



Because it takes a lot of work to put this event on, from volunteers to the costs of insurance, entertainment, equipment and amenities, many people play a role in helping to make it happen. Teamwork comes from the RBD and YAA members, generous business and personal donations, assistance from the National Guard, the Yankton Police Department, the City of Yankton, business donation of equipment use, hotel and restaurant accommodations, advertising assistance, the Yankton Photography Club, beer and pop distributors and help from non-profit groups, just to touch on a few involved. Teachout said, "We want to give our sincere appreciation because it takes an entire community, public and private individuals, to make it the success it is." The RBD committee, in return, contributes back to the park. The large shelter was donated by the RBD committee, along with Wi-Fi connection. "We appreciate what is given to us to use for the weekend so we try to give back," she stated.

The events held during Yankton Riverboat Days and Summer Arts Festival have changed over its time, though some events have reappeared like a former fashion trend. Originally, the events had a dog show and a historical play, both of which are no longer observed. The Captain & Belle, free family activities, live band, dance performances, water and air shows, kiddie parade and large parade, though larger now than in the past, have always been a part of the weekend events. Various events came later, some staying longer than others, including (but not all-inclusive): mud volleyball, arm

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chance of generally non-threatening weather. Within a few years, RBD partnered up with the Yankton Area Arts (YAA). The two are separate entities but they work together to put on the successful event. "Volunteers are a big part of it," said Wuebben. Teachout added, "We couldn't do this without the volunteers. It wouldn't be possible without the wonderful help of the community and the volunteers." The RBD and YAA committees help recruit volunteers, and many past RBD board members and past volunteers come back to help. Anyone can help volunteer by contacting any of the board members, the RBD office at (605) 665-1657 or on their website at www.riverboatdays.com.

Though the event is held on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the set-up begins on Monday for the committee members. Board members start pulling the items needed out of storage on Monday, with most manpower needed for set-up from Wednesday morning to Friday night. The committee members have a great system in the organization and layout of getting the tents set up each year. I was amazed to hear the complexity in scheduling the vendors coming in and out of the park during set-up and take-down. Everyone follows a designated time to help things go more smoothly. They are often in need of extra volunteers, though, on Sunday night and Monday to help take down the tents.

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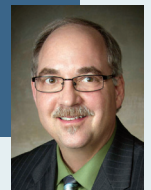
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