



Corissa "Cori" Kaufmann, CAA

SDAAO President 2024-2025

McCook County Director

PO Box 38 Salem, SD 57058

mccookdoe@mccookcountysd.com

(605) 425-2681

Greetings fellow SDAAO members,

Back in 2021 I was very honored to become a member of this board, but truly I did not know what I had become a part of. Entering this profession back in 2017 but not being involved with other members of this association, my scope was very limited. It is my hope for each member of SDAAO that we can collectively see the association as I do now.

My time on this board has revealed that there are people in this association that have "seen it all". Unless we take the time to hear what these old timers have to say, we will be forced to learn it the hard way. There are no secrets amongst them. Our association is filled with open books and people that genuinely want you to succeed.

My short time on this board has revealed that there are people new to the association. While you navigate the waters blind and do your best to find those that will support you, new perspectives are gained. Ways to make the "way it's always been done" better. This perspective is valuable and necessary to continue to make our association maintain its relevance in this fast-paced world.

It is you. Those reading this letter that make this association what it is. A place to be understood. Let's be real, no other job has the same challenges and rewards that we see in our profession. However, I encourage all to not go into any aspect alone. If you need direction and guidance there is someone willing to come to your aid. If you need a fresh angle on an issue those people are readily available in our association. If you have not considered or have been on the fence about joining the executive board, I would strongly recommend running. I cannot communicate how valuable this time has been for me.

That is why I look so forward to each year when we get together. It will truly be my honor to coordinate our next "cousin reunion" (to quote Carrie's sentiment) June 10-13, 2025 in Mitchell. We will do our best as a board to support each one of our members. As I serve in my role this year do not hesitate to bring comments, suggestions, concerns, or questions to the table.

Sincerely,

Corissa "Cori" Kaufmann

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