

MRSEA-South Central 6/7/10 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Barb Lamont, President. She began the meeting by explaining that a \$5.00 donation had been made to be used as a prize for the member who had traveled the farthest to attend the meeting. The member was determined and awarded the prize. Barb then went on to introduce the guest speaker.

Guest Speaker: The guest speaker was Gail Gilman-Wildner from the Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging. Her presentation began with a history of the Older Americans Act from its early inception in the mid 1930's through the various updates of the legislation to the present time. This was a major piece of federal legislation that funds many of the programs serving the elderly in the area today. The presentation touched on the administrative structure that brings services to the area and outlined the programs and services available as a result. A direction of accomplishment for future efforts of the agency was also presented. The presentation concluded with questions and discussion regarding the topic at hand.

Previous Meeting's Minutes: The minutes from the 12/7/09 meeting was made available to the membership at the meeting. After a review of the minutes, a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed.

Treasure's Report: The treasurer's report of collections and expenses from the 12/7/09 meeting to the present was made available during the meeting. Curt highlighted items presented in the report and answered questions. A motion was made and seconded to approve the report as written. The motion passed.

Old Business: No old business was brought forward.

New Business: Barb reminded everyone that the upcoming September meeting will be the annual meeting. She indicated that the meeting would include the election of officers and encouraged members to be thinking of candidates for office. She also indicated that the Subchapter will receive its annual reimbursement from MRSEA based on the number of members attending the annual meeting and asked members to do what they can to promote attendance. A discussion regarding ideas for the next meeting was encouraged. A motion was made to hold an "Early Bird" drawing at the next meeting to take place at 11:30 AM just prior to lunch. The motion was seconded and passed. Barb asked that other suggestions regarding the meeting be given to her after the meeting. She then introduced the next speaker.

MRSEA Update: Fred Maurer, MRSEA board member, attended the meeting to give an update on MRSEA activity. He explained that he is the chair of the Board's insurance committee. In this capacity he had been invited to participate in a series of federal conference calls seeking local input during the health care reform debate. In the process he acquired a fair amount of information regarding health care coverage and took questions in this regard. Fred also introduced the concept of "Defined Benefits vs.

Defined Contributions". State employees currently have defined benefits or benefits predetermine by income and years of service. If a change to defined contributions were to be made, state retirement would work more like a 401k. Employee's retirement funds would no longer be invested by the State Board of Investment but would be invested by the individual employee. Retirement benefits would then be based on the level of the individual's investment success. The Board will continue to remain current on pressures regarding this change. Fred also reviewed changes to the pension fund made by the passage of recent legislation. The employer and employees were asked to pay more into the retirement fund; retirees were asked to take ½ % less in annual cost of living adjustments. The reduction will remain in place until the fund is up from its current approximate 75% funded to 90% funded. Cost of living increases will then return to 2.5% per year. Fred concluded by announcing that the MRSEA web site has a very good health care reform presentation, if there are questions regarding these changes.

Door Prizes: A drawing for door prizes was held. Six door prizes were provided by the Subchapter. Each door prize was presented as per drawing results.

Next Meeting: The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, September 13, 2010. Barb again encouraged suggestions regarding the next meeting.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and passed. The meeting was adjourned.