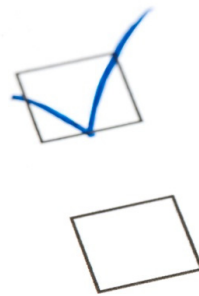




Outlook



Election Newsletter • 2022

Three SDRS Board Positions Up for Election

Class B public safety and classified employees will choose their representatives to the SDRS Board of Trustees in this year’s election. The candidate for teachers (Penny Brunken) is unopposed.

Each group within SDRS elects its own representative; therefore, only Class B public safety and classified 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, 2022

The 2022 SDRS Board of Trustees’ election and balloting processes are being managed through a third-party election services provider, Election-America, Inc. Only Class B public safety and classified employees will receive ballots in this year’s election as the candidate for teachers is running unopposed.

Class B public safety and classified employees: 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 Online

To cast your vote online, access the secure SDRS election login page at: <https://vote.yeselections.com/sdrs/>

To login and vote online, you must enter your Election Code and Voting PIN, as marked on the enclosure. Votes may be cast through 5:00 PM CT on May 25, 2022.

Voting by Mail

If you prefer to vote by mail, a paper ballot is included with this newsletter. 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, 2022.

If you need voter assistance or a replacement ballot, please contact YesElections by emailing Help+SDRS@yeselections.com or calling toll-free 1-866-384-9978.

Teachers: No Ballot Issued



Penny Brunken
Incumbent

- SDRS Teacher Representative since September 2016—present
- 22 years National Academy Foundation—Academy of Finance teacher for Roosevelt HS/Career Technical Education Academy—Sioux Falls School District
- 2 years Business/Computer teacher Grant Deuel School – Revillo, SD.

I am proud to represent 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 want to be 100% fully funded for our current members and protect our future members. I encourage members to visit the SDRS website, listen online or attend in person quarterly meetings in September, December, March/April and June, attend workshops/forums in their area, ask questions and prepare for future retirement by working with member services at SDRS.

Your vote to re-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!

“The future depends on what you do today.” — Mahatma Gandhi

Class B Public Safety Employees



James Johns
Incumbent

Thank you for this opportunity to be elected back to the SDRS Board of Trustees. My name is James “JJ” Johns. I am a Captain with the Rapid City Police Department. I also have the distinct honor of serving as the Chairman for the SDRS Board of Trustees and have served on the Board for nearly 16 years. Much like my chosen profession is a calling, I believe serving on the Board of Trustees is also a calling, and my responsibility is to protect the crown jewel of SD for all its members. SDRS must remain sustainable and successful for generations to come. My focus for the Board of Trustees is to ensure we continue our disciplined approach to managing our limited resources, today and moving forward. I truly believe in our mission at SDRS, and I weigh everything we do against our Mission Statement—THE SDRS VISION IS TO BE A MODEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM THAT IS FULLY FUNDED, DELIVERS BENEFITS THAT MEET OUR LONG-TERM BENEFIT GOALS, AND PROVIDES MEMBERS THE FOUNDATION TO ACHIEVE FINANCIAL SECURITY DURING RETIREMENT. I would greatly appreciate your vote as the Class B representative for the SDRS Board of Trustees.



Riley McManus

My name is Riley McManus. I am a member of Sioux Falls Fire Rescue. I am looking to run for a position on the board to represent the interests of the public safety employees here in South Dakota. This includes taking into consideration more than just the ideas that pertain to fire, but also law enforcement, dispatch, EMS, corrections, and any other agencies that fall under the wide net of public safety. I think we can be proactive in this unprecedented shift in labor and keep the SDRS pension a sustainable, realistic, and premier retirement option for everyone.

Classified Employees



Dean Hirschhorn

Dean Hirschhorn was born, raised, and currently resides in Huron, South Dakota where he holds the position of Custodial Foreman at Huron Middle School. Dean is involved in many aspects of Huron School District where he sits as the head of Negotiations Committee for the maintenance and custodial staff, is a part of the Insurance Committee for the entire school district, and was a member of the Selection Committee for the current Superintendent.

Dean served 9 years in the United States Air Force where he was a database administrator. Following the military Dean returned to Huron to raise his three children who were graduates of the Huron School District which helped catapult their careers and futures. Repaying the teachers, community, and state that contributed to his family’s success is fueling his desire to become a member of the South Dakota Retirement System Board of Trustees.



Kevin Merrill
Incumbent

Employed as a Housing Management Officer with the South Dakota Housing Development Authority (SDHDA) in the Rental Housing Division; primarily responsible for conducting compliance reviews under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Multifamily Section 8 assisted housing program. 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 retail store manager for Walgreens. In addition, currently own and operate a fishing guide business on a part-time basis.

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. Board member for SDRS since 2018, representing the classified employee group. In addition, current board member for the Pierre Sunshine Chapter Izaak Walton League and a member of the Pierre Knights of Columbus.

Married to wife Tami, Special Education teacher with Georgia Morse Middle school in Pierre. We have three grown children, Benjamin, Samantha, and Zachary. In addition, we have six grandchildren. Hobbies and interests are fishing, hunting, golfing, and other sports.