



## Three SDRS Board Positions Open for This Election

State employees and retirees will choose their representatives to the SDRS Board of Trustees in this year's election. The candidate for teacher representative (James Appl) is unopposed.

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

This special election issue of *Outlook* is intended to provide members with basic information on the candidates seeking election to the board. 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, 2021

The 2021 SDRS Board of Trustees' election and balloting processes are being managed through a third-party election services provider, Election Services Corporation (ESC). Only state employees and retirees will receive ballots in this year's election, as the candidate for teachers is running unopposed.

**State employees and retirees:** 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 material in the envelope. To be counted, envelopes must be received no later than 5:00 PM CT on May 25, 2021.

### Voting Online

If you prefer to vote electronically, you may access the secure SDRS Election login page at:

<https://vote.escvote.com/SDRS>

To login and vote online, you must enter your Election Validation Number and ZIP code, as marked on the enclosure. Votes can be cast online beginning April 29, 2021, at 8:00 AM CT and may be cast through 5:00 PM CT on May 25, 2021.

If you need voter assistance or a replacement ballot, please contact ESC by emailing [SDRSHelp@electionservicescorp.com](mailto:SDRSHelp@electionservicescorp.com) or call toll-free 1-866-720-HELP (4357).

### This Year's Election

- Retirees
- State Employees
- Teachers

### Prospective Election Schedule

2022

- Classified Employees
- Public Safety Employees
- Teachers

2023

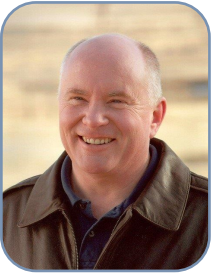
- County Commissioners
- Elected Municipal Officials
- Judges, Justices, and Magistrate Judges
- Municipal Employees

2024

- Board of Regents
- County Employees
- School Boards
- State Employees

South Dakota Retirement System  
1-888-605-SDRS (7377)  
[sdrs.sd.gov](http://sdrs.sd.gov)

## Retirees



**Mark  
Barnett**

Mark Barnett was S.D. Attorney General for 12 years. He made substantial improvements to consumer protection, victims' rights, and crime victims' compensation. He handled numerous criminal cases, including South Dakota's only serial killer. His cases have been featured in three television documentaries and a book.

Barnett also argued and won two reversals in the United States Supreme Court.

He served as President of the Children's Home Foundation. He served on the Spearfish Canyon Foundation, helping the public secure ownership of Roughlock Falls. Barnett served on the Constitutional Revision Commission, and chaired the Law Enforcement Standards and Training Commission. He has continually served on numerous state and local boards.

Barnett was a Circuit Judge for 12 years. During that time, a then recently retired state employee sued SDRS, claiming that he was entitled to his first year COLA, every year for the rest of his life. Judge Barnett rejected the lawsuit, noting that there is no such thing as a "forever COLA" for one year of retirees (which would have been at the expense of all other retirees.)

He asks for your support. "I will measure every issue before the board, for fairness to one *and all*."

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**Burt  
Elliott**

Hello, my name is Burt Elliott and I am running for a spot on the SDRS Board. I am a retired 37 year teacher/coach from Central High School. My background includes serving in the State Legislature from 2000 until term-limited in 2008, after which I served 4 years on the Brown County Commission. While in the Legislature I served on the State Retirement Laws Committee, so I have some background in the governance of the system I have been a member of since 1970. I have experience in Public Policy creation and application. I am married to the former Sherrie Gray. Together we have 4 children and 10 grandchildren. I graduated from Pierre High School in 1965. I have a BS from Northern State College in 1969 and an MS from Northern in 1976. I have been retired since 2007. The SDRS is one of the most stable and well-funded systems in the United States and we must preserve it for future generations. I have law making experience, Public Policy experience, and a commitment to the State Retirement System, to protect and preserve the system so that it continues to provide financial security for future generations. I hope you will consider voting for me. Thank you very much.

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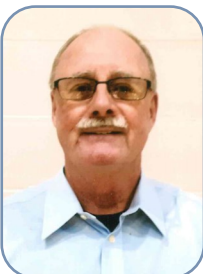
**James  
Heinert**

I seek to be the voice of retirees on the SDRS Board of Trustees. SDRS exists for the sole benefit of its members and their families. I feel that my background and experience uniquely qualify me to serve effectively in this capacity.

I was raised on a farm/ranch in Parmelee, SD. After graduating from Todd County High School in 1967, I earned my B.S. Degree in Secondary Education from Black Hills State University in 1971. I earned my M.S. Degree in Educational Administration from Rutgers University in 1978 and then pursued further graduate studies at the University of SD in 1986. I continuously served as a teacher and/or administrator in four South Dakota school districts over 40 years. In July of 2011, I retired after 10 years as the Superintendent of Meade School District 46-1. I am married and have four adult children and five grandchildren.

Historically, the SDRS Board of Trustees has worked diligently to improve benefits for all members and maintain the financial integrity of the trust fund. If elected, I hope to continue and contribute to this tradition. I ask for your vote in helping me bring your voice to the SDRS Board of Trustees.

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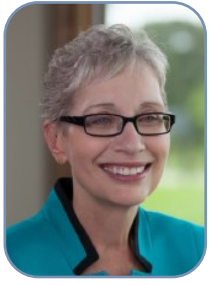
**Charles T.  
Holmstrom**

I retired in 2008 from the Sioux Falls school district. I taught mathematics for 18 years at Washington High School and for 17 years at Roosevelt High School. I taught advanced mathematics classes at the Sioux Falls Branch of Colorado Technical University from 2002 through December 2016.

I served on the Executive Board of the South Dakota Council of Teachers of Mathematics for 16 years, including two terms as President. I have presented numerous workshops at state conferences and for school districts. I have been a consultant for the Department of Education.

I served on the SDRS Board of Trustees from 2006-2010 as the "teacher" representative, and I would like to continue my service to SDRS as the representative for all "retired" members. I will continue to rely on my expertise in critical thinking and problem solving, along with my background in mathematics and statistics, as we deal with the crucial matters and decisions that we will face in the coming months and years.

My primary goals will be to protect the assets of SDRS, to maintain fiscal viability, and to strive for maximum funding status so that SDRS will continue to provide excellent service for our members.

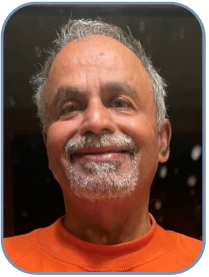


**Janet  
Lindemann**

Janet Lindemann, MD, MBA, professor emerita and retired dean of medical student education at the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine, is a 1980 graduate of the Medical College of Wisconsin and fellow in the American Academy of Family Physicians. After six years in small town private practice, she joined the faculty at the Medical College of Wisconsin and later at the University of South Dakota School of Medicine. In 2001, Janet was appointed dean of medical student education where she oversaw the four-year curriculum for the MD degree until retirement in 2018. Her MBA in healthcare management is from the University of Sioux Falls. She served on the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, which assures accreditation of North American medical schools. Awards include the Wisconsin Family Medicine Educator of the Year and the Associate of American Medical Colleges Central Group on Educational Affairs Laureate. Board experience includes the Marshfield Clinic Health System.

“There is only one retiree on the SDRS Board. I have decided to run for the position to represent all those receiving pensions from SDRS. Our system is among the best in the nation and I am committed to sustaining that success.”

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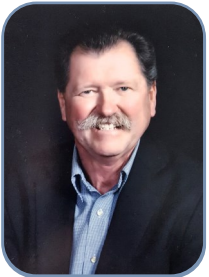
**Dr. Kumoli  
Ramakrishnan**

Dr. Kumoli Ramakrishnan (Dr. Ram), Emeritus Associate Professor, USD, earned a Ph.D. in International Business and Finance, from UT Dallas, a Masters in Management (Distinction) Asian Institute of Management, Philippines, and B.Sc.(HONS) Poona University, India and over 3 decades corporate, economics and finance teaching experience at Hofstra University, NY, Kellogg School of Management, Evanston, IL and USD. He co-founded the student investment group, Coyote Capital Management (CCM), with assets about \$2 million.

With over 20 research presentations and publications, his 2021 research covers Global Demographics, and Covid-19 infection in different countries. His September 2020 publication co-authored with Dean Emeritus, Dipak C. Jain, Kellogg School of Management is, “The 5 Ps: President, Policy, Public, Pragmatism and Pandemics: Covid19”. He has over a decade executive experience in MNCs and the State Bank group in India. He served on the board of directors of Jovia FCU, New York, and Vermillion FCU. He also served in the Lions Club. He travelled extensively to Austria, Australia, India, England, Ireland, Scotland, New Zealand, Netherlands, and Philippines.

His wife Michele and he live in Burbank, SD, on the Missouri River. Hobbies include Photography, Hiking, Boating. He has volunteered to serve on the Board of SDRS.

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**Robert L.  
Rose**

Service as an educator was my forty-two-year career. In 2006 I retired from the Rapid City School District after serving 20 years as an elementary principal and Director of Federal Programs/Grants. Before that time I was a teacher in Sturgis and an elementary principal in Hot Springs. After retiring from Rapid City, I was president of EduPeaks, Inc. This was an educational service company that contracted with the South Dakota Department of Education for eight years to provide oversight on how certain school districts spent Federal educational allocations.

My wife of 46 years, Sharon, was also a teacher. She taught Family and Consumer Science as well as middle school science classes. We have a daughter who is a reading specialist in Spearfish. She and her husband have a son and a daughter. Our son and his wife Gina, own Old MacDonald’s Farm outside of Rapid City and the parents of four daughters.

My interest in the position of Retiree Representative to the SDRS Board of Trustees is to help maintain the retirement system in a fiscally responsible manner and to provide the retired members all the benefits that are allowed.

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**Wesley  
Tschetter**

As a candidate for the Board of Trustees, I pledge to provide my experience and knowledge to maintain the strong retirement system for retirees from all of the participating units including school districts, public higher education, municipalities, counties and state government as well as the many smaller public entities participating in SDRS. I can offer several perspectives for the benefit of current and future retirees. I previously served on the Board of Trustees for eleven years as a state employee representative and six years as the school board representative. I also served five years on the State Investment Council during the time the 2008-2009 national financial crisis occurred. Today retirees continue to benefit from strong policies on investments and asset management that protect our retirement assets.

My involvement with SDRS goes back to the origin of the System. In 1973-74 I was staff analyst to the special committee of the Legislative Research Council that drafted the SDRS legislation creating SDRS. While working for the LRC, I served as the staff to the Legislature’s Retirement Laws Committee. I retired in 2018 from SDSU after having served as the Chief Financial Officer for 36 years.

## State Employees



**Jill  
Lenards**

Hello, my name is Jill Lenards. I grew up on a dairy farm near Kranzburg and graduated from Waverly. I obtained a B.S. degree in Accounting and Finance from Northern State University. I have served as an Auditor for the Department of Revenue for the last 22 years. I have had the privilege to work with many wonderful business people throughout South Dakota and the United States! I am a member of the South Dakota State Employees Organization (SDSEO). I have completed the STAR leadership program offered by the Department of Revenue. I recently finished the Governors Leadership Program. I am an active volunteer with the Watertown Optimist Club, 4-H, church and community events, SDHSAA, and Final Four activities.

As a vested member of SDRS, I am eager to maintain the sustainability of the system for many years and ensure all governmental employees understand the benefits of SDRS.

I have been listening to the SDRS meetings and am grateful for all they have accomplished for the great State of South Dakota! I am passionate for all governmental employees and their future well-being.

Thanks for your consideration of my candidacy. I would be honored to serve as your representative.



**Chad  
Meirose**

I began my current role as Medical Facilities Engineer for the Department of Health starting in 2008.

I earned a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from South Dakota State University in 2006.

I've held several leadership roles in my lifetime starting early as an Eagle Scout and continuing to Students Association representative in college, leading up to my current role managing the finances and business of my church as Treasurer.

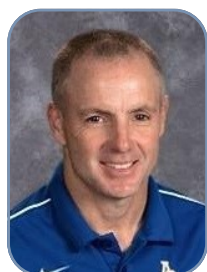
The SDRS is the best benefit offered to state employees, and I will ensure we keep it that way. If you select me as an employee representative to the SDRS board of trustees expect more of what's worked so well in the past.

As the son and grandson of (retired) state workers reliant on the SDRS for income, I've seen firsthand the importance of the state pension and value its continuity.

I started managing my finances creating my portfolio in 1998 at age 18, knowing even at that young age the importance of future financial stability. I've also had additional experience teaching several Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University classes in the past.

Thank you for consideration of my candidacy. I would be honored to serve as your representative on the SDRS board.

## Teachers (Unopposed)



**James  
Appl**

I have served on the SDRS for 4 years and have been a teacher for the Aberdeen School District serving as a middle and high school teacher for 29 years. During that time I have served as a newspaper advisor, volleyball, boys' basketball, girls' basketball, football, and track coach.

In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my wife Susan (music teacher), daughters Jessica (elementary teacher), Katie (band teacher), and Jennifer (NSU future teacher). We travel, waterski, fish, snow ski, and hunt deer and pheasants together.

My philosophy with money is simple. With my first paycheck from teaching, I invested \$415 and still invest in Roth IRAs, TSAs, and SDRS Supplemental Plan. Our money has to work for us when we are young, so we can reap the benefits when we need it.

I spend time reading financial books written by Dave Ramsey, Suzie Orman, and others. Behind their philosophies and my own, I am debt free and make fiscally responsible decisions.

My goal is to help each of us reach our retirement goals. I believe our SDRS and its leaders have made great progress, and I want to continue assisting in its growth for a secure future for everyone.