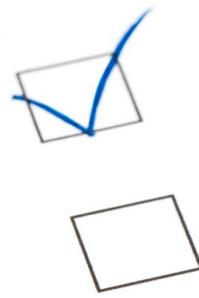


# SDRS Outlook



Election Newsletter • 2018

## Three SDRS Board Positions Up for Election

Public safety employees will choose their representative to the SDRS Board of Trustees in this year's election. The candidates for classified employees (Kevin Merrill) and teachers (Penny Brunken) are unopposed.

Each group within SDRS elects its own representative; therefore, only public safety employees will receive ballots this year. Elections for representatives to the SDRS board are held each spring. The representatives' terms begin July 1, are four years in length, and

expire on a staggered schedule.

This special election issue of *Outlook* is intended to provide members with basic information on the candidates seeking election to the board of trustees. All biographical information is printed as submitted by the candidates.

Additional questions on qualifications or philosophy should be directed to the candidates.

## Votes Must Be Received by May 25, 2018

The 2018 SDRS Board of Trustees' election and balloting processes are being managed through a third-party election services provider, Election-America. Only public safety employees will receive ballots in this year's election as the candidates for classified employees and teachers are running unopposed.

You may cast your vote for your representative by mail or online. Each ballot contains a unique code which allows a member to vote only once. If you are voting by mail, do not vote online as the first vote received is the vote that is counted.

### Voting by Mail

Included with this newsletter is a paper ballot. To vote by mail, mark your selection for ONE candidate, detach the ballot portion, and place it in the enclosed return envelope. Do not put any other

materials in the envelope. To be counted, envelopes must be received no later than 5:00 PM CT on May 25, 2018.

### Voting Online

If you prefer to vote electronically, you may access the secure SDRS election login page at: <https://vote.election-america.com/sdrs>

To login and vote online, you must enter your Election Code and Voting PIN, as marked on the enclosure. Votes can be cast online beginning April 27, 2018, at 9:00 AM CT and may be cast through 5:00 PM CT on May 25, 2018.

If you need voter assistance or a replacement ballot, please contact Election-America by emailing [help+SDRS@election-america.com](mailto:help+SDRS@election-america.com) or calling toll-free 1-866-384-9978.

## Teachers: No Ballot Issued



**Penny Brunken**  
Incumbent

- SDRS Teacher Representative since September 2016
- 18 years National Academy Foundation - Academy of Finance teacher for the Sioux Falls School District
- 2 years Business/Computer teacher Grant Deuel School – Revillo, SD

I am proud to represent the SDRS's top-ranked retirement plan as it continues to maintain a sound retirement system for South Dakota members. The Board of Trustees work together to provide sustainable, fair and equitable benefits for all members.

My goals are to represent teachers, maximize pensions plans and provide information about SDRS to current and new members about the longevity of investing in the future. I wish to encourage members to visit the SDRS website, attend workshops/forums in their area, ask questions and prepare for future retirement by working with member services at SDRS.

Your vote to elect me to continue to serve as the teacher representative on the SDRS Board of Trustees would be very much appreciated. Together we can continue to grow because it's a great time to be a member of the South Dakota Retirement System!

## Public Safety Employees



**Jason Baker**

My name is Jason Baker and I have been a Law Enforcement Officer since 2012. I was born in Seattle, Washington and moved to South Dakota in 2008 for schooling, where I attended NSU. While there, I was active in Residential Life, Rugby, and various other academic groups on campus. I graduated from NSU in 2012 with a B.S. in Human Performance and Fitness. I currently live in Brookings with my wife and I am working on my M.S. in Administration at USD online.

As a Law Enforcement Officer, I have continued to pursue my education by attending multiple trainings and instructor courses. I also work with the SDSU student population by presenting them educational programs. I have also been active in the community, participating in programs such as National Night Out and Christmas Shop with a Cop. I am a current City of Brookings board member for the Airport.

I have enjoyed my experiences and would like to continue my personal growth. I want to take an active role in our retirement system and will work hard to continue to make our system great for everyone. I look forward to becoming your next SDRS representative.



**James Johns**  
Incumbent

I have served as an officer with the Rapid City Police Department for the past 22 years. I am currently the Captain and Patrol Commander of the Field Services Division.

During the past several years, there has been a great deal of change for retirement plans in the US, specifically within the Defined Benefit Plan environment. Defined Benefit plans all over the country are facing scrutiny and an uncertain future because of how plans are managed, and an unwillingness of Boards to change with the economic times. I am proud that in the last 12 years, SDRS has kept our Defined Benefit plan solvent during these changing times. SDRS is considered a leader in this field, and we have plans in place to maintain that status. Our goals are based not only on current members, but also on those members we will be bringing into the system in the future. Every member should know they can be certain of their SDRS benefit when they retire.

It has been my privilege to serve Public Safety Employees on the Board of Trustees, and I am asking for your vote to continue that service.



**Mark Olson**

Mark Olson is a firefighter and EMT with Sioux Falls Fire Rescue. After graduation from Mitchell High School, Mark received a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Finance from the University of Nevada in Las Vegas. Upon returning to South Dakota he held jobs with financial organizations such as Wells Fargo Financial, Software Unlimited, and Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota.

As a member of the South Dakota Retirement System for many years, Mark has held positions with different organizations such as Metro Communications 911 Dispatch Center, Mitchell Public Safety, and Sioux Falls Fire Rescue. The health and advancement of the SDRS has always been something he has taken an interest in.

Tracking analytics and market growth has been a hobby for many years for Mark. He is constantly tracking trends and cycles of the different financial markets. As a member of the SDRS board Mark would make it his goal to ensure to protect not only the health and viability of the program, but also the growth and progress for members young and old.

At home Mark is supported by his wife Geneva and their 4 lovely daughters Kera, Macie, Linnea, and Elise.

## Classified Employees: No Ballot Issued



**Kevin Merrill**

Employed as a Housing Management Officer with the South Dakota Housing Development Authority (SDHDA). Primarily responsible for conducting management reviews under the Traditional and Performance Based Contract Administration for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Multifamily Section 8 assisted apartment communities throughout South Dakota. In addition; responsible for asset management, which includes reviewing project budgets & audits, loan management, and disbursement of project funds for the traditional portfolio of developments originally financed by SDHDA. Prior to joining SDHDA's team in 1998, worked for the Governor's Office of Economic Development as a Loan Officer, owned and operated a home building/remodeling construction business, and worked as a Store Manager for Walgreen Drugstores.

Graduate of the University of South Dakota with B.S. in Business Administration 1983. Certified as Economic Development Professional and Housing Development Finance Professional through the National Development Council.

Married to wife Tami, Special Education teacher with Georgia Morse Middle school in Pierre. We have three grown children, Benjamin, Samantha, and Zachary. Hobbies and interests are fishing, hunting, golfing, and other sports. Board member for the Pierre Sunshine Chapter Izaak Walton League and member of the Pierre Knights of Columbus.