduated from Platte High School. She married her high school sweetheart, Ron, and they have two sons, three grandchildren and one grand dog. She plays the saxophone in the Over Forte' Big Band, entertains at nursing homes, and works with kids at schools and church. She is Queen of a Red Hat chapter in Pierre. Her teaching career was in public schools in Yankton, Vermillion, Rapid City, Brookings and Pierre. She also operated Kiddy Kampus Preschool in her home in Yankton.

Membership Chair is **Jim "Whiz" White** of Rapid City. His nickname is derived from his winning a National Trapshooting Championship the first year he shot competitive trap. As well as enjoying trapshooting, he owns a company dedicated to the shooting sports. He also owns a computer consulting and repair business. Jim retired as an administrator at West Middle School in Rapid City. Other employment included US Atomic Energy Commission, Conventional and Nuclear Weapon Detonation Systems, South Dakota Dept. of Transportation in Pierre and teaching mathematics and coaching. His family includes wife Kathleen, a daughter and a son.

Since retirement, **Wyland Borth** of Pierre has been very active in the retired teachers' associations and AARP. He will continue serving as the Legislative Chair. He has served as both president and treasurer of South Dakota Retired Teachers Association, and in 1999 he was awarded the Florence Krieger award. Wyland attended Herreid High School and Northern State College. His career began in a rural school, then was interrupted by the Korean War. He served four years in the US Air Force. He worked as a teacher, coach, counselor and superintendent. Wife Audrey and Wyland have 3 children and 7 grandchildren. He was involved at Boys State for 26 years.

Newsletter editor is **Diana Glover** of Rapid City. She was raised on a ranch in Butte County, and she still likes to visit the ranch, where her brother and his wife live. Diana taught 2 years in Albuquerque and 30 years in Rapid City elementary schools. She enjoys traveling to foreign countries, hiking in the Black Hills and kayaking the Belle Fourche River. She is currently the president of the Black Hills Retired Teachers. Her family includes husband, Ron, a son and daughter and 3 grandchildren.

From the President's Desk

OUR DREAM

Not only does it seem like we are all dreaming the same dream, but also working TOGETHER to make our dream a reality. During the past few months, there have been numerous activities which have helped us "put our heads together and dream the same dream."



Charollene Coates

ACTIVITIES HELPING MAKE IT HAPPEN

Recruitment As you read in the front page article, the SDRTA Board of Directors has been very involved the past couple of months with a major recruitment campaign for new members and funds. The results to date, have given SDRTA a big boost forward toward our major goal.

"Building membership builds power to protect pensions and education," says membership consultant Ellis Robinson. By optimizing the Power of Three we can make this happen was the message we received at the August NRTA Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. I agree! With members, Units and the SDRTA Board working together, we are building membership and funding to ensure protection of our benefits and educational system.

Board Meeting The 2006-2008 SDRTA Board met for the first time on July 17. The agenda included a review of the new By-Law changes (which went into effect on June 1), deciding logistics and assignments for the recruitment campaign and preliminary planning for the 2007 convention.

Leadership Workshops The Annual AARP/SDRTA Leadership Workshops were held in Sioux Falls, Aberdeen and Rapid City on August 28, 29 and 31. These sessions really help SDRTA and Units start off the year on the same page and dreaming the same dream. It was so encouraging to have nearly all the Units represented at one of these meetings as well as nearly all of our SDRTA Board members. It was a big plus for me to have our Health/Community Chair, Marrietta Catlin, attend and present at each of these meetings. Marrietta also joined me in bringing SDRTA greetings to the BHRTA Unit at their August 31st picnic. Community Service is a major focus of NRTA this year and they are encouraging and supporting each state to take more action in this area.

New Unit Kudos to Mike and Marcia West for their efforts and success in organizing a SDRTA Unit and an AARP Chapter in the Philip Area.

New Role with SD-AARP Over the years, AARP and its Education Community, NRTA, have provided SDRTA with so

much involvement, support and assistance. And now another perk! SD-AARP has invited SDRTA to have a representative on their Executive Council. The SDRTA Board took action to approve this representation and to have the SDRTA President make the assignment. Shirley Eisnach has been appointed to this position. Her background knowledge of SDRTA and familiarity with SD-AARP make her an ideal choice for this appointment.

Bus Tour Another successful bus trip was coordinated by Pat Johnson and Annette Belkonen. We continue to hear from the travelers that "the trip couldn't have been more fully scheduled, better coordinated or economically priced".

2007 CONVENTION

Pre-Convention Activity A tour of the Law Enforcement Building.

May 1 - 2, 2007 Convention Theme - "Rewire Don't Retire"

Those in attendance will be presented with a host of ideas and suggestions about rewiring. Topics include:

- Directing a senior band
- Organizing a children's choir
- Writing and publishing
- Managing a bed and breakfast
- Sharing occupational communication
- Doing lay pastorship
- Administering of Starbase (Science and Technology Academies Reinforcing Basic Aviation and Space Exploration)
- Overseeing senior games
- Volunteering for the Susan Koman Cancer Foundation

Presenters include: Milo Winter, Pauline Lunde, Emilie Zacher, Linda Steele, LaRee Mayes, Ron Catlin, Jacque Sly and Ardith Kocourek. We are still looking for more topics and presenters so do keep sharing your ideas!

Book Room Also in the planning is a Book Room to meet South Dakota authors, peruse South Dakota books and purchase used books. Start sorting those books right now, bring those that you can part with, go home with new ones and help raise funds for SDRTA.

Wow! A major attraction will be "The Senior Class" New Horizons Band, directed by well-known bandmaster, Milo Winter, entertaining at the banquet and performing for a post-banquet dance.

Post-Conference Post-conference opportunities will be a bus tour of the Black Hills Area and a tour and social at the Eagles View Bed and Breakfast.

We think the conference is sounding pretty exciting. Circle the dates on your calendar and encourage others to do the same.

TOGETHER we are making a difference for all school retirees.

Unit News From Across The State

Philip Area Retired Teachers Association

by Mike and Marcia West



The Philip Area Retired Teachers Association hosted an organizational tea at the Senechal Lobby on August 29. The Grandparent Essay contest will be conducted again this year along with other activities.

Philip has been selected as a target community to organize a Philip Area AARP chapter and a Philip Area Retired Teachers unit. On September 30 the Western Regional Action Team met at the Philip Senior Center dinner with nearly 100 people in attendance. Over 40 people signed up with interest in a Philip Area AARP and RTA.

Don Kennedy (Team leader), Charollene Coates (South Dakota Retired Teachers Association President), Joe Walker (Tax Aide), Shirley Eisnach (Pierre Retired Teachers Association), Leni Healy and Cathy McLeer (AARP State Office, Sioux Falls) attended the September 20 meeting. Organizational plans will continue.

Aberdeen Unit Publishes "Memories"

by Ted Kneebone

We published our first "Memories" volume last spring. We are asking others to contribute to this project. I have a few copies left and could send them to some who request them. We hope to make this an ongoing publication. Our memories are worth writing -- and keeping! I am currently President of the Aberdeen unit of South Dakota Retired Teachers Association. My address is:

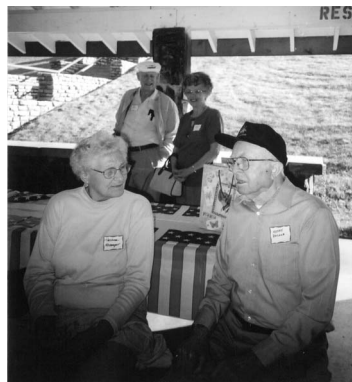
1528 S. Grant St. / Aberdeen, SD 57401

Phone: 605-226-3344

OTR: www.geocities.com/tkneebone1

Black Hills Retired Teachers Association

The Black Hills Retired Teachers began the year with over 60 people attending the membership picnic held August 31st at Canyon Lake Park. Special guest was State President Dr. Charollene Coates, one of the local members. Other guests were from Pierre and Philip



Enjoying the Aug. 31 picnic with other Black Hills Retired Teacher members are (back) Geri and Irvin Evans, (front) Thelma Hennager and Harry Putnam.

Rob Wylie of the State Retirement System, Pierre, and Sam Wilson of South Dakota AARP, Sioux Falls, were the speakers at the September 12th meeting. Angela Bucholz spoke briefly about United Blood Services. She reminded members that there is no age limit on donating blood.

Geri Evans, a member of the unit, invited others to her ranch home near Hermosa, SD. On September 26th, twenty-five people car pooled to Geri's home, where she gave a tour of her yard with its unique interest centers, rocks from around the world, flowers and the rain water collection system.

At the state convention an Outstanding Service Award was given to Marilyn Fitzgerald. She had been nominated by the local association for her leadership, including unit president, co-chair of the Keystone School and serving on committees. She volunteers through the Notre Dame Club and has helped many people file income tax returns, 60% of which are for Native Americans. She helps counsel couples for marriage through her church.

Two awards were received by the unit for the Keystone School project. The "With Our Youth" Award and a President's Award were given in recognition for the field trips that are provided to students at the 110 year-old Keystone School. About ten retired teachers dress in pioneer clothing and teach on Thursdays and Fridays during late April and May so children can learn and experience history of the area. Bonita Ley, along with Marilyn Fitzgerald, chair the program.

Dorothy Lang, program chair, has announced that the following topics will be covered in upcoming meetings: graphics and photography, city beautification, missile site national park, Chinatown in Deadwood and native plants.

"Join Us at our Meetings"

"The Black Hills unit welcomes new members anytime," says Membership Chair Judy Lage. "Please join us at our meetings in Rapid City on the 2nd Tuesday, 8:45 a.m. at the Canyon Lake Senior Citizens Center or come to our dinner at the Fireside Inn on December 12. Call the president (787-4631) or me (342-0912) for more information."

Brookings Retired Teachers Association

The Brookings Unit had its first meeting of the year on Friday, September 29 in the Brookings Activity Center. Total participation at the meeting was about 35. Martin Maca from South Dakota State University presented a program on the background and future of McCrory Gardens.

2006 National Leadership Conference

What are "The Power of Three", "Together", and "The Big Lead"?

by Allen Price, President-Elect

This past August 23 – 26, South Dakota Retired Teachers Association President Charollene Coates, Community/Health Chair Marrietta Catlin, and I journeyed to Washington, D.C., for the NRTA National Leadership Conference at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. We enjoyed meeting with similar officers and to learn about our history as well as goals for the future.

The theme, "The Power of Three: Retired Educators Associations, NRTA, and AARP", was introduced by AARP President-elect Jennie Chin Hansen. She stated that the three goals are 1) building membership 2) collaboration on key issues and 3) recruiting people to work on all issues.

Keith Brainard, Research Director of the National Association of State Retirement Administrators, shared some of the challenges as more and more educators reach retirement age. He oversees 82 state retirement systems involving about \$2.8 trillion dollars. He explained what states need to do to protect their direct benefit plans. AARP Chief Executive Officer Bill Novelli gave information on the topic "The Big Lead and Our Power of Three!" He discussed issues such as long-term health care,

Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

Charlie Cook, an editor and publisher, entertained us with his wit about the serious subject of the 2006 and 2008 elections and how their outcomes will greatly affect all of the topics mentioned above. Ellis Robinson, author of The Nonprofit Membership Toolkit, had helped our South Dakota association with the membership/fundraising campaign, and she displayed on the big screen the submit/remit envelope and letters that we sent to members and potential members.

On Monday evening we attended the "With Our Youth" Banquet during which several individuals and units received awards. Even South Dakota received an award.

Finally, during the Tuesday luncheon, Lily Liu, AARP History Consultant, spoke on the topic "Our Shared History: Lighting Our Way to the Future". Ms. Liu shared information about the organizing of NRTA and AARP by Ethel Andrus. (I didn't realize that NRTA was organized before AARP).

In summary, you now know what "The Power of Three", "Together", and "The Big Lead" are. I believe Charollene, Marietta, and I found the conference very informative, exciting and even fun!



Seventy-Four Past Members remembered. Dorothy Piper and Don and Marion Van Cleave, Winner, conducted the service in memory of seventy-four members who had died in the past year.

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Polly Palm Aker | Genevieve Leiferman | Florence M Carman |
| Alice Johnson | Fred Anderson | Helena Papritz |
| Martha E. Anderson | Theckla E. Lewis | Delila Caselli |
| Vera Larson | Marjorie Ashbaugh | Aline Rich |
| Mildred Anderson | Pat Lewis | Helen Cash |

~ In Memory ~ Membership Memorial Service May 3, 2006

- | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Cecilia Beirne | Rosemary Roosa | Robert Glines | Alice M. Henschel |
| Truman Maursetter | Lorraine Dallas | Irma Spawn | Keith Warne |
| Marie Birks | Redella Runner | Joseph Graves | Ellen Hillman |
| Ethel Mendell | Cassie Davis | Iris Sundstrom | Bernice B. Welker |
| Elsie E. Bonser | Isabel Sather | Mary Greenwood | Adeline Hladky |
| Edna Meyers | Helen Develde | Clark Swisher | Josephine Wells |
| Katherine Bruns | Howard Sauer | Susella D. Gullion | Palma A. Hurley |
| Lynn Melton | Doris Dolan | SophieThacker | Margaret Wertish |
| Elizabeth Burton | Ardith Serbousek | Elizabeth | Viola Iverson |
| Irene Moen | Selma Dye | Hagedorn | Harold White |
| Florence M Carman | Jean Severson | Mildred Vance | Emma S. Jensen |
| Helena Papritz | Helen Fauss | Iva Harrington | Ruth Wight |
| Delila Caselli | Gertrude Shuller | Clarence Walter | Doris Jibben |
| Aline Rich | Vera Jane Gibson | Jerry E. Harvey | Mary G. Williams |
| Helen Cash | Ida. Smit | Lucille Walters | Otto Johnson |
| | | | Janet Winkelman |
| | | | Floyd A. Johnson |
| | | | Cecelia Wright |
| | | | Marga Johnson |
| | | | Beryl Younger |

SDRTA Trips

by Pat Johnson and Shirley Eisnach

To Winnipeg for Folklorama

In early August 30 travelers headed to Winnipeg for Folklorama, the largest and longest running multicultural event of its kind in the world! The bus started in Pierre and made a stop in Watertown for the Ronnie Milsap outdoor concert at the Terry Redlin Center. It was a beautiful evening and a great concert.

In Winnipeg, the group enjoyed a guided tour through Winnipeg's sites, a stroll through the Leo Mol Sculpture Garden and English Gardens and a tour to Lower Fort Garry National Historic Site. We visited the Oak Hammock Marsh and the Royal Canadian Mint. We took a ride through time aboard the Millennium Express. There were 3 nights of entertainment and eating at 9 ethnic Folklorama Pavilions (Chinese, Ireland-Irish, Indo Tropical Paradise, First Nations, Slovenia, Tamil, Alpine, Paraguay-"Heart of South America" and Ukraine-Kylv). We went to The Forks for shopping and dining.

A Christmas Trip to "The Cities"

On Nov. 30th, the SDRTA tour bus will leave from Pierre (with stops in Huron and Watertown) for a trip in Minneapolis and St. Paul to enjoy the Christmas season. That evening the group will enjoy dinner at Chanhassen and celebrate the season with the 21st Annual Holiday Revue – "Christmas in the Big Apple". Friday we will visit Abdallah Chocolates and Gifts, Bachman's Floral and Garden Center for a behind-the-scenes tour. There will be time to shop at the Mall of America. We will enjoy the Holidazzle Parade on Nicollet Mall and visit Macy's Christmas display.

Saturday we will be exploring St. Paul with a visit to the 2006 Holiday Flower Show at the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Park and a tour of the historic Alexander Ramsey House. We will have lunch at Forepaugh's Restaurant (an elaborate Victorian Mansion). That evening we will attend the special 10th Anniversary "A Country Christmas Celebration." This Branson-style show features Lowell Lundstrom and a cast of over 70 singers, steppers and musicians. On Sunday, the bus returns to South Dakota.

Pierre to Pella Excursion

by Faye Schroeder, Rapid City

Post-Convention Trip Draws 46 Travelers

Our trip to Pella, Iowa began Wednesday, May 3 from Pierre after the South Dakota Retired Teachers Convention. We picked up fellow travelers in Mitchell, Sioux Falls, and at the exit to Vermillion from I-29. We had a total of 46, plus the driver. Our resting place for the night was Comfort Suites at Council Bluffs, Iowa.

On Thursday, we left Council Bluffs to drive to Omaha. We first visited the Lauritzen Botanical Gardens. There was a trolley which takes visitors on a long ride around the gardens. The ride took us through wooded areas where turkeys were strutting and by special gardens ending on a hill where there are two large locomotives. In early May there weren't many flowers blooming except lovely tulips and pansies. We had a chance to do some shopping in their botanical building.

Our next stop was the Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo. There was a lot of walking through the different exhibit areas. One could catch a ride on a trolley if one was needed. In the Desert Dome area they had many different kinds of hummingbirds in niches in the wall along the walk. In the Gorilla Valley there was an old orangutan that had sneakily hidden a wire under his lip and used it to pick locks. While in Omaha we went to Old Town and had dinner at Upstream Brewing Company. Our seating was in the basement, but the food and service was good. We continued on to Des Moines for the night.

In Pella, we parked the bus in the church lot where we were to have lunch. Pella is well organized for visitors to the Tulip Festival. Our price included a trolley ride tour of places of interest. It was so cool the guides were wrapped in quilts. We could also visit the Scholte House Museum, home of the founder of Pella. There were two parades; one at 1:00 and one at 8:30. Before each parade they did a street washing, by throwing pails of water on the street. The town's people would then come with brooms to wash the street.

What's A Dutch Letter?

A special treat many people bought was the "Dutch Letter". It is an "S"-shaped pastry filled with almond paste. It is GOOD!



After the first parade we had a choice, if we wished, of an organ concert or a play. I went to the play. It was called "The Dominie's Wife", the story of Hendrick and Mareah Scholte, Pella's founders. Those who went to the organ concert also enjoyed their afternoon.

Before leaving Des Moines on Saturday, we visited the state capitol and Terrace Hill, the Historic Governor's Mansion. The mansion was opened in 1869. It changed hands a couple of times and in 1971, it was given to the state of Iowa for use as the official residence of Iowa's governor. Time to head home.

I think everyone had a good time as the trip was well planned. Thank you, Pat and Annette, for all your good work.

Unit News Cont.

2006-2007 Huron Area Unit Officers



President Keitha Neuharth, Secretary/Treasurer Marlys Diegel, Vice President Jackie Haug

New Community Service Project for Huron Unit

by Keitha Neuharth

The Huron Area Unit has taken on a new Community Service project. Beginning in September, they are sponsoring the monthly birthday party at the Violet Tschetter Nursing Home. Volunteers take turns helping with the party each month. Members arrange for entertainment and with the help of Rainbow Flower Shop, provide a rose bowl for each resident having a birthday that month. Retired teachers also decorate the tables, present a program and assist residents as needed. After serving cake and ice cream, members help with the cleanup.

Madison Area Retired Personnel

by Betty Beyer

The Madison Area Retired Personnel met for our first meeting in September. We had one new member, 2 visitors and a fun meeting! We had breakfast and introductions. At 10:30, we carpoled to the new Madison Elementary School. We were given a tour and were totally impressed with the facilities. We are looking forward to a wonderful year.

Milbank's George Smith Honored at State Level



George was present at the convention to receive his award.

George Smith of Milbank was awarded the Community Service Award at the state convention in Pierre in May. At the local September meeting, he was recognized by his unit, which had nominated him for the award. Local members are very proud that he was awarded for his efforts and achievements in the Milbank community.

The Milbank Area Retired Teachers resumed their meetings in September with Superintendent Marlin Smart presenting the program. He discussed changes in the school district and issues that currently affect schools. A discussion was held following the

program with many pertinent questions asked.

Attorney General Larry Long presented the program in April. The program was open to the public and was well attended. He discussed consumer protection, identity theft, and schemes and scams that affect the elderly.



Northern Hills Retired Teachers Association

"To Serve, Not to be Served" is taken seriously by the Northern Hills Retired Teachers Association. This unit has meetings with educational programs, but members are also committed to community service.

"We are fortunate to have so many good friends and volunteers willing to lend a helping hand," said Ron Frame, director of the Tri-State Museum in Belle Fourche. The museum features the Johnny Spaulding Cabin, Dinosaurs of the Tri-State area and Native Pride exhibits.

On May 11, 2006, National Day of Service, six members of the Northern Hills Retired Teachers Association arrived with energy and enthusiasm to spruce up the museum before the summer tourists and visitors came to town. They washed windows, vacuumed carpets, polished woodwork and dusted exhibits at the museum. Volunteers were Carolyn Kindsfater, Deloris Keil, Irene Haivala, Jean Claire Dahlinger, Mary Ellen Warren and Margaret Logan.

Meanwhile in nearby Lead, SD, eight members of the Northern Hills Retired Teachers Association met to assist in cataloging the Homestake Collection. Most of the volunteers had worked for Homestake in one capacity or another at some time. Their knowledge and familiarity with the company, its technology and practices were integral to the interpretation of the Homestake Collections. Even though the Homestake Gold Mine closed in 2001, its central role in Lead-Deadwood and the surrounding area remains unmistakable.

George Auer, who worked summers at the mine while he was in college and played in the Homestake Community Band, said he never had the opportunity to see such detail. "It is fantastic that we will have this collection available. It is an invaluable resource for our community and our future."

Besides Mr. Auer, other volunteers included Dick Tinker, Marian Fairbairn, Joanne Goodrich, Gary Goodrich, Helen Auer, Roland Dexter, Delores Dexter and Mona Tinker.

The Northern Hills Retired Teachers Association includes members from Spearfish, Belle Fourche, Deadwood, Lead, Sturgis and other towns in the area. Mary Ellen Warren and Helen Auer continue as co-presidents.

Submitted by Mary Ellen Warren, taken in part from local newspapers

Pierre Area Retired Teachers Association

by Margaret Ellefson

Pierre Area Retired Teachers Association is off to an exciting year of service and informative programs. Our first meeting had about 40 in attending including 7 guests, one of whom was the speaker. The others were first-time attendees.

Secretary of State Chris Nelson presented a very informative program about the new voting machines and their capabilities. There seemed to be a feeling of reassurance that all of us with and without disabilities will be able to use them with confidence.

It was decided to sponsor an area blood drive and to assemble kits for instructional use by the South Dakota Discovery Center.

Officers are Co-Presidents Margaret Ellefson and Peg Logan; Secretary Marrietta Catlin; Vice President Gloria Merriam and Treasurer Sheila Clark. Three of these officers are new to our association. They retired in the spring of 2005.



We look forward "To Serve, Not To Be Served".

Redfield Area Retired Teachers Association

by Angela Hansen

The Redfield Area Retired Teachers Association has had a busy fall. They sponsored a "Meet Your Candidate" gathering at the Golden Days Senior Center in Redfield the evening of October 16th. Fourteen local and state candidates were invited to attend and visit with those in attendance.

The RARTA membership had a booth at the South Dakota Developmental Center Health Fair in Redfield on October 24th. Information on Keeping Sharp was made available to those attending. Door prizes provided by AARP were awarded throughout the day.

On October 27th members and several spouses traveled to Miller, SD to meet with a group of retired teachers from the Miller area. Chris Nelson, our Secretary of State, presented a program on South Dakota's 2006 Ballot. Public information concerning constitutional amendments, initiatives, and referred measures was shared. Chris also explained how the voting machine operates and helps those who are handicapped or disabled to exercise their right to vote.

The monthly meeting for November has been rescheduled for November 17th so that we wouldn't have a conflict with the Thanksgiving holiday. Shirley Eismach, the State Board liaison, will visit our unit if weather permits.

Sioux Falls Area Retired Teachers

by Mary Ann Hofer and Maxine Leaders Co-Presidents

Meeting at the Oaks Hotel in Sioux Falls, the Sioux Falls Area Retired Teachers began the 2006- 2007 schedule of meetings on August 22nd. Because of unexpected jury duty, our scheduled speaker had to cancel. Margaret Novak graciously agreed to present her planned program on "Caring for Abandoned Cemeteries in Minnehaha County". Jenny Iverson, also a member of the Sioux Valley Geneological Society, assisted in the presentation.

The programs for the remainder of the year are as follows:
"A Year in Review" presented by Supt. Pam Homan
"Keeping Fit" proposed by Dr. Ben Rall
"Mail Fraud" offered by Patti Larson
"Christmas Music" sung by a group from Lincoln High School
"A Changing Perspective of Africa" proposed by Sandy Entenmann
"Heartland Handbells" presented by a local hand bell choir
"An Update on Your Retirement Program" by Rob Wylie and Matt Clark
"Favorite Stories of My Travels and the People I've Met" by Bernie Hunhoff
"Memorial Service" conducted by the We Care Committee

One of our volunteer projects is hosting at Pioneer Lane at the Sioux Empire Fair in Sioux Falls. Again, in August, the historical building were effectively staffed by our members. The sites were visited by many people. We encourage our members to attend the South Dakota Retired Teacher Association activities, events and trips whenever possible.

Have a GREAT year!

Vermillion Southeast Unit of the Retired Teachers Association

by Mary Geffre Johnson

The Vermillion Southeast Unit of the Retired Teachers Association held their first fall meeting at Cotton Park below the Bluff Wednesday, September 13 at 11:30 a.m. Members enjoyed a sack picnic lunch on a beautiful summer day.

Ron Thaden spoke on early days in Vermillion. He has researched Vermillion's history, and he is well versed on the subject. Vermillion will celebrate 150 years in 2009. He requested the retired teachers group to write their experiences in education in the Vermillion area. Program books have been mailed to all members. Several interesting programs for the year are planned.

Officers are Mary Geffre Johnson, President; Pat Dusseau, Vice-President; Brenda Martens, Secretary; and Eleanor Offerdahl, Treasurer.

Vermillion President Mary Geffre Johnson introduced Ron Thaden to speak on early Vermillion. The meeting was in Cotton Park below the Bluff, the exact location of early Vermillion. The floods in the late 1880's forced the town of Vermillion to settle on the bluff.



Update on 2007 Legislative Session and Retirement

by Dr. James Hansen and Wyland J. Borth

Don't forget to vote November 7th! It is essential that everyone participate in the voting process because government was founded on the principal that government derives its authority from the consent of the governed.

The 82nd legislative session in 2007 will be a 40-day session beginning January 9th and ending March 6th. It is imperative our thoughts get focused on what may transpire when the legislature meets. There may be bills introduced by the South Dakota Retirement Board of Trustees or legislators. It is important we know the legislators from our voting districts as well as the South Dakota Retirement System Board of Trustees.

We need support from all Retired Teacher Association members to contact legislators either for support or opposition to legislation. Your voice needs to be heard! This contact will be accomplished through telephone calls from an activated telephone tree in each RTA unit or individuals using the computer email. Our vigil of the South Dakota Retirement System must be foremost to keep it the excellent retirement system that it is now.

In Opposition to Amendment E

The South Dakota Retirement System Board of Trustees met on September 6, 2006 at which time potential legislative issues were discussed but no action was taken. The SDRS Board of Trustees did go on record to oppose the Constitutional Amendment E which will appear on the November 7th ballot. If Amendment E should pass, it could have adverse affect on citizens who are required to make judicial decisions. These include juries, school boards, city councils, county commissions, prosecutors and judges or people serving in similar capacities. A No vote will not change the constitution.

At the December 6-7 meeting, the Board of Trustees will formulate issues into bills for introduction. As legislative chair for SDRTA, I (Wyland Borth) will contact all Unit Presidents after the December meeting and identify the bills which are to be introduced and acted upon. The email addresses that I have will be my database to update SDRTA members during the legislative session. **If your email address has been changed or if you have not had one before, please send me your new address. Wyaubo@aol.com**

The SDRS Board of Trustees is the governing authority of the retirement system with a 17-member board. Fourteen members are elected, 2 are the governor's appointees and one is an Ex-Officio non-voting member from the SD Investment Council. There are 466 governmental participating employers in SDRS with each board member representing certain employers.

The membership of SDRS is 67,935 with 35,774 as active members. There are 17,547 retirees receiving benefits. For fiscal year 2005 - 2006, the retirement fund had a 13.11% return. SDRS is the 3rd best-funded public retirement system in the nation.

The Board of Trustees includes:

1. Louis Loban, Brookings, Classified Employees
2. Elmer Brinkman, Watertown, County Commissioners (Chair)
3. Kathy "K.J." McDonald, Rapid City, County Employees
4. Ray Hofman, Vermillion, Elected Municipal Officials
5. Jason Dilges, Pierre, Governor's Appointee
6. Sandy Zinter, Pierre, Governor's Appointee
7. Justice Steve Zinter, Pierre, Justices, Judges and Law Trained Magistrates (Vice Chair)
8. Tracy Dahl-Webb, Sioux Falls, Municipal Employees
9. James Johns, Black Hawk, Public Safety Employees
10. Dr. James Hansen, Pierre, Retirees
11. Darwin Longieliere, Brookings, Board of Regents
12. Dennis Chowen, Newell, School Boards
13. Eric Stroeder, Glenham, State Employees
14. Brian Berglin, Sioux Falls, Teachers
15. Chuck Holmstrom, Sioux Falls, Teachers
16. Matt Clark, Sioux Falls, Investment Council
17. Robert A. Wylie, Pierre, Administrator of the SDRS

New Free Phone Number

The South Dakota Retirement System has announced that there is a new free phone service available from the office in Pierre. If you have any questions concerning your retirement benefits, call **1-888-605-7377**.

40 Years to Celebrate



There is still time to celebrate the 40-year anniversary of South Dakota Retired Teachers Association. The official date was October 7, but some cakes, candles and song could still be brought out at an upcoming meeting to commemorate the 40 years.

According to records, the South Dakota Retired Teachers Association adopted its constitution on October 7, 1966. The National Retired Teachers Association was founded October 13, 1947 by Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus in California. It became so successful that people of other professionals and occupations asked Dr. Andrus if a similar organization could be formed for them. She granted their request, and thus, in 1958, AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) was born!

Upcoming Anniversaries:

2007 - 60th Anniversary -

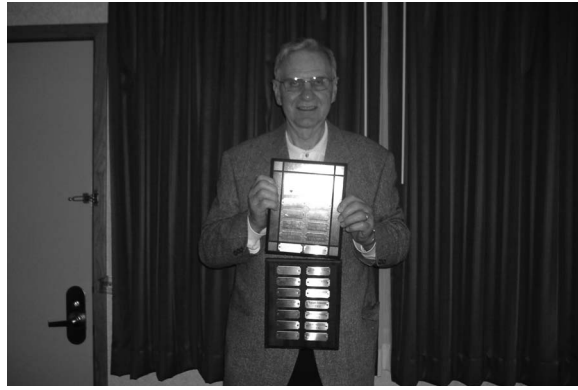
National Retired Teachers Association

- to be celebrated in Boston at the "I'm Alive" Event

2008 - 50th Anniversary -

American Association of Retired Persons

Awards Given at 2006 Convention in Pierre



"Florence Kreiger Award"

Jay Ruckdaschel of Huron received the top award given to a member of the South Dakota Retired Teachers Association.



Outstanding Service Award

Sue Gose of Huron received an Outstanding Service Award for her work in the community. Charollene Coates made the presentation.



Ten Reminiscent Teacher Awards Given

Marion Van Cleave, Winner, and Maxine Leaders, Sioux Falls are shown with Sharon Smith who presented the awards. Other winners were not present.



"With Our Youth" Award

LaRee Mayes, president of the Black Hills Unit, accepted the "With Your Youth" Award from Thelma Travis. The award was given for the Keystone School project.

"With Our Youth" Award was presented to:

Black Hills Retired Teachers Association for the Keystone School Project

Community Service Award went to:

Madison Retired Teachers Association for painting the library and hosting at the Prairie Village

Memories Shared in Reminiscent Teacher Essays

Reminiscent Teacher Essay Awards were given to:
 Myrna Coyle - Black Hills Retired Teachers Rapid City
 Maxine Leaders - Sioux Falls Retired Teachers
 Vera Lilly - Aberdeen Area Retired Teachers
 Lu Verne Peterson - Huron Area Retired Teachers
 Doris Shipley - Northern Hills Retired Teachers, Spearfish
 Glennys Tays - Black Hills Retired Teachers, Rapid City
 Charlotte Wallingford - Bennett County Retired Teachers
 Clarence R. Williams - Oahe Area Retired Teachers
 Marion Van Cleave - Winner Area Retired Teachers
 Bill Zubke - Watertown Area Retired Teachers

Receiving the President's Awards were:

Ruth Spencer, Madison Art Shaver, Sioux Falls
 Marrietta Catlin, Pierre Keystone School Project
 - Black Hills Retired Teachers Association, Rapid City

Nine Receive Outstanding Service Awards

Outstanding Service Awards went to:
 Delores Kluckman, Oahe (Mobridge)
 Marilyn Fitzgerald, Black Hills (Rapid City)
 Marilyn Lee, Sioux Fall - Marilyn Sour, Watertown
 Lorraine Klingler, Northern Hills (Belle Fourche)
 Arthur R. Buntin, Aberdeen - George L. Smith, Milbank
 Marrietta Catlin, Pierre - Sue Gose, Huron

Unit News Cont.

Winner Area Retired Teachers

by Dorothy Piper

The Winner Area Retired Teachers had convention reports in May, and all incumbent officers were elected for another two years. There were no meetings in June, July and August. However, during this time several members helped with the cleanup of the old schoolhouse at the historical site for Memorial and Labor Day weekends. They were Mildred Brozik, Gladys Kubik, Don and Marion Van Cleave, Rose Rush, Dorothy Piper, Pat and Larry Nielsen. New shades that were purchased with funds received from a No-Bake sale were also installed. Plans of the Winner Retired Teachers are to continue to make improvements to the schoolhouse.

The new year began in September with three new members, Kay Berg, Jo Ann Haffield, and Pat Nielsen. A very interesting program was given by a middle school Social Studies teacher, Val Padmore. She reported on her trip to Japan which she earned as a participant in the Japan Fullbright Memorial Fund teacher program. She told of her visits to primary and secondary schools and a teacher college. She also visited cultural and local industries.

Programs planned for the year:

Election Issues ~ Oral Interp

"Jingle Bell Rock" - Christmas party

Health ~ Grandparent Essays ~ Community Concerns

Outdoor Activities ~ Show and Tell



Members of the Winner Area Retired Teachers helped clean up the old schoolhouse at the Historical Site. Pictured are Gladys Kubik, Mildred Brozik, Marion Van Cleave and Dorothy Piper.

Watertown Area Retired Teachers Association News

by Pat Johnson

The Watertown Area Retired Teacher is off to a great start this year. In August we enjoyed hearing about the history of the Watertown Community Concert Association. Doug Herr presented many interesting facts about its funding and how the programs are selected. This year there will be 6 excellent concerts for the low price of \$30.

In Sept., Terry Kelly of Watertown Park and Recreation Dept. spoke about the Senior Games held each year and of the opportunities for programs through their department. He encouraged seniors to notify his department of programs or classes they would like to see offered.

Laura Dahle told about the pottery classes she has offered to children and adults for many years. She toured the group through

the pottery workroom, explained the different machines available and how they were used. She also demonstrated how the pottery wheel was used to make a bowl. Laura said equipment has improved, such as the computerized kilns they purchased with help from the Watertown Community Foundation.



Watertown Members Visit Park and Recreation Dept. Laura Dahle, member of the Watertown Area Retired Teachers, explained how she uses a slab roller to create the 2 larger platters in the photo. She has offered pottery classes to children and adults for many years.

Refreshments, provided by retired teachers, were served to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the South Dakota Retired Teachers Association.

In October, Codington County Auditor, Cindy Brugman, will be demonstrating the new voting machines. This should help us be able to complete the lengthy ballot in the 10 minutes allowed in the voting booth.

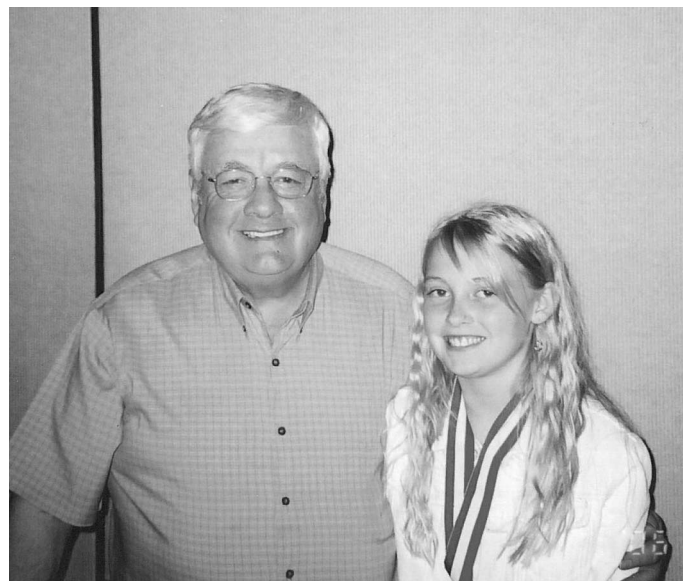
Other programs for the following months will include:

- "What's New with the Police Dept.?" - Chief of Police - Joanna Vitek
- Racing Pigeons as a Hobby
- "What's New in Bone Health?"
- Senior Nutrition
- Status of the New Regional Library



GRANDPARENT ESSAY CONTEST

Invite Fifth Graders to Participate



Taylor Stratton of Rutland, SD was the 2006 state winner of the Grandparent Essay Contest. She is shown here with her grandfather who joined her May 3 as she presented her essay at the South Dakota Retired Teachers Association Convention in Pierre. Taylor was presented with a \$500 savings bond.

AARP South Dakota and the South Dakota Retired Teachers Association are again sponsoring the 5th Grade "Grandparent of the Year" essay contest.

This is the fourth year of the contest, and there has been great participation from the communities and schools in South Dakota.

The purpose of the contest is twofold:

- 1) Honor the important role that all grandparents play in the lives of their grandchildren.
- 2) Educate people about the fact that because more than 4,500 children in South

Dakota schools are being raised by their grandparents, there are special needs that should be addressed in our schools and communities.

The guidelines and forms, which unit leaders should have received, are the same as last year's. All 5th graders in public and private schools are eligible to enter. The essay must be:

- an original work of the author
- up to 500 words in length
- written in English, and include the components of a formal essay
- submitted on white, lined 8 x 11 inch paper
- hand-written by the author on only one side of the page

Local deadline is February 1st

The winning essay from each school needs to be submitted to the local unit chair by February 1st, 2007.

First, second and third place winners from each unit will be chosen. The first place essay, along with the completed form, needs to be sent to Ruth Spencer of the Madison Retired Teachers Association by February 15, 2007.

The top three essays in the local unit will receive first, second and third place medals for their efforts from the AARP South Dakota office. The Madison Retired Teachers Association unit will judge and submit the three regional winners to the AARP South Dakota Office for final judging by March 1st.

Winning Essay to be Read at State Convention

First place award will be a plaque and a \$500 savings bond; second place is a plaque and a \$300 savings bond and third place a plaque and a \$200 savings bond. All awards are provided by AARP South Dakota. The

first place winner will be honored at the South Dakota Retired Teachers Association Convention in Pierre May 2nd.

Ruth Spencer says, "The committee and I hope you will have a good time and that we will have a good response to the contest".

Address questions to rspencer@rapidnet.com

or to:
Ruth Spencer
116 NE 9th Street
Madison, SD 57042
605-256-4170



Ruth Spencer

Dates to Remember

State and Local Dues Paid – October 30, 2006
AARP Volunteer Recognition – Nov. 29 – 30
Huron, SD

Grandparent Essays Contest:
School Winners Determined – February 1, 2007
Unit Winners to Ruth Spencer – February 15, 2007
Spring Newsletter Deadline – March 10, 2007
State Convention – May 1 – 2, 2007
Ramkota, Pierre, SD

Thanks for Your Financial Support ~ "Together" We Make a Difference

JoAn Albright	Darlene Dokken	Mary (Geffre) Johnson	Joyce Pederson
Doris Alberts	Donald Dossett\	Walter Johnson	Marlene Perry
Myrtle Andersen	Irma Duck	Margaret Lyons	Carleton Peters
Miriam Anderson	Dr. Jan Ebersdorfer	Allen Kasperson	Allen Price
Ruth Ann Anderson	Shirley Eisnach	Doris Keiner	Harry Putnam
Ada Armin	Gene Enck	Donald Kennedy	Robert Putnam
Betty Artz	Bev Erdahl	Anna King	Juanita Quaintance
Sharol Bargmann	Don & Judy Erickson	Emma Kingsley	Marian Rasmussen
Sylvia Barr	Virginia Ericson	Harriet & Jerome Kleinsasser	Mildred Ratigan
Marjorie (Tschetter) Bates	Floyd Farrand	Norman Koehn	Rose Marie Rush
Del Beck	Glenn Fauss	Nelva Kooistra	Jay & Margaret Ruckdaschel
Irma Becker	Eugene Fingerhut	Douglas Kuhlman	Carol Schatz
Annette Belkonen	Sally L. Foss	Neva La Chance	Margaret Schmidt
Carol Bohlander	Alma Gannon	Judy Lage	Eva Belle Schnetzer
Dona Brecht	Thomas Garry	Janice Lane	Phyllis Schtetter
Margaret Brown	Clarice Geerson	Hilda Langely	Jim Sejnoha
Donna Brozik	Judy Gensler	Kathryn Larsen	Mildred Sleep
Adair Callison	Larry Giddings	Jack Lauer	Jacqueline Sly
Donald Campbell	Warren Giere	Luena Lent	Beth Smith
Lavera Casey	Diana Glover	Tom Long	Jim & Beverly Smith
Margaret Cassell	Janice Gregory	Margaret Looby	Paul Smith
Marrietta Catlin	Kathryn Griffin	Morris Magnuson	Henry Stein
Fred Claudon	Lyla Gukeisen	Helen Manley	Glenny Tays
Sylvester Clifford	Inez Gulsvig	Tom Marso	Robert & Mary Thompson
Keith & Charollene Coates	Mary Hagny	Brenda Martens	Richard Tinker
Paul Collins	Lucille Hale	Evelyn McKillop	LaVerne & Neil Tollefson
Regina Conrath	Angela Hansen	Joan Meyer	Bob & Thelma Travis
Myrna Coyle	Vivian Hansen	Erma Mikkelsen	Mary Tritle
Jim & Pat Croston	John Harris	Eleanor Miller	Helen Tronek
Jean Dahlinger	Leone Haux	Lois Mitchell	Peggy Van
Richard & Sally Day	Merle & Deloris Heidenreich	Doris Nesthus	Don & Marian Van Cleave
Don Decker	Bryon & Esther Hendry	Janice & Jerome Nicolay	Dr. Phil Vik
Gretchen DeWall	Mamie Herrick	Dr. Suzan Nolan	Kathy & Bob Webb
Roland Dexter	Alma Hofer	Gloria Norton	Michael & Marcia West
Helen Dice	Barbara Hubble	Eleanor Offerdahl	Melvin Wieger
Dr. Phyllis Dixon	Richard Hubble	Helen Olson	Ruth & Milo Winter
Betty Dodds	Kenneth Iseminger	Connie Palmer	Peggy Zech
	Betty Johnson	Bob & Alice Parlet	



Happy Birthday, Shirley!

Shirley Eisnach, Past President from Pierre, celebrated her birthday in late summer with her family. Pictured are her daughters, Denette Becker and Darla Wrage, and Shirley. Her other daughter, Danna Nesler, had moved To Tuscon, Arizona and couldn't be with them.



In Honor or Memory of...

In Honor of Shirley Eismach
by Annette Belkonen
Watertown

In Memory of Helen Fauss
by Glen Fauss
Rapid City

In Appreciation of All Teachers
by Lois Mitchell
Watertown

In Honor of Shirley Eismach
~ On Her 70th Birthday ~
by Evelyn Blum
Aberdeen

In Memory of Catherine Morgan
~ Teacher and Principal at Egan High School ~
Egan, South Dakota
by Sally L. Foss
Madison

In Memory of Audrey Clarke
by Connie Palmer
Pierre

In Memory of Archie E. Brecht
by Dona Brecht
Parker

In Recognition of Kylie Glover
~ Kindergarten Granddaughter ~
by Diana Glover
Rapid City

In Appreciation to Many
Past Co-Teachers
Carleton Peters
Huron

In Honor of Dr. Charollene Coates
~ My Sister, Mentor
and SDRTA President ~
by Marrietta Catlin
Pierre

In Recognition of Maxine Jelinek
by Anna King
Colome

In Memory of Richard R. Tays
by Glenny Tays
Rapid City

In Memory of Audrey Clarke
~ Pierre Teacher Who Lost Her Battle
with Cancer in 2004 ~
by Marrietta Catlin
Pierre

In Honor of Shirley Eismach
~ with thanks for ALL her
dedication and efforts on
behalf of SDRT ~
Special Birthday Wishes
by Judy Lage
Rapid City

In Honor of Mary Fiedler
~ 12th Grade English ~
Brookings, SD
by Mary E. Tritle
Brookings

In Honor of Shirley Barnes
by Dr. Jan Ebersdorfer
Mitchell

In Appreciation of Inez Schliebe Gulsvig
Deceased September 18, 2006
"She was very active
in the Lake Region RTA"
Lake Region RTA Britton

In Honor and Memory of Iral Van
~ 40 + Years as a Teacher ~
by Peggy Van
Rapid City

In Honor of SDRTA Past Presidents
and SDRTA State Board, 2002 – 2008
by Shirley Eismach
Pierre

In Recognition of SDRTA Officers
by Morris Magnusson
Sioux Falls



From April to April -

Count Those Volunteer Hours

Information from Community/Health Services Chair

Community Service Chair Attends Washington, DC Leadership Training

Greetings to all! My name is Marrietta Catlin, and I am the new Community/Health Services Chairperson for SDRTA. I had the opportunity to attend The Power of Three (NRTA, REAs and AARP) NRTA Leadership Training in DC on August 20-23 with our state president Dr. Charollene Coates and president-elect Al Price. As your state Community Service chairperson, it was good to finally put faces on some of the chairpersons from other states that I have had the opportunity to talk with on the two conference calls I have been involved in since taking office June 1st. Rebecca Villarreal, NRTA Community Outreach and Service Program Coordinator, coordinates these conference calls. My dream for the May 1-2, 2007 Convention in Pierre would be to have Rebecca join us to share her expertise and excitement about Community Service opportunities.

It was also exciting meeting many of our state unit officers at the AARP South Dakota Chapter and RTA Unit Officers Leadership Training sessions in Sioux Falls, Aberdeen and Rapid City on August 28, 29 and 31st. I look forward to all of us this year "Working Together As We Dream The Same Dream."

"Toot Your Horn" - Get Total Hours in by April 15th

I will need the name, address, telephone number and/or e-mail address of your local RTA's Community Service Chair to communicate with as soon as possible. A *With Out Youth* folder was given to someone from your unit at the May Conference in Pierre. Hopefully, the folder got to the Community Service Chair. We cannot force units to report hours but we are encouraged to report hours again especially the *With Our Youth* hours. The hours should be counted from April 2006-April 2007. The hours served, the number of members involved and the approximate number of people/youth receiving the services are reported for *With Our Youth* activities.

We were told at the conference in DC that retired teachers need to "toot their horns" so the public is aware of what we do and how what we do impacts our communities. Getting the word out of **what** projects we do, **how many hours** we volunteer, and **how many people/youth we help** makes for good media coverage. Perhaps at your first couple meetings, members can estimate how many hours they served from April to August and then record their monthly hours from then on. Some units have a sheet to report their monthly hours on when they sign up for attendance and/or lunch purposes at their local meetings. Others give recording hours recording sheets to their members and members total the hours and give to their Community Service chairperson by April 1st. As your state chairperson, I need the community service reports in my hands by April 15, 2007. TOGETHER I know we can do it for our communities and kids.

Mark May 10th as National Day of Service

The National Day of Service is May 10, 2007. Wouldn't it be wonderful if each unit did a project or an activity that day and reported it to me? More information will be upcoming as well as any updates on other projects. Please let me know about your concerns, ideas or special events or awards. I hope to get a Community Service Orientation Kit booklet to all units as soon as NRTA gets them to me. SWEET DREAMS for your units this year as you dream BIG.

Marrietta Catlin
321 North Taylor
Pierre, SD 57501
605-224-7815
Mcatlin@pie.midco.net

Convention
May 1 - 2, 2007



Governor Rounds Spoke at May 2006 Convention

by Diana Glover

“How can so much be packed into 24 hours?” I wondered after the South Dakota Retired Teachers Convention, May 2 – 3 in Pierre at the Ramkota. “To hear Governor Rounds, Miss South Dakota and Bernie Hunhoff at one convention must be a first”.

Keynote speaker for the opening session was Sharon Smith of the National Retired Teachers Association in Washington, DC. She referred to predictions of the past and technologies of the future, but emphasized that “the human touch will always be necessary”. The pre-convention event was the Wakpa Sica Reconciliation project in Ft. Pierre, presented by Stacey LaCompte.

The Honorable Governor Michael Rounds urged retired teachers to continue being the “watchdog” for the state’s retirement system. “You need to have a united voice to keep the system strong,” he said. He also gave a summary of the 2010 Educational Initiative which includes the “laptops in the schools” program.

Afternoon presenters included Dr. Denette Eisnach Becker on “The Aging Eye” and Rick Jorgensen on “South Dakota’s Viet Nam Memorial Celebration” John Lakner told how to use E-Bay, and Linda Ahrendt and Larissa Skjonsberg taught exercises using rubber straps.

At the evening banquet, Niki Grandpre, the 2005 Miss South Dakota, told about the program she presents in high schools and at civic groups. It is on internet crimes against children. Bernie Hunhoff, publisher of the South Dakota Magazine, gave three reasons that he thinks South Dakotans are different from people in other states. They are relaxed (especially in business deals), nature lovers and share positive racial relationships. Mary Ann Hofer and Mary Tubandt provided music. President Eisnach presented awards.



Governor Michael Rounds



Past Presidents’ Breakfast

Shown at the first-ever past presidents’ breakfast are Wyland and Audrey Borth, John Harris, Don and Donna Kennedy, Margaret and Jay Ruckdaschel.

Wednesday morning began with a walk and a breakfast for past presidents. Jay (and Margaret) Ruckdaschel, Don (and Donna) Kennedy, Wyland (and Audrey) Borth, and John Harris attended the breakfast, which was a first-time event.

The Memorial Service was conducted by Don Van Cleave. At the business meeting, new officers were installed, and there was adoption of new bylaws, standing rules and budget. Rob Wylie, director of the South Dakota Retirement System, and Dr. James Hansen spoke about the state’s retirement program. Dr. Hansen, who serves on the NRTA Pension Round Table, expressed how lucky South Dakota teachers are to be part of a very strong retirement system. Sam Wilson, associate state director of AARP and lobbyist for our association, reviewed the action of the 2006 legislative session.

At the noon luncheon, Charollene Coates, incoming president, and her sister, Marrietta Catlin, read from a children’s book, *Together*, along with some improvisations to provide motivation and enthusiasm for the next biennium. Taylor Stratton, Rutland, SD, read her winning grandparent essay, and door prizes were given.



Ready for the Post-Convention Trip to Pella
Pictured with the bus driver are Annette Belkonen and Pat Johnson, Watertown. Annette and Pat have planned all the recent bus trips.

Summary of South Dakota Retired Teachers Association Bylaws and Revision

May 3, 2006

A major revision of the South Dakota Retired Teachers Association Bylaws and Standing Rules was passed at the annual business meeting on May 3, 2006. Local units are NOT required to change their bylaws to correspond with State bylaws, but they must follow the State dues structure in the Standing Rules.

The major changes in the Bylaws are as follows:

1.Reduction in the size of the Board to ten (10) members (Six officers and four standing committee chairs; Membership, Newsletter, Legislative/Retirement and Community and Health Services)

2.Former committee duties were combined or re-assigned to board members.

The only committee that was discontinued was the Informative and Protective Services Committee.

3.Membership: Support staff and non-educator spouse eligible for membership.

4.Year begins on June 1, rather than July 1.

The changes in the Standing Rules are as follows:

1.Annual dues are \$15. All lifetime dues were doubled. (See chart below.)

(South Dakota Retired Teachers Association Board action on July 17, 2006 allows for lifetime dues to be paid in two equal payments, if one wishes.)

2.Reimbursement for mileage was changed from 20 cents per mile to “state rates”.

3.Unit will NOT be reimbursed mileage for travel of one car to convention.

THE PRESIDENT OF EACH UNIT SHOULD HAVE A CURRENT COPY OF THE SDRTA BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES IN THE PRESIDENT’S FILES. IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF A COPY, PLEASE CONTACT BYLAWS CHAIRPERSON SHIRLEY EISNACH

deisnach@pie.midco.net or

125 Lakeview Dr, Pierre, SD 57501

ARTICLE II DUES

Section 1. The dues for Annual membership shall be fifteen dollars (\$15.00)

Section 2. The dues for life memberships shall be based upon the person’s age as of July of the year in which payment is made and in accordance with the following schedule:

Age 55 through 60	\$280
Age 61 through 65	220
Age 66 through 70	180
Age 71 through 75	120
Age 76 through 80	80
Age 81 through 85	40
Age 86 and older	20

Section 3: Dues are due and payable as of July 1 for Annual Memberships and become delinquent if not paid by October 30 of each fiscal year.



Lifetime Dues May Be Paid in Two Equal Payments

Lifetime memberships, which were doubled in cost, may be paid in 2 equal payments over two years. See the rates above, and send payment (or first half) to:

Art Shaver
908 E. 61st St
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

Annual dues are \$15. Whether paying annually or by a lifetime membership, you have the satisfaction of knowing that South Dakota Retired Teachers Association:

- speaks out for you before the State Legislature and the Governor
- educates retirees, the public and elected officials about the importance of maintaining our retirement system and keeping South Dakota’s schools strong
- helps you keep in touch with other educators through our state newsletter, state convention, local unit meetings and special opportunities such as bus tours

**Say “Thanks”
to Former Teachers**

May 1 - 2, 2007- Mark your calendars now!

Convention, Pierre Ramkota

Theme: REWIRE DON’T RETIRE

- Pre-Convention Tour: Law Enforcement Building
- Greetings from SD-AARP President Pat Gross
- “Rewired” Panel & Breakout Sessions
- SD books & authors + Used book sale
- New Horizons Band, Banquet & Dance
- Post Conference : Bus tour and Bed & Breakfast tour & social