

## SDRTA SPRING BOARD MEETING

Ramkota Inn  
Pierre, South Dakota  
April 27, 2009

Present: Allen Price, Charollene Coates, Pat Johnson, Lyle Kemnitz, Art Shaver, Donna Fischer, Annette Belkonen, Bill Zubke, Cathy Zubke, Marrietta Catlin, Diana Glover, and Shirley Eisnach.

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 p.m. As an “ice breaker” each person briefly described an exciting event that took place in his/her life within the past six months.

Diana Glover moved to adopt the agenda for the meeting; Pat Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

The minutes of the July 16, 2008, meeting were corrected and approved as amended. To avoid possible errors being posted on our website, Cathy suggested that the secretary e-mail copies of future minutes to Board members for corrections before sending a final copy to Shirley, who will forward the document to our webmaster. Also, it was suggested that the secretary e-mail the minutes to Board members prior to the next Board meeting rather than run copies to distribute at the meeting.

The next item of business was the SDRTA bus tours. Pat Johnson and Annette Belkonen discussed some problems the two have had with determining refunds for cancellations. After receiving input from the Board, Pat said that she and Annette will write up some proposals for resolving the issue and e-mail them to Shirley and the Board prior to the next Board meeting. Pat also noted that the post-convention tours will be discontinued because of apparent lack of interest in those tours.

Executive Director Shirley Eisnach reported that her first year has been a learning experience in coordinating her duties with those of the SDRTA President and working with AARP, which has experienced severe budget cuts. AARP has recently rescinded funding that would have enabled her to attend meetings such as the one in Chicago this summer. Further, since SDRTA has no budgeted funds for her out-of-state travel, Shirley has had to cancel some trips to national events. However, she was able to attend a September meeting of ASSRTE and is planning to go to Washington D.C. May 13-16 to judge applications for AARP 40+ scholarships.

Shirley also reported that a breakdown in communications between SDRTA and the AARP personnel in Sioux Falls resulted in some problems with the 2009 Grandparent Essay contest. As a result, the winner was unable to make arrangements to attend the luncheon on Wednesday, April 29. Shirley is hopeful that next year's contest will be back on course.

In Wyland Borth's absence, Pat Johnson and Art Shaver presented the 2009-10 budget report. The budget committee has proposed the following line item changes:

1) State Convention: Only what is necessary to put on the annual convention, food, hotel expenses, speakers, and printing. Meetings should be put in the Board of Directors Meeting.

2) Board of Directors Meeting: Any expenses incurred for such meetings, including the summer meeting and the pre-convention meeting, should be charged to The Board of Directors line item.

3) The Membership Chair/Membership Promotion should be separated. Membership Promotion is where funds are requested by local RTA units to assist in membership promotion. Membership Chair should be a separate line item with a budget.

4) The revenue section of the 2009-10 budget must be met in order to accomplish the above line item expenditures. SDRTA relies wholly upon membership dues, member renewals, new members and life members. The unspent monies at the close of the SDRTA fiscal year will be factored into the adopted budget.

Bill Zubke moved to accept the amended budget; Charollene Coates seconded. Motion carried.

Art Shaver suggested changing the by-laws to specify a formula to calculate the amount we would need to move from our CDs in order to cover life members' contributions. The Board will act on this proposal at the July Board meeting.

Since SDRTA has over \$33,000 in CDs, the Board decided to move some funds to the 2009-10 budget to cover travel expenses for our Executive Director. Diana Glover moved that we adjust the budget and increase the line item for the Executive Director to \$3,000, adding a CD withdrawal of \$2,500 to Income. Lyle Kemnitz seconded; motion carried.

Membership chair Cathy Zubke reported that SDRTA's total membership dropped by three people this year. She estimates that approximately 100 people are not local members, just state members. In November, 2008, Cathy sent 310 letters to those who had not yet renewed their memberships, generating 97 memberships as a result of that effort. The cost of mailing the letters was \$176.94; income generated from the responses was \$1,455 resulting in a profit of \$1,278.06.

In other membership business, use of the "purple cards" to report membership is okay, but it is equally effective to e-mail a membership list to Art Shaver. Also, when reporting the death of a local member, units must use the Deceased Member form found on the website to avoid errors. Finally, Diana Glover suggested returning Newsletters be sent to Cathy Zubke.

In Wyland Borth's absence, Pat Johnson presented the legislative report for 2009. The past legislative session was relatively quiet with regard to bills affecting the SDRS. Wyland spent his time this session meeting members of the House and Senate Retirement Laws Committees as well as members of the Commerce Committee. He stayed up-to-

date with capitol happenings partly by listening to important discussions on his computer and sent at least eight legislative e-mail updates to members to each RTA.

Diana Glover, Newsletter chair, reported the mailing costs of the 2008-09 Newsletters as follows: fall 2008 issue (20 pages) was \$2,175.60; spring 2009 issue (16 pages) was \$1,652.43. The news deadlines for 2009-10 are October 15, 2009, and March 10, 2010. At the general session, she will stress the importance of correct addresses for those who have had a change in residence or circumstances, including “snowbirds.” Pat Johnson suggested that members could honor a student as well as a friend or relative in the Newsletter. On a final note, Al Price suggested sending copies of the Newsletter to our members of Congress.

Marrietta Catlin, Community Service chair, reported that she heard from all eighteen SDRTA units this year. The number of volunteer hours increased this year over last year, with 10,801 hours for With Our Youth and 34,962 hours Other Services. Taking those numbers times the 2008 dollar value of volunteer services per hour (\$20.25) the estimated dollar value of total SDRTA hours of service would be valued at \$926,700. Marietta stated that our members should receive a big “thank you” for their efforts this year. She also noted that AARP is not funding the usual Day of Service in May of this year, but urged units to continue with their planned activities anyway.

Lyle Kemnitz, who is in charge of this year’s memorial service, passed out copies of the program for tomorrow’s ceremony in remembrance of fifty-five deceased members of SDRTA. Lyle has done an outstanding job; the program is tastefully and beautifully done.

Regarding the Reminiscent Teacher essays, Pat Johnson suggested that we clarify to unit members that this is not a contest, but an award that is given to each entrant. If we reword the entry form and remove the words “person nominating,” that may solve the problem. Also, she requests that units send a digital copy of each essay to her.

Shirley Eisnach, SDRTA Executive Director, gave a report on the SD AARP Executive Council. The group will be meeting in Sioux Falls next Monday and Tuesday, May 4 and 5, with representation from the national AARP Board plus several other SDRTA members. Shirley is on the Health Care Committee. She informed the Board that because AARP investments took a big hit in the recent economic downturn, the budget is extremely tight, with major cuts in many items, including trips.

Lyle Kemnitz, in charge of the Traveling Trophy, indicated that he has made a few changes to the application form. He also has some ideas to bring up at the summer Board Meeting about more equitable ways to figure points for this award.

Board members indicated that they are continuing their efforts as liaisons to units in their home areas. We continue to encourage local units in their membership recruitment by making these personal contacts with them throughout the year.

Shirley Eisnach reported that the website is visited not only by SDRTA members, but also by other Executive Directors and by NRTA. She hopes to modify forms on the site, such as the Reminiscent Teacher Award mentioned earlier. Shirley estimates this year's cost for the website will be \$532. (The webmaster is paid \$25 per hour.)

Next, Allen Price presented the President's 2008-09 Activity Report. In September, 2008, he went to Washington, D.C., to attend the Life at 50+ and NRTA leadership Conference. Later that month, he attended leadership conferences in Rapid City, Huron, and Sioux Falls. On January 27, 2009, he went to Pierre for Lobby Day. He also visited several units throughout the state during the year. Al is already busy planning for the upcoming year. The 2010 Convention will be held at the Pierre Ramkota on the following dates: Board meeting on Monday, May 3; Convention on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 4 and 5.

President Price next handed out material on PAX, Program of Academic Exchange. The Board decided not to get involved in the program but to give the information to the unit presidents to use if they are interested.

Convention 2010 was discussed, with Al Price mentioning that he has contacted two possible speakers for the event. He will follow up on this, but welcomes any other suggestions from the Board. The Board then went on to discuss possible convention attendance incentives: 1) involve more units in active participation, perhaps assigning programs to individual units; 2) plan around a theme, as we did this year; 3) encourage units to have fundraisers to defray convention expenses. The consensus of the Board was that we need to help units motivate their members to attend the state convention.

Since AARP will no longer be actively participating in the Summer Leadership Conferences, President Price will solicit input from unit officers at the Wednesday morning meeting on what information they need from those conferences. Shirley Eisnach can also help with the conference agenda. This topic will be discussed more at the summer Board meeting in July.

The formation of new SDRTA units was the next topic. There are communities in South Dakota who have no official units, but who do hold meetings. SDRTA will look at trying to combine smaller communities into units or to combine them with larger units.

The final item of business was a discussion of possible collaboration between SDRTA and SDEA-R. Shirley Eisnach will draw up the comparisons between the two organizations and e-mail that information to the Board. In addition, Al Price and Art Shaver will meet with representatives of SDEA-R and report their findings at the summer Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Donna Fischer, Secretary

