

The Educators'



ADVOCATE

MAR/APR 2024

Volume 55 | Issue 4

South Dakota
Education Association

2024

REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

April 5 & 6, 2024 | Drifters Event Center
Fort Pierre, SD

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Vision

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

Mission

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

MAR/APR 2024

Volume 55 | Issue 4

President

Loren Paul

Vice President

Stephanie Hageman

NEA Director

Kelsey Lovseth

Treasurer

Tess Canet

Executive Director

Ryan Rolfs

Communications Director

Sandra Waltman

Communications Specialist

Rebecca Feller

Address

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

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President's Corner

Having a Seat at the Table

We just wrapped up the legislative session that concluded with lawmakers increasing education funding by four percent and passing legislation for teacher compensation accountability. SDEA was very involved in shaping both decisions because we consciously decided to reach out to lawmakers in a bipartisan way. This past fall, we hit the road and met with leadership from both chambers and parties. We drove hundreds of miles and had lots of coffee with education committee members. Our goal was to find where we had common ground and could work together, including stopping vouchers, increasing state aid to education, and accountability for teacher pay.

As the session began, leaders invited the SDEA lobby team to several meetings about the accountability bill where we could speak frankly about concerns. We also worked with the House Leadership to head off efforts to revive a very expensive voucher bill and with our allies to block legislation to make the reduction in the state's sales tax permanent. Our decision to reach out in a bipartisan way had results, and it meant SDEA finally had a seat at the table.

That doesn't mean we got everything we wanted. Legislation requiring four certified educators to be on the South Dakota Board of Education Standards quickly ended. Four bills to address child hunger and nutrition failed, and we saw the expansion of the Insurance Premium Tax Credit program, a voucher program in disguise. Yes, we are disappointed that we weren't successful on these issues, but we hope to use our seat at the table to make incremental changes. We took an important step, but we still have work to do.

The first task is to help our members understand

the new accountability for teacher pay. In a nutshell, SB 127 sets a state minimum teacher salary of \$45,000 and requires school districts to increase average teacher compensation at the same rate as the increase to the state aid to education. There is some flexibility for districts along with a waiver process. Watch for future Educators Advocates for more information, but know that this bill will positively impact teacher compensation in the long run. You can also learn more at the SDEA RA, April 5-6.

Speaking of the SDEA RA, this event is an opportunity for you to have your seat at the table as an RA delegate from your local association. It's an opportunity for you to get input on the work of the SDEA. Members drive the decisions of the Association. During the two-day event, members set the priorities for the coming year and adopt the 2025 legislative agenda and Association budget. Delegates network with educators from across the state and can meet our leadership team and staff. Please consider attending. We need your voice.

Finally, as we head into spring, you are looking forward to the end of the year. Know that I truly appreciate everything you do for our students and the Association. You are almost to the finish line. You are doing great work, and as always, your Association is here for you. Know that you will always have a seat at our table.

Loren Paul
SDEA President

605-224-9263

loren.paul@sdea.org





A Word from Our NEA Director

Kelsey Lovseth

NEA Director

kelsey.lovseth@gmail.com

Last week I traveled to Washington, D.C. for **NEA Super Week**. The name says it all—it was a Super Week for Union work!!

DAY 1

The Association dedicated time for Leadership & Governance professional development for the Freshman Board of Directors.

DAY 2

A personal dream came true. I lobbied on Capitol Hill. I have dreamed of being a Congressional Lobbyist since my first visit to D.C. in the late 1990's. It came true as President Paul and I met with staff of Representative Johnson and Senator Thune's offices to discuss several issues affecting ALL students—inside South Dakota and out.

DAY 3 & 4

Getting Down to Business. The Board of Directors has three Super Weeks (September, February, and May) and this meeting was jam packed with “building and strengthening relationships, preparing

leaders to provide direction, support and leadership on NEA's Strategic Objectives and our priority goals.”

At the beginning of my term I was placed on the “Professional Standards & Practices” committee. Our work has been grounded in addressing the issue we are familiar with—the American Teacher Shortages. Please stay tuned for more resources and tools embedded in this work.

As always if you would like to discuss the work of the NEA please find me at the South Dakota Representative Assembly April 5 & 6.



All of the SDEA Board of Directors and NEA RA delegate races are uncontested except for two Board of Directors races, one in the SEE unit and one in the Western unit. The SDEA Board of Directors voted at its February 2024 meeting to send ballots to only the SEE and Western units and only for the respective contested races. This means all other units and races will not receive ballots and the candidates of the uncontested races are automatically declared winners. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact SDEA President Loren Paul, loren.paul@sdea.org, Elections Committee Chair, Tess Canet, tlcanet69@gmail.com, or Elections Committee Liaison Anne Plooster, anne.plooster@sdea.org.

2024 SDEA Representative Assembly at Drifters Event Center

Friday, April 5

7:00 pm Registration Opens

8:45 pm 1st Business Session

- Pledge of Allegiance - Pierre Girl Scouts
- Introductions
- Adoption of Rules of Order
- Adoption of the Agenda
- Treasurer's Report
- Preliminary Credentials Report
- State of the Association: Loren Paul, SDEA President
- NEA Fund for Children & Public Education

10:30 pm Recess

- Reception

Deadline for Submitting NBIs at SDEA RA

The deadline for submitting NBIs (new business items) for the 2023 SDEA RA is April 1 at noon CST. The form for submitting NBIs can be found here <https://www.sdea.org/resource-library/sdea-representative-assembly>. NBIs should be submitted to SDEA President Loren Paul at Loren.Paul@sdea.org.



SDEA RA Documents

Saturday, April 6

7:30 am Registration Opens

8:15 am Presentation of the SDEA

- Budget & Hearing

9:30 am 2nd Business Session

- Report of the Executive Director: Ryan Rolfs
- Report of the NEA Director: Kelsey Lovseth
- Report of Committees
 - 2023 NBI Reports
 - Health and Safety Committee
 - Awards and Scholarships Committee
 - Dues Task Force
- 2024 South Dakota Teacher of the Year/Teacher of Excellence, George Hawkins

10:30 am Registration Closes

- Bylaw Amendments

11:30 am Lunch

- Acknowledgement of Honored Guests
 - Friend of Education
 - ESP of the Year Award
 - Teacher of Excellence
 - Human and Civil Rights Award

1:30 pm Final Credentials Report

- Bylaw Amendments
- New Business Items
- 2025 Legislative Agenda
- Sine Die Adjournment

2024 SDEA Election

Candidate Statements

Board of Directors

Western (1 year term)



Deborah Rohlfs

I teach upper-level science at Hot Springs HS. My education journey centers on the Western Unit, graduating from Belle Fourche HS to college at SD Mines.

Utilizing leadership skills from the NEA MLT/WLT Conference, I vow to continue to be a steadfast advocate for educators in the Western Unit!



Robert Dahlenburg

I served at the NEA Assembly as the RCEA delegate in 2023. I found many opportunities to share not only my voice, but more importantly, the voice of my peers. It is

my hope that I will be the one to lift those voices up for all in the future.



Qiang Ai

As 1st-year educator and former NEA Delegate, I enthusiastically seek the role of Western Board Director. Committed to positive change in education,

my unique blend of experience and passion aims to advance education and advocate for SD educators. Let's unite for a flourishing educational community, and shape a successful future.

Western (2 year term)



Jennifer Macziewski

My passion is working alongside SDEA to enhance and enrich the education profession in South Dakota. I currently enjoy serving as a representative for Western on the

SDEA Board of Directors. I will continue advocating for educators and students if re-elected.

EGL (2 year term)



Olivia Forman

I would love the opportunity to represent the EGL unit on the SDEA board of directors once again. The work SDEA does to advocate for educators is more important than

ever, and it would be a privilege to continue to help move the association forward! I would appreciate your vote!

Eastern Prairie (2 year term)



Tim Eckart

I am Co-Chair of the Eastern Prairie Unit and would like to continue that service and representation for the members of the Eastern Prairie Unit as a member of the SDEA Board of Directors.

2024 SDEA Election

Candidate Statements — *continued*

SEE (1 year term)



Amanda Sonne

As an educator with over 25 years of teaching experience, my priority is ensuring all students are seen, valued, and served as unique learners. As your SDEA SEE BOD

member, I will pledge to keep the SDEA mission and vision in the forefront as I do the organization's work.

SEE (2 year term)



Kerry Evans

As a member for more than 20 years in the Yankton School District, I want to play a more active role in my local and my unit. Serving on the Board of Directors

is an opportunity to shape the future of education here in South Dakota.



Cassandra Ford

I have enjoyed serving on the SDEA board this past year as an Eastern Prairie board member. My local is joining the Southeast Educators unit this coming year and I would like to

continue to make a difference in this unit by helping where I can.

Plains (2 year term)



Kim Doherty

My name is Kim Doherty, I teach at Stanley County in Fort Pierre. I am currently a Plains Board member. I would be honored to again be your voice for the Plains UniServ

as we move our association forward and strengthen our collective voice for important matters in education.

ESP At-Large (1 year term)



Lisa Jennings

Education Support Professionals are a vital part of our schools and to represent all of the wonderful ESP across the state would be an honor and privilege.

Let me put my years of experience in education to work for you.

COHE At-Large (1 year term)



Alan Aldrich

I am running to represent COHE on the SDEA Board. I served 9 years as the USD COHE president and 1 year as the Statewide COHE president in addition to two terms

on the SDEA Board of Directors. I bring a background in both communication and argumentation to the table.

NEA RA Delegate

Western

Robert Dahlenburg

See statement listed above

Plains

Jeremy Schultz

I'm running to serve and represent you at the 2024 NEA Representative Assembly. I believe in fighting for what you believe and speaking up for those who cannot. Your perspective on issues regarding our public schools is of utmost importance to me, and I humbly request your vote and support.

EGL

Olivia Forman

I have been an active SDEA member for 5 years. During this time, I have been involved at both the state and local level. I was able to attend my first NEA RA as a delegate last year, and would be honored to represent South Dakota educators again!

Eastern Prairie

Tim Eckart

I am the local president for the Sioux Fall Education Association, and I hope to have the opportunity to represent the Eastern Prairie Unit and South Dakota at the NEA RA in order to bring important information back to our state.

Lisa Jennings

I believe in the mission of SDEA/NEA and would like to be your voice at the NEA RA. I have the knowledge and experience to represent all educators at the national level. It would be an honor to serve in this capacity for the students and educators of South Dakota.

SEE

no candidate

Minority At-Large

Qiang Ai

As enthusiastic first-year educator, I am thrilled to announce my running for NEA RA Delegate. With aspirations to serve as an Education Conference Delegate, my goal is to amplify the diverse voices within our community and advocate for meaningful change in both South Dakota and the broader U.S. education landscape.

At-Large

Virgil Whetsel

Since becoming an educator later in life, it has become apparent to me that organization is vital if education is to be protected from control by entities who do not have the best interests of students at heart. I would be honored to serve as your voice in the NEA.

Kim Soldatke

I am very passionate about kids, quality public education and the role of our association in it. I have represented South Dakota at the NEA-RA in the past, and it would be an honor to represent SDEA members in that capacity again.

Virginia Colgan

As a delegate, I will continue working with educators from around the country to draft language for NEA resolutions. These belief statements guide funding for all activities of the NEA and promote public education and professional excellence.

Bobbie Knispel

I have been a High School Special Education Teacher for 11 years. I am results oriented, highly organized and passionate to support "all educators" in be successfulness. All educators' voices need to be heard. I hope that you allow me to be your voice at the NEA-RA.

2024 SDEA RA

Proposed SDEA Bylaw Changes

PROPOSAL 1

Article IV. Membership

SECTION 7. SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP.

Any person actively engaged in education service in a nonpublic school district, university, or other nonpublic institution devoted primarily to education is eligible to become a sustaining member of the Association.

Additionally, any person who is on a leave of absence from employment that qualifies him/her for active or active-ESP membership or who has held active or active-ESP membership but whose employment no longer qualifies him or her for such membership is eligible to become a sustaining member of the Association. No person eligible for active or active-ESP membership may hold sustaining membership.

Sustaining membership shall entitle the member to benefits to be specified by the Board except that sustaining membership shall not allow governance rights in NEA/SDEA, legal rights unless active membership was established prior to becoming a sustaining member and a sustaining membership is required in order to retain eligibility for ongoing legal services, UniServ assistance nor liability protection from the Association. ~~No person eligible for active or active-ESP membership may hold sustaining membership.~~

Submitted by: Bylaws Committee

Board Position: Do Pass

Rationale: In order for a member legal matter to be eligible for NEA reimbursement under the NEA ULSP program, a member must be either an Active member, a retired member whose legal matter arose prior to

becoming a retired member, or a sustaining member whose legal matter arose prior to becoming a sustaining member. Currently, the SDEA Bylaws do not allow sustaining members access to legal services. The proposed language will allow legal services for sustaining members who were active members at the time the need for legal services arose so that SDEA may continue to receive NEA ULSP reimbursement for these members for the duration of the legal matter.

PROPOSAL 2

Article V. Dues

SECTION 1. ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP DUES

...

There shall be an additional ~~\$10.00~~ **\$15.00** reverse check off for SD EPIC contributions and two dollars (\$2.00) reverse check off for ballot issue campaigns. This amount shall be in addition to the annual dues. Members requesting a refund of the SD EPIC/ballot issue contribution must make an application to the Association office by October 15 of the membership year. Refunds shall be made by January of the membership year. Refund requests made after October 15 will be considered at the discretion of the president and executive director.

Submitted by: Bylaws Committee

Board Position: Do Pass

Rationale: Since the inception of the current reverse dues check off PAC contribution setup, the EPIC donation for each member has remained at \$10 while costs for political activity and access have risen. While the current contributions for EPIC make it one of the larger state PACs

in South Dakota, the costs of political campaigns have increased significantly, with legislative candidates having to raise \$10,000 or more in excess of what a candidate had to raise for a campaign ten years ago. This has resulted in a need to make larger contributions to candidates in order for those contributions to create an impact in an election, while the current political landscape of South Dakota has also required a broader investment in a larger number of candidates to create a public education coalition.

Additionally, in the last few years, school board races have become far more competitive, expensive, and high stakes. With anti public education community groups targeting control of local school boards in an attempt to have a higher level of control over local book choices, curriculum, and educator oversight, it cannot be stated enough how important well funded pro public education school board candidates are in SDEA's mission for strong public schools that meet the needs of all of our students.

SDEA/NEA OPPORTUNITIES

GRANT, SCHOLARSHIPS, CAREER

**SDEA/NEA
EDUCATIONAL
INNOVATION
GRANT**

SDEA/NEA Educational Innovation Grant

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

Deadline: *May 1*

**SDEA/NEA
EARLY CAREER
EDUCATOR
AWARD**

SDEA/NEA Early Career Educator Award

An individual member or a local may nominate an early career educator for this award. Each governance unit may select an Early Career Educator of the Year from nominations submitted in their unit. All the unit winners will be candidates for the statewide award, which will be announced at the 2024 Representative Assembly in Pierre.

Deadline: *December 1*

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

Shannon Maxon

Western UniServ Director
Shannon.Maxon@sdea.org

Rich Mittelstedt

SEE UniServ Director
Richard.Mittelstedt@sdea.org

Steve Binkley

*Eastern Prairie
UniServ Director*
Steve.Binkley@sdea.org

LouAnn Jensen

EGL UniServ Director
LouAnn.Jensen@sdea.org

Sandy Arseneault

Plains UniServ Director
Sandy.Arseneault@sdea.org

**Contact a UniServ Director
today! 605-224-9263**

2025 SDEA RA

Proposed 2025 Legislative Agenda

ENSURING EDUCATOR AND 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 transportation 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.
- Access to statewide resources focused on meeting the needs of the whole child, including mental, emotional and behavioral needs.
- Equipping education professionals with the skills to recognize the mental, emotional and behavioral needs of the whole child, and the ability to connect their students with the appropriate resources to address those needs.
- A learning environment free from discrimination based on disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity,

race, religion, sexual orientation and socioeconomic status.

- SDEA supports funding or programs that empower schools and communities to collaborate in providing critical social services to students and their families who are economically challenged.
- Policies that foster collaboration between communities, school boards, administration and staff in the development of a pandemic preparedness or any other crisis plan.
- Ensure educators are working and students are learning in buildings which are structurally sound and free from pollutants that may jeopardize their health.

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 and needs.
- Development of a comprehensive plan to determine individual student growth.
- Legislation that provides for an environment that allows for the free exchange of ideas.

STRENGTHENING PUBLIC EDUCATION

SDEA/NEA supports:

- Providing school districts, parents, educators and students with the resources and support necessary to ensure an equitable education regardless of disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, race, religion, sexual orientation, geographic location or socioeconomic status.
- 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.
- Legislation requiring school district accountability measures for state aid funding.
- Taxpayer dollars that are directed to public schools which are held accountable, address a specific need, are transparent, and allow for innovation without jeopardizing the promise of the state funding formula, i.e., SDEA does not support charter schools or voucher programs.
- 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.

- SDEA supports measures to enhance English language learner programs that provide the necessary tools and resources to give all students access to an equitable education.
- SDEA supports legislation and policies that allows for true academic freedom which ensures that students and faculty are allowed the free exchange of ideas without interference from the State.
- **Public** schools, ~~staff and families~~ ~~receiving~~ **receive** the resources to ensure all students have access to the tools, technology and internet required for learning.

RESPECTING EDUCATION EMPLOYEES

SDEA/NEA supports:

- Increasing the **salaries and or compensation** of all education employees to the regional average or above.
- Legislation that provides necessary funding for school districts to 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 while removing the cola maximum. 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

in-centives 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 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.
- Legislation that would increase wages and benefits for all education support professionals.
- 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.
- A work environment free from discrimination based on age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, race, religion, sexual orientation and socioeconomic status.
- Efforts that acknowledge and support the mental health needs of education professionals.
- Respecting school and educator autonomy.
- Support due process protections for all educational professionals.

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SDEA Members Only:

Sign up and log into the new SDEA.org to access Members Only documents and information like the SDEA Board of Director minutes and Educators Employment Liability (EEL) Program documents.



SDEA BRIDGE
 Bringing Resources, Innovation,
 Development & Guidance to Educators

Lisa Weier

Teaching and Learning Coordinator

Lisa.Weier@sdea.org

Summer Professional Development Opportunities

It's never too early to start planning your summer learning. Registration for summer book studies opens May 15.

Book Studies:

- “The Body Keeps the Score” by Bessel van der Kolk
- “The Boy Who Was Raised by a Dog” by Bruce D. Perry and Maia Szalavitz
- “Frustration Busters: Unpacking and Responding to Classroom Management Challenges” by Katie Powell
- “Your Students My Students Our Students: Rethinking Equitable and Inclusive Classrooms” by Lee Ann Jung, Nancy Frey, Douglas Fisher, and Julie Kroener
- “Emotional Storms: Preventing Emotional Dysregulation in the Classroom” by Ann Maree Taney
- “The Lakota Way” by John Marshall III
- “If You Can’t Manage Them, You Can’t Teach Them” by Kim Campbell

Online Asynchronous Courses Available NOW

- “The Mind Inside” docuseries - 5 CECH
- Be the Difference: An Action Approach to Educating Students in Poverty - 8 CECH
- Using Mindfulness in the Classroom - 1 CECH
- Trauma: 1. Creating a Healing-Centered Learning Environment - 1 CECH

As always, contact me to request any in-person training opportunities or program ideas!



To register, please visit the SDEA Bridge website.

Three Online Graduate Courses. Up to nine credits for \$225 TOTAL!



SDEA has partnered with Augustana University and VESi to offer members a yearly subscription to online graduate courses for \$225 per year. You can enroll in one course per term or two courses during the summer (if you skip fall or spring), for a total of 3 courses per year.

Tips for SDEA Website Log in

Why should I sign up for the new SDEA website?

Members should set up an account on SDEA.org's new "For Members" page to gain access to information such as the SDEA Board of Director minutes and Educators Employment Liability (EEL) Program documents. Creating an account also gives you exclusive access to other tools and resources created for SDEA members only!

How do I get access to the Members Only Section of the Website:

Click on the sign-up icon:



Fill out the form.

Usernames and passwords for SDEA Bridge or NEA Member Benefits will not work on SDEA.org.

Why isn't the website recognizing my name?

The name you use must be identical to SDEA's membership records. Typical issues may be hyphenated names such as Johson-Smith, names with apostrophes such as O'Neal, or multiple first names such as Anne Marie, which may cause some errors.

If you have one of these issues, contact SDEA at 606-224-9263 or email us at membership@sdea.org, and we will help you clarify how you are listed in our membership records.



Do I need the 000s in front of my member ID number?

All digits from your member ID must be included.

What email address should I use?

You may use any personal email address, including gmail.com, hotmail.com, outlook.com, etc. College emails are accepted, but we advise you to use another address that you will have access to after college and when you are in the classroom. The system will NOT recognize K12 email addresses.

Still, needing help signing in?

Members with any issues logging into the member-only section of SDEA.org are encouraged to contact our office at 605-224-9263 or at membership@sdea.org. Your feedback is important and helps us ensure a better user experience for all members.

New SDEA Staff



Steve Binkley

What is your role?
UniServ Director for Eastern Prairie.

What did you do before SDEA?
I taught Senior English at

Brookings High School for the last 12 years.

Something you want the members to know about you?

I'm a big sports fan from the Jacks to any team in Minnesota to Liverpool soccer.

Anything you want to share about family?

Wife Eileen and three kids: Linus (11), Lena (8), and Leif (3).



SDEA members are invited to make plans to attend the Summer Academy July 14 –16, 2024 on the Augustana University campus in Sioux Falls. We are proud to feature a keynote from comedian and educator Mark Schumacher.

Breakout sessions have selections for a variety of professional development, leadership development, advocacy, and organizing.

Attendees who participate in the pre-conference sessions on Sunday, July 14th from 3 – 6 pm and all sessions during the conference, will earn enough hours for one graduate credit.



2024 SUMMER ACADEMY KEYNOTE

Mark Schumacher

With over 15 years of performance experience, Mark is more than just a keynote speaker. His unique background in stand up comedy, combined with his credibility as a teacher, provides a refreshing break from traditional speakers. In 2015, Mark was selected as one of the top 100 comedians in the country and appeared on NBC’s Last Comic Standing. A teacher at heart, Mark spent 10 years in the classroom in three different countries. He understands both the joys

and challenges educators face every day. Today, he is invited to speak to teachers and administrators about the importance of relationships in our schools and communities. Since leaving the classroom full-time Mark has delivered his keynote message to tens of thousands of educators across the country.



Registration & More Info

Local Treasurer’s Training

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

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



I can hardly believe that it has almost been a year since our last annual meeting. Hopefully, we will not have a blizzard this year and we can meet face-to-face. Our 2024 Retired Meeting is scheduled for 2:00 on Friday, April 5, at Perkins Restaurant in Fort Pierre. Joyce Jefferson has agreed to return and do her Chautauqua presentation, “Sarah Campbell the Journey.” Joyce is a talented speaker, storyteller, and singer, and is worth the trip to Pierre. After Joyce’s performance, we will conduct our annual business meeting and end with an early supper. There are no elections this year, but we do have several proposed by-law changes and a proposed local dues increase to cover increasing costs. According to our research, it has been at least twenty years since annual dues have been increased for SDEA Retired.

Please consider staying for the SDEA RA which will start on Friday evening and go through Saturday afternoon. For those who travel and stay for the SDEA/RA, there is a \$50 stipend to help cover expenses. During the SDEA-RA, educators from across the state will gather to conduct the State Association’s business,

recognize those who support public education in South Dakota, and celebrate our accomplishments. Retired members will be on hand to vote, provide input, and help raise funds for the Jack Kinnaman Scholarship fund with a 50/50 Raffle. Our retired members recognize that college costs go far beyond tuition with the expenses of textbooks, rent, food, transportation, and more. In response, NEA Retired created a scholarship specifically for Aspiring educators (formerly known as Future Teachers). In 2024 five scholarships of \$3,500 will be awarded. The money raised at the RA will go toward these scholarships, and you will also have a chance to be a winner of the 50/50 raffle.

The RA will be a busy two days, please do what you can to join us. I look forward to seeing you at Perkins Restaurant in Fort Pierre. To register for the SDEA Retired annual meeting or the SDEA RA, please contact LouAnn Jensen, SDEA Retired Liaison, at 605-220-1688 or louann.jensen@sdea.org.

Mary Jane Chiles
SDEA Retired President

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

SDEA Retired Staff Liaison:
LouAnn Jensen | 605-220-1688
LouAnn.Jensen@sdea.org

Some Signs Aren't This Clear.

Which is why it's important to learn the warning signs of suicide. Educators play an essential role in a student's life and are often the first to notice when mental health problems arise. Encourage your students to express their feelings and teach them that it's okay to ask for help. When you shape healthy minds, you shape a better world.

I MAY NOT
BE HERE
TOMORROW



Note to Self: Prevention is Possible. Find resources at
<https://sdsuicideprevention.org/professionals/school-staff>

411 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
605-224-9263
sdea.org



- @sdea.org
- @SDEAeducators
- South Dakota Education Association
- @SDEducators
- @sdeaeducators

UPCOMING EVENTS

April

- 1 Easter observed (SDEA offices closed)
- 4-5 SDEA BOD meeting
- 5-6 SDEA RA
- 15 NEA BOD meeting (virtual if needed)
- 26 SDEA Election Committee Meeting

May

- 1 SDEA/NEA Educational Innovation Grant deadline
- 1 NCSEA board mtg
- 3-4 NEA BOD meeting
- 5-10 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 27 Memorial Day (SDEA offices closed)

June

- 10-12 Board/Staff Retreat
- 19 Juneteenth (SDEA offices closed)
- 29-30 NEA Aspiring Ed Conference