

## NDRTA President's Message

Norm Stuhlmiller, NDRTA President



As I ponder what to write about for the summer newsletter, the one issue most urgent in my mind is the State Retired Teacher's Convention. The convention will be held in Bismarck on September 1 & 2. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a registration form that is easy to fill out and send in before the many activities of the summer take up all your time and you forget to get registered.

President Sarah Ripley and her gang have been working feverishly on the many details of the convention. And from the few times I have met with the group, I can assure you that you will enjoy the fruits of their labor. It is my hope that we will set a record so far as attendance is concerned. These are critical times for the fund and NDRTA needs the support of every retired teacher in the state. Among other things, we must make sure the fund is used only for the benefits of the owners of the fund, the active and retired teachers of North Dakota.

At the convention I will introduce you to several initiatives we are working on that will make our organization more visible than ever before. One example is the "Files of Life" program. With this program retired persons will be able to remain in their own homes for a longer period of time. With this program, several symposiums will be introduced to teach people what to do to make their homes a safer place to live and yet be independent. We will also introduce you to a new membership card that will carry with it discounts that members can enjoy locally and around the country. Also, you will learn about the foundation that NDRTA is setting up for the benefit of association programs and education.

The issues will all be presented at the convention. I am excited at the direction NDRTA is going and I hope you too are excited and will put September 1 & 2 on your calendar so you will know how to take advantage of these programs. See you in September!!

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE!!**  
NDRTA website: [www.aptnnd.com/rta](http://www.aptnnd.com/rta)

## Bismarck-Mandan Ready To Host State Convention

The Bismarck-Mandan RTA (BMRTA) members are looking forward to hosting many of you at the NDRTA State Convention, which will be held September 1 and 2 at the Doublewood Inn in Bismarck. Coffee and donuts will be awaiting you when you register.

**Lewis and Clark**  
**A Blast From The Past**  
NDRTA 43rd. Annual  
State Convention  
Doublewood Inn, Bismarck  
September 1 & 2, 2004



Convention theme:  
**Lewis and Clark: A Blast From The Past**

The BMRTA local unit has planned an exciting opening day with transportation provided if needed to the Lewis and Clark River Boat where convention participants may enjoy a fun and social ride down the Missouri River, taking in the beautiful scenery. You will then return back to the Doublewood Inn to enjoy a wonderful evening banquet and featured speakers.

BMRTA has other exciting events planned for you, as do the state officers. So, please send in your reservation as soon as possible. Bismarck-Mandan can't wait to greet all of you!

For Room Reservations:  
Doublewood Inn  
NDRTA Flat Rate-\$59/night  
1400 E. Interchange Ave.  
Exit 159 & I-94  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
1-800-554-7077

Be sure to indicate you are with the NDRTA Convention.



## Making Good From the Bad

By Bernice A. Binford, Editor

You will perhaps think I have a strange lead into my reflections for my visit with you.

Do you remember the days of the moron jokes which brought us laughter? I'm going to weave my visit around this one. Do you know why the moron kept pinching himself? And the answer was because it felt so good when he stopped.

I have put together some of the bad in our lives, that with a little stretching, can turn into good.

This is July, and it's very hard to have charitable feelings about the mosquitoes. But, we can find the good when we give them credit for feeding the beautiful birds which you people love. Maybe now when you swat a mosquito, you may experience a slight twinge of guilt.

Aphids give us great grief this time of year. But someone told me that the aphid is the favorite food of the hummingbird which is loved by all. Now I have not researched that fact, and I don't have any documentation, but I have always felt that if you add ologist to your name you can justify any fact. So for this pronouncement I am B.A. Binford, insectologist. With this fact, do you have more charitable feelings for the aphid.

The other day I was waiting at the railroad crossing with my friend Arloine. The train seemed endless, and I was twitching and sputtering and tapping on the steering wheel. My friend Arloine reminded me that if the trains did not carry all that cargo, imagine how many semis would be replacing them on the highways. I generally count about a hundred cars each time and I'm told there

are 70 trains a day in our town. Can you imagine our highways? I'm really quite calm as I wait for a train now. I even have some thoughts of appreciation.

Recently we had quite a stretch of gloomy, wet weather. It was quite depressing. Then one morning we woke up to a brilliant sun and bright blue skies. Exuberance abounded. Without that stretch of dismal days, that day would have been just another day.

How many of you are thoroughly exasperated as you battle the dandelions in spring? But each season as I attack them, I relate to an earlier time. Do you remember the thrill when you were able to pick that first bouquet for Mom? She acted as thrilled as if I had brought her orchids. Not, of course, that I had ever seen an orchid and she may not have either. She responded with such appreciation, and I'm sure I got a hug and a kiss. And the dandelions were put in her prettiest vase. And each season I wish I could pick a bouquet for Mom. I almost have to work at attacking them with my dandelion spray.

I have many other thoughts I expound on, but I think I have used up my space. But why don't you work on your own list, folks. It might make some of the negatives in your life more tolerable.

P.S. I just couldn't pass this one up. How about those wrinkles? We would put them in the bad category. But there's a good side. If you have enough of them, you never have to dig out your driver's license to get your senior discount!

## 2004 NDRTA Scholarships Awarded

The NDRTA Scholarship Committee met in Jamestown June 17, to evaluate scholarship applications and award 4 recipients based on criteria. Committee members attending were Dr. John Keller, Valley City; Marie Levadney, Minot; and Ken Tupa from the NDRTA State Office.

The Scholarship Committee awarded 3 scholarships in the amount of \$500 and one \$500 scholarship in the name and memory of Jeanette L. Goetz.

This year's recipients will be honored and awarded at the State Convention in Bismarck September 1.



## Legislative Report *Howard Snortland, Legislative Chair*

Some legislators like to remind teachers that they had to put money into the fund in late 1970's to keep it solvent. It is true; the fund would not have survived if the legislature had not appropriated over fourteen million dollars to rescue the fund. Over the years, preceding this appropriation, the legislature increased benefits without determining the ability of the fund to pay for the benefits. The firm of Segal was hired to determine the condition of the teacher's fund. The Segal Firm reported that over fourteen million dollars would be needed to provide an adequate fund ratio. The legislature agreed and the pension fund was saved.

The law governing the pension funds was amended to assure that the mistake would not be repeated. The new law provided that any change affecting the fund had to be submitted prior to April 1 of the next legislative session. This early submission of bill was needed to have an actuarial study to determine the continued cost. In addition, an Employee Benefits Programs committee was required to review all pension bills.

The Employee Benefits Committee met on June 4, 2004. Every agency submits a bill each session known as a house keeping bill. Such bills call for only routine changes in law, which is not controversial and only requires an explanation of why it is needed. The TFFR Board has presented study bill no. 50 for that purpose and requires changes to conform to federal law. The bill would make changes to permit retired teachers to return to teaching when there is no one available to fill the position.

\* Under current law, after a 30-day waiting period, a retiree may return to TFFR covered employment for a maximum number of hours and continue to receive a monthly retirement benefit. The maximum annual hour limit is based on length of contract duties.

\* (TFFR Report Card, June 2004)

9 month contract = 700 hours  
 10 month contract = 800 hours  
 11 month contract = 900 hours  
 12 month contract = 1000 hours

Substitute teaching, extracurricular duties, and continuing professional development do not apply to the annual hour limit.

Proposed legislative changes would require employer and employee contributions to be paid on all salary received by the retiree under all re-employment situations (except substitute teaching).

Employers would follow the same employer payment plan model for retired members as they follow for active members. The retiree would not earn additional service credit, member contributions would not be refunded, and the retirement benefit would not be adjusted (unless the retirement benefit is suspended and re-retirement occurs).

However, the retiree could continue receiving their monthly TFFR retirement benefit and could also receive salary from the school district without forfeiting the retirement benefit.

Proposed legislation would also remove the June 30, 2005, sunset provision and make permanent the option for retiree's to return to TFFR covered employment full time in critical shortage areas and continue receiving retirement benefits. A one-year waiting period is required if the member retired after January 1, 2001. Employer and employee contributions would also be required on all salary received by the retiree.

Finally, Steve Cochrane, Executive Director of ND Retirement Office, informed the committee members that during the past eleven months the return investments for the TFFR fund have been 18% and for the PERS fund 15%.

This is good news. Let us hope it will continue.

## Administrative Report *Ken Tupa, NDRTA Association Executive*

It's July already, renewal season for NDRTA memberships, and the state office along with the NDRTA Board have been busy working to make this year a record membership year. As renewals and new memberships continue to arrive, we are busy putting together a few recruiting tools to help NDRTA and local unit membership recruitment efforts.

We had a fantastic series of Spring Workshops this year and received dozens of requests by local units and individual members for a copy of Clarence Corneil's com-

puter presentation *How to Live the Good Life*. At that time I indicated NDRTA was in the process of working with a local marketing company to put the presentation on a CD. The CD is nearly completed and we've added some additional audio and video introduction information from board members and new retirees as well as a NDRTA membership application that may be immediately printed after viewing the presentation. Each local unit will be sent several of these CDs to assist with recruitment efforts of new retirees, along with some additional promotional *continued on page 4*

material. Additionally, all new retirees in ND will be sent this CD and presentation and we are also in the process of developing additional materials with the assistance of the NRTA (National Retired Teachers Association / AARP) for pre-retirement recruitment efforts. It is a priority of NDRTA to reach-out to new retirees and engage them with information about our association and the benefits of belonging to each local unit and the state NDRTA!

NDRTA was notified in May by the National Retired Teachers Association, AARP's Educator Community, that we were awarded a \$4700 Innovation Grant to help develop and distribute the Files of Life program in ND. LaDonna Whitmore, our 1st Vice President helped make this possible by working with our President, Norm Stulmiller and other board members to extend a program already in place in Fargo via the TRIAD group that involves local law enforcement and emergency medical personnel. The Files of Life program provides seniors a magnetic and wallet-size card that is to be filled-out with their medical information and a strobe-porch-light that

ciated benefits. Members of NDRTA will be issued a card designed specifically for our association with individual name and membership numbers assigned to each member. This card will also provide unique benefits and discounts to our members at local, state, and national places of business, i.e. hotels, restaurants, travel, car rental, auto repair, clothing retailers, etc. The office is working diligently to make sure we mail each member their card by the time our Convention rolls-around in September so we can introduce it to the local units to share with their members.

As you have read in Howard Snortland's Legislative Report, we expect the 2005 Legislative Session will not result in an increase in your retirement annuity. The Teachers Fund For Retirement has experienced a few ups and downs (in the market) since 2001, and as a result, there will most likely not be a margin of investment gain to use to distribute to retirees in the form of an increased monthly annuity. Additionally, the trend in our state is showing an increase in the number of retirees and a decrease in the number of active teachers paying into the Fund, which means retirement annuity obligations of the fund are outpacing contributions to the fund. However, the negative investment returns of 2001 and 2002 are beginning to give way to positive returns in 2003 and 2004, and we're optimistic 2004 will result in a double-digit gain for the fund. As long as we continue to see positive investment returns, the prospect of future annuity increases remains. The good news throughout all of this is that while the market took a downward turn in 2001 and 2002 and to a lesser extent part of 2003, your annuity did NOT decrease. It did not decrease because your annuity is guaranteed by the state of ND; this is what we call a "defined benefit." The TFFR is a defined benefit retirement system, just as PERS is a defined benefit system for retired state employees. This means that even if the investment returns of the TFFR are negative, you do not experience a reduction in your monthly annuity. Traditional 401k retirement plans, for instance, experience ups and downs along with the markets and individuals whose retirement is invested in these kinds of plans will realize increases or decreases in their value, and consequently their retirement income, alongside market conditions. This is termed a "define contribution system." There have been efforts in the past several legislative sessions to transition state employees to a "defined contribution" system – and we have worked hard, along with state employee groups to oppose this kind of legislation and have been successful defeating these attempts to remove the contract the state of ND has with its employees to guarantee their retirement annuity, and we will continue to oppose any such attempts and promote the sound fiscal management of our retirement fund.

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(sample of membership card)

may be used in case of a medical emergency to help responders identify the residence. We will be sharing additional information about this program with the local unit presidents and region advisory council members at the September Convention in Bismarck.

Throughout the years, we have often been asked by members, "Do I get a membership card for belonging to NDRTA?" The answer was always, "We do not provide membership cards due to the cost of printing and mailing." Essentially it was a budget issue. Beginning this year, NDRTA is working with a company from Salt Lake City that specializes in association membership cards and asso-

# Wahl Joins NDRTA



If you attended any of the five Spring Workshops in April you were introduced to a new association manager assisting NDRTA. Tami Wahl, a native of North Dakota joined APT, Inc. in March and will be responsible for working closely with the NDRTA and the association members.

NDRTA contracts with APT, Inc. to function as its state office in Bismarck and provide association management and lobbying services. APT's areas of expertise focus on overall association management and administration as well as government relations/lobbying and state pension fund monitoring.

Tami joins Tom and Ken Tupa and the rest of the staff at APT, Inc. who manage, administrate and lobby for numerous membership associations in North Dakota including NDRTA.

Tami graduated from UND-Williston with a Degree in Science/Licensed Physical Therapist Assistant. Previously, she worked at St. Alexius Medical Center in Bismarck for eight years in Physical Therapy before joining APT and NDRTA. Tami brings her experience and enthusiasm serving others and will be working directly with NDRTA and association members.

## North Dakota Retired Teachers Association State Officers

### President

Norm Stuhlmiller-Bismarck

### 1st. Vice President

LaDonna Whitmore-Fargo

### 2nd. Vice President

Lowell Latimer-Minot

### Immediate Past President

Clarence Corneil-Dickinson

### Secretary

Mil Jenkinson-Dickinson

### Treasurer

Howard Snortland-Bismarck

### Historian

Mary Fuxa-Fargo

### Editor

Bernice Binford-Moorhead, MN

### Executive Director

Tom Tupa - ttupa@aptnd.com

### Association Executives

Ken Tupa - ktupa@aptnd.com

Tami Wahl - twahl@aptnd.com

## Nominating Committee Report

*Clarence Corneil, Chair*

Only one Board position, Treasurer, is up for re-election this year. The NDRTA Nominating Committee has nominated the following person to serve on the Board of Directors for 2004-2006:

**Howard Snortland**, Bismarck – Treasurer

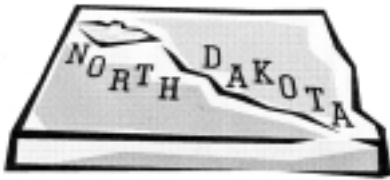
This person nominated has agreed to serve and will be on the ballot at the State Convention in September. Other nominations may be made from the floor at the State Convention.

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And lastly, I want to again thank our members for supporting the NDRTA membership dues increase in 2002. This increase, the first since 1991, has helped our association progress and move forward; to continue to provide exclusive representation to retired teachers in ND and to enhance our benefits and out-reach to local units and our members. This great association of dedicated members began over forty years ago and continues to operate upon the words of the National Retired Teachers Association's (NRTA) and AARP's founder, Dr. Ethal Percy Andrus, "To serve, and not be served." As I travel around the state and visit the local units I see these words in action and am fortunate to be part of such a fantastic organization.

I am anxious to see you all at the NDRTA State Convention, September 1-2, 2004 in Bismarck – we have much to look forward to!!!

# 43rd Annual North Dakota Retired Teachers State Convention September 1 & 2, 2004 – Bismarck, North Dakota



## Doublewood Inn Lewis and Clark A Blast From the Past



Hosted by Bismarck - Mandan RTA

### Wednesday, September 1, 2004

9 a.m.-1:00 p.m. **Registration**  
- coffee and donuts

10:00 a.m. Meeting of NDRTA Advisory Council  
\*\*\*\*\* (Lunch on your own)

12:30 p.m. **Doublewood Inn**  
• Call to Order – Norm Stuhlmiller

• Prayer

• Presentation of Colors  
- VFW  
• Pledge to the Flag

• National Anthem

• Reading of the Governor’s Proclamation

• Greetings – Convention Hosts  
-Bismarck/Mandan RTA

• AARP Update  
-Janis Cheney, State Director

• NDRTA Update  
- Norm Stuhlmiller, President

2:00 p.m. Leave for the Lewis and Clark  
River Boat  
(Transportation Provided if needed)

2:30 p.m. **River Boat** Leaves Dock

4:45 p.m. **Return to Doublewood Inn**

5:00 p.m. **Business Session**  
2003 Minutes  
Treasurer’s Report & 2004 Budget  
Legislative Report  
Resolutions Committee Report  
NDRTA Administrative Report  
Nominating Committee Report  
With Our Youth Report

5:30 p.m. **Evening Banquet**  
-Scholarship Awards

6:30 p.m. **“Would You Have Gone With  
Lewis And Clark?”**  
-Todd Hanson, Barb Patzman, & Kurt Weinberg

8:00 p.m. **Adjourn Until Thursday at 8:15 a.m.**

### Motel Reservations for the **Doublewood Inn**

(Until August 15, 2004)

1400 E. Interchange Ave., Bismarck  
Exit 159 & I-94

**NDRTA Flat Rate: (\$59.00)**  
**(Single or double room)**  
**And includes hot breakfast**

**Call 1-800-554-7077**  
**for reservations**

\*be sure to indicate you are  
with the NDRTA Convention

**Other accommodations:**  
Days Inn: 701-223-9151  
Super 8 Motel: 701-255-1314  
Select Inn: 701-223-8060

## Thursday, September 2, 2004

- 8:15 a.m. **Doublewood Inn - Registration**  
 - Coffee and Muffins
- 8:45 a.m. **Call to Order** – Norm Stuhlmiller  
 -Unfinished Business  
 -Memorial Service – Mary Fuxa  
 -Election of Officers – Mil Jenkinson  
 -TFFR Report – Fay Kopp  
 -Installation of Officers
- 10:15 a.m. **Coffee Break**
- 10:25 a.m. **NDRTA and AARP Break-out Sessions**  
 (choose one topic to attend)
- NDRTA #1 - Senior Health Insurance: Bill Lardy
  - NDRTA #2 -“Sheheke: Mandan Indian Diplomat”  
 - Tracy Potter, Executive Director of Fort Abraham Lincoln Foundation
  - AARP #1 - AARP ND Legislative Issues
  - AARP #2 - Social Security
- 11:05 a.m. **Coffee Break**
- 11:15 a.m. **Break out Sessions Re-Run**
- NDRTA #1 - Senior Health Insurance: Bill Lardy
  - NDRTA #2 - “Sheheke: Mandan Indian Diplomat”  
 Tracy Potter, Executive Director of Fort Abraham Lincoln Foundation
  - AARP #1 - AARP ND Legislative Issues
  - AARP #2 - Social Security
- 12:15 p.m. **NDRTA Luncheon/Program**
- Presiding
  - Invocation
  - Invitation to 2005 Convention – Jamestown
  - Awards and Acknowledgments
    - Silver Apple
    - NDRTA Dr. Ethel Percy
  - Presentation of Traveling Trophy
    - LaDonna Whitmore
  - God Bless America
  - Benediction
  - Adjournment
- 2:00 pm **Meeting of the Executive Board**

## Registration Form

All tickets are to be picked up at the registration desk. Please check the items and enclose the correct amount.

**\*indicate number of tickets**

**Total**

Convention Registration: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Wed., Sept. 1** Evening Banquet \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
**OR**

Evening Banquet and Riverboat \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 (transportation provided & included)

**Thurs., Sept. 2** Luncheon \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Due:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*guests are welcome at the River Boat and all meals with payment and reservations.**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail no later than August 18 , 2004**

Make check payable to **BMRTA** (*Bismarck-Mandan Retired Teachers Association*)

Mail check and form to: **Angie Erhardt**  
**1800 River Road**  
**Mandan, ND 58554-2221**

With questions, contact the North Dakota Retired Teachers Association State Office at 701-221-7766.

# 2004 NDRTA / AARP Spring Workshops

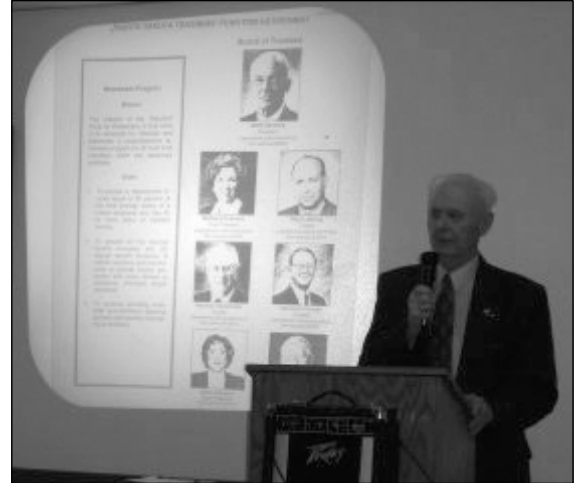
The 2004 NDRTA / AARP Spring Workshops saw a wonderful record attendance! Over 250 retired educators and AARP members attended the workshops held in Dickinson, Grand Forks, Jamestown, Fargo, and Minot.

Workshop topics included a NDRTA organizational update and Legislative Update from President Norm Stuhlmiller and the other Board Members. The AARP State Office also gave their update and spoke on Medicare Discount Card issues.

Workshop topics included a NDRTA organizational



2004 Spring Workshop Participants



Howard Snortland At Dickinson Spring Workshop Giving the TFFR Report April 13, 2004



Marlow Kro Giving AARP update



LaDonna Whitmore (NDRTA's 1st Vice President) giving report on Grant project "Files for Life"



NDRTA's immediate Past President, Clarence Corniel giving the TFFR update in Minot



Mil Jenkinson at Grand Forks Spring Workshop Presented the "Lewis & Clark" story April 20, 2004



Spring Workshop in Jamestown  
Left to right: Norm Stuhlmiller (President of NDRTA) Howard Snortland (Treasurer of NDRTA) - Jim Billey (AARP Rep) Delmar Zimmerman (President of SCRTA) Tami Wahl (NDRTA State Staff)



Vel Rae Burkholder Cass County Unit President at the workshop in Fargo

# Bylaws Amended

At the beginning of this year, the NDRTA Board decided to take a look at the association's bylaws, and make updated changes where needed. The last update to the association bylaws was at the 1994 state convention. By March, the Bylaws Committee (Dr. Lowell Latimer, Chair) submit-

ted the recommended updates/changes and they were adopted by the Board for publication in the newsletter and are as follows. The amendments will be addressed and discussed at the state convention, September 1-2, 2004 in Bismarck for final approval and adoption by the members.

**Revised RTA  
Constitution and Bylaws  
03/29/04**

## **North Dakota Retired Teachers Association**

### **Constitution**

Article I. The name of this association shall be the NORTH DAKOTA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (NDRTA).

Article II. The purpose shall be to:

- A. Bring all retired educators in North Dakota into closer relationship with each other in order to work for mutual interest and advancement of common goals.
- B. Work for better legislation to maintain and improve the status of social welfare of retired educators.
- C. Establish local units which will help strengthen the status of retired educators and disseminate through them information of value to members.
- D. Cooperate with the National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA) and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) by promoting membership, legislation, national projects and programs.
- E. Encourage and support any movement to improve educational opportunities in the state.
- F. Preserve the history and heritage of education in North Dakota through the accounts of and about its teachers.

Article III. Membership shall include retired and former educators. Members who reenter teaching are eligible for continued membership. Membership shall consist of three categories:

- A. Active members shall be retired educators **or surviving spouses of retired educators.**
- B. Associate membership shall be open to spouses of active and former NDRTA members and active educators.
- C. Honorary membership certificates may be awarded **to nonmembers** by the Executive Committee or Board of Directors to persons they deem worthy of the honor.

Article IV. The elected officers of the NDRTA shall be: president, first vice-president, second vice-president, secretary, and treasurer **and each shall serve two years or until a successor is appointed.** Appointed officers shall be: historian, newsletter editor, and the chairperson of each of the NDRTA standing committees: and each **appointed officer** shall ~~is to~~ serve two years or until a successor has been appointed.

Article V. The NDRTA shall meet in convention once a year at a time and place selected by the Executive Committee. A quorum shall consist of the members in attendance.

Article VI. A local association of retired educators may become affiliated with the NDRTA upon written request and ratification of this Constitution and Bylaws and adoption of a constitution not in conflict. A certificate of affiliation shall be issued.

Article VII. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the elected officers of the NDRTA plus the Immediate Past President. The Board of Directors shall be the members of the Executive Committee plus the Editor, Historian, and committee chairpersons.

Article VIII. This constitution may be amended at an annual meeting by a majority vote of the members in attendance. Notice of the proposed amendment shall be submitted in writing to the President early enough for publication in the issue of the NDRTA Newsletter printed prior to the convention.

### **BYLAWS**

Article I. Officers and Duties

A. President

The President shall:

1. Call meetings of the Association, the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors as provided in the

bylaws, and preside at such meetings.

2. Represent the NDRTA at meetings and in correspondence with other agencies, but shall have the authority to delegate said duty to other specified persons.
3. Appoint committees and/or chairpersons of committees in accordance with the Bylaws and serve as an exofficer member of the same.
4. Approve vouchers for payment by the Treasurer (or co-sign check).
5. Confer with the Editor of the Newsletter.

#### A. First Vice-President

The first Vice-President shall:

1. Assist the President in the performance of his/her duties and preside over meetings in his/her absence.

#### A. Second Vice-President

The Second Vice-President shall:

1. Assist the president in the performance of his/her duties.
2. Serve as chairperson of the public relations committee and as a member of other committees as assigned by the president.

#### A. Secretary

The Secretary shall be responsible for:

1. Recording and filing minutes of all meetings of the Association, Executive Committee and the Board of Directors.
2. Maintaining a current membership list.
3. Preparing the directory of officers of NDRTA, state AARP and local Retired Teachers Associations (RTAs) units as soon as feasible after the annual convention and distribute copies to NDRTA officers and chairpersons, Area VIII AARP office, NRTA state officers, and all unit presidents.

#### A. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for:

1. Receiving and depositing in an appropriate account all monies, including membership dues, paid to the Association.
2. Payment of all bills for expenses included in the budget or specifically authorized by the president or the Executive Committee.
3. Keeping an appropriate account book, which shall be the property of the Association and open for inspection by authorized officials at all reasonable times. The books shall be audited by an auditing committee at the close of the fiscal year.

#### A. Historian

The Historian shall be responsible for:

1. Collecting data pertaining to the history of the NDRTA and RTA units and shall keep such records, including necrology, up-to-date.
2. Preserving the heritage of North Dakota teachers by encouraging members to submit personal histories and other information.

#### A. Editor

The Editor shall:

1. Be in charge of the publication of the NDRTA Newsletter.

#### A. Executive Committee and Board of Directors

The Executive Committee and the Board of Directors each shall meet at least once during the year to consider the program and business of the Association. In addition, the Executive Committee shall meet in the interim at the call of the President to consider pressing business. ~~Not less than ten days nor more than thirty days prior to the annual meeting, the Executive Committee shall meet to close the year's business and complete preparations for the annual meeting.~~

#### A. Vacancy

Should a vacancy occur in any office during the year, the president, with the approval of the Executive Committee, shall appoint a member to fill that office until next annual meeting, at which time it shall be filled by election for the remainder of the term.

## Article II. Elections and Terms of Office

- A. The following officers shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Association by the members in attendance: president, first vice-president, second vice-president, secretary (elected in odd-numbered years), and treasurer (elected in even-numbered years). All shall be elected for a two year term.
- B. The following officers shall be appointed by the President with approval of the Executive Committee: Historian and Editor of the NDRTA Newsletter. Each shall serve for two years or until a successful ~~or person~~ has been appointed.
- C. All officers shall begin their terms of office at the end of the annual convention.

## Article III. Finance

- A. The fiscal year shall begin July 1 **of each year.**
- B. The amount of annual membership dues will be determined by the annual convention. The dues are payable annually:
  1. By unit members to the treasurer of the unit, who will transmit the dues to the NDRTA Treasurer or
  2. By non-unit members to the NDRTA Treasurer
  3. Notice for having dues deducted by the Teachers Fund for Retirement (TFFR) shall be June 15, and shall be deducted by the most efficient way compatible with the TFFR office and equipment.
- A. Special funds may be established for specific purposes, e.g., promotion of legislation, education or cultural projects, etc. Monies contributed to such funds must be kept apart from the general fund. At the request of the Executive Committee monies may be placed in a savings account if designated for an educational or cultural purpose.

## Article IV. Committees

Each committee shall consist of the appointed chairperson and at least two more members, selected by the chairperson. Anticipated committee expenses (telephone, mailing, traveling, etc.) must be submitted in writing to the Budget committee at the beginning of the fiscal year. Unless included in the budget, expenses must be approved by the Executive Committee.

### A. Nominating

A. Six months before the annual meeting (convention) of the Association the President shall appoint a Nominating committee consisting of two NDRTA Executive Committee members and the presidents of three NDRTA units. This committee shall select a slate of officers whose terms of office will expire at the conclusion of the convention. This report shall be made at the annual meeting. No one shall be nominated whose consent to serve has not first been obtained. Voting shall be by ballot except in cases where there is only one nominee for an office. A majority vote of those present shall elect a candidate for office.

### A. Resolutions

The president shall appoint a Resolutions committee to present ordinary and courtesy resolutions to the convention body.

### A. Legislative

The president shall appoint a Legislative committee of ~~five~~ **three** active members. The NDRTA officers and immediate past president shall be ex officio members. This committee shall be appointed in the odd-numbered year annual meeting for a two-year term.

### A. Budget

A budget committee of three members, including the treasurer, shall be appointed at the beginning of the fiscal year (July 1). Allocation of funds shall be based on budget requests submitted by the committee chairpersons.

### A. NDRTA Committees

The president shall appoint NDRTA committee chairpersons to work with the corresponding NDRTA committees. Ad hoc committees may be appointed as the need arises.

1. Retirement Planning Committee: This committee is to encourage active educators to begin to prepare well in advance of retirement.
2. Information and Protective Services: This committee is to promote the well-being of retired educators by using a resource of available services.
3. Community Service: This committee is to encourage retired educators to identify community needs for which projects and programs may be developed and to develop a positive image of aging by being active participants in the community.
4. Membership: This committee is to encourage and contact prospective membership at all three levels.
5. Public Relations: This committee is to provide accurate and comprehensive information to the media relative to

the activities of the Association.

6. Constitution Revision Committee: This committee is to study the constitution and bylaws of NDRTA to determine what changes, if any, are needed to keep the constitution and bylaws abreast with the needs of NDRTA. This committee will also be responsible to forward any proposed changes to the editor of NDRTA Newsletter so that any proposed change will be in the hands of membership prior to the NDRTA annual convention.

#### Article V Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended at an annual meeting (convention) in the fall by a majority vote of the members in attendance. Notice of the proposed amendment shall be submitted in the summer issue of the NDRTA Newsletter.

The Constitution and Bylaws revision was submitted by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for consideration at the 1980 convention. Final adopted edition was acted upon at the 1981 convention and amended at the 29 September 1982, 25 September 1987, 21 September 1989, 16 September 1992, and 21 September 1994 conventions.

## Resolutions

Following are the 2003 NDRTA Resolutions adopted at the state convention last August in Dickinson.

Any member or unit who wishes to submit a resolution prior to the 2004 NDRTA convention for discussion by the Resolutions Committee (Clarence Corneil, Chair) should send it to:

NDRTA PO Box 447 Bismarck, ND 58502-0447 or email to [rta@aptnd.com](mailto:rta@aptnd.com)

Resolutions may also be introduced from the floor during the convention. Units or individuals introducing resolutions from the floor at the convention should have copies of the proposed resolutions to hand-out and be prepared to discuss the proposed resolution and answer any questions from the membership.

The North Dakota Retired Teachers Association in Convention Assembled at Dickinson, North Dakota this 27th Day of August, 2003 hereby resolves:

1. That it urge its officers and members to actively support the recommendations, legislative and otherwise, adopted by this convention and carried forward by the Board of this Association, and that its members support the recommendations and decisions of the Board as a result of the Resolutions and such issues which may impact the members and the TFFR.
2. That NDRTA encourage and promote the formation of more units in the state.
3. That all TFFR annuitants be urged to become members of NDRTA and local or nearby units.
4. That NDRTA members support the NDRTA Revitalization Plan through participation in local and state association activities and events.

And that NDRTA members support the Silver Apple Award Recipients and the Region Advisory Council and from their example and leadership be encouraged to volunteer in their communities as an example of how teachers continue to touch

lives and that NDRTA members accept the challenge when called upon to serve as officers at the local and state level and experience the reward of active involvement.

5. That NDRTA congratulate the Southwest Area RTA unit upon being recognized as a national With Our Youth Award recipient at the National Leadership Conference earlier this month in Salt Lake City for the Heritage Box Project.
6. That NDRTA continues to encourage legislation to:
  - Maintain the flexibility of the TFFR to be reviewed biennially and based on the performance of the fund, provide post-retirement benefit increases to all annuitants and beneficiaries receiving a benefit from TFFR.
  - Provide retired TFFR members with a monthly credit based on years of service toward health insurance premiums administered by TFFR.
7. That NDRTA encourage the Teachers Fund For Retirement (TFFR) to take into consideration these legislative resolutions and support all retired teachers, with special appreciation to Norm Stuhlmiller, and Howard Snortland for their effective work representing NDRTA.

And that NDRTA recognize the efforts of Fay Kopp and Steve Cochran and the staff of TFFR and thank them for their services on behalf of the retired teachers of ND.

8. That NDRTA encourage its members to contact legislators at the state and federal level to voice their positions.
9. That NDRTA thank Mayor Dennis Johnson for his welcome to Dickinson and thank AARP and local area sponsors for providing convention breaks.

And that NDRTA thank our speakers and guests - Dean Koppelman, Annette Norsman of NRTA, Janis Cheney of AARP, Karen Nelson, Briane Green, Kim Callahan, Mil Jenkinson, Lynne Reinhiller, John Gengler, and Phyllis Bakke.

That NDRTA express its thanks and appreciation to all who have contributed time and effort to make this convention a success: President Clarence Corneil, NDRTA Officers and Chairs, Southwest Area RTA, and Slope Area RTA and the Convention Committees.

# NEWS FROM THE UNITS

**TO UNITS:**

**Thank you, unit secretaries. Most of you had your copy in before the deadline. If the secretary of your unit changes, please inform me. I rely on the unit directories.**

- the Editor

**Bismarck-Mandan**

The Bismarck-Mandan Retired Teachers Association has been busy planning the 43rd NDRTA State Convention, and has continued to enjoy the excellent programs Gynell Torgeson scheduled for us.

In October, Judy DeWitz presented a power point plus video presentation entitled, "Faces of Depression", and Bob Erickson gave us a progress report concerning the Magical Moments Playground which we support.

After listening to November's speaker, Carol Meyers, talk about Bismarck's three homes for at risk teenagers, we voted to participate in their mitten project. A Christmas event when each child receives a mitten filled with items from a wish list.

In December Frank Koch shared his experience of creating an ornament for the 2002 White House Christmas Tree, and Gynell Torgeson shared her collection of twelve ornaments that were issued by the White House.

Fire Chief Joel Boespflug presented the January program, and we celebrated the 40th birthday of the BMRTA (Bismarck-Mandan Retired Teachers Association.)

Dean Hildebrand, the governor appointed director of the Game and Fish Department, presented the February program; and Norma Stuhlmiller continued her protective service reports with "8 Ways to Keep From Being Ripped Off".

In March, Mark Kenneweg, director of the Fort Lincoln Foundation, presented a history of Fort Lincoln State Park, and Dick Palmer explained the NDEA Retired benefits.

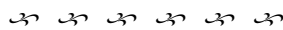
City Administrator, Bill Wochen, presented the April program, "City Growth and Happenings". Norm Stuhlmiller reported on the TFFR Funds and explained the "File for Life" program.

At the May meeting, Merrill Paverude explained the many services that the State Historical society offers and President Ripley reported on convention plans. At the end of the meeting, Herman Schafer conducted the installation of these 2004-2005 officers:

- President – Sarah Ripley
- 1st Vice President – Jerry Tjaden
- 2nd Vice President – Gynnel Torgeson

- Secretary – Irene Hoffman
- Treasurer – Angie Erhardt

We are looking forward to seeing you at the 43rd Annual NDRTA State Convention in Bismarck at the Doublewood Inn on September 1, and September 2, 2004. The theme will be "Lewis and Clark – A Blast From the Past".



**Cass County**

Our CCARTA inspirational messages for November through May were interesting, thought-provoking, and from a variety of sources. Vel Rae Burkholder read quotations from several writers on the theme, "Count Your Blessings". Bev Quamme read a Christmas version of a passage from 1 Corinthians. Mavis Nymon gave a message about Love using the Guideposts Calendar, the Bible, and the Baha'i Faith scriptures. "How Do You Live the Dash?" from the Dorothy Day Newsletter was given by Lora Morris. "Easter Prayer for Peace" from Helen Steiner Rice's book, Loving Thoughts, was given by Marilyn Motl. Margaret Woodward read from "The New Teacher", which gave a listing of all of the things teachers are required to do these days, besides teach.

Our guest speaker for November was Professor John Helgeland, from NDSU. He addressed the topic, "Studies in Islam and Violent Islam". He stressed the importance of religion as an influence in world affairs and that the militant Islamic people feel threatened by Western Culture.

In December, we enjoyed the Christmas and non-seasonal music performances of the South High Pizzazz

entertainers, under the direction of Mike Radniecki.

Mary Nelson, of the Midweek, presented our January program. Her topic was "Midweek and More". She spoke about her beginnings at the Midweek and of the many projects and booklets that the Midweek produces for the area. Mary, also, read the poem, "Twas the Month After Christmas".

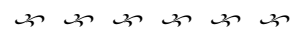
The guest speaker for February was Marcia Paulson of the YWCA. Marcia spoke about empowering women and children, the programs that are offered, and the old and new YWCA facilities.

Martha DiCicco, retired teacher and principal, presented our program in March. Martha spoke about her 1-1/2 years as an advocate for children, which was a part-time job as a lay person as guardian ad litem for children. She represented and spoke for the child, with the goal of reunifying the family.

Bob Backman, Executive Director of River Keepers, was our guest speaker in April. Bob's topic was "The River Keepers and Its Mission". He told us about the geographical and human history of the river area and the many projects and activities of the advocates for the river.

In May, Bev Quamme, of the Scholarship Committee, presented the three Scholarships to the recipients. The first Don Papke Memorial Scholarship for \$500 went to Rachel Audette, a North High graduate who is attending Concordia. One CCARTA \$500 Scholarship went to Michael Breker, a South High graduate, who is attending NDSU. The second CCARTA \$500 Scholarship went to Megan Burchill, a graduate of Northern Cass High School, who is attending UND.

Upon the death of our Treasurer, Don Papke, in February, Todd Goschen agreed to be Treasurer from February through May. Don was Treasurer of CCARTA for ten years.



**Grand Forks**

In November we learned about Altur Health System's use of horses to assist in

# NEWS FROM THE UNITS

the therapy of children who have a physical an developmental handicaps, mostly as the result of cerebral palsy. They call their treatment "Manely Therapy"

We did have two musical programs; singers from the chamber choir at Central High School, and then in February a string quartet also made up of students. Both groups amazed us with their level of advancement and with the high quality of the performances.

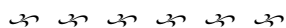
Although Paul Glasoe taught chemistry for a number of years at Wittenberg College in Ohio, mathematics was always a keen interest of his. In his retirement it has become one of his main fields of concentration. His thoughts that were shared with us concerned "The Golden Rectangle" and the importance of that form in our daily lives.

March lived up to its windy reputation as we heard from Jay Haley, engineer, on the topic "Wind Energy". He assured us that we are the windiest state in the nation and for that reason need to give more attention to developing this source of renewable energy. It may be of interest to note that Jay was in the first group that set up a large/41 unit wind farm in North Dakota near Edgeley and Kulm.

Mil Jenkinson entertained and enlightened us in April with a lecture on "Lewis and Clark Journey". It was good to hear from an expert on this timely topic.

We concluded the year with "Garden Plans", a presentation by Darlene Shea from one of the local nurseries. Even if you were not "into" gardening, you would have found her witty and informative. As she talked, she put together an herb bowl, which was then used as a door prize at the close of the meeting.

At the end of the year we had 100 members, the same count as last year. There is still room for improvement, we tell ourselves.



### Slope Area

In October, our program presenter was Gerri Godes from Stark county Social Services. She spoke to us on Medicaid and Estate planning.

For November, Senator Richard Wardner gave a legislative update on pertinent educational issues and as executive director of the Dickinson Chamber of Commerce gave an update of current local and area concerns and projects. Members volunteered to judge Christmas materials submitted to the Dickinson Press.

The Jobsters, a male vocal group of four seniors from Dickinson High, provided a delightful selection of music for our January meeting.

At our February meeting, member Dee Rieker gave a report on spending 10 days as a volunteer in a boarding school for boys in the country of Honduras. The trip was sponsored by World Gospel Mission.

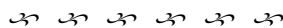
In March, dietician Jennifer Schonack of St. Joseph Hospital, spoke to us about the current popular diets. She explained the diets' main emphasis and told us of food sources that are excellent in various vitamins, fiber, carbohydrates, protein, fatty acids, and minerals that the body needs to remain healthy.

During April, our program presenter was Bill Lardy who works through the North Dakota Insurance Department for senior Health. He trains people to answer questions on health issues for Senior Citizens. Information focused on the Discount Card Program which will become effective, June 1 of 2004. The recipient of our Dickinson State University scholarship is Heidi Herold, a former Dickinson resident, majoring in elementary education.

In May, we celebrated the culmination of our year by having a meal together and held installation of Officers for 2004-2005. They are as follows:

- President – LeRoy Oberlander
- Co-President Elect. – Sherwin Dockett & Dee Rieker
- Secretary – Glenda Seela
- Treasurer – Jean Braun

Our Silver Apple Award recipient is Clarence Corneil.



### South Central

The South Central Retired Teachers Association (SCRTA) met May 17, 2004,

at the Prairie Winds Restaurant, at 10:30 a.m., in Wishek.

The SCRTA meets every 3rd Monday during the months of May through October. Fourteen members were present.

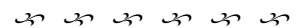
Election of officers was the first order of business:

- President – Delmar Zimmerman, Wishek
- Vice President – Maggie Hilzendeger, Napoleon
- Secretary and Historian – Deloris Zimmerman, Wishek
- Treasurer – Gladys Becker, Napoleon

President Zimmerman appointed chairpersons for the various committees.

Carla Aipperspach, local pharmacist, gave a presentation on the Medicare-Approved Prescription Drug Discount Card.

Two members attended and reported on the NDRTA Regional Spring Workshop in Jamestown on April 27.



### Williston Area

Our November meeting roll call was our favorite Thanksgiving food and pumpkin pie, turkey and dressing were the winners. Larry Lynne provided the program with his presentation of the Heritage Box in character as the student of that era. We are still looking for items to add to the box.

Our December meeting was held in the Activities Room of Bethel Lutheran Home and our guests were 7 retired teachers who live there. President Jane Innis read a Christmas Poem and we did some Christmas songs trivia. Our program was presented by JoAnn Olson, "Myths and truths about Chocolate", she provided chocolate treats for all.

Our next meeting was in April and our guest speaker was Diane Hagen from the Chamber of Commerce to update us on all the Lewis and Clark activities in our area for the spring, summer and fall. We invite all our readers to come see what we have to offer here.

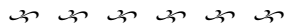
Our May meeting was election of officers for next year.

- President – Rosie Carle

# NEWS FROM THE UNITS

Vice President – Shirley Olson  
 Secretary – Avonne Pederson  
 Treasurer – Carol Mockel

We choose Dave Hauser as our Silver apple Award winner. Larry Lynne has presented the Heritage Box in 4 elementary fourth grades this spring. We had 7 from our group who participated in the AARP Volunteer Day, May 13. Our jobs included lunch duty, laminating, lesson presenting, teacher aide, GED preparation, and workshop classes. We presented a \$250 Scholarship to Jessica Nyberg at the Senior Award Ceremony, May 12. Before we adjourned for the summer, we discussed possible programs for next fall.



## Turtle Mountain

Since our last report, our secretary of many years, Edna Egge has died. She had been the secretary since the chapter was organized.

We have just resumed meetings after a winter break. The highlight of the 2003-2004 sessions so far has been member, Marge Severson's presentation of her summer trip to Australia. Our most recent program featured a Lewis & Clark video, held at the Bottineau Senior Citizens. The next meeting will also be in Bottineau, and the program will be about the local Family Crisis Center.

Some members have been active in presenting our Heritage Box contents to fourth-grade students in the various schools of Bottineau and Rolette Counties. The classes have been very receptive.

The Turtle Mountain Area Retired Teachers wound up their season with a June meeting in Rolla, and the installation of new officers for the 2004-2005 sessions. These officers are:

President – Eloise Boppre  
 President Elect – Jeannie Orke  
 Secretary – Ruby Krause  
 Treasurer – Ione Skarpol

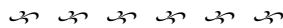
Following the meeting, members were given a guided tour of the impressive Turtle Mountain Community College near Belcourt.

During the year, a highlight was the granting of a scholarship to a student at

MSU-Bottineau who is going into teaching.

Ione Skarpol, the treasurer form many years, was nominated for the Silver Apple Award.

Meeting will resume in September.



## Fargo

The Fargo Retired Teachers Association has enjoyed a variety of outstanding programs which have been well attended by our members. One of our programs this year focused on organ and tissue donations. Our speaker was Judy Bradow, a "mom" whose 21 year old daughter was killed by a drunk driver ten years ago. She told how an "angel" in the form of a Life Source Representative approached the family with the idea of organ donation. As a result, the family donated their daughter's heart, kidney, pancreas and liver so that life could go on for others. She spoke on the unpredictability of life and said we are never too old to be on the donor program.

On a lighter vein, in March we had Kriss Lecrocq-Pederson, owner of an antique store called "Funky Junk" speak to us. She told us how she had enjoyed saving junk as a child and has turned it into a business in her adult life.

At our April meeting, Marilyn West, a professional florist from the store "Good Things", which is located in the Pioneer Center in West Fargo, came to our meeting and spoke on "Color Trends". She demonstrated her talents in floral arrangements as well as spoke about how youth influence the market. Young people set the trends and now want brighter crisper colors. Ms. West stated that "we live in a paradise of color" and we should choose the colors that make us feel good. If you are interested in learning more about her store you can go to the web site: [www.goodthingsfloral.com](http://www.goodthingsfloral.com).

At our May meeting, we awarded two \$1000 Signe Hanson Scholarships and had installation of officers. Our Scholarship Committee received twenty applications for scholarships. The two recipients were Andrea Moore, a graduating senior from Fargo North High School

who plans to attend Minnesota State University-Moorhead. And Scott Radnieckie, a Fargo South graduate who plans to attend Creighton University. Our Scholarship Committee comprised of Marvis Landburg, Adele Swenson, Janice Paulson, and Alice Jondahl. They did an outstanding job in the selection of the two recipients. Andrea and Scott attended our May meeting and told us some things about themselves and their activities.

Officers for the 2004-2005 year were installed by Mary Fuxa. They are as follows:

Co-Presidents – Phyllis Stoa and Alice Such

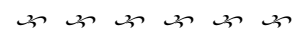
Co-Vice Presidents – Joy Reske and Diane Stenberg

2nd Vice Presidents – Lois Jean Sanner and Nancy Kjelgaard

Secretary – Marcia Carlson

Treasurer – Alice Jondahl

Historian – Dorothy Powers



## Stutsman

Our Annual card party fund raiser was held in February. The proceeds go to the scholarship fund. This year's scholarship was presented to Alicia Harshman who will be attending Valley City State College.

We are continuing the Heritage Project and visited 11 schools in the county and also in Jamestown. We encouraged interest in the Veteran's History Project. Some are completed and some are still working on their project. We attended the Spring Workshop held in Jamestown. We also enjoyed a pizza party awarded to us by NDRTA. We have enjoyed several interesting presentations this year which include:

- Dan Buckanan on Birding
- One from the Anne Carlson Center for Children
- Cheryl McIntyre and the High School Choir
- Charles & Dorothy Erstad on professional baseball
- Lyle Hanson on Declining Enrollments and No Child Left Behind Issues
- Carolgene Wolff on Supervision of student teachers

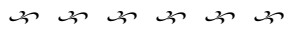
# NEWS FROM THE UNITS

• Felicia Sargaint on the Buffalo Museum

The installed officers for the 2005-2005 year are as follows:

- President: Tom Norman
- Vice President: Orlin Will
- Secretary: Kathy Wegner
- Treasure: Lee Ham

We also selected our delegates to the State Convention in Bismarck. They are Tome Norman and Lee Ham. We have a total of 945 volunteer hours starting in January 2004.



### Southwest

A memorial was given in memory of Ruth Davis. She had taught 24 years.

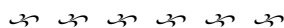
We started a transportation fund and also a scholarship fund. The scholarship is awarded to those who are working toward a teaching degree or technical school.

Center pieces for the Sunny Home were made. They were bird houses on a stand.

Our annual banquet was held at the Lutheran Church in Bowman on June 8, 2004. Our theme was "Singing Praises".

The Educators "Excellent Award of 2003", was presented to the Southwest Retired Teachers from the National Retired Teachers – Washington D.C.. Presented to us was a small red wagon with "Southwest Retired Teachers" painted on the side of the wagon. This award was for our work in the Heritage Box Project.

Evelyn Herguson and Eunice Henanger were nominated for the "Silver Apple Award". Evelyn Herguson was the winner.



### Minot

At the May meeting, Ken Tupa from NDRTA installed the following officer for 2004-2005:

- President: Dr. Harold Stolt
- Vice President: Edith Dacks
- Secretary: Geraldine Larson
- Treasurer: Barbara Wenger

The Minot group had their meeting with the State Spring Workshop. Presentations were made on prescription



Left to right: President - Harold Stolt, Ken Tupa, Secretary - Geraldine Larson, Treasurer - Barbara Wenger

drug cards by AARP, TFFR update by Clarence Corneil, and a Video on "How To Live The Good Life".

MARTA gave \$50.00 to the Minot Public Children's Library in memory of members who passed away.

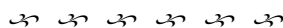
In April the group had a lively exchange of questions and answers with 3 foreign exchange students from Czech Republic, Norway, and Germany. They told about their families, education in their countries, laws and rules, religion, plans for the future, language and their experiences in Minot.

We have been working on getting members to have a "File of Life" filled out and posted in their homes.

In March Lt. Jason Alson, Minot Police Office, presented information and showed samples of meth, how it is made, and the effects on the human body.

In February, Sally Jenkins spoke about the Lewis and Clark expedition and how they used many ideas and skills we use in teaching and living today.

We enjoy listening to members give the invocations at each meeting and look forward to table favors provided by members. President Harold Stolt usually recites a poem from the vast amount of poems he has stored in memory.



### Dickey-LaMoure

Our first meeting of the year was held in LaMoure, April 26, 2004, 12:00 p.m. at the Dairy Bar. We had election of officers. All will be from Ellendale for the next 2 years:

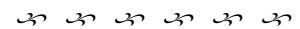
- President: Jeanette Robb-Ruenz
- Secretary: (to be appointed)
- Treasurer: Judy Bertsch

Historian: Doreen Babcock

Decision was made on the Heritage Box Presentation. Each town (Edgely, LaMoure, Ellendale, & Oakes) will be handling their own. It didn't work out to try to get together with the 4 towns.

On Sunday, April 25, at the Nazarene Church, the Dickey-LaMoure RTA helped to sponsor Mil Jenkinson a retired teacher from Dickinson to give her slide presentation of Lewis and Clark. There were about 100 in attendance. Our unit enjoyed it and felt it was very informative. Special music was also provided by the Ellendale Girl Scouts. Lunch was served afterwards.

Our next meeting will be June 28, 2004, 12:00 p.m., at Ellendale.



### Central Red River Valley

**November-** Our November meeting was held at the Ken & Fern Fugleberg home. Their home is unique as it was the first school Ken taught in. In 1997 they moved this school to its present location and remodeled it into a lovely home with lots of memories. Our program was given by Ken & Fern, describing their experiences as teachers. Stories from the lack of conveniences in Alaska to the humidity in Panama. They also taught in Florida, Arizona, and in Alabama. Many interesting stories were enjoyed by us all.

**December-** Our December meeting was held at the Paul and June Karlstad home. We enjoyed a potluck dinner and exchanged gag gifts. After lunch we sang many favorite Christmas carols. This was our last meeting for the year.

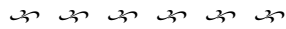
**April-** In April we met at our local library which is listed on the National Registry of Historic Buildings. We enjoyed a review of popular books and authors by our librarian Margaret Rice. We also learned of the library's significance. It was the first building specifically built for use as a library.

**May-** In May our group sponsored the Hope Ladies Dress Renew called the Country Aires. We met at the Tri County Nursing Home in Halton in conjunction with the Mother/Daughter tea. Our group sponsored the entertainment and the home

# NEWS FROM THE UNITS

furnished the lunch. A very enjoyable afternoon was held by all.

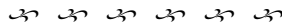
**June-** Our June meeting was a picnic at the lake home of Russ & Barb Gilbertson on Golden Lake. We will have a potluck dinner which is usually wonderful. Election of officers will also be held. We will then adjourn to enjoy our summer!



### Missouri River Basin

In addition to our regular meeting, we enjoyed watching "Senior Citizens of St. Matherv" of Hazen's complete books of the Bible in Braille. These are packed and shipped by them, to many countries of the world to schools for the blind.

We had Norm Stuhlmiller, NDRTA President, speak to us about Triad, a volunteer program. This program helps involve people to help where there is an emergency. An example of this is to install a blinking light into their outdoor porch light to alert the EMS where the emergency is located.



### Valley City

Officers for 2004-2005 are as follows:  
President: Dennis Nathan  
Vice President: Leo Schmidt  
Secretary: Arlys Netland  
Treasurer: Jan Syverson  
Program Chairs: John and Carolyn Geston  
Historian: Irma Ness

At the May meeting, a memorial service was held for James O'Connell, Bruce Anderson, and Don Piehl.

At the April meeting, Vicki Jackson told about the Faith In Action Program which is an outreach of Mercy Hospital to provide volunteer services to people in need.

Superintendent of the Valley City Public Schools, Dean Koppelman, presented an update on the new sports complex and tennis courts. This is expected to be completed by fall of 2004.

The February meeting featured Susan Omdahlen for the Hospice of the Red River Valley.

Our unit has 76 members this year.

## Renew your NDRTA

NDRTA Membership renewals have been mailed to all members who pay their annual dues by check. If you have not received your renewal notice or have not mailed your renewal to NDRTA, use the form below to keep your membership current.

or

Take the form and encourage a fellow ND retired teacher to complete and return the form.

Contact NDRTA with any questions about your membership status:

701-221-7766

### NDRTA Membership Renewal and Enrollment Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ SSN \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ PH# \_\_\_\_\_

(Required for voluntary withholding)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

#### Choose One Method of Payment

##### Preferred Method

I request voluntary withholding of \$18.00 for annual membership dues in the North Dakota Retired Teachers' Association from my July annuity payment from the North Dakota Teachers' Fund for retirement to remain in effect until I choose to terminate by written notice to the North Dakota Teachers' Fund for Retirement prior to June 15 of any year. (Request for voluntary withholding applies to any future decreases or increases in NDRTA membership dues.)

Membership to take effect July 1 of each year.

Enclosed is \$18.00 (beginning 2003-2004) for annual membership payable by June 30 of each year.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO: NDRTA - PO BOX 447 - BISMARCK, ND 58502-0447**

# AARP News

## Western ND 2004 Governor's Forums on Aging September 20 - 23, 2004 (Four locations in Western ND)

*Sponsored by:*

**NORTH DAKOTA  
GOVERNOR'S  
COMMITTEE  
ON AGING**

*In Cooperation with the  
ND Department of Human Services  
Aging Services Division*

The Governor's Committee on Aging was established to act as an advisory body for the Aging Services Division as set forth in the Older Americans Act of 1965. The Committee also acts as an advocacy body for the elderly of the state of North Dakota, while providing for a mutual exchange of ideas and information on national, state and local levels relating to aging.

In 2004 the Governor's Committee on Aging is sponsoring the Western North Dakota Governor's Forums on Aging. The purpose of these forums is to provide an opportunity to receive and share information, and to generate interest in the challenges and opportunities experienced by older North Dakotans.

### Keynote Address: Susan Reinhard

#### *“Long Term Care, You Decide Where: Lessons from New Jersey”*

This presentation will describe an eight-year evolution in long term care and senior services in New Jersey with a focus on lessons learned for other states like North Dakota. Topics include consumer direction and choice, state policies and governmental structure to support these priorities, and current progress in implementing a single point of entry to all senior services, information and counseling to help older adults and people with disabilities live in their homes and communities, and funding for programs that offer significant choices.

### Region VII Bismarck September 20, 2004 (Monday) AGENDA

- 12:30 Registration
- 1:00 Welcome & Introductions  
*Linda Wright*, Director, DHS,  
Aging Services Division
- 1:15 Keynote: *Susan Reinhard*,  
Sponsored by AARP ND
- 2:30 Community Based Services for North  
Dakotans – County and Local in  
Region VII
- 3:30 Region VII Older Americans Act  
Services in the Community (Nutrition,  
Health, Transportation, Outreach,  
Vulnerable Adult Protection Services,  
and Caregiver)
- 4:15 Closing Remarks:  
Governor's Committee – *Amy Clark*

- **Location:** Bismarck Senior Center, 315 N. 20th Street.
- **To Register call:** *Cherie Denning* at **328-8868** or **1-888-328-2662**. Please register by September 10.
- **Transportation** – call your local Senior Center.
- **Noon Lunch:** If you wish to come for a Title III lunch at the Center that day before the forum please call **258-9276** for details.

### Region VIII Dickinson September 21, 2004 (Tuesday) AGENDA

- 9:00 Registration
- 9:30 Welcome & Announcements

- 9:45 Prescription Drug Assistance/Medicare Drug Discount Cards
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 Social Security
- 11:30 Legislative Forum
- 12:15 Lunch provided on site (Lunch entertainment)
- 1:00 Keynote: **Susan Reinhard**, Sponsored by AARP ND
- 2:00 Local/Regional HCBS Services
- 2:45 Break
- 3:00 Region VIII Services and Programs
- 3:45 Closing Remarks, Wrap-up and Evaluations

- **Location:** Hillside Baptist Church, 1123 10th St. East.
- **To Register** call or e-mail: *Mark Jesser* at **1-888-227-7525** or **88jesm@state.nd.us** or *Gere Stetson* at **227-8421** or **rsvp@ndsupernet.com**. Please register by September 10.

**Region I**  
**Williston**  
**September 22, 2004**  
**(Wednesday)**  
**AGENDA**

- 11:45 Registration
- 12:00 Welcome & Introductions  
*Linda Wright*, Director, DHS, Aging Services Division
- 12:15 Keynote: **Susan Reinhard**, Sponsored by AARP ND
- 1:15 Williams Co. Social Services in-home services for elderly  
*Becky Rhodes*, HCBS case manager
- 2:15 NW Human Service Center's Aging Services and Region 1 elderly services  
*Karen Quick*, Regional Aging Services Program Administrator

- 3:15 Closing Remarks:  
Governor's Committee – *Vic Renville*
- **Location:** Heritage Center, 18 Main St., Williston, ND
- **To Register call:** *Karen Quick* at **774-4685** or **1-800-231-7724**. Please register by September 10.
- **Transportation** – call your local Senior Center.
- **Noon Lunch:** 11:30 a.m. – lunch at the Heritage Center call **577-6751** for reservation & suggested donation/cost information.

**Region II**  
**Minot**  
**September 23, 2004**  
**(Thursday)**  
**AGENDA**

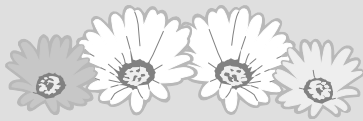
- 12:30 Registration
- 12:45 Welcome & Introductions  
*Linda Wright*, Director, DHS, Aging Services Division
- 1:00 Keynote: **Susan Reinhard**, Sponsored by AARP ND
- 2:00 Panel of service providers for in-home care in Region II
- 3:00 Closing Remarks:  
Governor's Committee – *Mary Nester*
- **Location:** Minot Commission on Aging, 21 1st Ave. SE, Minot, ND
- **To Register call:** *MariDon Sorum* at **857-8627** or **1-888-470-6968**. Please register by September 10.
- **Transportation** – call Souris Basin Transportation at **852-8008**.
- **Noon Lunch:** 11:30 a.m. – call **852-0561** for reservation & suggested donation/cost information.

*Brochure printed courtesy of St. Alexius Medical Center – Eldercare Program.*

THE NORTH DAKOTA  
RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

*NDRTA Newsletter*  
Bernice Binford, Editor  
3206 Rivershore Dr.  
Moorhead, MN 56560

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## What Season Is It?

*By Bernice Binford*



I don't think you would need a calendar to know what season it is if you listen to some of the very common statements tossed about very often. I've compiled a very brief list. Many of them come from my farm youth. What season would it be if you heard these? Was it fifty years ago? Is it 2004? Or is it ageless? I just saw the first Robin. Did it freeze last night? I took my storm windows off. Have you done your taxes yet? Did you drain the tractor? Have you been down to the cottage yet? It's nearly dark by five now. Do you think I can pack my winter clothes away yet? Do you want some zucchini? We haven't had Thanksgiving and the stores are all decorated for Christmas. Have you tested your preston? Have you moved to the summer kitchen? Is it too early to wear my white shoes? The leaves are really starting to turn.

This one is for all the times.  
Oh you're in town too, then.

