



ADVOCATE

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Read Across America!

APR. 7

SDEA Representative Assembly

APR. 8

SDEA Election voting begins

APR. 24

SDEA Election voting ends

APR. 28-29

NEA Board of Directors Meeting – Washington, DC

2017 SDEA Representative Assembly

Ramkota Hotel in Pierre, SD April 7-8

Friday | April 7, 2017

7:00 pm Registration Opens

Ramkota Hotel in Pierre, SD

8:45 pm 1st Business Session

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions

Adoption of Rules of Order

Adoption of the Agenda

Treasurer's Report

Preliminary Credentials Report

State of the Association

Mary McCorkle, SDEA President

Nominations

- SDEA NEA Director
- SDEA Vice President
- SDEA President

NEA Fund for Children & Public Education

10:45 pm Recess

Reception

Saturday | April 8, 2017

7:30 am Registration Opens

8:00 am Presentation of the SDEA Strategic Budget & Hearing

9:15 am 2nd Business Session

Report of the NEA Director, Kathy Meyer

Report of the Interim Executive Director, Richard Kern

1. Report of Task Forces
 - Rebranding Task Force
2. Report of Committees
 - Friend of Education
 - Human & Civil Rights
 - Scholarship Committee

3. Report of the Commission on Teaching & Learning

SD Teacher of the Year, Beth Kaltsulas

Bylaw Amendments

Keynote: Shelly Moore Krajacic, NEA Executive Committee

10:30 am Registration Closes

11:30 am Lunch

Acknowledgement of Honored Guests

- Friend of Education Award
- ESP of the Year Award
- HCR Awards

1:30 pm NEA 360: Making a Difference for Our Members, Bob Burke, NEA

Final Credentials Report

New Business Items

2018 Legislative Agenda

Committee of the Whole

Sine die Adjournment

Find Us On





president's corner

Find SDEA's President on Twitter

@Mary_McCorkle

Check out Mary's Inside the Apple video on YouTube

South Dakota Education Association Channel

Change is Inevitable

Ben Franklin said, "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." Perhaps he should have added "change" to what is certain. Change is inevitable. We may look forward to change, and yet we fear it. Sometimes we can control change and sometimes it just happens. The question is how do we respond to change. Do we let it define us, or do we prepare for change and control our own destiny?

Educators deal with change all of the time. Whether it's changes to standards and curriculum or changes to the school board and school administration, educators are able to adapt. It's what we do because we are professionals. It's what we do because of our students. With the election of President Trump and his subsequent appointment of Betsy DeVos as the Secretary of Education, change is certainly coming. This is nothing new. However, the coming change seems different. It's causing uncertainty and fear. What does it mean for our schools? For our profession? What does it mean for the promise of a great public school for every student?

With change being a certainty, we have

two options. We can sit back and let others determine our fate and the fate of our students, or we can prepare to vigorously defend our rights and those of our colleagues. More importantly, we can raise our voices even more loudly to defend the rights of all of our students. As your SDEA President, I want the future to be of our shaping and not shaped by others, especially those who are not committed to our mission: a great public school for all students.

We have seen what change looks like in places like Wisconsin and Iowa. It means that educators no longer have a voice in the decisions that impact their working environments, which is indeed their students' learning environment. What does that mean for their unions, what does it mean for their profession, what does it mean for their students?

I don't want to wait for something to happen, something that we are forced to react to. I want to prepare. At our upcoming Representative Assembly in April, I will be asking to put together a task force to look at how we as an association collect our dues. One way to weaken our voice is to

take away payroll deduction. Will it happen here in South Dakota? I don't know, but I want us to be prepared. I also want to start a broader discussion about the importance of membership. Is it only about collective bargaining or is it about standing together for our profession and students? I believe it is about the latter. The more voices we have the stronger our chorus, and now, more than ever, our schools and our students need us to come together to support public education and the professionals who make it happen every day.

Yes, change is inevitable, but collectively we have the power to make it work for our students. We do it every day in our classrooms. We did it last year with the sales tax increase. We have the power to do it again for the promise of a great public education. I know we are up to the challenge. We will chart our own path for our students, for our schools and for our profession. Together we will continue to make a difference!

Mary J. McCorkle

Questions or Concerns

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Contact a UniServ Director today!



edcamp South Dakota



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EdCamps are a growing international trend—giving control over professional development back to teachers. Over 100 attended EdCamp last year in Brookings. We want to exceed that this year. Network with other educators, win prizes, and bring new ideas back to your classroom. Invite colleagues and REGISTER TODAY!

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SAVE THE DATE

**South Dakota
EdCamp**

April 1

8:30 am – 3:30 pm

**Dakota Prairie
Elementary School**

111 26TH ST S
Brookings, SD 57006



NEA's Moore Krajacic to Address RA Delegates

SDEA will welcome NEA Executive Committee Member, Shelly Moore Krajacic, as the keynote speaker at the annual Representative Assembly in April. Krajacic, an English and drama teacher from Ellsworth, Wisconsin, was elected to the National Education Association's (NEA) Executive Committee in July 2015 for a three-year term.

Krajacic is a third-generation Wisconsin educator with 17 years of classroom experience. She is a National Board Certified Teacher. Prior to her election to NEA's Executive Committee, Shelly served in numerous national, state and local leadership capacities. She has been especially active in her local NEA affiliate. She was also a candidate for the Wisconsin State Senate in 2011.

In addition, she is a member of the Board of Directors for the Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC), and served on NEA's Board of Directors for six years.

Krajacic earned her bachelor's degree from University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. She received a master's degree in English Education from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, where she previously served as an adjunct instructor.

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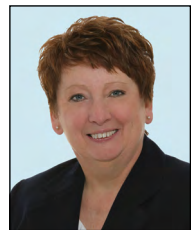
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President: Mary J. McCorkle
Interim Executive Director: Richard Kern
Communications Director: Sandra Waltman
Communications Specialist: Rebecca Uhrig

2017 SDEA Election

Candidates

President Candidate:



Mary McCorkle

Three years ago I ran for SDEA President because of my commitment to our members, our schools and our students. Much has happened in these

three years. We have grown membership, established strategic goals to guide the work of staff and our leaders, and to ensure that dues dollars are wisely spent. We have rebranded to publicly declare "It's all about our kids." We have reapportioned and created a Teaching and Learning staff position to meet the needs of our members in their classrooms. Most significantly, we worked with a broad coalition to bring \$67 million new and ongoing dollars into a new funding formula to move SD from 51st. I have been honored to serve as SDEA President. I look forward to our future and pledge to continue to focus on building strong locals, membership growth and ensuring that SDEA continues to be a strong voice for public education.

Vice President Candidate:



Steve O'Brien

It is my intent to seek re-election to the office of SDEA Vice President. I sincerely thank you for the three years I have served as your SDEA Vice President; it has been

eye opening. I have enjoyed the experience of developing relationships with so many teachers and partners in education. I have learned so much about the successes and challenges in our locals, other states, and our national organization. As a profession and as an organization we have made dramatic steps forward, but we have also learned that gains made require constant vigilance to sustain. I whole-heartedly believe what we stand for is good; that it is right; that it is important to the teachers and students of SD. I want to continue to bring our profession together in support of each other so that no one is made to feel that they are a lone voice.

NEA Director:



Paula McMahan

My name is Paula McMahan and I am running for the NEA Directors Position. In my 17 years of teaching I have seen many changes that I appreciated, and

some I have questioned. My greatest desire is to continue to help education evolve with our growing needs.

It would be a great honor to represent South Dakota educators as the SDEA/NEA Director where I can work to keep South Dakota education advancing. It is important to me to make sure that we keep the values that make our education system in South Dakota great, while also ensuring that we advance with the necessary tools to provide our students with the best possible educational opportunities. Teachers and students alike in South Dakota need to be given opportunities to excel in their classrooms. It would be my honor to listen to and be the passionate, but assertive, voice of South Dakota educators.

Board of Director Member Candidates:

Eastern Prairie



Lisa Jennings

Let me put my years of local, state and national association experience to work for you. As a NEA Director I know the importance of having educators involved

in the discussions that happen around the direction of public education and I promise to represent you well.

Educators Guiding Learners



LouAnn D Jensen

I would be honored to have the opportunity to represent the educators of EGL on the SDEA Board.

Western



David Sommers

I've been proud to serve on the Board of Directors the past two years. I took part in the lobbying for the sales tax increase but I believe there is still more work to be done.

I'm excited to continue the work of the Board if reelected.



Dana Livermont

As a leader in my local association and member of the Western Uniserv team, I know that students and educators have very diverse needs in our area of the state.

We need to have a voice that represents those needs on the BOD. Please vote for me to represent you!

Plains



Pam K Wells

I would be honored to serve as a Board of Director from the Plains Unit. I believe our association is the core leader in the professional

development of the educators of SD. I would appreciate your vote for my candidacy as a board member from Plains Unit.

SouthEast Educators



Martin Sieverding

Thank you for allowing me to serve as a representative for the SEE (formerly SECOR) Unit in the past. I believe strongly in the South Dakota Education

Association and it would be an honor and privilege to continue to represent you for another two years. United together for our kids.

COHE At-Large



Alan W. Aldrich

I serve as the University of South Dakota COHE Chapter President and the COHE at large representative to the SDEA Board of Directors. My academic

background in communication and library/information science guide the kinds of questions I ask and helps to make me an effective advocate and board member.

NEA/RA Delegates Candidates:

Eastern Prairie

Jennifer Bergan Gabor

Continuing to be a part of the democratic process of the NEA/RA and representing fellow Eastern Prairie/SDEA members is a passion of mine and your vote will allow me to do so on your behalf this summer.

Josh Thomas

Working on the Board of Directors this past year has helped me to build relationships with community members, fellow members across the state, and local members. I would love the opportunity to continue to build relationships together for our profession, colleagues, and our students at the NEA/RA.

Virginia Colgan

As a parent and educator with experience in alternative education, I am passionate about the future of education in South Dakota. In this position I will strive to shape future legislation, listen to concerns and advocate for students and teachers to benefit all communities, with respect to our changing diversity.

Pam Oberembt

As SFEA president, I am privileged to serve at the local, state, and national levels. Work at each level is vital to public education, our educators, and our children. I'd be honored to continue that work on behalf of our members as a rep to the NEA RA this summer.

Western

Rachel Rasmussen

I am a strong supporter of public education and continue to work in a variety of association roles. There are many challenges facing public schools. I am a firm believer

that by working together we can improve our schools and the teaching profession for the benefit of our students.

Robin Cline

I've been a Rapid City Education Association member for 14 years. I am a Program Specialist for Rapid City Area Schools and have been a special educator since 1986. I have been honored to serve as NEA Delegate the last two years and would love to represent our teachers again!

Dana Livermont

I would be honored to again represent my colleagues in the Western Unit at NEA RA. I am passionate about the rights of my fellow educators and am committed to working at the local, state, and national level to protect them. Please vote for me to represent you in Boston!

David Sommers

I've had the privilege of serving SDEA in many capacities the last few years including being a representative at the NEA RA. I would love to be able to represent the state and my district in that capacity again if elected.

Darcy Randle

I would appreciate the opportunity to serve as one of South Dakota's voices at the NEA RA. As South Dakota's representative on the NEA Resolutions Committee and as secretary of RCEA, I understand the value of the having our voice heard by NEA. Please consider casting your vote for me.

Sue Podoll

It would be my honor and privilege to serve as a delegate to the NEA Convention. Public Schools are essential to our democracy and our future. Now is the time to stand strong.

Plains

Krista McCorkle

As co-chair of YESS, I'd like to attend the NEA/RA not only to advocate for our students and teachers, but also to build more relationships with other states about their early career educators. These relationships will help YESS and work towards keeping our early educators in classrooms for our kids.

Robert Smallman

As a member of the SDEA board of directors and a local leader in Aberdeen, I am

committed to the successes of our local, state, and national association. I am excited to be your choice for representing SDEA at the national level. Thank you for voting.

SouthEast Educators

Paula McMahan

I am running for NEA/RA Delegate in order to be able to network with other members and work to make changes that lead to action in education. It is important for South Dakota to have a voice and be heard on the national level. It's my pleasure to represent South Dakota.

NEA/RA Ethnic Minority Delegate-At-Large

Deanna J Stands

Public education is vital for any democracy. As a long-time member of SDEA/NEA, former Minority-at-Large member, Wagner EA member, and OSEU team member, I will gladly serve as the next NEA/RA Minority Delegate-At-Large and NEA/RA Delegate-At-Large. Thank you for your vote!

Curtis Anderson

Hi my name is Curt Anderson. I'm a third grade teacher at Oglala Lakota County Schools. I've always considered myself to be an active voice for all minorities. I would be proud to serve in this capacity for the state of SD. I would appreciate your support. Thank you.

NEA/RA Delegate-At-Large

Rachel Rasmussen

Sue Podoll

Virginia Colgan

Pam Oberembt

David Sommers

Paula McMahan

Krista McCorkle

Jennifer Bergan Gabor

Robert Smallman

Darcy Randle

Robin Cline

Curtis Anderson

Dana Livermont

Josh Thomas

Deanna J Stands

2017 SDEA Election

Proposed 2018 Legislative Agenda

ENSURING CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY

SDEA/NEA supports:

- Sufficient funding provided by the state and other sources to ensure that buildings are secure, structurally and environmentally safe and meet 21st century instructional needs.
- A drug-free, tobacco-free, and weapon-free learning environment.
- Funding based on current costs, not averages, for serving those with disabilities (ages birth-21)
- The requirement that school districts provide safe and well regulated trans- portation or reimbursement to parents/guardians for transportation of students to and from public school.
- A learning environment free from intimidation, bullying, harassment, and violence.
- A learning environment with access to certified counselors, social workers, mental health professionals, and appropriate medical and nutritional personnel.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR JOBS OF THE FUTURE

SDEA/NEA supports:

- Broad-based curriculum and research based standards supported by a complement of services that prepare students for life-long learning.
- The implementation of career and technical preparation programs that position students for jobs of the future.
- State funding for post-secondary scholarships across a broad spectrum of student abilities.
- Development of a comprehensive plan to determine individual student growth.

STRENGTHENING PUBLIC EDUCATION

SDEA/NEA supports:

- ~~Increasing state funds for public education to the regional per-student average of South Dakota's six bordering states: pre K-12, career and technical institutes, and post-secondary at both under-graduate and graduate levels.~~
- Providing adequate state funding to South Dakota preK-12 public schools so that South Dakota's school districts can offer competitive salaries and benefits for school employees and can provide students with 21st century opportunities to learn.
- Providing adequate state funding so that South Dakota's post-secondary public institutions can attract and retain high quality faculty, and that will make post-secondary education, including technical, undergraduate and graduate education, affordable for South Dakota students.
- Through existing resources, SDEA/NEA will work with state legislators to ensure that the state's funding formula for k-12 education meets the needs of all school districts in South Dakota and allows all districts to grant meaningful salary and benefit increases to teachers and education support professionals.
- Keeping public dollars for public education students.

- The use of accreditation standards by the State Board of Education in the school accreditation process.
- Efforts to have appropriately certified and endorsed educators in all positions.
- The limitation on the amount of money school districts can maintain or carry over in their fund balances.
- A long-term solution, which includes a balanced tax structure, to fund public education in South Dakota.
- School terms that include student contact days and/or hours, professional development/curriculum days and family conferences.
- The rejection of any taxation plans that adversely affect education funding.
- A full-time all day kindergarten program.
- Sufficient funding for the programs and resources needed to address the change in compulsory attendance.
- Legislation promoting enhanced teacher quality through instructional leadership, rigorous and responsive teacher preparation programs, quality mentoring and sound professional development programs that support South Dakota professional teacher standards.
- Sufficient time, funding, and resources to provide professional development to address changes required by the implementation of state/federally mandated initiatives.
- Efforts to expand Early Childhood Education programs.
- Efforts to ensure all Kindergarten students are at least five years old at the start of the school year.
- Student assessments that inform instruction and improve student learning. Such assessments should provide for multiple measures of learning, including measures that assess higher order thinking skills.

RESPECTING EDUCATION EMPLOYEES

SDEA/NEA supports:

- Increasing the salaries of all education employees to the regional average or above.
- Legislation which would fund health benefits for public school employees.
- Efforts to strengthen collective bargaining rights and to achieve greater equity at the bargaining table (i.e. binding arbitration.)
- Legislation that would require rationale be given on decisions by the South Dakota Department of Labor regarding bargaining issues.
- Efforts and legislation to maintain and/or increase the South Dakota Retirement System benefit factor and/or to protect the SDRS Pension Trust Fund sustainability. These efforts shall include, but not be limited to, building a coalition including all organized employee groups covered under SDRS.
- Legislation that ensures that there are collectively bargained salaries and incentives to attract and retain quality educators.
- Legislation that supports enhanced compensation systems that are locally bargained, based on multiple measures, resulting in improved instruction and/or effectiveness and encouraging teacher

Proposed SDEA Bylaw Changes

Proposal 1

Article VIII. Duties of Officers and Board of Directors

SECTION 7. MEETINGS. The board of directors shall meet at least four (4) times during the fiscal year, at such times and places as determined by the board of directors. Any meeting may be conducted by teleconference which is defined to mean information exchanged by any audio, video, or electronic medium, including the internet, or any combination thereof.

Submitted by: Bylaws Committee, Kathy Meyer, Chair

Board Position: Do Pass

Rationale: The amendment conforms the SDEA Bylaws to current practice. The 2016 Legislative Session amended the non-profit corporation laws to accommodate the more modern way of communicating, thus allowing the SDEA Bylaws to be updated to conform the Bylaws to current practice.

Proposal 2

Article XIV. Procedures of the Representative Assembly

SECTION 1. MEETINGS. The two-day annual meeting of the representative assembly shall be held in during the time frame from March 15 through the end of April. The time and place shall be determined by the board of directors.

Submitted by: Bylaws Committee, Kathy Meyer, Chair

Board Position: Do Pass

Rationale: The expansion of the time frame in which the Representative Assembly can be held gives flexibility in scheduling the event. Currently, the Easter holiday can make scheduling the Representative Assembly difficult as can the limited availability of places to hold the event during April. The change is designed to allow more options for scheduling and for venues in which to hold the Representative Assembly.

Proposal 3

Article XIV. Procedures of the Representative Assembly

SECTION 1. MEETINGS. The two-day annual meeting of the representative assembly shall be held in April. The time, and place, and method of conducting the annual meeting shall be determined by the board of directors. The meeting may be conducted by teleconference which is defined to mean information exchanged by any audio, video, or electronic medium, including the internet, or any combination thereof.

A representative assembly may be called to special meeting by the board of directors of or by request of the governing bodies of fifteen affiliated local associations. Notice of a special meeting and the agenda must be mailed, either by postal mail or by email, to all affiliated local association presidents in advance of the date of the meeting. The time and place of the special meeting shall be determined by the board of directors. The meeting may be conducted by teleconference which is defined to mean information exchanged

by any audio, video, or electronic medium, including the internet, or any combination thereof. No business may be considered at a special meeting except that listed on the agenda.

Submitted by: Bylaws Committee, Kathy Meyer, Chair

Board Position: Do Pass

Rationale: The amendment conforms the SDEA Bylaws to current practice. The 2016 Legislative Session amended the non-profit corporation laws to accommodate the more modern way of communicating, thus allowing the SDEA Bylaws to be updated to conform the Bylaws to current practice.

Proposal 4

Article IV. Membership

SECTION 1. ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Active membership in the Association shall be continuous, but may be terminated by the member by:

(1) written resignation to the local-association Association state president prior to September 15; or

(2) at the discretion of the state president and the executive director after September 15; or

(3) by the board of directors for: (a) non-payment of membership dues, (b) failure to meet membership requirements, or (c) denial or revocation of membership pursuant to Article IV, Section 9.

Submitted by: Bylaws Committee, Kathy Meyer, Chair

Board Position: Do Pass

Rationale: By changing to whom the written resignation must go, the resignation will be processed in a timely manner. Some local presidents wait until the membership packet is submitted to SDEA headquarters in October before submitting pre-September 15 resignations making these resignations appear to be untimely when they are not. This change is designed to prevent this from happening.

— Continued from page 6

Proposed 2018 Legislative Agenda

- collaboration, not competition or merit pay.
- Providing a negotiated per diem increase in pay for all school employees if there is an increase in the school term.
- The increase of support professionals' salaries to equal or surpass the national livable wage.
- The representation of all levels of instruction in the planning/development and implementation of educational policy.
- Maintaining continuing contract provisions in the law.
- A work environment free from intimidation, bullying, harassment and violence.



Milken Educator Award Winner AMANDA CHRISTENSEN

About the Milken Educator Awards

The Milken Educator Awards, created by the Milken Family Foundation, is in its 30th year. The Awards provide public recognition and individual financial rewards of \$25,000 to elementary and secondary school teachers, principals and specialists from around the country who are furthering excellence in education. Recipients are heralded in early to mid-career for what they have achieved and for the promise of what they will accomplish.



Amanda Christensen may teach in a small town, but she brings big opportunities to her students. A fourth-grade teacher at Longfellow Elementary School in Mitchell, South Dakota, Christensen helped her students enter a writing contest held by Mantis Digital Arts, an educational video game developer in Brookings, South Dakota. When the class produced the first-place winner and several runners-up, the company's founder visited to hand out the awards.

Christensen finds creative ways to get students involved in their learning by incorporating technology and different apps to help students acclimate to a digital world. Realizing that the class needed to hit a number of content standards in science, she presented the list to the class, grouped students by interest, and had each group research, plan, and execute an experiment related to one standard. At the end, each group presented its experiment and findings to the class, using programs like Prezi or PowerPoint as visual aids. Christensen also works hard to use best practices in teaching reading. Her diligence pays off: Christensen's students routinely exceed expectations on district STAR assessments, gaining at least 100 points over the year.

Walk by Christensen's classroom and you might hear a chorus of animal noises during a lesson on figurative language and onomatopoeia. When several students shared with her their passion for fantasy novels, Christensen dove into a popular series herself so they could compare their progress and discuss the characters. Christensen sets out daily objectives so students know the expectations of their

lessons, emphasizing accountability and independence. Known for her ability to engage even the most reluctant learners, Christensen shows interest in her students' lives, makes sure they feel valued, and reminds them that each student has a purpose in life.

To connect students with the community, Christensen partners with LifeQuest, a nearby facility for adults with developmental disabilities. Several times a year LifeQuest residents visit Christensen's class, where students read to them. The children make birthday cards for their LifeQuest friends, many of whom donate supplies to the classroom. At year-end, the class and LifeQuest residents replant the facility's flower beds together. The relationship with LifeQuest introduces the students to potential career paths and gives Christensen a rich foundation for conversations about tolerance and respecting people's differences.

Christensen serves on Longfellow's technology committee, co-advises the student council, and sits on Mitchell's district English Language Arts curriculum review team. She tutors students after school and over the summer and teaches in Longfellow's Lions Academy, a summer skill-building program. Christensen forges relationships with parents, inviting them into the classroom to volunteer and keeping in touch via phone, email and the ClassDojo app, which gives them immediate feedback and updates. A willing mentor whose positive attitude lifts up those around her, Christensen shares lessons, offers technology tips and helps others get new projects off the ground.

Christensen earned a Bachelor of Arts in elementary education in 2011, and a Master of Arts in reading in 2015 from Augustana University.

Educator Profile — Amanda Christensen 2016. (2017, January) Retrieved from <http://www.milkeneducatorawards.org/educators/view/amanda-christensen>



CONNECT
COLLABORATE
SHARE
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Free and open to all, **NEA edCommunities** is the place online where educators, school support professionals, and community members join forces to improve student success. A variety of groups address diverse education issues including:

- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- School bullying
- National Board certification
- Safe and healthy schools
- ESP hot issues
- Flipped classrooms

You can also form a group of your own to advocate and collaborate on an issue that matters to your students and schools.

Great minds lead the profession on NEA edCommunities.

This is **your** community — get inspired and inspire others! Share your strengths, exchange ideas and resources, create innovative materials and tools, join webinars, and engage with others who share your commitment to our public schools and a student-centered education agenda.



Connect with colleagues across the country.



Join any of the numerous groups focused on specific topics or start your own!



Collaborate with school and community stakeholders.



Expand your professional opportunities with virtual learning events.



Share and access free, high-quality curricula and resources to create customized learning tools.



Explore new ways of teaching and learning that work for your students.

Join the other great minds on **NEA edCommunities** to connect, collaborate, share, and learn.

SIGN UP AND GET STARTED TODAY
MYNEA360.ORG





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Board Minutes

SDEA/NEA Board of Directors' Meeting

January 20-21, 2017

Questions? Contact:

Loren Paul

Retired Program Coordinator

411 E. Capitol | Pierre, SD 57501

800-529-0090 ext. 131 | 605-224-9263 ext. 131 | loren.paul@sdea.org

It's that time again — Legislature is in session! Here in Pierre everyone seems busy, busy, busy. We all should appreciate the time, effort and funds expended to 'keep an eye' on, and advocate for Retirement and Education 'across the street' at the Capitol. Your staff works so hard for all of us involved with students.

To keep current on SDEA information, check out www.sdea.org on your computer. Our "Lobby Line" and *The Advocate* go a long way to keep us informed as well.

Grass Roots support convinces politicians to act responsibly. Any of your local 'Cracker Barrel' meetings are also excellent venues of support.

Our participation in EPIC (Educators Political Involvement Committee) over the years has been strong. SDEA-Retired relies totally on voluntary contributions to EPIC and the funds are restricted to local South Dakota elections only. Once again we have collected over \$1 per member.

The Annual Meeting of SDEA-Retired will be held this year on Friday, April 7th, at the Cultural Heritage Center—that's the state museum up the valley north of the capitol. The meeting itself starts at 2 p.m. central. This year we will elect a new Treasurer & Vice President in addition to the normal business items. The museum closes at 4:30. If you want to browse, be sure to leave sufficient time before the meeting. SDEA-R will pay your entrance fee if

you register at the information desk. After the annual meeting, SDEA-R will host the supper at RedRossa. The SDEA Representative Assembly will begin later that evening and run into Saturday. If you are an official delegate, attend both the SDEA-Retired Annual meeting and the SDEA RA, you will be entitled to a \$50 stipend.

If you wish to attend these RA's as a delegate, inform me (john.salladay@gmail.com) by Wednesday March 1st. I must inform SDEA for our delegate count on that date.

SDEA has blocked rooms at the Ramkota for \$89.99. Rooms will be released March 8th, however the rooms are usually spoken for by the end of February. If you choose to stay at the Ramkota, please call 605-224-6877 and be sure to mention you are with SDEA.

This year our NEA grant has enabled us to offer 3 Membership Information and Pre-Retired Informational Seminars this spring. The meetings will be held from 10:00 to 2:00 with lunch provided. These seminars have been, according to evaluations, hugely successful in the past. Saturday meetings allow anyone now teaching but planning to retire soon to attend. Presentations will cover: South Dakota Retirement System Information; Financial Planning for Retirement; Legal Issues: Wills, Trusts, Powers of Attorney; and Horace Man Information.

SPRING SEMINARS

Membership & Pre-Retired Information

Saturday, April 22
Dakota Events Center (DEC), Aberdeen

Saturday, April 29
Ramkota Hotel, Rapid City

Saturday, May 13
TBT, Sioux Falls

Drawings will be held at each. There will be a prize of \$50 and a SDEA-R local 2017-2018 dues prize. For those Pre-Retired who join at the meeting, there will be a drawing for the SDEA portion (\$80) of the dues as well.

Present for the meeting in addition to M. McCorkle were: O'Brien, Meyer, Soldatke, Thomas, Wiebers, Smallman, Canet, Sieverding, McMahan, Monson, Chase, Jensen, Sokol, Aldrich, and Salladay. Also present were, P. McCorkle, Kern, Plooster, and Bartlett.

Absent were: Sommers, Lind, Brooks, Simon and Wright.

Hoines, Hoffmann, and Jennings, joined the meeting as observers.

Approved SDEA's 3-1(g) plan. (Meyer, Canet)

Approved Suzanne Tecklenburg of Harrisburg, SD as SDEA's ESP of the Year. (SDEA ESP Committee).

Approved suspending the portion of Board Policy 2.15 requiring bid process and to authorize business manager to purchase folder/stuffer including 1-year service agreement. (Sieverding, Smallman)

Approved eliminating the first bullet under Strengthening Public Education and replace with two new bullets and including tech institutes and undergraduate and graduate education. (M. McCorkle, Sieverding)

Approved Strengthening Public Education section of the legislative agenda. (O'Brien, Meyer)

Approved adopting the Proposed 2018 Legislative Agenda. (Salladay, Wiebers)

Approved that BOD Policy 7.8, Counting Procedures for General and Run-off Elections be suspended for the 2017 Officers and Board of Directors elections to allow the Election Committee to declare winners of the completely uncontested races for those positions without the need to send ballots to the SDEA membership regarding those races. (Soldatke, Salladay)

Approved postponing motion regarding NEA RA Unit and at-large delegates election indefinitely. (O'Brien, Sieverding)

Approved Kris Frerk of Garretson, SD as the 2017 Friend of Education. (SDEA Friend of Education Committee)

Approved Holly Butrum of Veblen, SD as the 2017 Human and Civil Rights – Taking A Stand, Making A Difference Award winner, and Jayden Rose Whiting as the 2017 Human and Civil Rights – SuAnne Big Crow Memorial Award winner. (SDEA Human and Civil Rights Committee)

Approved EGL UniServ bylaws. (SDEA Bylaws Committee)

Approved a Board position of Do Pass to Proposal 1 Article VIII. Duties of Officers and Board of Directors. (SDEA Bylaws Committee)

Approved a Board position of Do Pass to Proposal 2 Article XIV. Procedures of the Representative Assembly. (SDEA Bylaws Committee)

Approved a Board position of Do Pass to Proposal 3 Article XIV. Procedures of the Representative Assembly. (SDEA Bylaws Committee)

Approved a Board position of Do Pass to Proposal 4 Article IV. Membership. (SDEA Bylaws Committee)

Approved adopting SDEA Board Policy 11.15 Miscellaneous Document Management Policy. (SDEA Internal Concerns Committee)

Approved changes to SDEA Board Policy 13.2 Staff Negotiations. (SDEA Internal Concerns Committee)

Approved ratifying the EEOC mediation settlement agreement with Employee A. (O'Brien, Jensen)

Approved rescinding the Board motion and vote of April 8, 2016, to uphold the decision of the Executive Director to terminate the employment of Employee A. (O'Brien, Jensen)

Approved accepting the resignation of Employee A effective February 3, 2016. (O'Brien, Thomas)



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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2017

- Mar. 2 **Read Across America!**
- Mar. 9–12 NEA ESP Conference
- Mar. 10 Last Day of SD Legislature
- Mar. 12 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- Mar. 17 St. Patrick's Day
- Mar. 18 Western Mini RA, Rapid City
- Mar. 20 Eastern Prairie Mini RA, TBD
- Mar. 21 SouthEast Educators Mini RA, Menno
- Mar. 27 Educators Guiding Learners Mini RA, TBA

April 2017

- Apr. 1 South Dakota EdCamp – Brookings
- Apr. 2 SDEA BOD Conference call
- Apr. 6–7 SDEA BOD meeting, Pierre
- Apr. 7 Plains Mini RA, Pierre
- Apr. 7–8 SDEA RA, Pierre
- Apr. 8 SDEA Election voting begins for Officers, BOD & NEA RA Delegates
- Apr. 14 Good Friday – offices closed
- Apr. 16 Easter
- Apr. 17 Easter Monday – offices closed
- Apr. 19 Administrative Professionals Day
- Apr. 21–22 Spring SDEA Student Conference, Brookings
- Apr. 22 Earth/Arbor Day
- Apr. 24 SDEA Election voting ends for Officers, BOD & NEA RA Delegates
- Apr. 28 SDEA Election Committee meets
- Apr. 28 NEA BOD meeting, Washington, DC