

## **MINUTES**

**Wednesday September 8, 2010  
Meeting Time 11:00 A.M.  
MSRS Building  
60 Empire Drive, St. Paul, MN 55103**

### **Welcome and Introductions**

President Husom called the meeting to order at 11:00 A.M. Ms Husom welcomed and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

### **Board Members Present:**

Mary Benner, Lorene Dimock, Gene Gere, Peggy Hildebrandt, Ruth Husom, John Kuderka, Robert Lundahl, Dennis Maki, Fred Maurer, Richard Mesenburg, Marie Milsten Fiedler, Peter Obermeyer, Judy Schultz, Lois Willock.

**Board Members Excused:** Peter Obermeyer

**Board Members Absent:** Sandra Hale

### **Others Present:**

Sub Chapter Officers: Ross Anderson, Evie Henderson, Barbara Lamont, Robert Lamont, Kathy Loban, Linda Pearson, Donald Loban, Merton Rew, Beata Zincke

### **Sub Chapter and Newly Elected Officer Orientation and Training**

The Business Service Provider highlighted the Board Manuals and reviewed key points for the Sub Chapter Officers and the Board.

Mr. Kuderka led an orientation for the Sub Chapters that focused on three areas.

1. Agenda Layouts for meetings
2. Developing Participation for meetings
3. Administrative Responsibilities

A packet of sample meeting notices was distributed to the Sub Chapter Officers.

**Lunch Recess was called at 12:15**

**1:00 p.m.**  
**Regular Board Meeting of MRSEA**

**Set and Approve Agenda**

Ms. Schultz inquired about the PAC Committee and an audit report being on the agenda. It was explained that the PAC Committee is a separate entity that meets and is not a part of the MRSEA agenda. Ms. Husom reported she is in the process of forming a new audit committee. Ms. Schultz inquired when members receive audit information. The Business Service Provider reported the Annual meeting packets always contain the most recent audit and financial information available as required by our governing documents. Upon a motion and second to approve the agenda the motion carried.

**Approve Minutes of June 9, 2010**

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

**Membership Report**

The Business Service Provider highlighted the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter membership report. Upon a motion and second to accept the report, the motion carried.

**Financial Reports**

The Business Service Provider highlighted the financial reports for May, June and July 2010. Upon a motion and second to accept the reports subject to audit the motion carried.

**MRSEA Committee Reports**

**Nominating Committee**

Mr. Mesenburg reported the committee's function is to recruit board members. The committee generally starts this process by publishing an article in the winter newsletter and then reviews the submittals for endorsement for elections held at the spring annual meeting.

The Business Service Provider reported she had received an electronic letter of interest submitted by a member on August 3, 2010. The party was informed that there were no current openings but, the letter would be kept on file and we would contact them as soon as there was an opening to see if they still had any interest in participating on the board.

### **Legislative Committee**

Mr. Gere reported on the Omnibus Pension Bill, specifically Article 1 Section 86 regarding the Defined Benefit vs. Defined Contribution Plans. Mr. Gere stressed the importance of MRSEA following this very closely. In addition he reported the retirement systems had been served with a lawsuit in regards to the recent COLA reduction changes.

Ms. Milsten Fiedler inquired if MRSEA would be participating in the Defined Benefit study. Mr. Maurer had received an invitation to the first meeting. MRSEA will be involved in attending the subsequent meetings as well.

### **Insurance Committee**

Mr. Maurer reported the Committee has been working with MMB and has set up five Open Enrollment meetings for retirees. They will be held in the month of November in St Paul, Edina, Brainerd, Mankato and Duluth.

### **Meeting & Planning Committee**

Ms. Willock reported the meeting is all finalized. The Fall 2010 Outstate Meeting is scheduled for Duluth, we will tour the Maritime Museum and have lunch at the Grandma's Sports Garden and Event Center, right across the street from the Maritime Museum. Ms. Willock asked Mr. Mesenburg to give the Business Service Provider a copy of the contract.

Ms. Willock reported the charter bus will have two pick up locations, MSRS and the Wal-Mart store in Forest Lake. Canal Park and Maritime Museum Brochures are available to distribute to the people on the bus. The bus will be departing Duluth at 2:30 P.M.

Registration will be in the newsletter. The cost will be \$20.00 per person. There is no charge for the bus to those wanting to ride the bus.

### **Spring 2011 Annual Meeting**

Ms. Willock reported she would not be able to participate in the planning the spring meeting. If anyone has suggestions for the spring meeting they should submit them to the office or committee members.

### **Publications & Communications Committee**

Mr. Lundahl reported the fall newsletter will contain the registration for Duluth and should be out very soon. We need to update the proof given the open enrollment meeting changes. The newsletter proof will be reviewed by the committee before it is mailed out.

Ms. Benner inquired about the “opt out” language.

The business service provider explained the verbiage will not fit on the renewal cards. The “opt out language will be better suited for the list serve vendor when sending electronic information to members as there are specific requirements depending on the email an organization sends.

#### **Technology Committee**

Mr. Maki reported the committee met last Thursday and reviewed ideas to keep the web current and user friendly. A list serve vendor is also being considered and will require opt out language. The committee also discussed standard operating procedures and data privacy. Mr. Maki distributed the statistics on the web usage.

#### **Finance Committee**

Mr. Gere reported the committee is working on establishing the budget for 2011. There will be the need for some major adjustments of approximately fifty thousand dollars in reductions and possible increases to balance the budget. The committee will be looking and prioritizing the adjustments needed. The committee plans to submit a report at the November meeting for the board to consider. Mr. Gere did stress we may need to phase into balancing the budget over a couple years. The four key areas are Contract Services, AFSCME Affiliation, Travel Expenses and newsletter services.

Ms. Schultz inquired what contracts we have. Mr. Gere reported the contracted services are the Business Administrator. The Web Host and Newsletter Vendor and Mail House Vendor costs also show up under contract services.

Ms. Milsten Fiedler inquired if the board members review the contracts. The business service provider’s contract is reviewed by the personnel committee which rotates annually and a recommendation is made to the board. The vendors used were also approved by the board upon a recommendation.

Ms. Husom distributed the standing committee selection forms for 2011 and requested that she would like to have everyone select three committees and return the forms back to her by the end of the meeting today so she may announce the new committees at the November meeting.

Ms. Benner inquired about the Finance Committee not being on the selection form. Ms. Husom reported the executive officers would serve on that committee.

#### **MN State Retiree Council**

Ms. Willock reported the Council met August 25, 2010. The Council discussed the upcoming convention scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup>. The guest speakers were Kris Fredson the Political Director for the MN AFL-CIO and Yvonne Prettner Solon the AFL-CIO endorsed candidate for Lieutenant Governor. The next meeting will be October 27, 2010.

The Business Service Provider reported she did distribute the credentials for Mary Benner, Marie Milsten Fiedler, Ruth Husom and Lois Willock to attend the convention.

#### **MSRS Board of Directors**

Ms. Benner reported the MSRS Board met July 15<sup>th</sup> and had their election of officers. Ms. Benner was reelected chair of MSRS. In addition the board received an update from Howard Bicker from the SBI. Mr. Bicker reported positive gains (unaudited) for the fiscal year of July 2009 through June 30, 2010. Ms. Benner reported the three retirement boards will be holding their first meeting in regards to the Design Benefit Review Committee established as mandated in the 2010 Omnibus Bill. The committee will draft a report on the advantages and disadvantages of a defined benefit pension plan.

A resolution was passed to thank Senator Betzhold and Representative Murphy on their work on the Pension Commission. MSRS will be working on getting the facts out to the general public about state pensions. The press is being quite biased against public pensions.

#### **Chapter Liaison Reports**

##### **Brainerd-June 17, 2010**

Ms. Hildebrandt reported there were about forty three people in attendance at the meeting in Baxter at the Bonanza restaurant. They will be electing officers in September.

##### **Duluth- July, 2010**

Mr. Lundahl reported the Annual summer Picnic Pot Luck by the Lake was held in Moose Lake. The next meeting will be in October.

##### **Fergus Falls- Sept. 7, 2010**

The business service provider attended the September meeting. The sub chapter elected two new officers, long time treasurer Karen Torso and Secretary Val Nelson stepped down from their positions. The guest speaker was Dave Bergstrom and a local police officer.

**Mankato –Sept. 13, 2010-(Maurer)**

No Report

**Rochester-Oct., 2010 (Obermeyer)**

No Report

**West Central- Sept. 23, 2010-(Kuderka)**

No spring meeting was scheduled. They will meet at Joseph's in Avon.

**Southwest- Sept. 23, 2010 (Business Service Provider)**

Evie Henderson, president of Southwest reported the meeting is scheduled for the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September and Laura will be there. The Business service provider also reported there will be a representative from MSRS attending.

**Walker/ Northwood's- Oct. 7, 2010-(Kuderka)**

There meeting is October 7<sup>th</sup> at Chase on the Lake

The Business Service Provider reported we needed to fill the liaison positions for Fergus Falls and the Southwest Sub Chapter. President Husom asked for volunteers for liaisons.

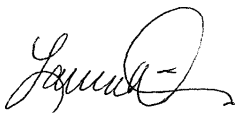
Marie Milsten Fiedler volunteered to be the new liaison for the Fergus Falls Sub Chapter.

**Next Regular Meeting Date November 10, 2010**

**Adjourn Meeting**

Upon a motion to adjourn the meeting adjourned at 2:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



MRSEA Service Provider  
Platinum Professional Management, LLC