

THE MINNESOTA RETIRED STATE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Dear MRSEA Member;

There have been a couple of recent events that we feel compelled to communicate to you so that you can understand the circumstances of the events and the facts related to them; all of them relating to your membership in a retirement organization.

The first event has to do with the MRSEA annual membership renewal notice that you received in the mail from us within the past several weeks. With the membership renewal notice was a letter indicating that you would receive a free year of membership. Unfortunately, at least for you, that was not correct. The mail service company that we use for our mailings incorrectly inserted the letter into the mailing with the renewal notice. You should have, by now, received a letter from them apologizing for the error. The letter is intended to be sent to recent retirees who are given a free year of membership upon retirement in hopes that they will continue their membership after the free year.

Another issue that has been floating around because of inaccurate information from outside our organization has to do with member's MRSEA voluntary PAC contributions. We want to assure you that none of your membership dues goes to the PAC fund (only your specific PAC contributions) which is managed by a separate board of directors. The PAC board is currently composed of 2 former legislators (one GOP and one DFL), a retired judge, and 3 MRSEA board members. In that the MRSEA is not involved in partisan politics (it's only issue driven – your issues) equal amounts are donated to the two major caucuses.

Many of our MRSEA members also received a letter recently from AFSCME Chapter 5 announcing the creation of a new AFSCME retiree chapter. While we welcome council 5 into the arena of advocating for the interests of public retirees as MRSEA has been doing for over 75 years, we regret that it has taken them this many years to finally support retirees and that they feel compelled to derange MRSEA in the process. Without going into details, you should be aware that a number of their statements were inaccurate or distortions. AFSCME decided on this action because our organization recently chose to terminate our affiliation with them. Our membership was paying nearly \$20,000 a year as an affiliate and we could see no reasonable return on these dues despite repeated attempts to change it. We simply could not afford this cost any longer and it was not good stewardship of your membership dues.

MRSEA represents every retired public employee in Minnesota regardless of their position as an employee; whether they were AFSCME, MAPE, MMA, director, commissioner, judge, legislator, or governor; it doesn't make any difference. We intend to continue to dedicate our efforts to advocate for the interests of you and other public retirees. We urge you to continue your support and commitment to our organization in these efforts. If you desire to be a member of both organizations, that is a decision for you to make.

The pay and benefits, especially pensions, of public employees are under extreme scrutiny by legislators and others more than ever. Being a member of MRSEA is one way for you to receive information about your retirement benefits and help us in advocating for the well-being of you and all state retirees. PLEASE BE A MEMBER AND HELP US HELP YOU! If you know of any member who might have an interest in serving on our board or our committees, please contact us.

Sincerely,

THE MINNESOTA RETIRED STATE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS