

MINNESOTA RETIRED STATE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Duluth Subchapter

Minutes of 26 Oct 11

The meeting was held at Evergreen Senior Center in West Duluth, called to order at 11:19 by President Ross Anderson, who introduced our guests David Bergstrom and Laura Dobozenski, as well as our board liaison Lorene Dimock.

Minutes of July meeting were read by the Pres, MSP to accept.
There was no treasurer's report.

President Anderson talked about the forces trying to eliminate pensions and some of the misinformation being used, notably the huge nature of the pensions, some exceeding \$100,000 a year. He requested we write to Mary Murphy regarding our thoughts on the effect of having, or not having these pensions in our lives and supporting their continued existence.

David Bergstrom, Exec. Director of MSRS gave a report on the current status of MSRS and provided handouts related to our status. Notable is that we are at 86.1% funded, up from 65.6% in 2009. He also talked about the impact on MSRS of a switch to defined contribution and encouraged a letter to Ms. Murphy. There is significant support for us in the legislature, but it will be a fight. MSRS has existed since 1929, and currently 91% of 30000 retirees live and pay taxes in Minnesota. He also touched on the issue of \$100000 pensions and pointed out that these involve 30 judges, who paid in at a much higher rate and most have worked many years before retiring. Altho under MSRS administratively, these are really separate in structure.

Lorene Dimock reported on the St. Croix cruise. 143 people were there, the weather was great, and everyone had a great time. She announced that the insurance seminar for retirees would be 1:30 to 3:30 at Moose Lake on Nov 8th and handed out the dates for all the seminars for this year.

Laura announced that the dues would be \$20 for the coming year and answered some questions about our disaffiliation from AFSCME with a very clear explanation of the reasons and events leading up to that action.

It was MSP to meet at Evergreen in January with a presentation on suicide and the elderly. MSP to meet at Evergreen in April. This meeting will be officer elections. Possible presentation will be on reverse mortgages. Any suggestions on possible or desired topics will be welcome. MSP to adjourn. Adjourned at 12:59.

Respectfully submitted;
Robert G. Lundahl, acting Secretary