

MINUTES

**Wednesday November 11, 2009
Meeting Time 1:00 P.M.
AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH
1400 SOUTH ROBERT STREET
WEST ST PAUL**

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

Board Members Excused: Sandra Hale

Others Present: Laura Dobozenski -MRSEA Service Provider

President Husom called the meeting to order at 1:09 P.M. and apologized for the delayed start due to a previous scheduled meeting that conducted business that will be on the agenda later.

Set and Approve Agenda

Upon a motion to accept the agenda and second the agenda was accepted with one addition to item 12 re: update on Terry Dempsey.

Approval of Minutes

September 09, 2009

Upon a motion and second to approve with minor corrections, the motion carried.

October 14, 2009 Special Meeting

Upon a motion and second to approve the motion carried.

October 14, 2009 Membership Meeting

Upon a motion and second to approve the motion carried.

Accept Financial Report

August 2009 Report

Upon a motion to approve and a second the motion carried.

September 2009 Report

Upon a motion to approve and a second the motion carried.

2009 Membership Report

The Business Service Provider reported the 2010 dues renewals process has been started, the renewal cards had been mailed out the end of October.

Ms. Husom gave a brief refresher on By Laws 101, and Roberts Rules of Order. The President shall be an Ex-Officio of all committees except the Nominating Committee, a majority of the board shall constitute a quorum, President Husom and Laura should be notified of all committee meetings, no one member has the power to act on behalf or bind the chapter to expenses of the chapter. All committee chairs need to make sure that all committee members are notified of committee meetings.

Ms. Husom expressed disappointment with the turnout of board members who took the chartered bus to St. Cloud, this was a costly venture and had been approved by the board with the consensus most board members would be taking the chartered bus provided. Ms. Husom also addressed the issue that board members need to regularly check and respond to emails received from board members and the business service provider. Sub Chapter liaisons need to inform Laura or President Husom if they are not able to attend a meeting, so a substitute may be arranged. Ms. Husom discussed meeting deadlines, specifically that we need to do better with the newsletter.

MRSEA Committee Reports

Nominating Committee

Ms. Ross reported the short term responsibility of the committee has been completed. Ms. Benner has been appointed to fill the remaining time (May 2010) for the vacant seat previously held by Don Buckner.

Ms. Ross made a motion to approve the expense of the nominating committee for conducting interviews and for the two meetings the Personnel Review Committee had to review the Service Provider contract. Upon a second to the motion, the motion carried.

Legislative Committee

Mr. Gere reported the Pension Commission has been meeting monthly, and it has been fairly quiet, except on the National level. The Pension Commission recently met in Bemidji, and will meet November 12, 2009. Mr. Gere also reported several articles of interest had been published locally in regards to the health care bill.

Mr. Gere reported he tried to connect to the Health Care Conference about the Health Care Reform Bill on November 5, 2009 without success. Ms. Husom was able to connect. Ms. Husom explained AFSCME had invited several of our board members to participate in the conference call held nationwide. The conference call was hosted by Kathleen Sebelius, Health and Human Services Secretary and Senior White House Staffer Tina Tchen. Questions were responded to by Mike Hash. The bill provides affordable insurance; and will eventually close the doughnut hole, improve the quality of care and make preventative care more affordable.

The conference call focused strictly on the Health Care Bill and lasted about an hour. Eight callers were able to have questions responded to, and then conference call was closed.

Insurance Committee

Mr. Maurer and Mr. Obermeyer reported on the success of the three Retiree Open Enrollment meetings held. The Metro meeting was November second with over 250 people attending. The Brainerd meeting was November 9th, with over 50 people attending, and the Rochester meeting was held December 10th and had over 50 people attend. There will be a wrap up session with MMB to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the meetings and to discuss future meetings.

Mr. Obermeyer suggested a thank you letter be sent to Bob Eder-Zdelich of MMB, his supervisor, as well as Dave Bergstrom and Sally Kupferschmidt of MSRS.

Rochester Library Room Rental Fee

Upon a motion and second to reaffirm the authorization of the room rental fee for the Rochester meeting, the motion carried.

Meeting & Planning Committee

St. Cloud Outstate Meeting Wrap Up Report

Mr. Mesenburg reported a total of 36 people attended the St Cloud meeting and tour of the Stearns History Center and lunch at Anton's.

2010 Annual Meeting

Mr. Mesenburg suggested looking for an exciting speaker for the Annual meeting, or possibly Gubernatorial candidates. Ms. Benner suggested possible topics of interest such as, End of Life Issues and Living Wills. Several suggested locations for next year are The Landscape Arboretum, Northland Inn Hotel, and the Earl Brown Heritage Center.

Publications & Communications Committee

Mr. Lundahl asked all newsletter articles to be submitted by next week for the winter newsletter.

The service provider explained the mailing issue with the last newsletter. The Service Provider asked for a motion to apply for Non Profit Status with the Post Office as well as to Purchase a Permit Number for the organization.

Upon a motion and second the motion carried for the request.

The Business service Provider also discussed the possibility of Idea Group relabeling the unused stationery and envelope supply with the old AFSCME permit.

Upon a motion and second to allow the relabeling, the motion carried.

Technology Committee

Mr. Maki reported on the recent hits on the website and also reminded the board to submit items to be posted to the website.

Mr. Maki met with Reliable Sites to review the contract. The current contract runs month to month. Given the bulk of our documents have been uploaded, our monthly fee will be reduced. Upon a motion and second to continue with Reliable Sites, the motion carried.

Ms. Willock submitted a 2010 Census article she would like placed on the website. Upon a motion and second the motion carried to post the article on the website.

Constitution & By-Law Committee

No Report

Finance Committee

Mr. Maki proposed budget categories to be adopted by the board. Upon a motion and second the proposal was adopted.

Mr. Maki made a motion to purchase new accounting software by Quickbooks with a maintenance program. Upon a motion and second the motion carried.

The committee will be proposing a general reimbursement policy in the new year.

Upon the completion of the Committee Reports, Ms. Husom distributed the new 2010 Committee Assignments.

MN State Retiree Council

September 23, 2009 Meeting

Ms. Willock reported on the meeting that Char Knutson has been elected AFL-CIO President. Mike Zagbrios from the USPS spoke about the Carrier Alert program being extended state wide.

October 28, 2009 Meeting

Kathryn Blovet; a field representative from Senator Frankens office attended and was seeking input and concerns.

Ms. Willock was appointed Treasurer of the Retiree Council.

MSRS Board of Directors

Ms. Olsen reported the MSRS Board met September 17, 2009 and tried to identify 2010 legislative initiatives. The board approved some administrative bills.

Two board proposals were reviewed;

(1) a proposal for membership change to add a second elected retiree member and one deferred member. The proposal failed.

(2) Change of board member per diem, this proposal also failed.

Ms. Olsen also reported the 2010 Board Election materials will be outsourced.

As of November 9, 2010 the MSRS Fund results: July-September +13%

Chapter Liaison Reports

Brainerd-Sept. 2009

Ms. Willock reported Peggy Hildebrandt and Mary Anderson were re-elected as officers. A representative from the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office gave a report on Identity Theft. Lois Biermann from MSRS also gave a report on MSRS.

a. Duluth- Oct. 2009

Mr. Lundahl reported the meeting was held at the Senior Center and the guest speaker discussed healthy choices from vending machines.

Fergus Falls- October, 2009

The business service provider reported there was a good turnout of about 75 people. One member requested the MRSEA Dues be combined with the local sub chapter dues. The business service provider reported Fergus Falls is currently the only sub chapter which has its own membership dues (\$2.00 annually). Mr. Nelson was unable to attend due to a schedule conflict.

Mankato –Sept. 2009

The Business Service Provider reported Senator John Marty attended and was promoting his health care bill. Senator Marty is optimistic his bill will continue to move forward.

Rochester-Oct. 2009

The sub chapter was sent an email stating the business service provider was unable to attend due to the flu. Peter Obermeyer had a schedule conflict. Dave Bergstrom of MSRS attended the meeting. The Sub Chapter had a good turnout with 48 people attending and will meet again in the spring. They also had 4 inches of snow that made for difficult travels home for members.

West Central- Nov. 2009

The sub chapter will meet November 18, 2009.

Southwest- Sept. 2009

Ms. Ross reported the sub chapter elected a new secretary Lil Leech and Arlene Schoephoerster is now president and Evie Henderson is now the vice president.

Walker/ Northwoods- Oct. 2009

The service provider reported Dorothy Hunt, the secretary of the sub chapter phoned in with a report they had a good turnout and missed having John and Laura at the meeting. Erin Leonard of MSRS attended the meeting for Dave Bergstrom.

Old Business

Pre Retirement Classes Update

Ms. Olsen reported she telephoned Shelley Peterson, executive assistant to Commissioner Hanson, as a follow-up to the letter sent the Commissioner in September. That letter contained two requests, one to include the MRSEA Brochure in the Pre-Retirement Seminar packet for State Employees. The other, to make a brief presentation to the pre-retiree employees at the time of these seminars.

Assistant Commissioner Judy Plante returned Ms. Olsen's' phone call She inquired as to the status of our brochure. Ms. Olsen informed her that we do not have the revised brochure yet, and that it would probably be another month or so before it is ready and indicated that we were looking towards January 2010 or so for meeting with MMB about these issues.

Ms. Plante said she had discussed the matter with Commissioner Tom Hanson. They said that they would be interested in including the MRSEA brochure in the pre-retirement packet. Of course, they would like to see the brochure first. Ms. Plante also stated that MMB would do some form of pre-retirement workshops. That this would be reviewed after Ms. Dentz' retirement. Ms. Plante indicated that these workshops are lasting about two days currently. MMB is getting push back from many agencies as they do not want their employees gone for two full days. Consequently, MMB is looking for ways to shorten these seminars. However, Ms Plante did indicate a willingness to revisit this issue with you when she looks at the brochure.

(See Insurance Committee Report for additional report.)

How to Improve Membership Services Survey Update

Mary Benner volunteered to finalize all remaining thoughts and layout the survey for the newsletter. A draft will be sent to board members for any final comments prior to submitting for publication.

Training for Sub Chapter Officers

Upon a motion and second to table until the January meeting, the motion carried.

AFSCME Convention in Duluth

Mr. Lundahl reported he attended the AFSCME Conference in Duluth and promoted MRSEA. Mr. Lundahl highlighted the organizations accomplishments and focus on retirement issues.

New Business

Service Provider Evaluation Contract Report

Ms. Olsen reported the recommendation of the Review Committee. The following actions were taken by the board.

Upon a motion and second to authorize the President to sign the contract and the Duties Description with Platinum Professional Management, LLC, for the calendar year 2010.

Upon a motion to authorize payment for the overtime hours, upon a second the motion carried.

Memorial Donations

Faye Krohn

Upon a motion and second to make a memorial donation of \$100.00 , the motion carried.

Other Items

The business service provider reported the leave of absence provided to Mr. Dempsey has expired. Mr. Dempsey provided a resignation earlier due to a work conflict, and had been accepted by the board. At this time he expressed the conflict continues and will miss being on the board.

Next Meeting Date December 16, 2009 the Lexington Restaurant

Meeting Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Laura Dobozenski-Service Provider
Platinum Professional Management, LLC