We Need to Hear from YOU!

What do you most want to receive through your membership to North Dakota United-Retired? We want to provide you with the goods and services that best benefit you. Help us help you by filling out a brief survey at www.ndunited.org/who-we-are/ndu-retired/2022-ndu-retired-membership-survey or scanning the QR code!

This survey will impact the future work, events, and communications from NDU-R. Thank you in advance for your participation!

Wealth of Knowledge

By Gale Haug, NDU-Retired Vice President

Sarah Fuller (May 23, 1810 – July 19, 1850) was an American journalist, editor, critic, translator, and women’s rights advocate. One of her most famous quotes is, “If you have knowledge, let others light their candles in it.” Our NDU-Retired members have a wealth of knowledge to share! As Covid restrictions are lifted, NDU-Retired members are poised to implement more opportunities for face-to-face events around the state. How might you choose to be involved?

During the month of May, NDU-Retired Board members hosted morning “soirees” in Grand Forks, West Fargo, Bismarck and Minot. We discussed current issues of concern and were able to enlist several new members in the process. One take-away from these events is the realization that members want to have input into the goals and activities of our organization. With that in mind, the NDU-Retired executive board is developing the survey mentioned above. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey as it will significantly inform our decisions going forward.

There will be an NDU “Aspiring Educators” workshop held in Bismarck this September. NDU-Retired members have been asked to participate in a panel discussion. In this way, aspiring teachers will be able to ask questions about the profession of our retired members. In addition, we are planning to connect with legislators during the next session by writing postcards and participating in Lobby Day next January. More information is forthcoming, and we ask current members to help in this effort. (cont.)
Lastly, we are in the process of finding the best way to incentivize new retirees to join NDU-R. To that end, we are considering the possibility of working with leaders in larger locals to host retiree events, possibly in conjunction with their already scheduled local meetings during the months of April and May 2023.

We would like to honor those educators who are retiring after years of committed service to the profession. If you have an interest in participating in these events locally, we would welcome your input and assistance, especially in Grand Forks, Fargo, Minot and Bismarck. We are also open to hosting these events in any local that shows an interest. Let’s work together to enhance our voice and increase our membership during this next school year!

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." - Mahatma Gandhi

Meet the newly elected members of the NDU-R Advisory Board

**Dakota Draper, Southeast Member**

trex1912@midco.net

Dakota Draper is Minot born, raised, and educated, a graduate of both Minot High School and Minot State University. His first teaching position was with Hillsboro High School. In 1994, he secured a position at Ben Franklin Jr. High School in Fargo. He taught there for 13 years until 2007. In both his time with Hillsboro and Fargo, Dakota served as local president and negotiator, and served in the North Dakota Education Association on various committees, including the NDEA Board of Directors. In 2007, he was elected as president of the NDEA, a position he would hold for the next 6 years, until he was termed out in 2013. Dakota returned to the classroom, teaching at Woodrow Wilson High School in Fargo until his retirement in 2018. Today, he is truly blessed with a beautiful family of his fantastic wife Vicki, two incredible daughters, who with their husbands have brought into the family four super-duper grandchildren.

**Toni Gumeringer, Southwest Member**
toni_gumeringer@hotmail.com

Toni Gumeringer is a retired speech-language pathologist from Bismarck with 26 years of full-time teaching experience. Toni was an active member of the Bismarck Education Association where she served as the president, vice president, treasurer, and negotiator. She also served on the NDU board as the southwest director for eight years. She was appointed to the Teacher’s Fund for Retirement and served on the ND State Investment Board. In her retirement, Toni has been appointed to serve on the ND Educational Fact-Finding Commission. Toni has been married to Ron for 40 years. They have three children and six grandchildren. Toni is excited to have the opportunity to serve her fellow retired teachers.

**Bill Klimpel, Public Employees Member**
bklimpel@hotmail.com

Bill Klimpel worked as a custodian at Minot State University for 16 years. He served on the board of North Dakota Public Employees Association until North Dakota United was organized. He then served on the NDU board until his retirement. Bill has been married to his wife Marlys for 47 years. Together they have a son Malenius, who is married to Kay Cee Auck.

Karen Askerooth, President: karenskaskerooth@yahoo.com
Gale Haug, Vice President: geh241@aol.com
Deb Johnson, Secretary: debser610@gmail.com
Jan Thompson, Northeast Member: thomp4t@gmail.com
Mary Carlson, Northwest Member: mcarlson7@gmail.com
Linda Benson, Public Employee Member: linda.benson@minotstate.edu
Retirement Plans and Required Monthly Distributions

By Gary Rath, NDU Senior Business Consultant

You can help build a legacy for the next generation of North Dakota teachers and public employees and reduce your tax liability by using funds in your retirement plans like a 403(b) plan to provide a donation to the NDU Foundation. The Foundation provides scholarships and grants for dependents of NDU members, future and current educators and grants to help with innovative workplace projects.

Required Mandatory Distributions
Once retired and if you turn 72 years old this year or have already turned 72, you may have to take a “Required Mandatory Distribution” from your traditional IRA or any employer-sponsored plan such as 403(b) plans, 401(k) plans, and 457(b) plans. The company holding your retirement account such as Horace Mann should notify you annually of the RMD amount. If you fail to withdraw the RMD, the amount not withdrawn will be taxed at 50%. The amount you withdraw will be taxed at your individual tax rate as ordinary income.

If you have an RMD on your own account or an inherited account, donating it to a charity such as the NDU Foundation is a great option. The IRS allows the charitable transfer from an IRA. You may need to work with your agent to transfer money held in a 403(b) plan, a 401(k) plan or a 457(b) plan to an IRA prior to donating to a charity.

Your required withdrawal will be included in your taxable income. However, donating all or part of your RMD to a qualified charity the donation will not be taxed up to $100,000. While the tax benefits may be important, earmarking this income is a great way to create a legacy for future generations. The amount of the donation is determined by the individual. There is no minimum amount.

North Dakota State Tax Credit
This is an alternative to donating your RMD to a charity. It is available at any age, and the impact of this option vs. the Qualified Charitable Rollover of a RMD should be discussed with your tax adviser.

An individual is allowed a North Dakota state income tax credit for making a charitable contribution of at least $5,000 to a qualified North Dakota endowment. The tax credit is 40% with a maximum credit of $10,000 per taxpayer or $20,000 for a couple filing jointly. The credit may be carried forward for three additional tax years if it cannot all be used in one year. As an example, if an individual would give $5,000 to the NDU Foundation, the state tax credit would be $2,000. In addition, the estimated federal tax savings for donors in the 32% tax bracket would be $960. Net cost of the gift could be as low as $2,040.

But there is more to think about
Currently, if you donate $5,000 or more to an endowment within the NDU Foundation, the gift will be matched. Thus, making the initial value worth $10,000. If you donate the $5,000, you can name the endowment and within certain limitations designate how the earnings will be distributed.

If you are interested in learning more about establishing an endowment within the NDU Foundation, please contact Gary Rath at gary.rath@ndunited.org or by calling 701-223-0450.

Neither North Dakota United nor the North Dakota United Foundation provide individual tax advice or financial planning. This information is general in nature. Since each person’s individual income, assets and tax situation are different. We encourage you to work with your personal financial planner and tax preparer.
Let Us Unite for All

By Karen Askerooth, NDU-Retired President

I just completed attending the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting virtually where 316 delegates participated in a hybrid format—in person and virtually—representing the 324,000 members (NDU-R has at this count almost 2,000 members) of NEA Retired. The proceedings reminded me of the THREE purposes of our NEA (NDU)-Retired:
1. PROTECT and improve retirement pensions, state pensions, Social Security, and Medicare.
2. IMPROVE public education through mentoring, literacy, and intergenerational programs and activities.
3. ACHIEVE legislation and political action goal for educators, education employees, and public employees.

Number 1 and Number 2 are connected and will be a HOT BUTTON for ALL this coming legislative session. Why you ask? Legislators have loudly proclaimed that they are going to eradicate defined benefit retirement for the public employees of this state and say TFFR is NEXT!

Do NOT think: “I am grandfathered in, it will not affect me.” Wrong….Wrong…Wrong! It DOES affect you and in this newsletter you will see an explanation of how it WILL affect you.

SOOOOO…. I am asking ALL of our membership (remember we have close to 2,000 members) to STAND UP and ANSWER THE CALL when we contact you to send postcards, phone your legislators, and even march to the Capitol to put an end to this devastating promise to put a demise to our EARNED retirement, not only for yourself…but for the aspiring educators and present educators, and public employees.

In closing…consider this quote: “The great courageous act that we MUST DO, is to have the courage to step out of our history and past so that we can live our dreams.” - Oprah Winfrey

I SAY ‘BE COURAGEUS….DREAM BIG…LET US UNITE FOR ALL!

IN SOLIDARITY
Karen Askerooth
YOUR NDU-RETIREDPRESIDENT