

The Educators'



ADVOCATE

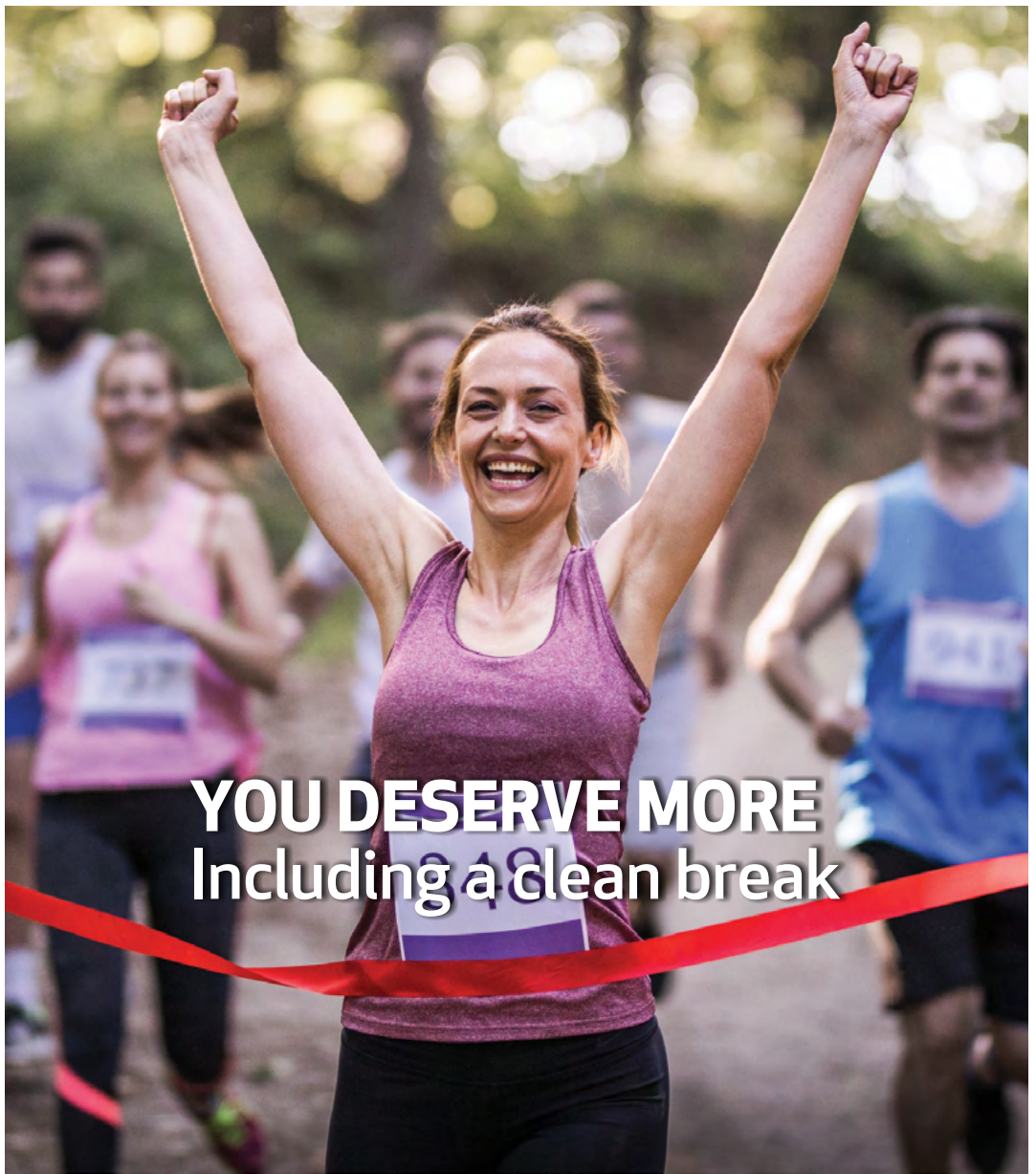
MAY/JUNE 2022

Volume 53 | Issue 5



Vote **NO** on Amendment C

6 Vote No on Amendment C | 7 SDEA Pro-Public Education Primary Candidates
12-13 SDEA Summer Academy



YOU DESERVE MORE Including a clean break



SCAN & GO

You deserve to celebrate life, without the looming stress of student debt. Get a fresh start with NEA Member Benefits. You'll have access to tools made to help members repay student loans, and resources to help navigate the forgiveness process. Which means you can focus on what's ahead.

Prepare for your future at neamb.com/studentloandebt

 /neamemberbenefits

 @NEABenefits

 800-637-4636

nea Member
Benefits

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Inside this Issue

- 4 **President's Corner**
- 5 **A Word from Our NEA Director**
- 6 **Use Your Educator Voice:
Vote No on Amendment C**
- 7 **SDEA Pro-Public Education
Primary Candidates**
- 8 **Dupree's Sioux YMCA Receives
SDEA's 2022 Friend of Education
Award**
- 9 **Arlington's Jill Christensen
Receives SDEA/NEA's Educational
Support Professional Award**
- 10-11 **2022 SDEA Representative
Assembly**
- 12-13 **SDEA Summer Academy**
- 14 **SDEA Scholarship Recipients**
- 15 **SDEA Retired**

MAY/JUNE 2022

Volume 53 | Issue 5

President

Loren Paul

Vice President

Stephanie Hageman

NEA Director

Dana Livermont

Treasurer

Kim Soldatke

Executive Director

Ryan Rolfs

Communications Director

Sandra Waltman

Communications Specialist

Rebecca Feller

Address

South Dakota
Education Association
411 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

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.

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.



President's Corner

Your Summer to Do List: Relax and Recharge

Over the last couple of months, I have spent time on the road visiting schools in every corner of the state. From Alcester-Hudson and Sioux Falls to Meade and Rapid City to Watertown, Webster, and Sisseton, I heard the same message: it has been an extremely difficult school year. The good news is summer is here, so congratulations, you made it. Like many of you who give your students a summer reading list, I am giving you a short summer to-do list.

First, make sure you vote in the June 7 Primary Election. This past legislative session taught us the importance of having pro-public education legislators. Many of these seats will be determined in June and we must support those candidates who support our schools and students.

Even if you don't have a Primary Election, there is still an important ballot question. Amendment C seeks to limit the power of the voters. South Dakota has a long tradition of allowing citizens to vote on the most critical issues facing the state. However, Amendment C takes that power away from the majority and puts it in the hands of the politicians. The minority will have the final say on everything from how we fund public schools and provide healthcare, to how the state provides important infrastructure. Educators can help South Dakota's citizens stop this power grab by turning out to vote no.

Second, sign up to attend the Summer Academy, July 18 -19, at the University of Sioux Falls. Not only will we have opportunities to earn graduate credits and CEUs, but it will be a wonderful opportunity to network with other educators from across the state. The two-day

agenda is packed with sessions for those who want to learn more about getting involved in the Association and we have programming for those who want to continue their professional development. To learn more, visit www.sdea.org.

Finally, and this is the most important item on the list, take time to take care of yourself. This is something you hear at the start of every summer, but this year it is especially important. We have all heard it: 'teachers have the summers off', but we know that is not true. You spend time continuing your education, working multiple jobs, and preparing for the next school year. However, this summer you really must make it a priority to have downtime. Take time to focus on your physical and mental health. You must take care of yourself so that when we do return next year, you are ready to be there for your students.

There are no guarantees that next year will be any less of a challenge. We can hope for the best, but if we spend the next couple of months relaxing and recharging, we can start the next school year ready for whatever it may bring. Again, congratulations on making it through another year. You truly make me proud to represent you. Make sure you complete your 'to-do' list and have a safe and relaxing summer. You deserve it!

Loren Paul
SDEA President

605-224-9263, ext 116
loren.paul@sdea.org



A Word from Our **NEA Director**



Dana Livermont

Dana is a certified school counselor and K-12 specialist with the SD Statewide Family Engagement Center who serves as your representative on the NEA Board of Directors. She is passionate about organizing around issues and equity for students in South Dakota. Twitter [@theDanamyte](#)

It is no news to anyone who may be reading this that education has become a target for attack by political extremists. One of the most fervent attacks of late is to characterize the values of “equity,” “diversity,” and “inclusion” as divisive and synonymous with the bogeyman, “CRT.”

According to the SD DOE 21–22 statewide report card, nearly 3 out of 10 students in South Dakota identify as people of color, non-white, or having two or more races. Our schools are inherently diverse, as are the families from which they come to us. This is not scary or divisive.

I believe that each member of SDEA is deeply committed and passionate about every single one of our students learning, being successful, and feeling a sense of belonging in our schools, regardless of whether it is an urban elementary school of over 500 kids or a K-12 country school in the middle of South Dakota. These are the values of equity and inclusion. They are not scary or divisive.

As educators, we are in a moment where we must take a position and stand for what we believe in, and most importantly, what is best for our students and our communities. We have politicians, extremists, and other non-educators telling us that we can’t say “equity” anymore or that “diversity” doesn’t belong in our schools. To this, we must collectively and loudly say, “no.” We must not sacrifice our values nor concede what students deserve to pacify those who have no credibility in our arena.

In a 2015 speech at the NEA RA, former NEA Executive Director John Stocks said this: “I know what movement moments look like. I know what movement moments feel like. I also know that most people don’t recognize when they are in a movement moment. It starts organically with individual acts of disobedience.” We are at a moment in the history of education in our state where we must find the courage to say, “no,” we will not pretend that diversity doesn’t exist in our state. We will not continue to support systems that allow some students to succeed and others to fail.

If doing what is best for students is divisive, then let’s commit to standing together and standing proudly on the right side of that line.

Equity – justice according to natural law or right; specifically: freedom from bias or favoritism

Diversity – the condition of having or being composed of differing elements: **VARIETY**; *especially*: the inclusion of people of different races, etc. in a group or organization

Inclusion – the act of including; the state of being included

Source: www.merriam-webster.com

Don't Forget to Vote – TUESDAY, JUNE 7

Use Your Educator Voice: Vote No on Amendment C

South Dakotans for Fair Elections, the campaign formed to oppose Amendment C, is comprised of a broad coalition of individuals and organizations that span industries and partisan politics, working to ensure that South Dakota's ballot initiative measures, constitutional amendment, and referred measure process stay intact. The Board of Directors for the South Dakota Education Association (SDEA) has joined this effort and it urges our members to join us by voting no on Amendment C in the June 7 primary.

Amendment C will lead to unintended consequences for our state. It's confusing, unnecessary, risky, and it will permanently change our constitution in ways we can't even imagine yet. If it isn't broke, don't fix it.

Here's the fine print: Amendment C would permanently change our constitution to end majority rule for ballot measures, allowing a small minority to block important decisions that most voters want. It shreds the sacred "majority rules" tradition this country and our state was founded on.

Amendment C is also unconstitutional, and a lawsuit has already been filed against it.

The truth is that out-of-state lobbyists and special interests will be the real winners if Amendment C passes. Amendment C gives power to special interests while undermining the will of South Dakota voters – perhaps that's why an out-of-state special

interest group is bankrolling the campaign to pass it.

Lastly, consider this: if Amendment C passes, it will take just 41% of voters to block funding for important programs, including funding for public schools, law enforcement, rural health centers, and nursing homes, – the list goes on. We can't allow our state to be held hostage by just a few people.

Amendment C would profoundly impact South Dakota's long history of voter engagement at the ballot box since creating the ballot initiative process in 1898. Since then, South Dakotans have regularly been asked to play a role in policy-making. Yet, for over 124 years, South Dakotan voices, including those of educators, have been heard with a simple majority.

Amendment C faces widespread opposition from business owners, workers, mayors of our cities, and rural residents alike, who all oppose Amendment C because they know it's wrong for South Dakota's future.

**For information
on how to vote
visit [SDSOS.gov](https://www.sdsos.gov)**



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.

Don't Forget to Vote – TUESDAY, JUNE 7

SDEA Pro-Public Education Primary Candidates

The following candidates have a pro-public education voting record, have a positive working relationship with the South Dakota Education Association and its members, have a history of supporting South Dakota's public schools and students, and or have been interviewed by educators and demonstrated a commitment to South Dakota's public schools. Please show your support by voting on Tuesday, June 7th

Republican Primaries

District 1

State Senate

Michael H. Rohl*

District 2

State Senate

Steve Kolbeck

District 3

State Senate

Rachel Dix

District 5

State Senate

Lee Schoenbeck*

District 7

State Senate

Tim Reed*

State House

Mellissa Heermann

Roger DeGroot

District 8

State Senate

Casey Crabtree*

District 9

State Senate

Mark Willadsen*

State House

Kenneth Teunissen

District 12

State House

Greg Jamison*

District 13

State House

Richard L.

Thomason*

Tony Venhuizen

District 14

State House

Taylor Rae Rehfeldt*

District 16

State Senate

Jim Bolin*

District 19

State House

Caleb Finck*

Jessica Bahmuller

District 20

State House

Lance Koth*

District 23

State Senate

Bryan J Breitling*

District 24

State Senate

Mary Duvall*

Mike Weisgram*

Will D. Mortenson*

District 25

State Senate

Lisa Rave

District 29

State Senate

Dean Wink*

Gary L Cammack*

District 32

State House

Becky J. Drury*

District 33

State Senate

David Johnson*

District 34

State House

Jess Olson*

Democratic Primary

District 11

State House

Kimberly A Parke

Margaret Kuipers

* An asterisk indicates candidates who are currently in the state legislature.

Questions or Concerns Contact a UniServ Director today! 605-224-9263

Eric Herold – Western

Eric.Herold@sdea.org

Grace Gill – Eastern Prairie

Grace.Gill@sdea.org

Sandy Arseneault – Plains

Sandy.Arseneault@sdea.org

LouAnn Jensen – EGL

LouAnn.Jensen@sdea.org

Philip Moore – SEE

Philip.Moore@sdea.org

Dupree's Sioux YMCA Receives SDEA's 2022 Friend of Education Award

The South Dakota Education Association (SDEA) presented the 2022 Friend of Education Award to the staff of the Sioux YMCA in Dupree. The Friend of Education is given to individuals or organizations that make a contribute on a statewide basis toward achieving quality public education for all students. Andrew Corley, Program Director, accepted his award on behalf of the organization at the SDEA Representative Assembly in Pierre.

SDEA member Shawn Olsen, a second-grade teacher in Dupree, nominated the Sioux YMCA for the award. "In the last few years this organization, directed by Andrew Corley, has stepped up and assisted the school, students, and staff of the Dupree school in many areas. First, they have always been involved with the students. For many years now they have escorted children to their facility after school to do activities, helped with homework, and provided an evening meal," wrote Olsen. "During the height of the pandemic, they stepped up and continued to provide and deliver meals to students when the school ended this service, thus maintaining the nutritional needs of students. Currently, YMCA staff members are assisting with the



After-School Program at Dupree School. With a shortage of staff to work the after-school program, they willingly stepped up to fill these positions enriching the lives of the students through the activities that they do with them."

"We are honored to present this year's Friend of Education Award to the Sioux YMCA and Director Corley," said SDEA President Loren Paul. "They are a shining example of how a community can come together to meet the needs of students. The pandemic was especially difficult for many of our most vulnerable students. The team at the YMCA went the extra mile to make sure our students' needs were met and they continue to work with our educators to make sure that every student receives the support they deserve. We are extremely grateful to Andrew and the staff. They truly are friends of education."

**SDEA/NEA
FRIEND OF
EDUCATION
AWARD**

SDEA/NEA Friend of Education Award

Nominate a person or organization for the Friend of Education Award by visiting 'Grants & Scholarships' at [SDEA.org](https://www.sdea.org).

The nominee must be a person or organization outside of SDEA/NEA, have proven to be a genuine friend of education, educators, and/or students, reflect the philosophy and principles of the association and through leadership, acts and support must have made contributions toward achieving a first-rate education for students in South Dakota.

Deadline: November 1

Arlington's Jill Christensen Receives SDEA/NEA's Educational Support Professional Award



The South Dakota Education Association (SDEA) named Jill Christensen, a special education paraprofessional, at the Arlington School District, the 2021 Educational Support Professional (ESP) of the Year.

Christensen was nominated by Vikki Hasche, who is President of the Arlington Education Association.

“Jill’s special strength is her ability to work with students who need extra time and attention. She can connect and develop relationships with students and create caring and lasting connections with them,” wrote Hasche. “In addition to her work in the classroom, she has assisted with our afterschool program and works with our

youngest students. It is difficult to articulate all the things that Jill does for our students, school and community because she sees what needs to be done and does it without hesitation, fanfare or the expectation of recognition.”

SDEA President Loren Paul says, “Christensen’s passion for her local association, community, and most importantly, her students make her most deserving of this award. Jill always goes above and beyond for her students. She always steps up to support her colleagues in the important work that they do,” said Paul. “It is an honor to present this award to Jill. While she might not seek recognition, she certainly deserves it.”

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. Christensen received the award at a school assembly and was recognized at the recent SDEA Representative Assembly in April. She joined SDEA in 1998 and has been a paraprofessional for the last 15 years.



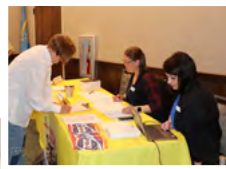
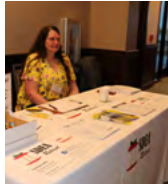
SDEA/NEA’s ESP Award

The award is presented to a member of SDEA/NEA who demonstrates outstanding accomplishments and reflects the contributions of ESP to public education.

Recognize the contributions of your favorite Education Support Professional (ESP), TODAY by visiting ‘Grants & Scholarships’ at [SDEA.org](https://www.sdea.org).

Deadline: November 1

2022 SDEA Representative Assembly

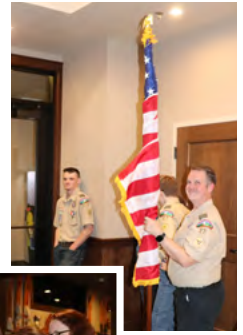


SDEA/NEA Human and Civil Rights Awards

The South Dakota Education Association/NEA is seeking nominations for the Human and Civil Rights Award to honor an individual, student group, or organization for their work in promoting human and civil rights.

Deadline: *November 1*

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



2022 SDEA Election Winners

The SDEA/NEA Elections Committee met on April 29, 2022, to count and certify the results of the election.

Board of Directors

Treasurer

1. Tess Canet

Western (1) 2 year term

1. Carol Waider

Western (2) 1 year terms

1. Tyresha Grey Horse
2. No candidate

EGL 2 year term

1. Olivia Forman

Plains 2 year term

1. Kim Doherty

Eastern Prairie (2) 2 year term

1. Lisa Weier
2. Kim Soldatke

SEE 1 year term

1. Alexis Smith

SEE 2 year term

1. Paula McMahan

COHE At-Large 1 year term

1. Carri Easley

2022 NEA RA Unit Delegate Winners

Western

1. Koreen Hammel
2. No candidate

EGL

1. No candidate

Plains

1. No candidate

SEE

1. Paula McMahan

Eastern Prairie

1. Lisa Jennings
2. Jennifer Bergan Gabor

2022 NEA RA At-Large Delegate Winners

Minority At-Large

1. No candidate

At-Large Delegates

1. Barbara Lindquist
2. Kelsey Lovseth
3. Virginia Colgan
4. Tim Eckert
5. Alexis Smith



SUMMER ACADEMY

FREE FOR SDEA MEMBERS



Monday, July 18

- 7:45–8:30 **Registration**
- 8:30–9:00 **Opening with continental breakfast**
- 9:15–10:00 **Mindfulness in the Classroom**
Leadership Opportunities with SDEA/NEA
Managing Student Behaviors
Year Round Membership Organizing (Double Session)
- 10:15–11:00 **Communicating with Members (Social Media)**
Jack Breckemeyer: 20 Things that Make a Great Classroom
Creating Equitable Learning Environments
- 11:15–12:00 **Member Organizers — Going through the Paperwork**
Know Your Contract/Rights
Evaluation (Formal vs Informal) and Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)
Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings for Beginners
- 12:15–1:15 Jack Breckemeyer: Optimism and Opportunity (KEYNOTE)**
- 1:30–2:15 **Membership Recruitment - Certified**
Team Building and Delegation
Leadership Competencies and Training Opportunities
- 1:30–3:15 **Assessment-Formative vs Summative — Best Practices for Rubrics (Double Session)**
- 2:30–3:15 **Member Recruitment-ESP**
Financial Best Practices for Locals (treasurers)
Bystander to Upstander Training (SD Voices for Peace)
- 3:30–4:00 **Meet with UniServ Directors**
- 6:30–8:45 SDEA Social Event at the State Theater on Phillips (Movie TBA)**

Tuesday, July 19

- 7:45–8:30 **Registration**
- 8:30–9:00 **Opening with continental breakfast**
- 9:15–10:00 **Bargaining Toolkit**
Communications 101-How to Differentiate Based on Your Audience
NEA360 for Locals
- 9:15–12:00 **Resilience Screening and Discussion on Trauma + Brain Architecture Game (Triple Session)**
- 10:15–11:00 **A Bridge to Student Success**
- 10:15–11:15 **Suicide Training**
- 10:15–12:00 **Bargaining 101 (Double Session)**
- 11:15–12:00 **LGBTQ+ Rights in Education**
- 12:15–1:15 Title IX: A Fresh Look at an Underutilized Tool in Your Belt (KEYNOTE)**
- 1:30–2:15 **Accountability and Funding Formula**
NEA Member Benefits
Academic Freedom and Diversity
Educator Resilience (Onward Book)
- 2:30–3:15 **Education Policy-LAT Teams (Legislative Updates)**
Chat with the Executive Team
Chat with Potential Leadership Cohort
Tech Tool (EdCamp Style)
- 3:30–4:00 **Meet with UniServ Directors**

Graduate Credit Available!

JOIN US!

Bring your local team!

<https://bit.ly/3sYdsbj>



SDEA Scholarship Recipients

The South Dakota Education Association/NEA awards scholarships to outstanding students who are planning on entering the teaching profession.

Ramia Boersma Scholarships



Emily Gibson
Miller High School



Evan Johnson
Sturgis High School



Abigail Ketelhut
Northern University



Elisabeth Peirce
University of South Dakota

Carson Pankratz
Sturgis High School

Gordon Horgen Memorial Scholarship

Kaitlyn Tassler
Vermillion High School



SDEA Bridge is moving!

To improve the look and accessibility of our online training we are switching learning management systems. Professional development is now available at <https://tinyurl.com/SDEABridge>. You'll find new and existing content all at the new site once you create an account. Effective **May 31, 2022** the old LMS, Bridge.sdea.org, will shut down.



SDEA Retired

SDEA-Retired Educators held their annual meeting and member appreciation dinner on April 8th in Pierre, in conjunction with the SDEA Representative Assembly as delegates. It was the first in-person meeting in three years, due to the pandemic.



Mary Jane Chiles

Reports, a budget, and member activities were discussed and approved. Newly-elected officers for a 2022-2025 term were: Mary Jane Chiles of Rapid City as president-elect, and Kathy Meyer of Sturgis as the new secretary.

Also selected for the audit committee were Paul McCorkle of Mobridge, and Kathy Meyer of Sturgis.

In April, president Bob Hoffmann visited the state retired conventions of the Nebraska and Minnesota affiliates of NEA.

Coming this summer will be the in-person events of the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting,

and the massive 7000+ delegate convening of the NEA Representative Assembly in Chicago.



Kathy Meyer

We will continue to provide communications to our retired members through regular email blasts, print mailings, and our Facebook page. So it is important that we always have the current mailing, email, and phone contact information, so everyone remains up-to-date.

SDEA RETIRED OFFICERS AND SUPPORT STAFF

President – Bob Hoffmann, Sioux Falls
Vice President – John Salladay, Pierre
Secretary – Mary Jane Chiles, Rapid City
Treasurer – Dorothy Falk, Pierre

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

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

FOR ADDRESS AND CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGES:

Roberta Drewes
Roberta.Drewes@sdea.org

Darby Boyd, Member Benefits
Dboyd@neamb.com



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

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



411 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

605-224-9263
sdea.org



@sdea.org



@SDEAEducators



South Dakota
Education Association



@SDEducators



@sdeaeeducators

UPCOMING EVENTS

May

- 23 Voter Registration Deadline for June 2022 Primary
- 30 Memorial Day (offices closed)

June

- 7 South Dakota Primary Election
- 13-14 SDEA BOD Meeting
- 13-15 Board/Staff Retreat
- 20 Juneteenth (offices closed)

July

- 2-6 NEA Representative Assembly @ Chicago, IL
- 4 Independence Day (offices closed)
- 18-19 SDEA Summer Academy