

MINUTES

**Wednesday September 9, 2009
Meeting Time 11:00 A.M.
Retirement Systems Building
60 Empire Drive, St. Paul, MN**

Board Members Present: Gene Gere Ruth Husom Sandra Hale John Kuderka, Robert Lundahl, Dennis Maki, Fred Maurer Richard Mesenburg, Lyle Nelson, Peter Obermeyer, Sally Olsen, Yvonne Ross, Lois Willock.

Board Members Excused: Terry Dempsey, Peter Obermeyer

Others Present: Mary Anderson, Ross Anderson, Mary Benner, Dave Bergstrom-MSRS, Evie Henderson, Peggy Hildebrandt, Curt Martinson, Darlyne Pogose, Merton Rew, Lois Stone, Beata Zincke and Laura Dobozenki -MRSEA Service Provider

President Husom called the meeting to order at 11:05 A.M.

President Husom welcomed everyone and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Set and Approve Agenda

Upon motion and a second to approve the agenda with two additions the motion carried.

Approve Minutes

April 8, 2009 Regular Meeting,

May 13, Annual Meeting 2009

June 10, 2009 Regular Meeting

Upon a motion and second to approve the April, May and June minutes with minor corrections the motion carried.

Accept Financial Report

March 2009 Report

April 2009 Report

May 2009 Report

June 2009 Report

July 2009 Report

Upon a motion and second to accept the March, April, May, June and July financial reports with the motion carried.

2009 Membership Report

The business service provider distributed a report on the membership update. Upon a motion and second to accept, the report was accepted.

MRSEA Committee Reports

Nominating Committee

Ms. Ross reported the committee has two applications to review and was seeking consensus of the board to conduct interviews and recommend a candidate to fill the vacant position that expires in May 2010. Upon consensus of the board; a letter will be sent to the Sub Chapter Presidents as well as the posting of the vacancy on the website. All letters of interest need to be received by September 28, 2009.

Upon a motion and second the nominating committee will review applicants and recommend appointment at the October meeting, the motion carried.

Legislative Committee

Mr. Gere reported there is a lot of talk about health care reform and costs. Four major problems are the cost curve, Employers want out due to insurance premium costs, growing ranks of uninsured and finally medical bill bankruptcies.

There was a recent article in the paper about an economic Tsunami with a projected deficit of 7.5 billion dollars for the next biennium. This is anticipated to be a long term problem.

Insurance Committee

Fred Maurer reported that he and Peter Obermeyer met with MMB Insurance Department and will try to schedule open enrollment retiree meetings.

Meeting & Planning Committee

Annual Meeting

Mr. Mesenburg reported there were about 140 people at the annual meeting. The guest speaker was James Gelbmann, Assistant Secretary of State.

St. Cloud Meeting

Mr. Mesenburg reported the fall meeting will be in St Cloud which will include a tour of the Stearns History Museum followed by a lunch at Anton's.

Mr. Mesenburg also commented on the involvement and attendance at the sub chapter meetings as well as the annual and fall state meetings. A handout was distributed showing the sub chapter attendance has remained stable, however we are not seeing as many members turnout for meetings.

Several board members commented that they are also seeing a lack of membership involvement in other organizations they are involved with as well especially with younger members.

Publications & Communications Committee

Mr. Lundahl reported that there was no summer newsletter due to a lack of activity to report on. The publications committee recommended the board publish three newsletters on an annual basis in the spring, fall and winter. If need be a fourth newsletter may be added.

The committee over the last year started highlighting two sub chapters in each issue, added the presidents column and added a sub chapter meeting dates column.

Upon a motion and second to support three publications, the motion carried.

Technology Committee

Mr. Maki reported that our primary computer has had many problems and crashed several times. The warranty has several months left, however the executive board authorized the purchase of a new laptop in August and this action needs to be ratified by the board.

Upon a motion and second to ratify the authorization of the computer that was purchased at the cost of \$1800.00 the motion carried.

Mr. Maki reported the vendor had moved our site to a new server, in the process the statistical information did not transfer appropriately. They are continuing to correct this issue. We are seeing an increased number of hits regularly.

Constitution & By-Law Committee

No report

Finance Committee

Mr. Maki reported the 2008 taxes were completed and filed. In addition the committee is working on developing a budget. Mr. Maki referenced the sub chapter membership report that referenced the costs for each sub chapter for copy costs, postage and miscellaneous related meeting expenses. The cost for 2009 was projected to be \$5000.00.

The audit for 2007 has been completed. The audit will be reviewed by the committee prior to presenting to the board.

MN State Retiree Council

Ms. Husom reported Lois Willock was elected as Vice President at the recent convention. Mr. Maurer has been the liaison, however with Lois' recent election Ms. Husom appointed Lois Willock as liaison to the State Retiree Council. September 23, 2009 will be the first meeting Ms. Willock will attend.

MSRS Board of Directors

Ms. Olsen introduced Dave Bergstrom Executive Director of MSRS and Mary Benner, Chair of the MSRS Board.

Ms. Olsen reported in July that the MSRS Board had brief meeting. MSRS has changed record keeping companies. This has been a major undertaking. They also discussed the 2010 legislative agenda, such as the High 5 Salary, when members may change from unclassified to the general plan, as well as should there be a deferred member on the board of directors. As well as should there be some statutory authorizations for removal of board members. There will be an in-service board training at MSRS to fulfill the statutory requirements, in lieu of traveling outstate for training. The board is also considering contracting an outside firm to handle the 2010 election ballot counting. The board is continuing to look at the IT securities and making the recommended changes. For the fiscal year the return was -19.6% (June 30, 2009). For July and August it is estimated an approximate 8% increase.

Dave Bergstrom confirmed the statistics on the rates of return given by Ms. Olsen. MSRS continues to watch what is happening in other parts of the country. The NASRA Convention focused on Sustainability as the big issue as a four year experience study showed people are living longer. Retirees' will receive a 2.5% increase in January.

Mr. Gere commented that MSRS is one of the best pension systems administered in the country.

Chapter Liaison Reports

Brainerd-June, 2009

Ms. Willock reported the sub chapter had 49 members present. The guest speaker spoke about food safety.

Duluth- April, 2009

Mr. Lundahl reported on the annual Pot Luck Picnic in Moose Lake, the guest speaker was Lisa Kran who talked about various insurances and Medicare programs. Ms. Krahn did an excellent presentation.

Fergus Falls- September, 2009

No report.

Mankato –June 2009

The Mankato sub chapter had scheduled John Marty to speak, however to due to a scheduling conflict he will attend the September meeting. Mr. Martinson reported Faye Krohn, the president is seriously ill. The sub chapter is struggling to get people involved as an officer and is trying to schedule different meeting locations to help spark a new interest in attendees.

Rochester-May, 2009

Bea Zincke reported the sub chapter held their spring meeting in May and had a good turnout. The next meeting will be October 23 and will be holding elections.

West Central-

Darlyne Pogose reported the meeting is scheduled for November 5th in Avon, and they have a guest speaker from the Wellness Center in Osakis scheduled.

Southwest- April, 2009

Ms. Ross reported there was a light turnout and Dave Bergstrom attended. The Southwest sub chapter ties for third place for overall attendance even though they are the smallest sub chapter. The next meeting will be held the end of September.

Walker/ Northwoods- June, 2009-(Kuderka)

Kuderka reported about 60 people attended the spring meeting in Bécida with one elected representative in attendance. The sub chapter approved an amendment to their by-laws to stagger their officer's election terms. The next meeting will be in October. The officers of the sub chapter were not able to attend and they phoned in their compliments to the board.

New Business

Pre Retirement Classes

i. MSRS

Ms. Olsen reported she has contacted MSRS to request that we would be allowed to participate in the pre retirement meetings, and MSRS has agreed to this, as well as inviting us to speak at the

AFSCME Convention in Duluth. Generally MSRS conducted two fall pre-retirement meetings as well as other presentations. There will be no fall classes this year. We would be able to participate in the spring classes. MRSEA may also submit a request to MSRS to have an article published in the winter newsletter of MSRS the Messenger.

Ms. Olsen contacted the Commissioner of MMB, requesting participation at their retirement meetings. A letter of request and our brochure will be sent to the commissioner.

HIWAY Credit Union

Mr. Maurer reported the HIWAY Credit Union did not hold specific retirement classes, however would be amenable to host meetings from time to time.

Affinity Plus Credit Union-Husom

Ms. Husom reported Affinity Plus held monthly membership meetings with various topics around the state. They did not have retirement specific meetings. They also are willing to provide guest speakers.

Draft Survey on how to improve member services/feedback

The board would like to survey the membership for feedback and ideas on how to improve services. The survey has two sections, one being Communications and the second about Meetings. The board is seeking sub chapter officer input on the survey.

The board is also contemplating on how to best get the survey to the entire membership and collate the results. Mr. Kuderka distributed a draft survey.

The business service provider recapped the previous surveys that we did in Northeast, and West Central. For West Central, the envelopes were stamped to be able to separate them quickly from renewal envelopes. The board also inserted a reply envelope in the newsletter for registration of the annual meeting.

Upon a motion and second to insert the survey and a reply envelope will be in the winter newsletter. The motion carried.

Mailing Sub Chapter Minutes

The business service provider stated this request had been made by a sub chapter in hopes of increasing the attendance. The service provider explained that the sub chapter had been informed that it would be on the agenda as it is not a procedure we are authorized to do and would be an additional cost to the board. Currently the minutes are posted on the web. The sub chapters should send in approved minutes.

Memorial Donations

Don Buckner

Don served for over fourteen years on the board. Upon a motion and second to send \$100.00 to the American Cancer Society, the motion carried.

Vera Likins

Vera served for twenty years on the MRSEA board. Upon a motion and second to send \$100.00 to the preferred memorial, the motion carried. The service provider and President Husom will research the memorials for Ms. Likins.

Ms. Husom also told the board that MRSEA was established in the early 1940's and perhaps a 70th Anniversary event should be considered.

Training for Sub Chapter Officers

Ms. Husom explained perhaps if there was a training program perhaps we could get more people to volunteer for officer positions. The consensus was this would be a positive experience. John Kuderka and Darlyne Pogose will submit ideas for sample minutes, agenda etc. to the business service provider.

Other Items

Brainerd Sub Chapter Membership Increase/Decrease

Peggy Hildebrandt inquired about the sub chapter numbers and was provided the data.

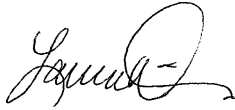
Service Provider Contract Review

Ms. Husom appointed Sally Olsen, Yvonne Ross and Bob Lundahl to the Performance Review Committee.

Next Meeting Date October 14, St. Cloud

Meeting Adjourned at 3:20P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura Dobozenski', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Laura Dobozenski-Service Provider
Platinum Professional Management, LLC