



ADVOCATE



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DATES TO REMEMBER

MAY 7-12

National Teacher
Appreciation Week

MAY 9

National Teacher Day

MAY 29

Memorial Day
SDEA offices closed

JUNE 30 - JULY 6

NEA Annual Meeting
Boston, MA

Rapid City Paraprofessionals Victorious in Decertification Vote...

Keep RCEA Representation: 206 – No Representation: 5



the future we have to do a better job at getting to the new paras to let them know they do have a voice," said Moncrieff. "Other paras didn't think they had the right to say anything if they weren't dues paying members. They didn't understand that it is still their contract and that we want to hear what they have to say."

RCEA polled all the paras and at least 218 indicated that they wanted to keep representation. RCEA only need to have 122 employees vote in favor of

Last fall, the Rapid City School Board went into executive session and made a decision that would take away the voice of the paraprofessionals working in the district. In December, the Rapid City Education Association (RCEA) was notified that the school board had voted to decertify the union as the representative for the 238 paras that worked for the district. This set off months of challenges to the South Dakota Department of Labor (SDDOL) that would lead to a decertification election.

Winning such an election was not going to be an easy task. RCEA only had about 20 paras who were members. However, members and non-members alike were very concerned about decertification and the paras across the district came together to fight back. They began to organize building by building and over the next several months had hundreds of one-on-one conversations.

Virginia Moncrieff has worked as a para in the district for 18 years and helped lead the effort. She said that simple communication was the key to a successful vote. "I have talked to more paras in the last five months than I did in the last 18 years. Some didn't even realize they had representation, which means in

representation. The next challenge was going to be to get all of them to vote on the day of the election. Non-voters would be counted as no votes, so RCEA gathered cell phone numbers and home email addresses for most of the paras in the district. Again, constant communication was going to be key to turning out the vote.

Time for voting was limited and paras would have to drive to the local Department of Labor office to cast their ballot. RCEA worked with the paras in each building to develop a vote plan and that work paid off. On May 3, 211 employees cast a ballot and 206 voted to keep RCEA as their bargaining representative. Only five voted no and 31 employees didn't vote. With a resounding 85 percent of the 238 employees voting in support of representation, the Rapid City School Board would have to resume the negotiation process with the group.

Penny Osborne, a para working with the McKinney Vento Program, is a new member to RCEA. She joined because she realized it would be a good idea to have someone to back her up. However, when the district announced it was going to take away her

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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

The Season Hope and Renewal

It is the time of the year we all look forward to; it's spring. The grass is turning green, leaves are popping, flowers are blooming. Educators are wrapping up the school year and preparing to send another group of students off to the next grade or stage in life. We can't help but appreciate this time of the year. It is truly a season of hope and renewal.

Some may ask how we can be so hopeful with the current news headlines and the possible attacks on public education. Yes, we are facing many challenges and we expect some rough weather ahead. Whether it's the movement to voucherize public schools, the efforts to end payroll deduction, or the threat to collective bargaining in our state, there are some storms ahead. Why do I have so much hope? The answer is quite simple; it's our members. It's the dedication I see in all of you that tells me there is hope.

First and foremost, I see the dedication you have for the students of South Dakota. Not

a day that goes by where I do not see SDEA members going above and beyond for their students—the extra hours at school, the late nights correcting papers or cleaning up after a school concert, and the early mornings preparing for the day or ensuring lunch will be ready on time. You put in those hours for your students.

I've also seen members step up when it comes to issues that matter. You came to the Pierre in support of an increase to the state's sales tax. Record numbers of you have contacted South Dakota's Congressional delegation regarding your concerns about Betsy DeVos and federal cuts to education funding that will have a devastating impact on our rural schools. Many of you stepped out of your comfort zone to make sure your voice was heard.

Many of you have stepped up and helped grow our membership. You helped your local host back-to-school events and luncheons

for new teachers. You were willing to have those important one-on-one conversations about the difference a collective voice can make. It was through those efforts that our voice grew in numbers.

Yes, there are going to be some stormy waters ahead. As a union, we are facing unprecedented challenges at both the state and national level. Yet, I am still hopeful for our future because of the dedication of our SDEA members. Things will change, but if we continue to work together, we can determine what that change will look like.

As you wrap up the school year, know you are appreciated for everything you do for your students and for everything you do for your Association. Have a good and restful summer. Take time to recharge...and be ready for next year. We are going to need each and every one of you.

Mary J. McCorkle

Assessment & SLO Training Available to Locals



Questions? Contact:
Rich Mittelstedt

Teaching and Learning Coordinator

800-529-0090 | 605-886-4800 | richard.mittelstedt@sdea.org

SD Mentoring Program Available for First Year Teachers

If you or someone you know will be a first year teacher in the 2017-18 school year, consider the **SD Mentoring Program**. Districts who did not participate last year can still do so

next year. Applications for first year teachers are due by **June 16th**. Administrator approval is required. For more information, visit <http://doe.sd.gov/mentoring/>.

Assessment Workshop

- May 31-June 1** Winner High School
- July 20-21** Rapid City High School

"I Can Do It" Classroom Management

This course was developed by experienced educators to provide early career teachers with basic classroom management techniques that will effectively provide success in the classroom. Veteran teachers looking for some new ideas or desiring to share ideas may also benefit from "I Can Do It".

- June 14-15** Aberdeen
- Aug. 14-15** Brookings

— Continued from page 1

representation, she decided to step up. She says the high turnout demonstrates the frustration among the group. "Honestly, we had a lot more people vote than expected," said Osborne. "I think it was because people were tired of feeling like the bottom of the barrel in the district. We haven't had a lot of raises. Sometimes we are made to feel like we are just paras. It's hard to go and give your all and do the thing we do and not be treated fairly. It's about respect and we want to be compensated for what we do."

What's next? Membership among the paras has doubled. Moncrieff sees that number growing. With the election behind them, they now go to the bargaining table. Moncrieff and Osborne hope that the vote sent a clear message to the school board. "The big issue is they want to get paid for the hours that they are at school, which is not happening now. We want to get everybody on the right step. There are paras who have been with the district ten years and are only on step 3," said Moncrieff. "We want to get some recognition for the paras who have stuck it out and love this job and do it for the right reasons."

Osborne also credits the leadership of RCEA for its support of the paras. "I am really impressed with the way the leadership of our union backed us. They went 100 percent for the paras to have this victory," said Osborne. "I am optimistic that we can build on this victory. I am hoping that negotiations go well and in turn we get more members. Regardless, I really think we are going to keep all of the paras more informed about what is going on and keep that connection."

RCEA said in a statement that "Many paraprofessionals feel that the representation controversy has brought them together as a more cohesive group. Through this struggle, they have a renewed sense of comradery and feel that their voices are stronger together. With the election completed and RCEA representation still in place, paraprofessionals are optimistic about their future in the school district."

Common Assessment Trainings

(2-day sessions, 15 CEU hours or 1 grad credit) Located in Pierre at SDEA HQ, unless participant group is predominantly in a different part of the state. Then, we will bring training to them. Participants will have a choice of three different content areas. They need to select one content area when registering for a training.

- July 6-7** HS Biology, HS Chemistry, 8th Phys. Sci.
- July 10-11** FACS, Computer, Business
- July 13-14** MS Math, K12 Music, K12 Art
- July 31-Aug. 1** K12 Soc. Science, El Writing, El Science

— SDEA/NEA Welcomes New Staff —



Ashley Griese
Membership Technician
Pierre, SD



Dolores Tufaro
UniServ Director – EGL
Brookings, SD



Rebecca Uhrig
Communications Specialist
Pierre, SD

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

2017

South Dakota Indian Education Summit



Sept. 24th-26th
Ramkota Conference Center
Pierre, SD

SAVE THE DATE

Request for presentation proposals

The South Dakota Department of Education's Office of Indian Education (SD OIE) invites you to submit a proposal to present at the 2017 Indian Education Summit. The 14th annual summit will be held at Pierre's Ramkota Conference Center. Speaker presentations will be scheduled to take place Sunday evening through early Tuesday afternoon.

Each year, education professionals from across the state and around the country attend this summit to access high quality professional development, information on the latest trends and proven best practices in the field of Indian education. We seek to showcase successful projects, programs and initiatives for all ages, from preschool to postsecondary.

Preference will be given to proposals addressing one or more of the following strands:

- **Achievement**
- **Culture and Language**
- **Success from Within**
- **Building Future Leaders**

Schedule/format: Presenters may choose to lead one-hour or two-hour sessions. The first hour of two-hour sessions is to be informational, with the second hour an opportunity for attendees to work in small groups to develop action plans based on the information presented.



If you're an eligible NEA member,* you're covered. You have NEA Complimentary Life Insurance issued by The Prudential Insurance Company of America (Prudential). It's active right now and you don't have to take a nickel out of your pocket to keep it active.

But you will want to take a minute or so to name your beneficiary. Or reconfirm the choice you already made. Making your choice can speed up benefit payments to loved ones who need them.

*Visit us online or call for eligibility requirements.
NEA Members Insurance Trust is a registered trademark of the NEA Members Insurance Trust.
NEA Complimentary Life Insurance coverage is issued by The Prudential Insurance Company of America, Newark, NJ.
0289584-00001-00

NEA members are entitled to Complimentary life insurance. Have you named your beneficiary?

Don't wait! Name your beneficiary today and get this **FREE** tote bag from NEA Members Insurance Trust. Go to neamb.com/free-tote or call 1-855-NEA-LIFE and mention (632-5433) offer code: TOTE BAG



DT460317

New Teacher Certification



Changes Coming to Educator Certification

Changes are coming to South Dakota's educator certification process. The South Dakota Board of Education adopted new educator certification rules in early March, overhauling the state's current certification system. The adoption of rules marks the culmination of a process more than two years in the making. The Commission on Teaching and Learning, a partnership between SDEA, the South Dakota Department of Education, the South Dakota School Administrators Association and the Associated School Boards of South Dakota, spent a considerable amount of time reviewing and making recommendations to make the process more streamlined.

Among major areas of change is the creation of a new category of certificates, called educator permits. Several of these permits, like performing artist, expert lecturer and international teacher permits, could help small schools that struggle to find certified teachers in certain areas. In addition, the process for alternative certification has been revised and reciprocity rules have been updated.

A change was also made to middle level endorsements to alleviate confusion over what constitutes a grade level for middle school. A teacher now will be certified in Birth-3, K-8, or 5-12 (K-12 for SPED, art, music, health and world languages and 7-12 for CTE). K-8 SPED certification will be removed. Middle level certification will no longer be required, but course requirements for K-8 and 5-12 both include middle level pedagogy. For example, under the previous system, a teacher might have taught science at a particular grade level in an elementary school, but later moved to teaching science at that same grade level in a school structured as a middle school. Although still teaching the same grade level, simply moving to a school structured as a middle school would have required the teacher to have both middle level and elementary endorsements. Under the new rules, school structure will no longer dictate endorsement requirements for teachers of middle grade levels, typically grades 5, 6, 7 and 8. A middle level endorsement is still outlined in the new rules for districts who may wish to require it.

Other changes include:

- **Initial and Renewal certificate fees increase from \$51 to \$60. Other fees have been adjusted as well.**
- **Two tiers of certification are now available: "professional" for anyone earning certification, and "advanced" for those who obtain advanced degrees or national board certification. Two tiers are also available for administrators.**
- **Recognition of nationally certified school psychologist for state certification.**

- **Teaching experience in designated areas can replace passage of the state-designated pedagogy test.**
- **Ten year certificates for those completing advanced degrees or national board certification will no longer be available, due to the need to maintain consistent and timely background checks.**
- **All paraprofessionals will be required to be certified. Currently, Title I paras are the only ones required to do so. The new regulations create two tiers of certification for paras: the existing level for Title I paras, and a new level with fewer requirements for all others.**
- **An alternative certification path for special education has been created.**

Pending approval by the Legislature's Rules Review Committee, those rule changes that do not impose increased requirements on educators go into effect July 1, 2017. Rule changes that do impose increased requirements on educators go into effect July 1, 2019.

Questions or Concerns

Contact a UniServ Director today!

Fran Linn

Western UniServ Director (Unit A)
800-529-0090 ext. 311 | 605-342-8068
frances.linn@sdea.org

Loren Paul

Plains UniServ Director (Unit B)
800-529-0090 ext. 131 | 605-224-9263
loren.paul@sdea.org

Dolores Tufaro

Educators Guiding Learners UniServ Director (Unit C)
800-529-0090 ext. 510 | 605-370-6132
dolores.tufaro@sdea.org

Ryan Rolfs

Eastern Prairie UniServ Director (Unit D)
800-529-0090 ext. 211 | 605-339-3236
ryan.rolfs@sdea.org

Kara Hoines

SouthEast Educators UniServ Director (Unit E)
800-529-0090 ext. 211 | 605-339-3236
kara.hoines@sdea.org



2017 SDEA/NEA Award Winners



The South Dakota Education Association (SDEA) presented the Taking a Stand, Making a Difference Human Civil Rights award to Sisseton Spanish Teacher, Holly Butrum at its annual Representative Assembly in Pierre. The award is given annually to honor an individual or organization for their work in promoting human and civil rights. Butrum was nominated by Janelle Gregg of the Sisseton Education Association.

“Holly Butrum went above and beyond when she took it upon herself to become an interpreter for the Hispanic immigrants who had come to the Sisseton community to build a new life. Holly befriended her new English

SDEA/NEA’s Taking a Stand, Making a Difference Human & Civil Rights Award

Language Learners and their families to make them feel welcome and to help them learn English,” said SDEA President Mary McCorkle. “Holly welcomes these students and families with open arms. By interpreting for them, she helps them navigate school and the community. What is even more amazing is that she wasn’t asked to do this; she chose to do this work. Holly is a true example of what it means to take a stand and make a difference.”

Gregg, who also teaches at Sisseton High School says Butrum made it her mission to help the immigrant families who were moving to the area. “Holly took all of the school forms and translated them into Spanish. She also sits down with each family and helps them enroll in school. Spanish is a second or third language for some families, yet Holly is not deterred. She finds a way to communicate,” said Gregg. Once the students are in our system, Holly friends them and their families. She doesn’t let them go. She checks on them frequently. These students and families have many legal proceedings. Holly helps them interpret the

paperwork and prepare for these meetings.”

During the day, Butrum spends her time helping immigrant students learn English, but in the evenings, she volunteers her time to teach adult English classes in Veblen. Gregg said the families depend on Butrum and see her as an ally as they navigate their new home community. “They have her phone number and call her when they need help with something. Words cannot express how caring and concerned this woman is for the welfare of these families. If a family, or worse a member of a family, is sent back to their country of origin, it is difficult on Holly who has become a friend to them,” said Gregg. “She does all of this on her own and from her kind heart.”

SDEA is South Dakota’s largest education professionals’ organization, representing more than 5,000 elementary and secondary teachers, higher education faculty, education support professionals, retired educators and students preparing to become teachers.

SDEA/NEA’s 2017 Friend of Education

The South Dakota Education Association (SDEA) presented its 2017 Friend of Education Award to Kris Frerk at its annual Representative Assembly in Pierre. SDEA/NEA’s Friend of Education Award honors a person or organization that has made a significant contribution on a statewide basis toward achieving quality public education for all students.

“We are honored to present this year’s Friend of Education Award to Kris Frerk who is truly making a difference in the lives of students,” said SDEA President Mary McCorkle. “Kris goes above and beyond to ensure that needs of the students in Garretson are met. Her generosity makes all the difference to the students she helps. Every little contribution she makes is a difference to the students whose lives she touches. She is most deserving of this award.”

Frerk was nominated by Jennifer Neugebauer

of the Garretson Education Association (GEA). Neugebauer said Frerk has a deep passion for kids and serving the Garretson community. She described Frerk as forward thinking and a change maker who endlessly gives her time and money to fulfill her heart’s desire to help kids.

“Kris started and organizes our town food pantry. Each Christmas she helps coordinates the Angel Tree ensuring all children experience Christmas. She volunteers at the “Treasure Chest” in town which takes consignments and donations with all the money going back into our children and community,” wrote Neugebauer. “She organizes, packs, and delivers the backpacks for our students on the weekend. The school works directly with Kris to get everything families may need from clothing, beds, shoes, and more. When students need milk money, snacks, or lunch



money she graciously brings food or money to school. During the winter months, she buys snow pants, boots, hats, gloves, socks and anything else kids may need. Kris doesn’t think twice about spending her own money to make a difference in a child’s life I can’t begin to tell you everything she does for our community’s children I can’t begin to tell you everything she does for our community’s children because her impact spreads so far.”



The South Dakota Education Association (SDEA) presented the SuAnne Big Crow Human Civil Rights award to Spring Creek’s Jayden Rose Whiting at its annual Representative Assembly in Pierre. The award is given to honor an individual, student or organization for their work in promoting human and civil rights. Whiting was nominated by Spring Creek School Secretary, Betty Sokol, for her efforts to start Jayden Rose’s Soup Kitchen, which serves meals to students and community members in need.

“Jayden Rose is an inspiration to us all. She saw friends and community members in need, and she acted. Her compassion for others

2017 SDEA/NEA’s SuAnne Big Crow Human and Civil Rights Award

was evident at a young age and it wasn’t long before she knew she needed to make a difference,” said SDEA President Mary McCorkle. “Jayden Rose brought her community together to help each other. We can all learn a lot from Jayden Rose and we are very honored to present her with this award.”

Whiting and her family served their first meal on January 18, 2015 and along with volunteers have been cooking for their community on the last two Sundays of the month. Whiting picked the last two Sundays because it’s when food budgets run out and food for families is scarce. She also started donating clothes, shoes and other personal items she no longer needed to the Sunday gatherings for others to take and use.

Cora Whiting, Jayden Rose’s mother, said even at a young age, Jayden Rose was doing everything she could to feed her friends that had nothing to eat. “When Jayden Rose was about nine or ten years old she would come home from school and ask if she could bring the kids home with her to eat, because some of

her friends told her they didn’t have anything to eat at home. Jayden Rose would cry while asking many questions, to some I did not know how to answer. She would often invite everybody she knew to come to our house to eat, said Whiting. “We would always make sure we would cook enough food to feed all those that Jayden Rose would invite. Her sister would also help her prepare snacks to fill Jayden Rose’s backpack to take to school and share with others.”

Sokol, who has known Jayden Rose since she was in the first grade, said Jayden Rose has always been a kind and giving person. On top of doing the work for Jayden’s Soup Kitchen, she gives her time and talents to her school. “Jayden Rose is a very kind and caring person; she gives of her time and talents whenever they are needed. She would often volunteer to help with school events, such as dances and parties, she would do things such as setting up booths or games, playing music, decorating and cleaning up afterwards,” said Sokol.



The South Dakota Education Association (SDEA) named Harrisburg North Middle School librarian, Suzanne Tecklenburg, the 2017 Educational Support Professional of the Year. Tecklenburg received the award at the annual SDEA/NEA Representative Assembly in Pierre. She was nominated by the Harrisburg Education Association.

SDEA/NEA’s ESP Award recognizes the contributions of Education Support Professionals (ESPs) to their schools, communities, and their professions. The award is presented to a member of SDEA/NEA who demonstrates outstanding accomplishments and who reflects the contributions of ESP to public education.

“Suzanne is an exceptional support professional who goes above and beyond the call of duty for

SDEA/NEA’s Educational Support Professional of the Year

the students and teachers in her school. She is a leader in innovation who has truly taken the school library to the digital age. Students and teachers alike know they can count on Suzanne to assist them with finding digital resources that will enhance the learning experience,” said SDEA President Mary McCorkle. “It was through Suzanne’s leadership, that the classified staff in the Harrisburg School District have a voice in their schools. Her passion for her students and colleagues is evident by the time she gives them as a librarian, a leader, and as school and community volunteer. It is with great pleasure that we recognize Suzanne as our support professional of the year.”

Tecklenburg, who has been the librarian at Harrisburg’s North Middle School for the past seven years, was nominated by Harrisburg Education Association President, Tammy Adney who said Tecklenburg creates a warm and welcoming environment in the library, for students, community, and for our North Middle School. “Ms. Tecklenburg has promoted such a positive environment and strives to help and assist wherever she may be needed. She has been involved with our positive behavioral

intervention program at the middle school. She has met with staff to encourage ideas on how to keep students involved and striving to be their best,” wrote Adney. “She organizes our annual penny war which collects money for needy families in our community and is involved with our giving tree around the holiday. During conferences, she hosts a book fair and invites each class before conferences to come into the library and look at what is available, making that initial contact.”

“Suzie is also involved with our school’s one to one initiative. Students are sent to the library for assistance with any computer issues that they may have. She is available to help troubleshoot issues or help pass them on if needed. Several times she has been called to classrooms to help assist with technology if a technology coordinator is not available. This is a great resource as she is available with a smile on her face,” said Adney. “I think that everyone at North Middle School would agree that whenever you would need Suzie she would be there for you.”

2017 SDEA Representative Assembly



2017 SDEA/NEA Election Winners

The SDEA/NEA Elections Committee met on April 28, 2017, to count and certify the results of the election. Pursuant to SDEA Board of Directors motion at its January 20-21, 2017, meeting, no ballots were sent regarding the SDEA officer positions and Board of Director positions as these races were completely unopposed.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Mary McCorkle

VICE PRESIDENT

Steve O'Brien

NEA DIRECTOR

Paula McMahan

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Western – (2) 2 year terms

1. David Sommers
2. Dana Livermont

EGL – 2 year term

LouAnn Jensen

Plains – 2 year term

Pam Wells

SEE – 2 year term

Martin Sieverding

Eastern Prairie

– 2 year term

Lisa Jennings

COHE At-Large

– 2 year term

Alan Aldrich

2017 NEA RA UNIT DELEGATE WINNERS

Western

1. Sue Podoll
2. Dana Livermont

ALT.

1. Rachel Rasmussen
2. Robin Cline
3. Darcy Randle
4. David Sommers

EGL

VACANT

Plains

Robert Smallman

ALT.

Krista McCorkle

SEE

Paula McMahan

Eastern Prairie

1. Pam Oberembt
2. Josh Thomas

ALT.

1. Jennifer Bergan Gabor
2. Virginia Colgan

2017 NEA RA AT-LARGE DELEGATE WINNERS

Minority At-Large

Deanna Stands

ALT.

Curtis Anderson

AT-LARGE DELEGATES

1. Krista McCorkle
2. Rachel Rasmussen
3. Darcy Randle
4. Robin Cline
5. David Sommers
6. Curtis Anderson

AT-LARGE ALTERNATES

1. Jennifer Bergan Gabor
2. Virginia Colgan

Membership Dues Working for You

\$2,000 Learning & Leadership Grant Winner



It is with great pleasure that the NEA Foundation's Board of Directors announce the approval of 39 new grants. These grants include 13 Student Achievement Grants for collaborative efforts to develop projects that lead to academic achievement for students and 26 Learning & Leadership Grants, which support efforts to engage in high-quality professional development to improve student success. Grant applications for these programs were carefully evaluated by select panels of peers, who considered the quality of the proposed ideas and their potential for enhancing student achievement.

One of these outstanding proposals is from South Dakota!

\$2,000 Learning & Leadership Grant Winner

Mrs. Amanda Ringling

Brandon Valley Middle School
Brandon, SD

Project:

Mrs. Ringling will travel to Iceland to participate in the GeoCamp Iceland Teacher Institute: "Exploring Iceland's Changing Landscapes and Diverse Environments." During the institute, Mrs. Ringling will participate in geographic inquiry and field methods courses where she will learn about global environmental change and its impact on the people of Iceland. Mrs. Ringling will produce classroom resources and lessons for her students as well as the GeoCamp database and organizations including the National Conference on Geography Education.

Descriptions of each grant appear on the NEA Foundation's website, www.neafoundation.org.



Great Public Schools for Every Student

California Casualty Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant

Hill City, SD — Student athletes at Hill City High School will gain a competitive edge thanks to a \$1,000 Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant from California Casualty submitted by SDEA member by Chad Ronish. The funds will be applied towards the purchase of a blocking sled for the football team. The new equipment is needed to reduce the risk of injuries during practices.

Hill City High is one of 79 public schools in 33 states receiving a total of \$83,000.

Since its creation in 2011, more than \$580,000 has been awarded to 500 athletic programs across the nation.

The grant is named after California Casualty Chairman Emeritus Thomas R. Brown, who is a champion of helping more student-athletes learn valuable lessons that carry to other aspects of life.

"California Casualty has been supporting educators for more than 65 years, and we understand the correlation between participation in sports and higher performance in the classroom," said Doug Goldberg,

Senior Vice President. Statistics show that student-athletes have higher test scores and are much more likely to attend college.

South Dakota schools with an unmet need can try for next year; applications for the 2017/2018 California Casualty Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grants are now being taken at www.calcasathleticsgrant.com. The deadline for consideration is January 15, 2018.

California Casualty has other initiatives that give back to educators for all their hard work including the Promise to Drive Focused for a chance to win a Ford Focus car, www.DriveSafePromise.com; \$2,500 Academic Award, www.calcasacademicaward.com; and \$200 Help Your Classroom grants, www.calcas.com/help-your-classroom.



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

Hello Again Retirees! Here's an update on events since the last Advocate.

I was able to attend the NEA Retired Spring Leadership meeting for Presidents held in Dallas in late March, accompanied by Loren Paul our SDEA Retired Coordinator. It was an informational meeting. I collected ideas which should prove helpful for us working on future grants and membership. 'Changes' expected from political Washington were explained in some detail. The general consensus was educational support would not be a priority within the current administration. Certainly it is expected so-called 'collective bargaining' will face challenges ahead. There is no question we must actively work to protect any gains we have made in the past.

Thirteen attended our Retired Annual meeting in Pierre on the 7th of April. We approved an agenda (with flexibility), approved the minutes from the 2016 annual meeting, passed a somewhat modified budget, elected two officers for the next 3 years. In an uncontested election, Rosalie Aslesen becomes the Retired Treasurer and Larry Mintzlaff becomes the Retired Vice President, taking office on the 15th of July. Loren Paul informed us there will probably be a bill next year in the South Dakota Legislature to go after 'bargaining rights.' A Treasurer's and Auditor's report showed us to be

financially healthy. This year's grant money from NEA will go toward funding three pre-retired seminars in Aberdeen, Rapid City and Sioux Falls. An east and west river social-type meeting for members in the fall were also approved, and we plan to apply for 'grants' to help fund them.

Our three pre-retirement seminars, hopefully will result in increased awareness regarding some of the challenges that retirement brings. Aberdeen's will be first on the 22nd of April, then on the 29th of April we meet in Rapid City and in Sioux Falls on the 13th of May.

It is certain Lifetime Membership dues for NEA and NEA Retired will increase in the near future. All are urged to consider this in their planning. A Lifetime Membership protects a person in more ways than one.

Several guests stopped in to 'show the flag', so to speak, and brought greetings. SDEA President Mary McCorkle, Interim Executive Director Richard Kern, SDEA Vice President Steve O'Brien, SDEA NEA Director Candidate Paula McMahan, and the NEA Executive Committee member, Shelly Moore Krajacic, the RA's keynote speaker surprised us with an appearance as well.



At this writing, I am pleased to report we have acquired six new fully paid Pre-Retired members as a result of our efforts at the SDEA RA. Tess Canet won the \$80 drawing for new Pre-Retired members.

One of our biggest problems is keeping our membership records up to date. **PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE** notify us (or me john.salladay@gmail.com) if you change your mailing, e-mail, phone, or other important information. For example, lately the post office seems less willing or able to 'forward' mail. We had approximately 40 'returns' this year when we mailed out Local Dues reminders—a huge monetary hit. If you know of someone moving, please urge them to notify us, we really need your help.

John R Salladay,
SDEA Retired President

Board Minutes

SDEA/NEA Board of Directors' Meeting

November 21, 2016

December 13, 2016

February 20, 2017

March 26, 2017

Via conference call November 21, 2016

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

Absent were: Costa, Bartlett, Sieverding, Sommers, Chase, and Wiebers.

Approved moving Karrie Stroeder of Glenham, SD, on to the NEA ESP of the Year Award. (Salladay, Aldrich)

Via conference call December 13, 2016

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

Absent were: Brooks, Smallman, Bartlett, Wright, Sommers and Monson.

Approved SDSO contract. (Lind, Thomas)

Approved PSO contract. (Aldrich, Wiebers)

Approved Memorandum of Understanding for Health Savings Accounts for both SDSO and PSO. (Jensen, Aldrich)

Approved management contracts. (Canet, Lind) M. McCorkle abstaining.

Via conference call February 20, 2017

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

Absent were: Bartlett, Plooster, Canet, Brooks and Jensen.

Approved accepting the resignation of

Jennifer Winter effective March 31, 2017. (Aldrich, Monson)

Approved accepting the resignation of Amanda VanderPlaats effective February 28, 2017.

Via conference call March 26, 2017

Present for the meeting in addition to M. McCorkle were O'Brien, Meyer, Soldatke, Thomas, Lind, Canet, Sieverding, McMahan, Chase, Sommers, Jensen, Simon and Aldrich. Also present were Kern, P. McCorkle, Plooster.

Absent were Wiebers, Smallman, Brooks, Salladay, Sokol, Bartlett, Wright, and Monson.

Approved hiring of Dolores Tufaro as UniServ Director. (Sommers, Lind)

Approved hiring of Ashley Griese of Pierre for Membership Technician. (Aldrich, Canet)

YESS!

YOUNG EDUCATORS SUPPORT SYSTEM

www.sdeayess.org
sdeayess@gmail.com

Have you heard of YESS! yet? We are the Young Educator Support System. YESS is made up of pre-service SDEA members, early career educators, and veteran educators who care about keeping teachers in the profession.

This support system is working towards building a bridge between the SDEA student programs and active members of SDEA. YESS aims to provide support to early career educators by building relationships, mentoring, community service projects, and networking with educators with similar struggles.



Our Goals:

- build a bridge between SDEA's student program and active members in SDEA.
- help early career educators succeed in the classroom
- provide opportunities for members to be active in their local, state, and national association
- unify student members and teachers to meet the needs of their students
- engage college, new to the field, and young educators with meaningful professional development and support
- help early educators navigate the education field
- provide support to college students, new to the field, and young educators from your peers of young educators



411 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

605-224-9263 ph
800-529-0090

Find Us On

www.sdea.org

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 @SDEAEducators

 South Dakota
Education Association

 @SDEducators

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 2017

- 29 Memorial Day (offices closed)
- 31 – 6/1 Assessment Workshop – Winner High School

June 2017

- 14 – 15 “I Can Do It!” Classroom Management – Aberdeen @ 9 am
- 19 – 21 SDEA BOD/Staff Retreat – Pierre
- 30 – 7/6 NEA Annual Meeting – Boston, MA

July 2017

- 1 Human & Civil Rights Awards Dinner NEA
- 1 NEA Board of Directors Meeting – Boston, MA
- 4 Independence Day (offices closed)
- 6 – 7 Common Assessment Training – Pierre SDEA HQ or TBD
- 10 – 11 Common Assessment Training – Pierre SDEA HQ or TBD
- 13 – 14 Common Assessment Training – Pierre SDEA HQ or TBD
- 14 – 17 NEA Summer State Leaders
- 20 – 21 Summer Assessment Workshop – Rapid City HS @ 9 am
- 20 – 21 SDEA Board of Directors meeting – Pierre
- 31 – 8/1 Common Assessment Training – Pierre SDEA HQ or TBD

August 2017

- 14 – 15 “I Can Do It!” Classroom Management – Brookings @ 9 am