

A Note from the Managing Editor

Michael Burns

In December 2020, Jeanne Kilen Ode retired from the South Dakota State Historical Society, stepping down as the managing editor of *South Dakota History*, a position she held since 2014. Alongside former Research and Publishing director Nancy Tystad Koupal, Ode worked to ensure the academic and literary standards of the journal, making it one of the premier state quarterly journals in the region.

Ode started with the historical society as a volunteer in 1983 while working as a freelance photographer for the Associated Press. Two years later, Koupal hired her as an editorial assistant in the Research and Publishing Office. Ode advanced to assistant editor in 1988 and became an associate editor in 2005, when she assumed a greater role in running *South Dakota History*, eventually becoming managing editor. In addition to her responsibility for the quality and academic strength of the journal, Ode also contributed to multiple publishing projects for the State Historical Society, including the cumulative indexes for the bound copies of both the *South Dakota Historical Collections* and *South Dakota History*.

After the creation of the South Dakota Historical Society Press, Ode helped shape numerous book manuscripts as well. Through her work on both the journal and books, Ode contributed to the numerous awards that the office and press have received from the Western History Association, Western Writers of America, Midwest Booksellers Association, and many other regional organizations. Ode's keen eye for detail and expert knowledge of the region's history elevated the journal's scholarly and literary standards. Many of the editors she trained, including myself, and the authors she worked with owe a debt of gratitude to Ode for her mentorship and dedication to making *South Dakota History* a first-rate publication.