

NDRTA

NORTH DAKOTA
RETIRED TEACHERS

“Teachers touch lives forever”

Newsletter

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**NDRTA - North Dakota Retired
Teachers Association**

**NDRTA - Is the voice of Retired
Teachers in North Dakota!**

**NDRTA - Is the only organization
that works exclusively for North
Dakota's 5,000 plus Retired
Teachers.**

**NDRTA - Purpose is to promote the
personal, social and economic
welfare of its members, promote
participation of retirees in
service to their communities
and to promote improvement of
education for children in North
Dakota.**

NDRTA President's Message

We were successful. It seems like such a long time ago since we began exploring the idea of a supplemental payment for retired teachers.

Now, with the help of many people, an extra payment will be made to all retired teachers who were retired at the end of 2008. Our hopes were that the payments would have been larger, but concerns were raised about the source of funds and in the end this seemed the best that could be passed.

Many of you helped in this effort. Special thanks go to Senator David O'Connell as a primary sponsor, Senator Carolyn Nelson and Representative Betty Grande, to Ken Tupa and Erica Cermak from APT, and to all of you who took the time to attend committee hearings to show support for the bill. This payment came about through persistence and a lot of effort.

The retired teachers in the Slope and Southwest area hosted our annual convention in Dickinson and did a great job. A bus load of teachers toured the Assumption Abbey Wednesday morning for a very interesting tour. The convention planning committee arranged for several very interesting and informative break-out sessions that afternoon and Thursday morning.

Along with a fine banquet and our business meetings, it was a very successful convention. Many thanks to all those who had a hand in planning and running the convention. The next convention will be in Minot and I would encourage you to make plans to attend.

**Rolland Larson
NDRTA President**



**Rolland Larson
NDRTA President**

**“Reaching
Our Youth”**

**North Dakota
2010 State Convention**

More Information Inside

**Sponsored by: Minot Area Retired Teachers Association (MARTA)
August 31-September 1, 2010**

NDRTA Update

Ken Tupa – NDRTA State Office

It's been quite a year! As we wind-down 2009, I want to thank all retired educators for helping make the year a success for the members and the NDRTA. Certainly the highlight of the year is having achieved a much needed cost of living payment to retired teachers - the result of hard work by you, the local units, and the NDRTA board. Now on to 2010 and preparation for the 2011 ND Legislative Session.

At the October, 2009 TFFR meeting in Bismarck, the fund actuary gave a year-end report to TFFR. It is this information primarily that TFFR and member organizations like NDRTA use to assess the current status of the retirement fund and to guide us in our legislative efforts. As we know, the number of retirees continues to grow. Over the past year, the number of retirees (annuitants) increased by 149, to a total of 6,466 retirees, or a 2.4% increase. These are the educators we represent – working to maintain the strength and viability of the retirement fund and to advocate for cost of living increases for retired educators. The return on market for the TFFR in FY 2009 was -27%, representing in dollar terms a loss to the Teachers Fund For Retirement (TFFR) of over \$600 million compared with the fund's assumed rate of return of 8%. What does this mean going forward into 2010 and 2011?

NDRTA is working with TFFR and other interested organizations to evaluate the future of TFFR and what, if any changes might be made to make sure the retirement fund remains strong well into the future. Be assured the fund, even though this past year was a difficult one in terms of fund performance, remains viable and your annuity is guaranteed by the State of North Dakota.....it cannot be reduced. However, changes may need to be made, including the possibility of increasing employer and/or employee contributions to increase the amount of dollars coming into the fund. Other possible changes may include different benefits for future active and future retired educators. 2010 will be a year of studying many of these potential options and determining our NDRTA legislative agenda that include 1) Assure the TFFR remains strong, viable, and is adequately funded; 2) Assure the retirement benefit for retired teachers in ND remains a defined benefit....that is to say it is benefit protected and guaranteed by the State of North Dakota and; 3) Continue to advocate for cost of living adjustments for retired educators.

Thank you again to all retired educators for a successful 2009!

Let's continue this momentum in 2010 and into 2011.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

New Members Wanted

Know of a Retired Teacher who isn't a member?

Encourage Them To Join!!

The Supplemental Payment initiative sponsored by NDRTA during the 2009 legislative session was a huge success because of NDRTA members. As we move into the next session, we will continue to advocate for cost of living adjustments for retired teachers. Imagine the success we could have with 500 new members! If you know of a retired teacher who isn't a member of NDRTA, encourage them to join.

The NDRTA membership enrollment form is included on the last page of the newsletter-happy recruiting!

Announcements from the State Office

Membership Cards: The NDRTA Board of Directors would like your feedback regarding the NDRTA Membership Card. We will be surveying each of the local units regarding your usage, experience with the cards etc. The results will be sent to the state office and we will need the results by February 1, 2010, so please be on the lookout for the survey!

If you have comments you would like to submit directly to the State Office for consideration, you may do so by contacting Erica Cermak at erica@aptnd.com or via phone at 701-221-7766. A copy of the survey will be posted to the NDRTA website (www.aptnd/rta) as it becomes available. Your feedback is important to us, so please be sure to participate!

Constitution Changes: The NDRTA Board of Directors will be considering a constitution change as it relates to Co-Presidency at the State Board Level. The State Office will be developing language related to a possible change to be voted on at the State Convention. Any suggested changes will be communicated to the Membership via the Summer Newsletter prior to the State Convention.

Website Enhancements: The State Office has been working to update the NDRTA website in order to include local unit news. Each local unit will now be able to submit their unit news to the state office to be included on the NDRTA Website. To access information for your local unit, go to www.aptnd.com/rta and select "Units" from the tab at the top right hand side of the homepage. Once you have selected "Units" from the homepage, select "unit news" beneath your individual unit, and you will be able to see any news or updates that have been submitted. We are excited about this new feature and hope you will find it useful as well!

Dues Increase: The NDRTA membership voted in favor of a dues increase at the 2009 State Convention, in Dickinson, ND. NDRTA membership dues will increase from \$18.00/year to \$24.00/year, effective for all renewing and new members as of July 1, 2010. **The NDRTA Board of Directors would like to thank you for your continued support of our efforts.** If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the State Office at rta@aptnd.com.

2010 State Convention

North Dakota

*"Reaching
Our Youth"*

Sponsored by: Minot Area Retired Teachers Association (MARTA)

The Minot Area Retired Teachers Association invites all retired educators to Minot for the 2010 NDRTA State Convention. The event is scheduled for August 31-September 1, 2010.

The convention committee is preparing a fine program of activities. The food will be excellent. You will be welcomed. The gathering of retired educators will be a wonderful social affair.

NDRTA continues to have important business and recognitions. Please join us in the *Magic City* for a wonderful two days.

The convention will be held at the Holiday Inn, in Minot. The hotel has generously provided a block of rooms at a cost of \$63.00/night plus tax. The block will be available until August 17, 2010. Decide to attend the inspirational convention NOW, make your reservation today.

Holiday Inn

2200 East Burdick Expressway • Minot, ND

For Reservation Call: 1-800-468-9968 or 701-852-2504

Be sure to indicate you are with NDRTA when making your reservation.

The **N**orth **D**akota
Retired **T**eachers **A**ssociation
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All new members will receive NDRTA updates and newsletters immediately
and will receive membership cards in August 2010.

Signature _____ Date _____

Enclosed is \$24.00 for annual membership (beginning 2010-2011) payable by June 30th of each year.

Yes, Sign Me Up!

Email _____ Membership to takes effect July 1st of each year. Year Retired _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name _____ SSN _____ PH# _____
(required for automatic payroll deduction)

NDRTA Membership Enrollment Form

Remember, the NDRTA is the **ONLY** association in North Dakota **EXCLUSIVELY** representing Retired Teachers.

Please encourage ALL non-members to join NDRTA. Membership for the 2010/2011 calendar year is \$24.00 per year and is used toward protecting and enhancing your retirement benefits.

The NDRTA newsletter is sent to all current 2010 NDRTA State members. If you know someone who hasn't received their Newsletter or is not a NDRTA member, please have them fill out the membership form below.

NDRTA Membership