



MAJOR STORIES:

Noem Invites
"Trailblazers"...

President's Thoughts

Executive Director's...

One Result of
Government
Shutdown...

Access to Mental Health
Services...

Noem Announces
District 31...

How an Idea Becomes...

Voters with
Disabilities...

Staying Current...

BOARD MEMBERS:

Tom Kober

Margot Burton

Matt Cain

Vicki Kerkvliet

Dave Miller

Jerald Zeigler, Jr.

STAFF:

Shelly Pfaff

Faith Korkow

WEBSITE:

www.sd-ccd.org

**2019 - A New Year
A New Administration**

2019 is here! With the opening of the 94th South Dakota Legislative Session, the administration of Governor Kristi Noem takes the helm of state government. She is joined by Lt. Governor Larry Rhoden. Governor Noem is scheduled to present her First State of the State Address at 12 noon on Tuesday, January 8th. We are all anxious to learn of her vision for South Dakota in the coming year and the years to follow.

The New Year also brings changes in Legislative Leadership:

On the Senate side: Senator (Sen.) Brock L. Greenfield will serve as President Pro Tempore; Sen. Kris K. Langer will serve as Majority Leader; Sen. Jim Bolin as Assistant Majority Leader; and Senators Bob Ewing, Joshua Klumb, Al Novstrup, and Jordan Youngberg as Majority Whips. Senator Troy Heinert will serve as Minority Leader; Sen. Craig Kennedy as Assistant Minority Leader; and Sen. Reynold F. Nesiba as Minority Whip.

On the House side: Representative (Rep.) Steve Haugaard will serve as Speaker of the House; Rep. Spencer Gosch as Speaker Pro Tempore; Rep. Lee Qualm as Majority Leader; Rep. Arch Beal as Assistant Majority Leader; and Representatives Michael G. Diedrich, Tim Goodwin, Jon Hansen, Kevin D. Jensen and Chris Karr will serve as Majority Whips. Representative Jamie Smith will serve as Minority Leader; Rep. Steven D. McCleerey as Assistant Minority Leader; and Representatives Oren L. Lesmeister and Erin Healy as Minority Whips.

There is a total of 89 Republicans, 16 Democrats and 0 Independents in the full Legislature of the 94th Legislative Session. The Senate is made up of 30 Republicans and 5 Democrats. The House is made up of 59 Republicans and 11 Democrats.

A couple of other first week events that will take place are the State of the Judiciary presented by Chief Justice David Gilbertson on Wednesday, January 9th and the State of the Tribes presented by Secretary Steve Emery on Thursday, January 10th.

The New Year will also bring some changes to the Governor's Cabinet and Staff. Some announcements have been made and others will be coming at a later time.

We welcome Governor Noem, Lt. Governor Rhoden and others new to the Cabinet and her staff. We also welcome new members of the 94th Legislature.

We're looking forward to working with all of them on behalf of those we serve, people with disabilities and their families of South Dakota.

Noem Invites “Trailblazers” to Apply for Cabinet Openings, Announces Key Administration Appointments

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Thursday, November 29, 2018
CONTACT: Kristin Wileman; 605.290.6493

PIERRE, S.D. - Governor-elect Kristi Noem today announced a targeted talent search for seven key cabinet posts: Secretary of Education, Secretary of Agriculture, Commissioner of the Governor’s Office of Economic Development, Secretary of Social Services, Secretary of Human Services, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and Secretary of Tribal Relations.

“This isn’t politics as usual; this isn’t the status quo,” said Governor-elect Kristi Noem. “I’m looking for a team of trailblazers, people who aren’t afraid to innovate and work hard to accomplish real results for South Dakota. We are seeking dedicated individuals to fill these key cabinet seats, and I’m committed to finding the right partners to help lead our state into a brighter, stronger future.”

Those wishing to be considered for the cabinet, or to offer nominations, should apply on Governor-elect Noem’s transition website.

Additionally, Governor-elect Noem today announced the following cabinet appointments, which she will make upon taking office January 5, 2019:

Secretary of Public Safety

Craig Price will serve in the Noem administration as Secretary of Public Safety. Price has served in law enforcement for 21 years and has been superintendent of the South Dakota Highway Patrol since 2011.

Secretary of Transportation

Darin Bergquist will serve in the Noem administration as Secretary of Transportation. He has served as secretary since 2008. Bergquist joined the department in 1998 after working in the Bureau of Administration.

Secretary of Revenue

Jim Terwilliger will serve in the Noem administration as Secretary of Revenue. Terwilliger is the state economist and the deputy commissioner of the Bureau of Finance

and Management (BFM). He has been with BFM since 2006.

Secretary of Tourism

Jim Hagen will serve in the Noem administration as Secretary of Tourism. Hagen has served as secretary since 2011, and previously served as Secretary of Tourism and State Development. Hagen has also worked as national campaign director and public relations director for the Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation.

Secretary of Game, Fish and Parks

Kelly Hepler will serve in the Noem administration as Secretary of Game, Fish, and Parks (GFP). Hepler joined GFP as secretary in 2015, following a career in leadership roles in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Secretary of Labor and Regulation

Marcia Hultman will serve in the Noem administration as Secretary of Labor and Regulation. Hultman has served as secretary since 2014. She previously served as deputy secretary and has served in the department since 1997.

Secretary of Health

Kim Malsam-Rysdon will serve in the Noem administration as Secretary of Health. Malsam-Rysdon has served as secretary since 2014. She previously served as Secretary of Social Services and in leadership roles in the Department of Social Services and the Department of Human Services.

Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources

Steve Pirner will serve in the Noem administration as Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources. Pirner was first appointed as secretary in 2000. He has been with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources since 1979.

Commissioner of the Bureau of Administration

Scott Bollinger will serve in the Noem administration as Commissioner of the Bureau of Administration. Bollinger has been commissioner since 2017. Having served in state government for over 35 years, he has experience in the Bureau of Finance and Management and the Department of Corrections.

(Continued on Page 11)

President's Thoughts...

Season Greetings from The Coalition President,

I hope that you had great holidays with your families. It was so nice to be with families and spend time together with joy and love. We cherish every moment with friends and family. Family gatherings happen for us maybe less than 3 times per year, so it is best to grab the opportunity when it occurs.

With our new year of 2019, we are looking forward to an exciting and challenging year of activities as new Governor Kristi Noem begins her term and new legislators come to Pierre for the upcoming legislative session.

We encourage all of you to attend town hall or cracker barrel meetings with legislators, our elected state officials, in your hometowns or local areas to express your opinions or concerns about any changes that you feel might affect you. It is important because they often do not see or hear from the people most affected - individual citizens and their families - You.

We will have our board meeting in early January to begin focusing on our structure and succession planning. We will keep you updated after each meeting.

We will have the 25th Annual Disability Awareness Day at the Capitol on February 26th. We hope to see you there.

On behalf of the Board, I wanted say "thanks" again to you - our members - and others who were involved in activities related to disability and shared your concerns and opinions during the past year. It is very important to be part of the process. We must ensure that everyone has an opportunity to speak on what they feel needs to be accomplished. We must ensure our voices are heard. We appreciate all you do.

Thank you for your continued support of the Coalition and the mission we share.

See you next time.

Tom

Executive Director's Notes...

It's been written that "one of the greatest challenges legislators face each year is the task of dividing state funds among competing interests. It is difficult for the simple reason that there never seems to be enough money to do everything requested. Therefore, legislators must set priorities and distribute funds accordingly. The ultimate goal in any state budget-setting process is to provide a high-level of services to the citizens of the state, while at the same time, keeping taxes low.

The appropriations process, or the process whereby money is set aside for specific uses, is two-fold. First, it involves determining the amount of revenue available to spend. Second, it involves appropriating money for the operation of state government and other various uses. The appropriations process is the responsibility of the Governor and the Legislature, and both play a role in ultimately deciding how state funds are spent."

This appears to be a good explanation of two parts of the upcoming legislative process. What isn't mentioned in these statements is the role of the citizens in this process. What is our role?

The citizens of South Dakota, in the case of the most recent election, the 341,048 registered voters, all had a voice in who would be coming to Pierre in January and the subsequent years, to steer the ship of state government. Our role doesn't stop with the election!

All citizens have a voice in setting the priorities of how revenue is raised and spent to provide a "high-level of services" to citizens of the state. We are part of one citizenry, and government is for "all". And that's where the waters begin to churn...get choppy.

Think about it. Remember a time when you were part of a group that needed to make some decisions about money. Maybe it was about raising money. Maybe it was about spending money that had been in the bank for a while, and frankly, it felt pretty good having that 'cushion' in the bank. How large were your groups? Were the decisions quick and easy? Did everyone agree on the final decisions?

Now think about doing that on a state level!

Let's see, we have over 500,000 registered voters and 800,000 people in South Dakota. What are the odds we're going to agree on: How much money we need? How we raise that money? What our priorities need to be when spending the money?

Recently, I've been reading from history. Some when our founding Fathers wrote our Constitution; other from times like the Civil War, the Depression, the birth of conservation efforts, World War II, Civil Rights Movement and more... Why?

Because while at times it feels like we are sailing into uncharted waters, history shows us that we are not the first people to feel that way. And, I'd guess we won't be the last to do so.

So what do we do at times when we do not agree on priorities, on where funding needs to go, on the amount of revenue needed and much more?

First, I believe we all need to speak to what we believe our priorities need to be and we must do it in a way that others can hear what we are saying. Second, we must listen to the voices of others, and hear what they identify as our priorities. Then the difficult work begins because we are not always going to agree. And that is OK.

When we do agree, let's walk forward together. When we agree to disagree, let's find a way to move forward together, trusting the process and the fact that it is a living process which will change, as will we. How will we do this?

Well, the one way I think we can do this if we don't make our disagreements personal. We cannot disregard or devalue others, just because they don't agree with us or we don't agree with them.

We must recognize our shared humanity. We all share in what we've been given. We all share in what we leave behind for those who come after us. We must move forward together!

So that's how I'm preparing for the upcoming session and 2019, as we sail into another year. I'll be looking for opportunities to serve, to make things better than when I arrived... See you on the water...

One Result of the Government Shutdown: The Violence Against Women Act has Expired

© Suzanna Kreiter/Boston Globe
December 23, 2018

When the federal government partially shut down over the weekend, a number of federally-run programs and sites went quiet, on furlough until Congress decides how to pay the nation's bills.

Programs funded by the Violence Against Women Act were among those without money Saturday morning when the federal impasse over President Trump's demand for border wall funding came to a head.

The landmark 1994 law, which helps support victims of sexual assault, domestic abuse, and stalking, expired when Trump refused to sign a House- and Senate- approved appropriations bill that included a short-term extension of the law.

Several Massachusetts representatives blamed Trump and the Republican Party for allowing the law to expire.

Senator Elizabeth Warren suggested that Trump would rather shut down the government over a border wall than help victims of sexual assault.

Representative Joe Kennedy III called the expiration of the law "shameful" in a tweet late Friday.

GOP & @realDonaldTrump aren't only shutting down the government tonight, they're allowing the Violence Against Women Act to expire and leaving survivors of domestic violence & sexual assault without critical, lifesaving resources. Shameful.

The spending bill passed by the House and the Senate last week would have extended the Violence Against Women Act through Feb. 8. The law was due to expire both Sept. 30 and Dec. 7 but was extended both times when included in continuing resolutions to avoid a government shutdown.

Texas Sheila Jackson Lee had introduced a full reauthorization of the law in July but the bill had not come to the full House for a vote.

(Continued in next column)

How Each of Your FY 2018 General Fund Tax Dollars Were Budgeted in South Dakota



Education: K-12, High Education, School & Public Lands = **49¢**

People: Medicaid & Social Services, Human Services, Health, Veterans Affairs = **36¢**

Justice & Public Safety: Unified Judicial System, Corrections, Attorney General, Public Safety, Military = **10¢**

Rest of State Government: Environment & Natural Resources, Agriculture, Game, Fish, & Parks, Tourism, Transportation, Labor & Regulation, Revenue, Public Utilities, Executive Management, Tribal Relations, State Auditor, Secretary of State, Treasurer & Investment Council, Retirement System, Legislature = **5¢**

(continued from first column)

Now the lack of a current spending bill has cut off Justice Department funds that support the programs established by the law.

Trump had threatened last week that he would "take the mantle" of shutting the government down over border security during an Oval Office meeting with Representative Nancy Pelosi, Senator Chuck Schumer, and Vice President Mike Pence.

When funded, the Violence Against Women Act provides a range of support for domestic violence victims, law enforcement training, and also prompted the creation of the National Domestic Violence Hotline. According to a 2017 report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than half of murdered women in America are killed in connection with intimate partner violence.

Access to Mental Health Services 2018 Interim Study Committee

The final meeting of the Access to Mental Health Services (AMHS) 2018 Interim Study Committee was held on Monday - December 3rd at the State Capitol. After the conclusion of standing opening actions - determination of a quorum, approval of minutes, and opening remarks - a variety of key topics were focused on during the course of the meeting.

The Department of Social Services presented follow-up statistics from the Human Services Center (HSC) related to restoration of competency, the number of patients discharged from the acute unit to the psychiatric rehab unit, and a breakdown of the adult acute length of stay from less than 3 days to more than 15 days for fiscal year 2018. The resulting dialogue focused on what happens once competency has been restored, models for providing this service closer to their home communities and the impact doing so might have on HSC and local resources.

During the time of public testimony, a white paper was presented on the "regionalization of mental health services". The basis for making this proposal is that "For the last several years, South Dakota's mental health system has become stressed due to delayed placements for patients; individuals being backed up into the criminal justice system because of a lack of access to mental health services; decisions being made on cost rather than clinical issues; length of stay being driven by the course of treatment; and challenges created by staffing shortages. Behavioral health systems have crashed in other states, and regionalizing services in South Dakota could prevent a similar situation here."

The remainder of the meeting focused on the review and discussion of Draft Legislation and Recommendations.

A proposed draft was presented regarding emergency involuntary commitments. The draft contained clean-up language for current statutes; removed probable cause language because it is a phrase in a criminal context while these are civil commitments; outlined how cases are transferred from one county to another; added definitions; and made technical changes.

Following review of the updated draft, several members stated they could not support the draft as written and that while they support the intent of the legislation, further work needed to be done on the language. The draft would not be introduced by the Committee as a whole.

A motion was made by Representative Johns, seconded by Senator Kennedy, that the Committee endorse the concept but not move forward with sponsoring the draft. Motion prevailed on a voice vote.

Next, a proposed draft was presented for a statewide resource information system that could be accessed by any South Dakotan. This statewide resource information system would provide assistance to individuals needing resources for crisis or disaster situations, social or human services, legal or financial assistance, and assistance for mental health, physical health, or substance abuse.

Senator Sohlt advised members the system could be an expansion of the current 2-1-1 system operated by the Helpline Center.

After considerable discussion, **a motion was made by Representative Otten, seconded by Representative Reed, that the Committee endorse the bill draft as written. Motion prevailed on a roll call vote with 13 ayes and 2 excused.**

The third piece of proposed legislation was a concurrent resolution draft to provide for ongoing legislative task forces to study and develop sustainable improvements to available mental health services in South Dakota.

The draft legislation establishes five separate task forces to cover these areas: redefining acute hospitalizations for short, intermediate, and long-term placement with emphasis on keeping patients close to home when possible; developing community-based short-stay alternatives and day treatment options; expanding the capabilities of telehealth and telemedicine for assessments, crisis support, and counseling; redefining nursing home admission criteria at HSC and building mental health nursing home capacity for people with organic brain damage; and increasing the

(Continued on Page 7)

Access to Mental Health Services...

(Continued from Page 6)

capacity for transitional housing and residential services in communities, and developing caregiver supports.

The membership breakdown for each task force is four legislators, three state employees, and five non-legislative citizen members. The legislative members would include two legislators from the House and two from the Senate.

Committee members recommended language changes to the draft indicating that the efforts of the task forces would need to result in sustainable improvements.

A motion was made by Senator Ewing, seconded by Senator Solano, that the Committee endorse the bill draft as revised by the Committee. Motion prevailed on a roll call vote with 13 ayes and 2 excused.

The meeting concluded with final remarks thanking Committee members for working hard to find better ways to care for the people of South Dakota who needed mental health services and thanks for Senator Sohlt's leadership... and extensive amount of time she put into the committee.

(Note: This article contains excerpts from the minutes of the committee's December 3rd meeting. To see the full minutes and referenced documents, as well as information from previous meetings, go to the LRC website:

<http://sdlegislature.gov>

Then go under 2018 Interim Committees and find "Access to Mental Health Services 2018 Interim Study Committee.)

Noem Names Appointment for Veterans Affairs Secretary

Tuesday, December 18, 2018 - Governor-elect Kristi Noem announce that Greg Whitlock will join her administration as Secretary for Veterans Affairs.

"The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs should operate as a rally point, providing

resources, support, and guidance to the state's 72,000 veterans," said Governor-elect Noem. "Greg Whitlock is a proven champion for veterans and brings with him a real-life perspective of issues South Dakota veterans face every day. Greg has lived a life of service and patriotism, he leads by example, and he shares my vision for the future of South Dakota veteran care. I'm grateful to have him on my team, and I look forward to the ways we will work together to prioritize South Dakota's bravest men and women."

"I want to thank Governor-elect Noem for the opportunity to continue serving South Dakota veterans and their families," said Greg Whitlock. "I've dedicated my life to serving our country and state, and I'm honored to join Governor-elect Noem's vision to expand employment opportunities and improve customer service for the people who've selflessly defended freedom."

Whitlock, a Selby native, has served in the South Dakota Army National Guard since 1975. A decorated serviceman, he's received numerous accolades including two Meritorious Service Medals, four Army Commendation medals, four Army Achievement Awards, an Iraq Campaign Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Currently the Military and Veterans Service Representative for Noem's congressional office, Whitlock was influential in advocating for an East River veteran cemetery and fought to preserve the Hot Springs VA Hospital. Since 2015, Whitlock has liaised with federal agencies on behalf of hundreds of South Dakota veterans.

Whitlock currently resides in Watertown with his wife, Michelle. They have four children—Ryan, Will, Jake, and Hannah - and one grandson, Caiden.

**25th Annual
Disability Awareness Day**

**Tuesday
February 26, 2018**

8:30 am to 2:30 pm

**Capitol Rotunda
Pierre**

How An Idea Becomes Law

(From the Legislative Research Council (LRC) website)

Idea

A bill is simply an idea that someone would like to see become law. It could be anything from the penalty for committing a crime to the amount of money that can be spent on a state program.

The idea can come from anyone, but only a State Representative or State Senator can take the idea and guide it to final passage through the State Legislature.

Drafting

The drafting of the idea into a bill is done by the Legislative Research Council, the permanent, non-partisan staff of the Legislature.

A bill may be filed by any member of the House or Senate, and generally more than one legislator will sponsor a bill. The legislator whose name appears first on the bill is the "prime sponsor."

Introduction

A bill is given to the Clerk of the House or the Secretary of the Senate and is assigned a number. If the bill is sponsored by a Senator, it is a Senate Bill. If the bill is sponsored by a Representative, it is a House Bill.

The bill is given a First Reading in the "House of Origin". The "House of Origin" is the chamber that sponsored the bill. At the First Reading the bill's number and title are read aloud.

The Senate President Pro tempore or Speaker of the House then assigns the bill to a committee.

Committee

A committee's responsibility is to examine a bill carefully, take testimony for and against the bill, and decide what to do with the bill. The committee has the following options:

- Send the bill to the floor with a "Do Pass" recommendation,
- Amend,
- "Table" the bill, which kills the bill, unless the full body orders the committee to send the bill to the floor ("Smoke Out"), or
- Defer the bill to the day after the last Legislative Day, which also kills the bill.

Debate

If a bill reaches the floor, it is debated and voted on by the body.

If it passes, the bill is sent to the other body, where it goes through the same introduction and committee processes.

Law

If a bill passes both the House and Senate, it is sent to the Governor.

If signed by the Governor, the bill becomes law.

If vetoed by the Governor, the Legislature has an opportunity to decide whether to override or uphold the veto.

If the Legislature succeeds in overriding the veto, the bill becomes law.

NOTE: For additional resources on the legislative process and to track activity during the upcoming Legislative Session, go to:

<https://sdlegislature.gov>

Noem Announces District 31 Legislative Appointment

Wednesday, December 19, 2018 - Governor-elect Kristi Noem today announced that she will appoint Dayle Hammock of Spearfish to represent District 31 in the South Dakota House of Representatives. The vacancy was created after the passing of Rep. Chuck Turbiville, who was reelected posthumously on November 6. Hammock will serve during the 2019 and 2020 legislative sessions.

"I'm thankful for the input from folks in Lawrence County as we have worked toward this decision," said Governor-elect Noem. "Dayle's history of community involvement and service-oriented leadership will position him well to success in the State Legislature. I am confident he will serve as an effective representative for his district."

Hammock has served in law enforcement for more than 40 years and has given his time and talent to other public service roles including the Meade County Commission, Meade County Planning Commission, and the Ellsworth Task Force.

Hammock will be officially appointed to the legislature on January 7.

Noem Taps Vanneman for Secretary of Agriculture

Wednesday, December 19, 2018 - Following a nation-wide search to find the best and brightest to serve South Dakota's largest industry, Governor-elect Kristi Noem today announced that Kim Vanneman will join her cabinet as Secretary of Agriculture.

"Agriculture is South Dakota's top industry, so it is essential we have a secretary who is as passionate as they are knowledgeable about the opportunities before us," said Governor-elect Noem. "Kristi Vanneman shares my vision to develop the state's ag economy and give more young people the ability to thrive as farmers and ranchers in South Dakota. She's a life-long producer and a fierce advocate for agriculture. I'm grateful to have her on board."

"Agriculture is more than an economic engine in South Dakota - it's our way of life," said Kim Vanneman. "I'm thankful for the ways

agriculture has shaped by career, and I'm committed to promoting, protecting, and growing that culture for the next generation. It is an honor to serve with Governor-elect Noem as we work to advance agriculture by adding value to South Dakota-grown commodities and expanding working lands conservation."

Vanneman, originally from Chamberlain, is a co-owner/operator of Vanneman Farms, a diversified farming operation in Ideal that produces row crops and small grains as well as finishing feeder pigs and a commercial beef cow herd.

Additionally, Vanneman served in the South Dakota House of Representatives from 2007 to 2013 where she sat on the Agriculture, Natural Resource, and Education Committees. Vanneman currently serves as a director for Farm Credit Services of America, Farm Credit Council, Farm Credit Foundations, and FCC Services.

Vanneman and her husband, Clint, have three children and four grandchildren.

Voters with Disabilities We Need to Hear from You!

Prior to the 2018 election we completed a brief survey of voters with disabilities about whether they were registered and voted in the 2016 election. Then a month or so ago, we sent out a similar survey seeking information following the 2018 election.

We are still needing to hear from voters on the latest survey. If you have not already taken time to complete it for the 2018 election, please do. Go to:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MLPYJKG>

and complete the survey. If you need a print copy, please contact our office at 605.945.2207 and we'll be happy to send it out to you or assist you in completing it over the phone.



Noem Selects DSU Dean to Lead Department of Education

Thursday, December 20, 2018 - Governor-elect Kristi Noem, a long-time advocate for education, today announced that Dr. Ben Jones will join her administration as Interim Secretary of Education.

"There's no better place to grow up than South Dakota, but we must do better to equip the next generation with the tools they need to thrive," said Noem. "Ben Jones is an experienced voice and trusted leader in South Dakota education. Together, we'll look for innovative ways to strengthen our systems, work to improve K-12 outcomes, and make our education programs more applicable to the modern workforce."

"I appreciate Governor-elect Noem's confidence in me as we work to improve education for South Dakota families," said Ben Jones. "I'm a product of public education and know from my experience growing up in De Smet that vibrant schools send out well-prepared kids. I plan on working with Governor-elect Noem to bring a new perspective to the Department of Education, developing a culture of performance, supporting teachers in their vital work for our kids, and improving civic knowledge."

Jones holds a Ph.D. in History from the University of Kansas. Now serving as the Dean of Dakota State University's College of Arts and Sciences, he oversees more than 50 full-time and adjunct faculty members. In this role, he has revitalized numerous programs to better equip students for modernized careers, launched innovative programming, and improved course content through interdepartmental collaboration.

Jones, a De Smet native, now lives in Sioux Falls with his wife and three children.

Office Closed

Monday - January 21st
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday - February 18th
President's Day

Staying Current During The Upcoming Session

It may seem early to be thinking about the upcoming state legislative session. It's not! There are already a few "pre-filed" bills on the Legislative Research Council (LRC) website, as well as some local cracker barrel sessions on the calendar.

Once again we'll do our best to keep you informed on issues we identify as having potential to impact South Dakotans with disabilities and their families. We welcome your assistance in doing this. The more eyes and minds tuned into what is happening in Pierre, the better!

To access our "bill tracking document" (which is already updated with four bills that have been pre-filed) is go to:

<https://sd-ccd.org/home/advocacy/disabilityadvocacynetworkinformation/sessionupdates>

To access all the bill activity, as well as committee actions and more, you can access that information at the Legislative Research Council website located at:

<http://sdlegislature.gov/>

And

http://sdlegislature.gov/Legislative_Session/Bills

Please stay in touch! We'll be doing the same!

If coming to Pierre to visit session,

All regularly scheduled committee meetings are held in the morning, unless otherwise noted.

Times shown are Central Time.

The full Senate and full House generally meet in the afternoon.

Visitor seating for viewing the Senate and House is on the 4th floor, accessible by elevator or stairs.

Noem Invites "Trailblazers"

(Continued from Page 2)

Commissioner of the Bureau of Human Resources

Laurie Gill will serve in the Noem administration as Commissioner of the Bureau of Human Resources (BHR). Gill has led BHR since 2013. She previously served as Secretary of Human Services and has held leadership roles in the Department of Health. Additionally, Gill served nine years as the mayor of Pierre.

The Governor-elect also announced the following interim cabinet appointments, who will serve until a search for their positions is conducted following the 2019 Legislative Session:

Interim Commissioner of the Bureau of Information and Technology

Pat Snow will serve in the Noem administration as interim Commissioner of the Bureau of Information and Technology (BIT). Currently serving as BIT's chief technology officer and director of telecommunications, Snow has served as interim commissioner since earlier this year.

Interim Secretary of Corrections

Laurie Feiler will serve in the Noem administration as the interim Secretary of Corrections. Currently serving as the department's deputy secretary, Feiler has been with the Department of Corrections since 1984.

"While we recruit new talent, we must also retain the best and brightest who have already committed themselves to serving South Dakotans," Noem continued. "I'm thrilled to partner with proven public servants while also bringing new faces and ideas into public service. We are building a team of experience and new perspectives, insight and innovation. Together, I'm confident we will create an infrastructure of results for the next generation."

The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written.
We can help write that story...

- Melody Beattie



Happy
New Year!

This newsletter is an official publication of the Coalition (South Dakota Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities). We welcome letters, manuscripts, news articles and other items of interest. They will be considered for possible publication within future editions. This publication is mailed, electronically or in hard copy, to all Coalition members and other interested parties. It is also located on our website at www.sd-ccd.org.

Many of the articles in this publication are reprinted from other sources. It's a way to share with our readers an example of the information being presented to leaders and other members of the public locally and nationwide. The opinions expressed in these articles do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Coalition - its membership, board or staff. Its appearance in this publication does not constitute the Coalition's position in regard to any issue or item, unless expressly stated as such.

The Coalition is a strong supporter of "People First" language - supporting its use in written and spoken communication. Some of the articles used in this publication may contain language that is not consistent with "People First" language. The language used by authors of articles that are not consistent with "People First" language is not a reflection of the Coalition's preference.



SOUTH DAKOTA

COALITION

OF CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES

Join or Renew Today!

Name/Agency: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Website: _____

_____ **New**

_____ **Renewal**

_____ **Individual
Annual Membership - \$20**

_____ **Organizational
Annual Membership - \$100**

_____ **Donation - \$_____**

**Join by completing this information and mailing it with a check to:
The Coalition; 221 South Central Avenue, Suite 34A; Pierre, SD
57501 or by going to our website at www.sd-ccd.org**

Equality



The assumption is that **everyone benefits from the same supports.**
This is equal treatment.

Equity



Everyone gets the supports they need.
This is the concept of affirmative action, thus producing equity.

Justice



All 3 can see the game without supports because **the cause(s) of the inequity was addressed.**
The systemic barrier has been removed.