

The Educators'



ADVOCATE

JAN/FEB 2023

Volume 54 | Issue 3

A photograph of the South Dakota State Capitol building, a grand neoclassical structure with a prominent dark dome and classical columns. The building is set against a clear blue sky with some light clouds. In the foreground, there are green trees and a black metal fence with stone pillars. The overall scene is bright and clear.

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Vision

We envision valued education professionals providing quality public education for all students.

Mission

South Dakota Education Association ensures the collective voice for South Dakota public education professionals.

JAN/FEB 2023

Volume 54 | Issue 3

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The Educators' Advocate (ISSN 0013-2047) is published five times annually by SDEA/NEA, 411 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD. Periodicals postage paid at Pierre, SD.

Postmaster:

Send address to
The Educators' Advocate,
411 East Capitol Avenue,
Pierre, SD 57501.
Official publication of the
South Dakota Education
Association/NEA.



President's Corner

Change Can Happen, But We Need Your Voice

One of the things I enjoy about being your President is the opportunity to travel the state meeting members in their schools and classrooms. I am always in awe of the work you do day in and day out.

My travels really brought into focus how the educator shortage is impacting you and your students alike. Concerns about student behaviors came up everywhere I went. You also expressed your strong opposition to the proposed social studies standards. The concerns SDEA has raised in the media and at the hearings are your concerns. Whether it is the age appropriateness of the standards, the pacing, or the removal of South Dakota and Native American history, it is clear you care about how these proposed standards will impact students.

Members didn't talk about these issues because they simply wanted to complain. No, you voiced your concerns as professionals who just wanted to make things better for your students. How can we do that? The only way we can make change happen is by telling our stories over and over until our state leaders have no other choice but to listen and we can collectively do that together if we all take a little time to be involved.

Involvement can be something as simple as sending a quick note to legislators during session, or committing time to attend a local legislative coffee or cracker barrel. The more educators who are willing to commit, even just a couple minutes, will make our collective voice even louder.

This next one may be a bigger ask, but it's a very important one. Earlier this fall, SDEA along with other education groups asked the Board of Education Standards to hold a hearing on a weekend to give educators and parents the chance to attend. The board heard our request and scheduled a meeting for Saturday, February 11 in Pierre. This hearing is important. A lot of naysayers believe that teachers don't care about what is happening and that none of you will show up. I believe we will prove them wrong.

While we still don't have all the details, we are working with local leaders to organize transportation for any who wish to attend. Please watch for emails and social media posts for more details as we get closer to the date. If each local brings just one car of concerned educators, we can fill the room and send a very loud message.

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." If we as professionals want to have a say in these standards, or any standards in the future, we cannot remain silent. This is our chance – we cannot let it slip away. I know you have the passion; now let's all take our passion and make change happen.

Loren Paul
SDEA President

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Social Studies Standards Update: Mark Your Calendars



Earlier this fall, SDEA along with the School Administrators of South Dakota, the Associated

School Boards of South Dakota and the South Dakota PTA asked the South Dakota Board of Education Standards to host one of the four hearings for the proposed social studies standards on a weekend. It is almost impossible for educators and parents to leave their classrooms and jobs to attend a hearing so their concerns can be heard.

The Board responded with the unprecedented decision to host its next meeting on **Saturday, February 11, 2023, in Pierre**. This may be our profession's last chance to have a say in the standards that guide us and our students throughout their educational career. This is not just about the social studies standards; it's about the next set of standards as well. If we remain silent on social studies standards, what's to stop state leaders from excluding educators in the process when we set science, math or language arts standards? This is our one shot of standing up for our profession and

standing up for our students.

SDEA cannot stress the importance of this hearing. A lot of naysayers believe that teachers really don't care about what is happening and that none of you will show up. We believe you will prove them wrong. Imagine the impact we could have if every single local brought one or two carloads of teachers and/or parents to Pierre. That would be hundreds of people coming together to urge the Board of Education standards to do what is right for our students.

While we still don't have all the details other than the date, we are working with local leaders to organize transportation for anyone who wishes to attend. In the coming weeks, we will be sending more information via email and posting to social media. For now, please put this date on your calendar and start talking with your colleagues and any parents or concerned citizens who share our concerns to encourage them to join us for the hearing. Every person who attends will make a difference. Join us in **Pierre on Saturday, February 11** – sign up here to get on the transportation list!



November 21st Social Studies Standards hearing in Sioux Falls.

**I WANT TO COME
TO PIERRE FOR THE
SOCIAL STUDIES
STANDARDS HEARING**



Kelsey Lovseth

Why I Am Going to Pierre!



Our voices are being heard! At the November 19th, Board of Education Standards meeting the Board responded with the unprecedented decision to host its next

meeting on **Saturday, February 11, 2023, in Pierre.**

As a classroom teacher, I understand the impossible task of attending any meeting during the school day. That's why the SDEA along with the School Administrators of South Dakota, the Associated School Boards of South Dakota and the South Dakota PTA asked the South Dakota Board of Education

Standards to host one of the four hearings for the proposed social studies standards on a weekend.

This may be our profession's last chance to have a say in the standards that guide us and our students throughout their educational career. This is not just about the social studies standards; it's about the next set of standards as well.

I am also a parent. A weekend meeting allows me to bring forth my concerns about the impact these standards will have on my own children's love of social studies.

This is OUR opportunity to speak out about the proposed social studies standards. SDEA is organizing transportation and working with local leaders on ironing out the logistics to fill the room with educators, parents, and community members.

Please join us so that our voices and continue to be heard!

SDEA Members Host Walk-Ins to Call Attention to November 21 Public Hearing for Social Studies Standards



Shout out and thank you to the members of the Harrisburg Education Association, Sioux Falls Education Association and the Tea Education Association who hosted 'Walk-Ins' at area schools to call attention to the proposed social studies standards and the November

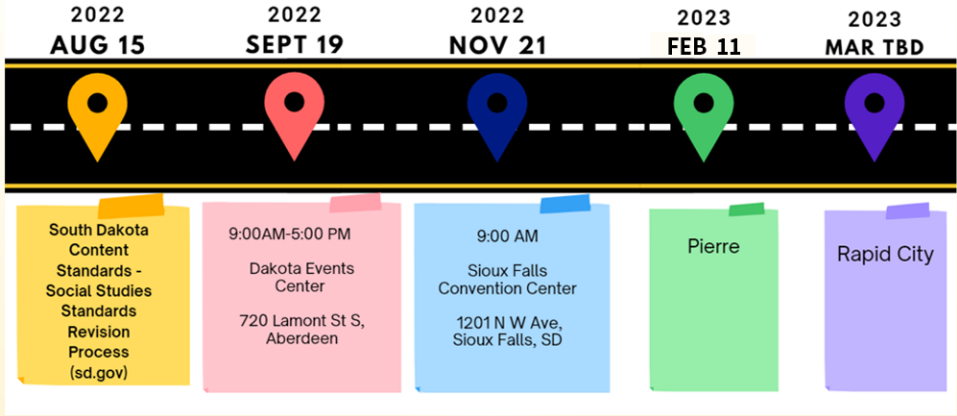
21 public hearing in Sioux Falls. Participants shared information about proposed standards and encourage community participation in the hearing process.



SD SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS ADOPTION ROAD MAP

The South Dakota Board of Education is responsible for setting academic standards for South Dakota's Schools. Board members are appointed by the Governor.

After the Board has held the legally required hearings, it will vote to accept or reject the proposed standards.



968 Proposed Social Studies Standards comments received as of November 21:

 **828 oppose**

 **103 support**

37 neutral



**FREEDOM
TO LEARN**

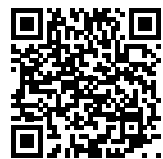
**Are you concerned
about proposed social
studies standards?**

Join South Dakota's educators who are working to ensure that the South Dakota Board of Education Standards adopts standards that give all children the freedom to learn accurate and age-appropriate history, geography, economics, and government of our country and world!

**Next
Meeting**

*SATURDAY
February 11
in Pierre*

Get Involved



Professional Development Webinars

Jan. 24 | 6–7 pm CST/5–6 pm MT
Family & Community Engagement
Dana Livermont,
(SD Family Engagement Center)

Feb. 7 | 6–7 pm CST/5–6 pm MT
What's Hot in Ed. Tech
Erica Boomsma (Huron EA) and
Kelsey Lovseth (Brookings EA)

Locals in Action!



For the last few years since the pandemic, Pied Piper Flowers and Gift shop has provided a holiday carnation arrangement for all residents in Yankton’s long term care facilities. **Yankton Education Association**’s community service committee wanted to help Pied Piper “change” the holidays for these residents by sponsoring a collection of members’ pocket change to donate to the cause. Members and other staff and even some students donated a total of \$260. That amount, along with a \$100 donation from YEA, was enough to sponsor flowers for 36 residents.



Audrea, the manager at Pied Piper, was appreciative of the donation and shared how meaningful the program has been for the residents, especially those without close family that may not get anything else for the holiday.



Watertown Education Association members helped pack over 500 bags for students. The Watertown Area PACH (People Against Child Hunger) Program works with school staff to provide complimentary snacks and meals to students in Codington county who may need an additional food resource over weekends during the school year.



SDEA members in conjunction with Virginia and Arizona members began the development of professional learning for mid-career educators, focusing on the 5 Keys of Transformation: a passion for learning, authentic autonomy, the culture of collaboration, assessment of excellence, and the worth of persons and community. They created a need and assets assessment for each Key and mapped out what professional learning could look like for mid-career educators.

Pictured left to right: Corey Erickson (SDEA Staff), Kelsey Lovseth (SD Teaching Fellow), Shannon Maxon (**Douglas EA** President), NEA Vice President Princess Moss, Cassandra Ford (**Madison EA** President), and Nicole Mutchler (**Sioux Falls EA**)



Members of the **Aberdeen Education Association** and Aberdeen middle schools experienced the culture of poverty during an Understanding the Impact of Poverty on Students and Families simulation.

Members of the **Castlewood Education Association** are preparing for extra challenges this year after a tornado hit their school last May. These educators have spent a lot of extra time and energy to ensure that the students in their community have a quality education while the school is under construction. South Dakota teachers working together to provide quality education for our kids!



it's ABOUT OUR KIDS.
SDEA
South Dakota Education Association

nea
NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
nea.org
Great Public Schools for Every Student

SPRING

Leadership Educator Conference

Creating Safe and Supportive Schools

MARCH 3-5 | CHAMBERLAIN

Join us for this weekend event for learning how educators can use best practices in creating safe and supportive learning environments.

bit.ly/3yCHKUD

Honored Women Educators of South Dakota

History of Annie D. Tallent Club/Honored Women Educators of South Dakota

Part I

The Annie D. Tallent Club was formally introduced at the first General assembly of the S.D.E.A. in Huron, South Dakota in November, 1954, when twelve charter members were presented.

Mertys Olson, Florence Krieger, and Hilda Wells were appointed as a committee by S.D.E.A. President Dr. Russell E. Jonas, to formulate the club. They selected twelve nominees from candidates nominated throughout the state. These nominations included women in classroom teaching, administration, library science, and other allied educational services, main contribution to education, and character traits that would qualify for the honor.

The committee selected the “Annie D. Tallent” name for the club in honor of the first woman to live and teach in the Black Hills.

Part II

While Annie Tallent’s pioneering efforts in education as teacher and superintendent have been recognized, objections have been raised in behalf of the Native American population of South Dakota, because of the premature entry in to the Black Hills by the Gordon Party, of which Annie Tallent was a member. This violated the 1868 Treaty of Ft. Laramie and the Gordon Party was subsequently removed by the U.S. Military. Later the writings of Annie Tallent were felt by some to show a disdain for Native Americans.

In keeping with South Dakota’s efforts toward reconciliation, SDEA/NEA became concerned that while the initial ADT

organization should be maintained, it could also be enriched by the current reconciliation emphasis. One of the ways of doing this was to maintain the current Annie Tallent membership, with a name change that would reflect the same honored educational qualities in women of today.

On August 26, 1993, at the annual Annie D. Tallent meeting, a majority of the quorum present, as directed by the constitution, voted to amend ARTICLE I, and accept an organizational name change.

Beginning with the 1994 nominees to membership, the name of the organization shall be Honored Women Educators of South Dakota.

The purpose of the organization is to honor women who have been outstanding in their field of education and have given distinctive service. In addition, the purpose is to promote a better relationship among women engaged in educational work in South Dakota.

Nomination Form

Because it can be difficult to get all necessary information on the nominee, while not divulging the fact that the person is being nominated, a new format was voted on in August 2017. The new format is to submit the information that can be obtained, with **items listed below required**. Submit the information that can be obtained, with **items listed below required**. Submit the information by **May 30, 2023** to: Ralyna Schilling, 1739 McIlvaine Ct SW, Huron, SD 57350. Nominations can be submitted electronically to: ralyna@hotmail.com.

Then the nominee will be notified and will be asked to complete the form by May 30, 2023. Those selected for membership in Honored Women Educators of South Dakota will be notified and will be invited to the July 8, 2023 luncheon.

Each SDEA Member may submit one nominee per year.

Requirements of nominees:

1. Be active in education at present and be a present SDEA member. Or, if retired, the nominee must have been an SDEA member during her active career
2. Have a minimum of four years of college
3. Should have spent at least ten years in the field of education
4. Be fully qualified educationally for their field of work
5. Have made major contributions in the area of education
6. Should be active in the community and exhibit character traits worthy of the honor of membership
7. Eligible for membership are classroom

teachers, administrators, librarians, supervisors, and former educators

Submit the following information on a word document.

8. Full name of nominee
9. Mailing address of nominee
10. Phone number of nominee
11. Email address of nominee
12. Present position of nominee, if currently teaching; past position, if retired
13. Write a paragraph that reveals the personality and real worth of the nominee
14. Name, signature, addresses, phone number of nominator who submits the nomination, and date
15. Submit 2 or 3 letters of recommendation from others who are familiar with the contributions of the nominee. Possible choices could be co-workers, administrators, students or former students, or parents of present or former students. If the nominator does not submit the letters of recommendation, the nominee will be asked to do so.

The banner features a tropical beach background with palm trees and a blue sky. On the left, the SDEA logo is shown with a red apple icon and the text "IT'S ABOUT OUR KIDS. SDEA South Dakota Education Association". Below this is the text "PRE-REGISTER TODAY" and a QR code. The URL "https://bit.ly/3SUDpEm" is provided. The main text "SUMMER ACADEMY" is written in large, bold, red letters with a white outline. Below this, the dates "July 17-18th" and the location "Augustana" are listed. At the bottom left is the Augustana University logo, and at the bottom right is the NEA logo with the text "NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION" and "Great Public Schools for Every Student".



UNION U

Answering Questions About Your Union

Why Do We Organize?

There is strength in numbers. That is the mantra educators can embrace when they want to make meaningful change. The more members we have the louder our voice, which makes it difficult for those in power to ignore the concerns our members bring to their attention. The most effective way to bring about positive change is to organize your fellow educators about the issues they care about the most.

What do educators care about? They care about many things, but through meaningful one-on-one conversations or surveys locals can find out what educators are most concerned about. Once those issues are identified, locals can prioritize what issues they can build an organizing campaign around. Here are some things to consider when building an issue campaign:

- **Is widely felt.** How common is the problem? How many workers face this situation? Many people must feel that this is a real problem and agree with the solution you're pursuing.
- **Is deeply felt.** Is this an issue that people feel strongly enough about to actually do something? It's not enough that many people agree, if none are really hot under the collar.
- **Is winnable.** It's hard to know for sure whether you will win, but it's possible to have a good idea whether you can. Your

group should match your demand to the power you've already got. To win, you'll need to make it harder for the decision-maker to keep saying no than to say yes. The more pressure you can bring to bear, the more issues will become winnable.

- **Builds the union and builds leaders.** Consider how this fight will build your capacity for future fights. Will the issue attract leaders or groups who haven't been very involved? Will it build solidarity between groups? Will it give you the chance to try an action that's one step beyond what you've done before? Will the solution lay the groundwork for future improvements? Each fight should build off the last. It often happens that we don't win the concrete gain wanted, but we do come out smarter and better organized—which makes it more likely we can win next time.
- **Has a connection to students and the public.** If the issue affects students, parents and community, it grows your potential group of activists and the potential support. A GOOD ORGANIZING ISSUE LABOR

Source: *Secrets of a Successful Organizer*
labornotes.org/secret

If you want to learn more about how your local can build an issue campaign, contact your UniServ Director.

SDEA Members Only:

Log into MyNEA360 to join the "SDEA Members Only" group to access SDEA/NEA member only documents and information. New users will need to create a MyNEA360 profile in order to be verified as an SDEA member.



Legislative Preview: State Flush with Cash —Tax Cuts or Funding

Tax Cut Debate Will Dominate Legislature

Governor Noem outlined her budget priorities during the annual Budget Address in early December. While there was little mention of public education, her proposal does include a five-percent increase to state aid to public education. This proposal is more than a three-percent increase that is required by law, however, it will fall short for school districts that are trying to deal with inflation and staff shortages.

Last summer the state reported a record surplus of \$115 million at the end of its fiscal year. Budget forecasters predict that the state's revenue streams will continue to be robust with inflation and other positive economic indicators. The question for lawmakers is what to do with all of that money.

Possible tax cuts have been dominating the pre-legislative headlines. There are two questions many are asking: what kind of tax cuts lawmakers will embrace and should there be any tax cuts at all? During the campaign, Governor Noem embraced the Democrats' decades long proposal to remove the sales tax on food. A straight up cut to the sales tax would decrease state revenues by about \$100 million.

Many Republican lawmakers, including those in leadership, want to preserve the sales tax revenue stream and would rather focus on property tax reduction. Their proposal would have the state take on a larger portion of state aid to education to lower the tax burden on the local property taxpayers.

SDEA's priority continues to be ensuring that all school districts have the resources to meet the needs of all students. At last spring's SDEA Representative Assembly, our members adopted the 2023 Legislative Agenda, which included a policy statement that reads: "*SDEA supports the rejection of any tax plan that adversely affects education funding.*"

Some school districts are already indicating that they are looking at places to cut their budgets to deal with inflationary pressures or to make more funds available to address staff shortages. From SDEA's perspective, no school should have to cut its budget at a time the state is seeing record surpluses of money. Tax policies must be fair, but no tax cut should be at the expense of students.

You can follow this debate by joining Lobby Line on our legislative action page at SDEA.



New Majority Leadership Could Help Refocus Education Issues –

Shortly after the election both parties gathered to elect their leadership who set the tone for the next two sessions. Republicans, who dominate the legislature, elected new House Leadership that have been friends to public education in the past. The new House Majority Leader is Will Mortenson of Pierre. Mortenson played a crucial role in helping to defeat

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Big News: Ballard Receives National Recognition



The NEA Foundation announced today that five public school educators will receive one of public education's highest honors, the Horace Mann Award for Teaching Excellence. One of

the recipients is SDEA's Stephanie Ballard, a math educator at George S. Mickelson Middle School, nominated by the South Dakota Education Association.

The award, sponsored by the Horace Mann Educators Foundation, recognizes educators for their exceptional skill in the classroom, attention to equity and diversity, engagement of families and communities, commitment to ongoing professional development, and advocacy for the profession. The other 2023 awardees are:

- **Kevin Gallagher**, a math and computer science educator at Keystone Oaks High School, nominated by the Pennsylvania State Education Association.
- **Natalie Johnson-Berry**, dean of students and a restorative justice facilitator at Wyandotte High School, nominated by the Kansas National Education Association.

- **Theresa Maughan**, a social studies educator at East Orange STEM Academy, nominated by the New Jersey Education Association.
- **Lee Perez**, an English as a second language (ESL) educator at Alice Buffet Magnet Middle School, nominated by the Nebraska State Education Association.

For more than 20 years, The NEA Foundation and Horace Mann have celebrated outstanding educators from around the country with this recognition. Each 2023 honoree will be featured in a mini-documentary video that will premiere at the NEA Foundation Salute to Excellence in Education Gala and will receive a \$10,000 award.

The NEA Foundation Salute to Excellence in Education and the Awards for Teaching Excellence are presented with support from NEA Member Benefits, Horace Mann Educators Foundation, California Casualty, Bank of America, American Fidelity, and First National Bank of Omaha. Educator awardees will be celebrated at the Gala on May 5, 2023. To learn more about the 2023 awardees, visit our website at www.neafoundation.org.

Congratulations Stephanie!!!

— **SAVE THE DATE** —

2023 SDEA Representative Assembly

March 31 & April 1, 2023 | Fort Pierre, SD

SDEA/NEA OPPORTUNITIES

GRANT, SCHOLARSHIPS, CAREER

SDEA/NEA GORDON HORGEN SCHOLARSHIP

Gordon Horgen Memorial Scholarship

The South Dakota Education Association/NEA is calling for applications for the Gordon Horgen Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded to Native American students who are planning on entering the teaching profession. This scholarship was created by the 2014 Representative Assembly to honor the late Gordon Horgen from Winner.

The Association may annually award up to four \$750 scholarships for each academic year. The scholarships are open to Native American high school seniors or college sophomores who are planning to enter the teaching profession.

Deadline: *February 15*

SDEA/NEA RAMIA BOERSMA SCHOLARSHIP

Ramia Boersma Scholarship

The South Dakota Education Association/NEA awards scholarships to outstanding students who are planning on entering the teaching profession. The Association may annually award up to three \$750 scholarships for each academic year.

Deadline: *February 15*

SDEA/NEA EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION GRANT

SDEA/NEA Educational Innovation Grant

The SDEA/NEA Educational Innovation Grant Program provides grants to members in support of innovative educational and student-oriented projects. The grant program funds new member-led projects. It does not fund projects on an on-going basis. The SDEA/NEA Educational Innovation Grants give preference to proposals that address student achievement, cultural diversity issues, include community partnerships, and can be duplicated by others.

Deadline: *May 1*

SDEA/NEA EARLY CAREER EDUCATOR AWARD

SDEA/NEA Early Career Educator Award

An individual member or a local may nominate an early career educator for this award. Each governance unit may select an Early Career Educator of the Year from nominations submitted in their unit. All the unit winners will be candidates for the statewide award, which will be announced at the 2021 Representative Assembly in Pierre.

Deadline: *December 1*

For more information on all grants and awards offered by SDEA, visit SDEA.org.



SDEA Board of Directors meeting minutes can now be found online at NEA EdCommunities on the “SDEA Members Only” group page.

2022 Milken Family Foundation Award Winner

Congratulations to Abby Turbak, a first-grade teacher at McKinley Elementary in Watertown, for receiving the Milken Family Foundation 2022 award. Turbak joins the Milken Educator Network of more than 2,900 outstanding educators and leaders from across the country dedicated to strengthening K-12 education. Turbak was surprised with the honor at a school assembly in early December. The award comes with a \$25,000 cash prize that she can use as she wishes. Congratulations, Abby! To learn more about Abby and the Milken award visit here:



Photos courtesy of Milken Family Foundation

— continued from page 13

many of the anti-public education bills that were brought before the House Education Committee.

The new Speaker of the House is Representative Hughes Bartels from Watertown. Bartels was SDEA’s prime sponsor on last year’s legislation that extended the accountability measures for teacher compensation. As a former school board member, Bartels has continued to demonstrate that he understands the challenges facing public schools. Democrats elected Representative Orin Lesmeister to lead the House Democrats.

Over in the State Senate – Senator Lee Schoenbeck of Watertown remains the Speaker Pro-Temp and Senator Casey Crabtree of Madison will be the Senate Majority Leader. The Democrats selected Senator Reynold Nesiba of Sioux Falls to lead their caucus.

New leadership also means new standing committees. Rep. Mike Stevens of Yankton will chair the House Education Committee and Kyle Schoenfish of Scotland will chair

the Senate Education Committee. Both committee chairs are friends of public education. Here are the new education committees:

House Education Committee

Chair: Rep. Mike Stevens

Vice-Chair: Rep. Fred Deutsch

Rep. Amber Arlint

Rep. Byron Callies

Rep. Roger DeGroot

Rep. Eric Emery

Rep. Melissa Heermann

Rep. Phil Jensen

Rep. Scott Moore

Rep. Brian Mulder

Rep. Scott Odenbach

Rep. Tim Reisch

Rep. Stephanie Saunderson

Rep. Bethany Soy

Rep. Tyler Tordsen

Chair: Senator Kyle Schoenfish

Vice-Chair: Steve Kolbeck

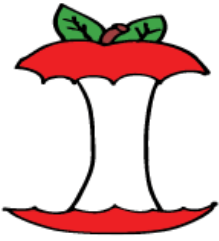
Senator Shawn Bordeaux

Senator Jessica Castleberry

Senator Sydney Davis

Senator Tom Pischke

Senator Tim Reed



SDEA *Retired*

Hard to believe we are well into 2023 already. I have several “Save the Dates” for you. February 11 will be a hearing on the Social Studies Standards in Pierre. Several retired teachers not only attended the Sioux Falls hearing but also picketed outside with signs.

March 1 will be Lobby Day at the legislative in Pierre. Plan to meet at the SDEA office by 10 am for information. We can then go across the street together and encourage our elected officials to vote for education issues that have come up in this year’s session.

March 31 will be our annual SDEA

Retired Meeting. We will be electing both a vice president and treasurer this year. We are going to try a combination virtual/live meeting for the first time so watch for details and please plan to attend. Joyce Jefferson of the South Dakota Humanities Counsel’s Speaker Bureau will be performing as a character from South Dakota’s past.

We will also be having several pre-retirement meetings throughout the spring. Watch for dates, places, and times as these are arranged. I hope to see/meet many of you as we gather at these events. I hope you have a happy 2023!

Mary Jane Chiles
SDEA Retired President

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

SDEA Retired Staff Liaison:
Phil Moore 605-222-1920
Philip.Moore@sdea.org



LOBBY LINE: The Latest News from the State Capitol

Get the latest developments, action alerts and breaking news from the SDEA Lobby Team at the South Dakota State Capitol.
www.sdea.org/lobbyline

Local Treasurer’s Training

- Responsibilities as an Association Officer
- Reporting Association Income and Expenses
- Important Tax Topics
- Membership Dues/Reconciliation
- ACH payment option

Contact Holly Frederick at holly.frederick@sdea.org and Lathie Under Baggage at lathie.underbaggage@sdea.org to set up your training date!

Read Across America: Event Ideas

Ready, Set, Read Across America! Now's the time to plan for NEA's Read Across America Day in March and get involved in year-round reading fun in your community.

Want to plan a Read Across America event, but don't know where to start? Don't sweat it: It's as easy as A B C and 1 2 3:

A



Review the recommended titles in the Read Across America calendar.

B



Choose from ideas for sharing books in the calendar and all kinds of ways to celebrate with stories that best fit your school or community. Plan one big March activity or schedule monthly reading fun—or plan both!

C

Look for ways to tie-in featured books and activities to existing activities on your school calendar and your curriculum.

1

Use these titles and resources whenever and however it works best for you. These books and activities can fit anywhere, anytime of year.

2



Get books! Visit the NEA page on the First Book Marketplace to find titles featured in the calendar and the poster, as well as other high-quality titles. First Book makes these titles available at affordable prices to educators serving children in need. Sign up

at firstbook.org/NEA. Look for titles not available from First Book at Scholastic (scholastic.com/teachers/home/).

3



Need more help? Join us on Facebook for ideas to help you celebrate reading on special days, every month, or on Read Across America Day, along with helpful promotional and communication tools—like our Read Across America logo.



SAVE THE DATE

Lobby Day

March 1, 2023 | Fort Pierre, SD

New SDEA Staff



Kelli Leddy

What is your role?

Membership
Technician

What did you do before SDEA?

Professional Review
Specialist for a dental
insurance company

Something you want the members to know about you?

I grew up in Pierre, SD and returned after graduating from Lake Area Technical College in 2011. We love living on the river and enjoy all things outdoors.

Anything you want to share about family?

My husband, Jamie, and I have 2 boys—Rex (7), Teddy (2), and 1 dog.

UniServ Program – Advocating for our members since 1970

The UniServ program provides services to SDEA members and local associations. The term “UniServ” refers to unified service, integrating the local, state and national programs in the delivery of services and benefits to members.

Members and local associations have access to well-trained UniServ staff who provide training, assistance, and information covering each program area of SDEA negotiations, member rights and membership development.

Eric Herold

Western UniServ Director
Eric.Herold@sdea.org

LouAnn Jensen

EGL UniServ Director
LouAnn.Jensen@sdea.org

Philip Moore

SEE UniServ Director
Philip.Moore@sdea.org

Sandy Arseneault

Plains UniServ Director
Sandy.Arseneault@sdea.org

Emily Meier

Eastern Prairie UniServ Director
Starting Jan. 4th!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

February

- 10-11 NEA BOD mtg
- 11 Social Studies Standards hearing @ Pierre
- 15 Gordon Horgen Scholarships deadline
- 15 Ramia Boersma Scholarships deadline
- 18 Budget Committee mtg
- 20 President's Day (SDEA offices closed)
- 27 Western Unit mtg

March

- 1 Lobby Day
- 2 Read Across America
- 3-5 Spring Leadership Educator Conference @ Chamberlain
- 4 Budget Committee mtg
- 7 Eastern Prairie Mini RA
- 9 Last Day of Main Run SD Legislature
- 10-12 NEA Leadership Summit
- 18 Plains Mini RA
- 20 Western Mini RA
- 20 EGL Mini RA
- 21 SEE Unit mtg
- 24-26 NEA ESP Conference
- 27 Veto Day
- 30-31 SDEA BOD mtg
- 31-4/1 SDEA RA

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