

SOUTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS' NEWSLETTER

Spring 2025

President's Message

I hope this message finds you all doing well. As others are counting down the days till the end of school, we are all deep in the budget process and fiscal year-end preparations. I just wanted to take a few minutes to check in, share a few updates, and mostly say thank you.

We all know school business isn't exactly the most glamorous part of education, but the work we do is still important in the public education, of our students. Whether you're handing budgets, payroll, transportation, food services, or any of the hundred other things that help keep a district running-you are making a real difference, every day.

AS SD ASBO, we continue to focus on helping each other to grow professionally, staying connected, and making sure our voices are heard, at the state level. We have our usual training events, lined up for this summer again, and we're always looking for ways to make each of them, as helpful and relevant, as possible. If there is something that you would like to see covered, let us know!

We also work hard to keep communication open with the Department of Education, Department of Revenue, Department of Legislative Audit, the State Legislature, and other groups across the state. It is important that decision makers understand what school business officials are dealing with, day to day. When we speak together, we make a bigger impact. Most of all, I just want to remind you-you're not in this alone. We are all juggling a lot, and

sometimes it helps just to know someone else gets it. So whether you have a question, a win to share, or even a rough day to vent about-reach out. That is what SD ASBO is here for.

Thanks again for all you do, for your schools and communities. I am proud to be part of this group and to have served as your president, this past year.

Sincerely,
Angie Feenstra
Corsica Stickney School District

Pre-Conference Workshops Enhance Spring Conference

Pre-Conference Workshops will kick off the 58th Annual Spring Conference on Tuesday, April 22nd. Each workshop will provide valuable information, on topics important to our membership.

Gallery D, E, F, G:

12:1-1:15 p.m.: New Business Manager Luncheon and Round table session.

Gallery D, E, F, G:

1:15-2:15 p.m.: School Nutrition Update with CANS.

2:45-4:45 p.m: Feeding SD Volunteer Activity

Located at 20562 Grace Avenue, Pierre SD

(We will meet in Ramkota Lobby at 2:30 p.m.)

5:00-7:00 p.m.: Supper is on your own

6:30-7:00 p.m.: SD ASBO Board Meeting-
Gallery D, E, F, G

7:00-11:00 p.m.: SD ASBO Social-Ramkota in
Gallery A, B, C

SD ASBO Honors Connie Alspach Outstanding School Business Official!

On Saturday, SD ASBO President, Angie Feenstra announced that the SD ASBO Business Official of the Year Award has been awarded to Connie Alspach of the Dupree School District.

Connie was nominated by her fellow Business Officials, present and past Board Members and Superintendents, of The Dupree School District. Each of the nominations had the same underlying message-that Connie is simply wonderful. Connie is not only a well-organized, experienced, dedicated and knowledgeable Business Manager, but also a sensitive, perceptive, and caring person that always puts the success of the Dupree School District, first.

Another nomination shared that Connie Alspach is the glue that has held the Dupree School District together, through the years. Connie is a tireless advocate for the children and families of the Dupree School District and has the respect of the staff, parents and stakeholders.

I had the opportunity to serve on the SD ASBO Executive Board, with Connie Alspach. She is very hardworking, conscientious, and very deserving of this award! Congratulations Connie Alspach, our 2025 SD Business Official of the Year!

SD ASBO To Present Business Official Shining Star Award

SD ASBO President Angie Feenstra announced, that Sara Wedge of the Custer School District, is the 2025 on Saturday April 19th. The recipient of the SD ASBO Business Official Shining Star Award will be honored, at our Wednesday, April 23rd SD ASBO Evening banquet!

SD ASBO created the Shining Star Award for a School Business Official in their first five years, who demonstrates remarkable

innovation and leadership qualities and makes a positive impact in their school and community.

Some of the comments shared by Angie Feenstra included: "Sarah is a trailblazer in every sense." "She has a unique ability to motivate teams, making them feel valued, and included in the decision-making process." "Her contributions to the Custer School District and the community have not only enriched the lives of those she interacts with, but have also created a ripple effect, inspiring others to take positive action, and make a difference." Congratulations Sara on being the 2025 SD ASBO Shining Star!

Corporate Sponsors Strengthen SD ASBO

We appreciate all the corporate sponsors who continue to partner with SD ASBO, to really strengthen our conferences by providing vendor sponsorships and vendor booths, at our conferences each year. Each sponsor provides a wealth of information, which dramatically enhance the quality of our conferences and help our school districts and cooperatives to operate, more efficiently, every day. Your continued support is critical and helps this organization to provide quality professional development, for our membership. Please visit our Spring Conference vendors and take the time to thank our corporate sponsors and let them know we appreciate their ongoing support, of our organization! Corporate Sponsors include:

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Wake Up, Walk, and Win

Get your day started with a Power Walk- Join us for Wake Up, Walk, and Win on Wednesday and Thursday Mornings, from 6:30-7:00 a.m. Go at your own speed-but get out and enjoy the great outdoors. It will get your conference day off to a great start and you could win a prize! We will meet in the Ramkota Lobby by 6:30 a.m. each morning and head out.

Spring Conference Registration

Spring Conference registration will be held in the Ramkota Inn Lobby Area, on Wednesday morning, from 8:00-9:00 a.m. Attendees are invited to enjoy a breakfast, of Yogurt Bars, Fruit, Cereal, Scones, Juice, and Coffee in Gallery A, B, C and pick up your registration materials.

Congratulations to our 2025 Retirees!

SD ASBO School Business Officials, who will retire, at the end of this school year will be honored by our membership, throughout this 2025 Spring Conference. We celebrate their many years of friendship and dedicated service, to our South Dakota School Districts.

Spring Conference Preview

The conference opening message will be presented by Dr. Joe Graves, from the SD. Department of Education. Naomi Cromwell of ASBSD will discuss a Basket of School Board Meeting Topics, to keep us informed.

There will be a vendor break in the Exhibit Hall, sponsored by our vendors. Take this opportunity to check out all the new products our vendors have available, to enhance school business management.

The Spring Conference will continue with Rodney Freeman, Attorney At Law, with Churchill, Manolis, Freeman, Kludt, Shelton & Bruns will provide a recap of the 2025 Legislative Session and the resulting legal implications, we need to consider.

At noon, the membership is invited to attend the Spring Conference Luncheon and the Business Meeting of the SD. Association of School Business Officials. The prospective officers and directors, selected by the nominating committee, will be also presented, for final membership approval.

Following the luncheon, Wendy Semmler, of the SD. Department of Revenue Management will provide an informative session on Property Taxes 101. She will provide a course in understanding Property Taxes and a Summary of the tax changes made during the 2025 Legislative Session

The membership can choose from a variety of breakout sessions, to attend, throughout the afternoon:

(Breakouts 2:00-2:30 pm)

- 1) A1 For Our World-Angie Vetter-A2
- 2) Property Tax Opt Outs-Wendy Semmler Gallery D-G.

2:30-3:00 Vendor Break: cookies, coffee & pop
(Breakouts 3:00-3:30 p.m.)

- 1) Software Unlimited & Excel by Heidi Clausen & Emily Sovell-A2.
- 2) Section 125 Docs-Brice Christensen

(Breakouts 3:30-4:00 p.m.)

- 1) Software Unlimited Tips & Tricks- Lynette Simpson, Software Unlimited
- 2) SD. Retirement System.

Cracker Barrel Sessions will be held by school
Size: from 4:00-4:30 p.m.

Under 400-Kristi Curd & Elizabeth Henderson in Gallery D-G
400-750-Terri Gaikowski & Lori O'Farrell-A2
750+-Heidi Clausen-Lake Francis Case.

A networking social, will be held from 5:30-6:30 p.m. At 6:30 p.m. the evening banquet will begin. Before the evening banquet meal, the 2025 Shining Star and The Outstanding School Business Official will be honored. Following a delicious meal, there will be the installation of SDASBO Officers & Directors and the presentation of 2025 Membership Time Awards.

2025 Time Awards To Be Presented

Each year, SD ASBO proudly recognizes deserving School Business Officials who have achieved 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40 years of professional expertise, in School Business Management. The time awards will be presented at the Wednesday Evening Banquet.

The wealth of school business management experience that SD ASBO has developed over the years, links all SD Schools together to help future generations of school business officials, to move forward, in creating a stronger South Dakota, for our children.

Conference Banquet Entertainment To Feature Weston Frank

The Spring Conference Banquet Evening Entertainment will be provided by Country Music Entertainer, Weston Frank. The show will be from 7:30-10:00 p.m., in Gallery A, B, and C.

Enjoy A Great Breakfast Buffet

On Thursday Morning, April 24th, the membership will enjoy a delicious Breakfast Buffet, will be served from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. the membership will enjoy a delicious breakfast buffet of Scrambled Eggs, Biscuits & Gravy, Potatoes, and Sausage, being served, in Rooms D-E-F-G.

Thursday Morning-General Sessions Will Cover Annual Financial Report and "See and Be The Good"

In the First General Session on Thursday, Krislyn Naurgaard and Bobbi Leifermann, of the SD. Department of Education, will provide an overview of the 2025 Annual Financial Reporting Process.

The final conference segment, of the 58th Annual Spring Conference will be a segment by Tim Weidenbach of Higher Power Sports, entitled, "See and Be The Good.

What is SFO Certification?

The SFO designation is a Certified Administrator of School Finance and Operations. As education and school business continue to evolve, this is the time to strengthen your career, by demonstrating your professional competencies, showing your superintendent, you staff, fellow school business professionals and your community, that you have the expertise, to support them.

To earn your SFO, you must successfully complete a two-part exam. Part One tests your knowledge of accounting systems and functions. Part Two further evaluates your school business acumen in financial planning, budgeting, human resources, risk management, and other key areas.

Economic challenges continue to have a huge impact on our schools and force difficult choices. In complex financial situations, it is important that you demonstrate to your community, that the school's finances are managed by a knowledgeable and ethical administrator.

- Demonstrates initiative, professionalism and dedication.
- Boosts career advancement by increasing marketability.

- Measures your knowledge and skills against professional standards.
- Continues your professional development through recertification requirements.
- Instills stakeholder confidence in your school district.

For more information, see the ASBO International website. SD ASBO will reimburse \$200.00 to anyone receiving the SFO Certification, to help defray the costs, of the application and examination fees.

Getting To Know ... **Our New Business Managers**

Sarah Morphew-Centerville School District

Sarah Morphew is a Centerville School District graduate. She went on to study Political Science and History at Doane University, in Crete, NE. Her career prior to her position as a School Business Manager was in relocation and payroll. She and her husband moved around quite a bit, prior to having children, but settled back in Centerville, 3 years ago, with their 2 daughters. She enjoys the profession because it is always changing and evolving. She found that the Contract Negotiations Process was tough, with limited funding available, it puts a strain on relationships. She really likes how SD ASBO pays it forward, with more experienced members helping new members learn the ropes. She wants to know more about bid laws and the procurement process. Welcome Sarah!

Nicky Watson-Henry School District

Nicky Watson is a Henry School District Graduate. She is a Certified Public Accountant and has owned her own Accounting Firm, in Watertown, for almost 18 years. She and her husband live on a farm north of Henry, with their 3 daughters, 2 who have now graduated, and the 3rd daughter is in the 7th grade. She is excited to start this next chapter in her life and help her school district, continue to move forward. Nicky

also appreciates the ongoing mentoring and continuing education SD ASBO provides whether it be through formal training, emails, or the list serve information gathering process we use.

Amy Williams-Newell School District:

Amy Williams has a SD K-12 Teaching Certificate and has 20 years of experience, owning/operating a small motel in Wyoming. Over the years, she has worked nearly every job in a school: substitute teacher, food service, secretarial, teacher and now, school business manager. Working towards her School Administration Master's Degree is something she has been considering and feels this position will be beneficial to her future. She likes her job so far, but is now being challenged by the audits of prior years, for which she did not prepare the financial statements. We all know it is difficult to change things, when everyone else wants to keep them, the same. She would like to learn more about effectively communicating with the Superintendent.

Colliers Securities Sponsoring **\$2500 Annual Meeting Scholarship**

Colliers Securities is again sponsoring a \$2,500 Annual Meeting Expense Scholarship, to attend the National Conference, in Fort Worth Texas, from October 21-24, 2025. A Selection Committee was set up by the SD ASBO Board, to review all applications submitted. The scholarship will be awarded at the Spring Conference.

The Association of School Business Officials Annual International Conference and Expo brings together more than 1000 School Business Leaders, from around the world, for professional development and educational sessions, impacting school finance, providing networking opportunities, and offering the latest in products and services, within the School Business Profession. It also provides a variety of opportunities for pre-conference workshops.

7 Great Reasons To Consider Planning to Attend The ASBO International Meeting:

1. Open dialogue with peers on topics and trends, in School Business.
2. Expand your business network and build new relationships.
3. Learn how to build efficiency and reduce operating costs, for your school district.
4. Build confidence to effectively communicate and negotiate.
5. Develop skills to budget effectively.
6. Discover new products and services.
7. Earn CPE credits & SFO Recertification Hours.

Upcoming Events

- Wild West Leadership Conference will be held at The Lodge, in Deadwood from June 11-13th
- The New Business Manager Workshop July 15-17th in Mitchell SD. Contact Kathy Holter of the Platte Geddes School District, to register.

Choose To Lead Your Organization Forward

One of the most rewarding experiences within the SD School Business Officials Organization, is the opportunity to serve your organization, as an officer or director. It is a professional commitment, I hope that you will choose, throughout your career.

Do You Live Generously?

Living Generously is a way of life focused on giving-whether it's time, resources, or simply acts of kindness. It involves recognizing and responding to the needs of those around you and seeking opportunities to help.

Ways We Can All Learn To Live More Generously:

- Giving without an expectation-showing gratitude and a desire to share what we have with others.
- Being mindful of the needs of others and finding ways to help.
- Being creative in finding ways to give-whether it be financial, volunteering time, offering a kind word, or being a friend to someone in need.
- It can become a way of life, reflecting a generous spirit, in all aspects of life.

• Living generously not only benefits those receiving your gift of time or talent, it also positively impacts your own life. It fosters a sense of gratitude.

<u>2025 SDASBO Officers & Board Of Directors</u>	
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Pres. Elect	Heidi Clausen, Watertown School
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Secretary	Nancy Meyer, Milbank School
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SDASBO News is published by the SD ASBO Publications Committee. Articles for the newsletter may be sent to Lori Jansen, Bridgewater Emery School District, P.O. Box 265, Emery SD 57332 or sent by e-mail to Lori.Jansen @k12.sd.us.