

The Educators' **ADVOCATE**



SEPT/OCT 2024

Volume 56 | Issue 1

**I ❤️ Public
Education
so I VOTE!**



**6-7 Pro Public Education Candidates | 8-9 SDEA Ballot Measure Guide
10-11 Health and Safety Survey Results**



NEA Member^{*} Exclusive

A trusted and valuable benefit

As an NEA member, did you know you receive \$1,000 of term life insurance at **no cost** to you? You're already enrolled in the NEA® Complimentary Life Insurance Plan, but it's a good time to make sure you've selected a beneficiary.

When you do, you can have some peace of mind that your loved ones will receive their benefit in a time of need. This unique benefit helps ensure educators like you have additional coverage beyond what may be provided through your district. It's just one of the many ways your union membership works hard for you.

Scan the code or go to
neamb.com/mycomp for a
quick and easy path to update
your beneficiary information.



*Must maintain NEA membership. This coverage is offered to Active, Reserve and Staff members, as well as to Life and Retired members who are actively employed in education.
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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.



President's Corner

A Call to Action: Your Vote Matters for the Future of Public Education

Welcome back to the new school year. I hope you had a restful summer, and I know you are ready to have a great year filled with much success with your students.

As we approach the November 2024 elections, I want to emphasize the importance of your educator voice in this democratic process. Every vote cast by our members has the power to shape the future of public education in South Dakota. Our collective voice is essential in ensuring that our schools receive the support and resources they need to provide quality education for all students.

The Importance of Legislative Seats

The outcome of this election will determine who holds the legislative seats that directly impact public education. These elected officials make decisions on funding, curriculum standards, teacher salaries, and much more. It is crucial that we elect representatives who understand and prioritize the needs of our schools and students. Remember, every decision in public education is a political decision. The policies and laws enacted by our legislators have a profound effect on our classrooms, our profession, and our students' futures.

Opposing Initiated Measure 28

I also want to draw your attention to Initiated Measure 28, which proposes to repeal the sales tax on anything consumed by humans. While this may sound appealing at first glance, the reality is that this measure would significantly reduce the revenue available for public services, including education. Our schools rely on

this funding to maintain operations, support programs, and ensure that every student has access to a high-quality education. Opposing this measure is crucial to safeguarding the financial stability of our education system.

Your Voting Plan

To make your voice heard, it is essential to be prepared. Here are a few steps to ensure you are ready to vote:

Register to Vote: If you are not already registered, please take the time to do so. Your vote is your voice, and it is vital that every member participates.

Check Your Registration: Verify that your voter registration is up to date. This can prevent any issues on election day.

Have a Voting Plan: Decide whether you will vote early or on election day. Make a plan that fits your schedule and ensures you can cast your ballot without any obstacles.

Your vote is more than just a civic duty; it is a powerful tool for advocating for the future of public education. By participating in the November 2024 elections, you are taking a stand for our students, our schools, and our profession. Let us come together and make a difference.

Loren Paul
SDEA President

605-224-9263
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A Word from Our NEA Director



Meet SDEA's New NEA Director – Kelsey Lovseth

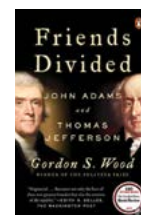
Kelsey is a High School Social Studies Teacher in Brookings. She recently took time out of the classroom to participate in a SDEA/NEA Fellowship which focused on using the voices of educators to shape public policy. Check out future Educators' Advocates for Kelsey's updates on the work the Association is doing at the state and national level!



Did you know it's an election year? For a Government Teacher, it's better than the Olympics. This year was made even better by traveling for the first time to Philadelphia, PA, our nation's first Capital city. The National Education Association Representative Assembly and Conference on Racial and Social Justice was held July 1–8 in the City of Brotherly Love. On America's 248th birthday, delegates from all over the United States worked to continue our fight for Strong Public Schools for Every ZIP CODE!

As a social studies teacher, I found pure happiness in the **National Constitution Center's**

Founders Library. In that spirit, I compiled a list books to read about America's history and our democracy.



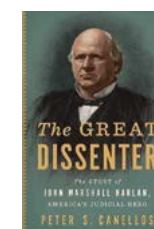
Friends Divided
John Adams and Thomas Jefferson

by Gordon S. Wood.



Plain, Honest Men.
The Making of The American Constitution

by Richard Beeman



The Great Dissenter
The John Marshall Harlan, America's Judicial Hero

by Peter S. Canello's



Signing Their RIGHTS Away:
The Fame and Misfortune of the Men Who Signed the United States

Constitution

by Denise Kiernan and Joseph D'Agnese



Signing Their Lives Away:
The Fame and Misfortune of the Men Who Signed the Declaration

of Independence

by Denise Kiernan and Joseph D'Agnese



November 5th General Election: Pro Public Education Candidates

The November 5 General Election is important for South Dakota's public schools.

Educators play a vital role in shaping policies that affect our schools and communities. By exercising your right to vote, you contribute to the future of education in South Dakota. Let's ensure that our lawmakers prioritize the needs of students and educators alike!

Remember, every vote counts; together, we can make a difference!

The South Dakota Educators Involved Committee (SD-EPIC) PAC recommended the following candidates. These candidates have demonstrated their commitment to supporting pro-public education policies.

State House

*Pro-Public Education
Candidates Include:*

District 1

Mark Sumption (D)
Steve McCleerey* (D)

District 2

David Kull** (R)

District 3

Erin R Rudner (D)

District 5

Matt Roby (R)

District 6

Herman Otten* (R)

District 7

Roger DeGroot* (R)
Mellissa Heermann* (R)

District 8

Tim Reisch* (R)

District 9

Beverly Froslie Johnson (D)

District 10

Erin Healy* (D)
Kameron Nelson* (D)

District 11

Brian Mulder* (R)

District 12

Amber Arlint* (R)
Greg Jamison* (R)

District 13

Tony Venhuizen* (R)

District 14

Taylor Rehfeldt* (R)
B.J. Motley (D)

District 15

Kadyn Wittman* (D)
Erik Muckey (D)

District 16**

Richard Vasgaard* (R)

District 17

Ray Ring* (D)

District 18

Mike Stevens* (R)
Paul Harens (D)
(SDEA Member)

District 19**

Drew Peterson* (R)
Jessica Bahmuller* (R)

District 22**

Kevin Van Diepen (R)
Lana Greenfield (R)

District 23**

Scott Moore* (R)

District 24 **

Will Mortenson (R)
Mike Weisgram (R)

District 26A

Eric Emery* (D)

District 27

Peri Pourier* (D)
Elsie Meeks (D)

District 28A

Carl Petersen (D)
(SDEA Member)

District 32

Steve Duffy* (R)
Nicole Uhre-Balk (D)

District 33**

Curt Massie* (R)

District 34**

Mike Derby* (R)

District 35

Jason Lind (D)
Pat Cromwell (D)

State Senate

District 1**

Michael Rohl* (R)

District 2 **

Steve Kolbeck (R)

District 4 **

Stephanie Sauder* (R)

District 7**

Tim Reed* (R)

District 8**

Casey Crabtree* (R)

District 10**

Liz Larson* (D)

District 11

Steve Natz (D)

District 12

Clay Hoffman (D)

District 13

Ali Rae Horsted (D)

District 14

Sandra Henry (D)
(SDEA member)

District 15

Jamie Smith* (D)

District 17**

Sydney Davis* (R)

District 18

Sarah Carda (D)

District 19

Kyle Schoenfish* (R)

District 20

Paul Miskimins** (R)

District 21

Dan Andersson (D)

District 22

David Wheeler* (R)

District 25

Brian Wirth (D)

District 26

Shawn Bordeaux* (D)

District 27

Red Dawn Foster* (D)

District 28

Dean Schrempp* (D)

District 30

Bret Swanson (D)
(SDEA Member)

District 31**

Randy Deibert* (R)

District 32

Helene Duhamel* (R)

District 34

Kehala Two Bulls (D)

* **Friendly Legislator/
Incumbent**

** **No General Election
Contest**

SDEA Educators Vote

We ❤️ Public School...So, WE VOTE!

Educators know that every decision that impacts our schools and students is political. From the resources available in our classrooms to the policies that shape our teaching environment, politicians at every level of government—from the school board to the president—play a crucial role in shaping the future of our students. Your vote is your voice in these decisions. Cast your vote in support of educators and students. Let's come together and make a difference for our schools and communities. Our voice matters! Our vote matters!

Important Election Dates

September 20 | Absentee Voting Begins
October 21 | Voter Registration Deadline
November 5 | Election Day

Check Your Voter Registration!



To check your voter registration status or get a sample ballot visit the voter registration portal.



Do you have a Vote Plan?

Don't wait until November 5 — Vote early to avoid election day lines or to avoid last minute issues. Learn more about absentee voting here:

SDEA Ballot Measure Guide



SDEA Opposes Initiated Measure 28

The SDEA Board of Directors voted to oppose Initiated Measure 28 because, if passed, it would result in substantial cuts to state funding for public education. The most recent fiscal impact statement from the Legislative Research Council indicates that South Dakota could lose up to \$647 million in state revenues annually. Such drastic cuts to state revenues would directly affect K-12 schools and institutions of higher education, leaving local school districts struggling to maintain essential services or asking the local property taxpayers to foot more of the bill.

Approximately one-third of the state budget currently supports local school districts. When factoring in funding for higher education, nearly 44.2% of the state's annual budget is dedicated to educating South Dakota's students. IM 28 threatens to disrupt this critical investment.

Lack of a Viable Replacement Plan

Supporters of IM 28 still need to present a viable plan to offset the lost revenues. Without a clear strategy, South Dakota students would face larger class sizes, reduced educational opportunities, and diminished support systems. Programs such

as career and technical education classes, which are essential for student success, could be on the chopping block.

Teacher Shortage and Compensation

South Dakota already grapples with a teacher shortage. In recent years, lawmakers have increased state aid to education beyond the statutory requirement of three percent, aiming to attract and retain qualified educators. IM 28's cuts would undermine this progress, potentially taking us back to the days when South Dakota was dead last at 51st in teacher pay nationwide.

Higher Education Costs

South Dakota has successfully frozen tuition for students attending public universities and technical colleges for three consecutive years. However, IM 28 threatens to reverse this trend, increasing tuition costs for higher education institutions.

Our Call to Action

In summary, the passage of IM 28 would come at a very high cost to South Dakota students. The SDEA urges voters to reject this measure in November. Let us continue investing in our schools, teachers, and students by voting NO on Initiated Measure 28.

SDEA Opposes Amendment F

The SDEA Board of Directors voted to oppose Amendment F because it threatens the health and well-being of students and their families.

Ensuring that families have access to health care is crucial for creating a stable and supportive learning environment. When students and their families face health challenges without adequate support, it can negatively impact students'

attendance, concentration, and overall academic performance. By imposing work requirements on Medicaid recipients, the amendment could cause many people to lose health coverage, including children and parents who rely on Medicaid for essential medical care. In short, those with life-threatening diseases could lose their health care coverage when they need it most because they are too ill to work.

Moreover, the additional bureaucracy and administrative costs associated with Amendment F could divert resources from education and other critical services. Educators understand the importance of a healthy community in fostering a productive educational environment. By opposing Amendment F, educators can advocate for policies prioritizing students' and families' health and stability, ultimately supporting better academic outcomes and a stronger community.

SDEA Support Amendment H

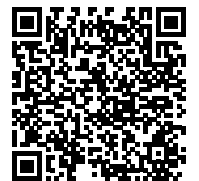
The South Dakota Education Association (SDEA) supports Amendment H, proposing a single "South Dakota Primary" to replace the traditional Republican and Democrat primaries. Under this amendment, all candidates will be listed together on one primary ballot, accessible to all voters, with the top two vote-getters advancing to the general election in November. This inclusive approach ensures that the winning

candidate is the one most South Dakotans agree on, fostering a fairer and more competitive electoral process.

The SDEA's board believes that supporting Amendment H aligns with our goal of electing more pro-public education legislators. In recent election cycles, many legislative seats were decided in primaries with limited voter participation. By allowing more voters, including independents, to have a say in the primary elections, Amendment H empowers a broader electorate to choose who represents them in Pierre. This change will help ensure that our elected officials reflect all South Dakotans' diverse views and needs, particularly in supporting public education.

YES ON H
TOP 2 OPEN PRIMARIES

To learn more about these or other measures that will appear on the November 2024 General Election ballot, visit the Secretary of State's website at:



American Education Week 2024

American Education Week presents all Americans with an opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals making a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education.

NOVEMBER 18 – 22, 2024

Monday: **Kickoff Day**

Tuesday: **Parents Day**

Wednesday: **Education Support Professionals Day**

Thursday: **Educator for a Day**

Friday: **Substitute Educators Day**



Answering Questions About Your Union

The Initial Results of the Health and Safety Survey Are In — Health and Safety Committee Continues the Work

Last year, the SDEA convened a Health and Safety committee because of a New Business Item (NBI) at the 2023 SDEA Representative Assembly. The committee was charged with identifying the issues educators are dealing with in their buildings, both in terms of student behaviors and building safety issues. The committee developed a survey, launched it in January 2024, and closed it this past July. The following are the results of that survey.

The committee designed the survey to be comprehensive and inclusive. SDEA invited all educators to participate in the study to get a complete picture of the current conditions in our schools and classrooms. A total of 652 educators responded. Of the respondents, 552 shared concerns about school building environments, including issues such as safety, cleanliness, and maintenance, and 599 reported dealing with various classroom behavioral issues.

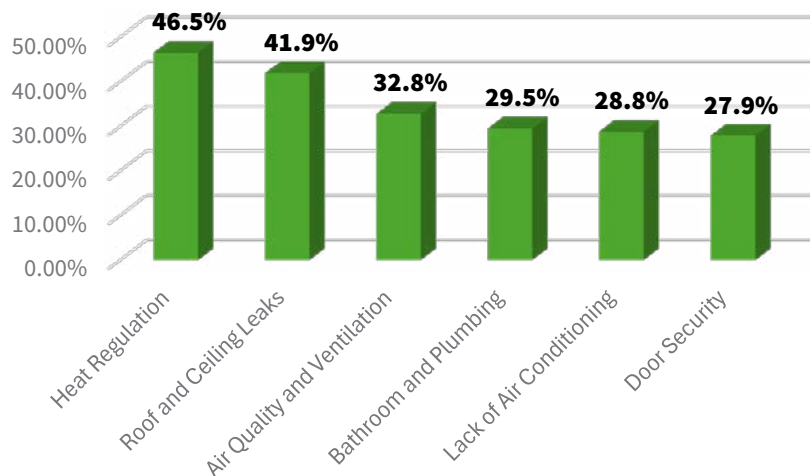
Who Responded

Most of those who completed the survey are classroom or special education teachers. Respondents also included paraprofessionals (55), librarians (18), counselors (11), and clerical (10) among support staff and other roles.

The most alarming finding is that 430 respondents, including experienced educators, are considering leaving the classroom due to student behavior. This potential loss of invaluable experience underscores the urgency of addressing behavioral issues at the state and local levels. It also highlights the need for immediate action to prevent this loss and to ensure a safe and conducive learning environment for all students.

School Building and Environmental Issues

Top Building Issues Reported

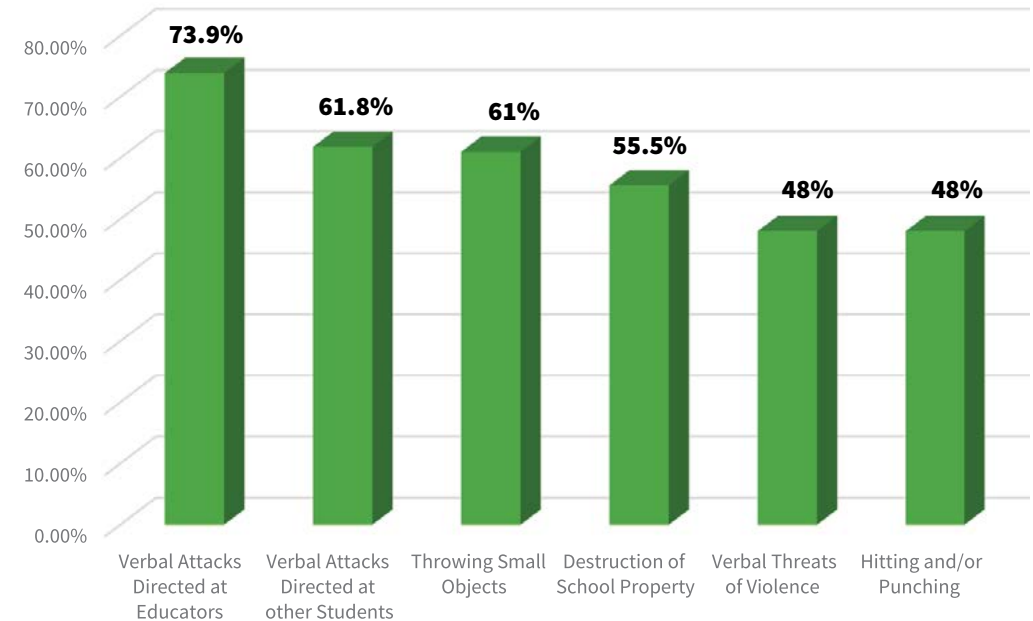


Supports Respondents are Requesting

Aside from asking for more building and ground maintenance staff, respondents indicated that establishing a health and safety committee at the local level may help identify building issues and expedite their resolution.

Student Behaviors

Top Student Behaviors Reported



Supports Respondents Are Asking For

- More access to mental health services
- The flexibility to use leave for mental health
- More planning time to ensure they are ready for class
- Dedicated staff who are trained in dealing with student behaviors to ensure consistency in interventions

Next Steps: The committee will present the full data at the fall unit meetings and seek input on ways to address the issues identified by the survey. SDEA members are encouraged to attend these meetings and provide input on proposed solutions.

Unit Meeting Dates

| | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| October 8 | Western Unit |
| October 21 | EGL Unit @ Watertown |
| October 22 | SEE Unit |
| October 26 | Plains Unit |
| November 14 | Eastern Prairie Unit |

For times and locations, check out the SDEA Calendar:



SUMMER REWIND

Just because school was out does not mean educators were not busy. Here are some highlights from a busy summer at SDEA.

SDEA Summer Academy



President's Training

SDEA will host a President's Training on September 27–28, at the SDEA office in Pierre. This training is to help local leaders build their knowledge of leadership and leave with goals to implement for the rest of the year. The Friday evening and Saturday training will cover leadership skills, communication strategies, and member engagement tactics.

Presidents should bring trusted members from their leadership team as thought and planning partners for implementation of their local goals set during the training.

SDEA will reimburse mileage and cover the hotel room at double occupancy for members.

Below is a tentative agenda:

Friday Evening

7:30–8:00 pm **Dinner and Socializing**
8:00–9:30ish pm **Breakout Get to Know You Activity**
What is leadership?

Saturday

8:00–8:45 am **Effective Local Self-Assessment**
9:00–10:30 am **Share Out of Success Thus Far**
10:45–11:45 am **Engaging Members for Lifting the Load**
12:00–1:00 pm **Lunch** (What SDEA has to Help)
1:00–2:00 pm **Calendar Out Remainder of Year**

- What activities do you want to improve on?
- What do you want to start to implementing?
- What communication do you want to do?



Here is the sign-up for the weekend training: <https://forms.gle/iID3vGYEKZdJJYc27>

If you have any questions, reach out to
Korey Erickson at Korey.Erickson@sdea.org

SDEA DELEGATES FOR THE NEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY



Innovation Grant Winners

Calm Corners

\$1,000

**Kate Mogard,
Brookings Dakota Prairie
Elementary School**

Providing sensory support throughout the school environment will promote regulation, focus, and engagement. We currently have one “Calm Corner” in our main office, which provides a quiet, calm space for children to regulate and work on calming their mind and body to be ready to learn. With approximately 575 learners in our school, ages 3 to grade 3, this space is just simply not large enough to accommodate the number of children that need to have a calming break. Our current Calm Corner helps 15–25 children a day, but we know that there are so many more that would benefit from a space to take a break, calm their mind or body, and reenter the classroom ready to learn. By establishing a Calm Corner in each of our classrooms, as well as our Special Education resource rooms, we will be able to recreate this safe space in each classroom. These corners will also help with decreasing the amount of time that learners are out of the classroom, considering the time to transition there and back can add five more minutes to their break.

Making Learning Real

\$1,000

**Jody Neuharth,
Freeman Public School**

Our school has added a preschool and junior kindergarten program, and I will be the teacher. It is a dream come true to help develop the minds of our youngest learners, but with a limited budget from the school to purchase some curriculum

and classroom furniture, the cost of other classroom materials will all fall on me as the teacher to make and purchase. The outcome will be a strong preschool and junior kindergarten program that includes a theme-based curriculum, community visits/visitors, phonemic awareness, number sense routines, music, and fine/gross motor skills used throughout the day, and students growing socially and emotionally as they learn and play together.


**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

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



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

Register on Bridge
<https://bit.ly/3Pnntdh>

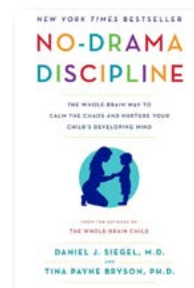
SDEA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Lisa Weier
Teaching and Learning Coordinator
Lisa.Weier@sdea.org

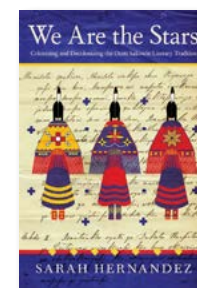
Fall Book Studies

(Graduate credit may be available for an additional \$50 fee paid to Augustana University after the completion of the course.)

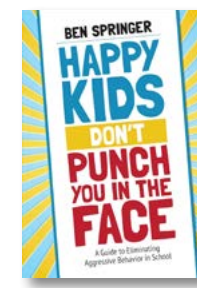
Welcome to the 2024–2025 school year! This year, our professional development will center around three critical themes: classroom management, equity and inclusion, and teacher well-being. These pillars are essential for fostering a positive and productive learning environment and ensuring that both students and educators thrive. We will explore strategies to create structured, supportive classrooms, deepen our commitment to inclusive practices, and prioritize our health and well-being as educators.



**Sept. 9
to
Oct. 18**



**Oct. 7
to
Nov. 15**



**Nov. 4
to
Dec. 13**

If you have not already done so, please reach out to Lisa to bring her to a local meeting to talk about the professional development offerings SDEA has.

LAST CHANCE 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 until **October 1st when it will increase to \$275**. 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.

Honored Women Educators of SD

Honored Women Educators of SD (HWE) celebrated their 70th Anniversary and welcomed our newest members: Lone Klinger #269 of Mitchell and Dr. Sarah Gross #270 of Rapid City.



Dr. Sarah Gross and Lone Klinger

Lone Klinger is a retired teacher from the Mitchell School District with 43 years of service to education. She taught for the Hanson School District from 1974–1984 and the Mitchell School District from 1984–2017. She earned both her Bachelor's in Elementary and Special Education and her Master's in Special Education from Augustana University. Lone has a special interest in legislative issues that affect education. She faithfully attends legislative Cracker Barrel sessions on Saturday mornings. Lone attended hearings on the proposed social study standards, testified to the board, and brought information back to educators by volunteering to meet and explain the standards to anyone who was interested. She has remained an advocate of education in retirement.

Dr. Sarah Gross is the librarian at South Park Elementary School in Rapid City. Previously she taught at Stevens High School, at West Middle School, at North Middle School and

5 years in Grand Junction CO. Sarah has her Doctorate in Leadership from USD, Masters from Walden U, Bachelor's from BHSU, and has her National Board Certification. This past year, Sarah spearheaded a Centennial Celebration for 100 years of Rapid City schools. Dr. Gross is the liaison with the Rapid City Public School Foundation and Rapid City Education Association. She regularly attends SDEA Lobby Day in Pierre and did a micro credentialing with SDEA and has attended NEA Women's and Minority Conference.



Emma Littlefield

Each year, a \$500 scholarship is awarded to a female student majoring in the field of education. The award is based on post-secondary accomplishments and involvement, financial need and is targeted toward providing resources to purchase books for the student recipients. Emma Littlefield, whose professors describe her as having a "passion for education", received the \$500 book award. She is from Huron and attends school at Dakota Wesleyan University. Emma has won Anges Hyde Writing Awards in multiple genres. She is majoring in English education.

The purpose of HWE is to recognize outstanding South Dakota women educators and to promote relationships and networking among women engaged in education careers. Members have also been in the field of education in South Dakota for a minimum of ten years, are/were active members of SDEA/NEA, and have made major contributions in the field education.

— continued to page 17

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.

New General Counsel



Brooke Quinlivan

What is your role?

I am taking on the role as General Counsel for the SDEA

What did you do before SDEA?

Before SDEA, I spent my career as a prosecutor for Minnehaha County. I handled domestic violence, crimes against children, and was the chief animal abuse prosecutor for the county. I was in that role for eight years.

Something you want the members to know about you?

I am a lifetime South Dakotan. I went to SDSU for undergrad and USD for law school.

You will learn pretty quickly I LOVE animals, dogs especially. I also am on the Board of Directors for the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society.

In my spare time, my family and I are avid outdoors people! We recently renovated a retro camper, and love to go on long bike rides.

Anything you want to share about family?

My husband Michael works in orthopedic surgery at Sanford. I have a two and a half year old daughter named Charlotte (we call her Charlie) and two dogs.

— continued from page 16



2024–2025 HWE Officers:

Ralyna Abelseth – President
Deb Everson – Vice President
Cheryl Asleson – Secretary/Treasurer
Jacqueline Sly – Past President/Historian

Submitted by:

Ralyna Abelseth
President, Honored Women Educators of SD
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Contact a UniServ Director today! 605-224-9263

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SDEA/NEA OPPORTUNITIES

GRANT, SCHOLARSHIPS, CAREER



SDEA/NEA's ESP Award

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

Deadline: November 1



SDEA/NEA Friend of Education Award

The South Dakota Education Association/NEA is seeking nominations for the Friend of Education Award.

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

Deadline: November 1



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



SDEA/NEA Lifetime Achievement Award

The nominee must be a SDEA member for at least 20+ years, exemplify the personification of professionalism, demonstrate a strong advocacy for students and for the Association, has contributed with strong involvement at the local, state and/or national level.

Deadline: November 1



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.

Deadline: December 1

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



Today, I am going to ask you for three things. The first is to make sure that we have the correct contact information on file so that we can keep you informed. When you return your dues this year, be sure to include your correct USPS mailing address, email address, and phone number.

The second request I have is a significant one. I urge you to exercise your right to vote in the upcoming General Election on Tuesday, November 5. Your vote matters, and I encourage you to also inspire your friends and family to participate. Early voting begins on September 20 this year, and if you're not registered yet, you have until October 21 to do so. Let's make our voices heard!

Finally, this is a give and a get! This

fall, we will be hosting a series of retirement seminars for those planning retirement and those who have retired. The seminars will include information about SDRS, insurance, Medicare, and estate planning. We would like to learn from retired members about the joys and challenges you faced while leaving the classroom. Lunch will be provided at all three events. Watch your email for regionally specific invites.

Mary Jane Chiles
SDEA Retired President

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

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

RETIREMENT SEMINARS

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| October 26 | Rapid City |
| November 2 | Vermillion |
| November 16 | Aberdeen |
| November 23 | Sioux Falls |

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!

UPCOMING EVENTS

September

- 6-8 TNT Meeting
- 27-28 President's Training

October

- 4-5 SDEA BOD meeting
- 8 Western Unit meeting
- 21 EGL Unit meeting
- 22 SEE Unit meeting
- 26 Plains Unit meeting

November

- 1 ESP of the Year Award nomination deadline
- 1 Human & Civil Rights Award nomination deadline
- 1 Friend of Education Award nomination deadline
- 11 Veteran's Day (SDEA offices closed)
- 9-12 NCSEA Fall Conf./Gen. Membership Mtg /Regional Mtg
- 14 Eastern Prairie Unit meeting
- 18-22 American Education Week
- 19 SEE Unit meeting
- 21 Thanksgiving (SDEA offices closed)
- 22 Thanksgiving observed (SDEA offices closed)



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South Dakota
Education Association



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