

MINUTES
Thursday, August, 7 2008
Meeting Time 1:00 P.M.
Retirement Systems Building Board Room
60 Empire Drive, St Paul MN

Board Members Present: Don Buckner, Terry Dempsey, Gene Gere, Ruth Husom, John Kuderka, Dennis Maki, Robert Lundahl, Fred Maurer, Richard Mesenburg, Lyle Nelson, Peter Obermeyer, Yvonne Ross, Lois Willock.

Board Members Excused: Sandra Hale, Sally Olsen

Others Present: Laura Dobozenski- MRSEA Business Administrator

President Husom called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

Set and approve the agenda

Upon a motion to approve and a second, the motion carried with the addition of two items;(1) appoint an Employee Evaluation Committee (2) Sr. Federation Letter.

Approve Minutes of June 11, 2008

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

Accept Financial Report for May 2008

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

Accept Financial Report for June 2008

Upon a motion and second to approve the motion carried to accept report. Mr. Nelson inquired as to how PAC funds were collected. The Business Administrator explained these funds are

collected through our regular renewal process. There is a check off box for PAC contributions. These are then totaled and disbursed to PAC semi annually.

Ms. Husom appointed a Finance Committee to provide information of past expenses and to plan for future expenses and budget items. The committee includes Ruth Husom, Gene Gere, John Kuderka, Dennis Maki and Laura Dobozenski.

Membership Report

Upon a motion and second the motion carried to accept the report.

MRSEA Committee Reports

Nominating Committee

Mr. Kuderka reported the committee members will be up for re election in 2009. The committee sent out letters of recruitment to possible candidates and recruited candidates through this process. We do have another person who is interested for a future election or possible vacancy position.

Legislative Committee

Mr. Gere updated the board we have had no response from our letters sent to the congressional delegation relating to health care savings accounts. Senator Coleman sent an email about health care issues and his accomplishments over the last six years.

The Pension Commission met July 23; the commission started to review the policies, and to start the interim study promised to Education Minnesota. Several other groups also expressed interest in participating in the study.

Mr. Kuderka inquired about the June earning of the Post Fund. At this time the report is not completed.

Insurance Committee

Mr. Maurer reported the committee met just prior to the MRSEA meeting. Representatives from DOER/Finance participated in the meeting. Health Care Savings Accounts will require legislative changes at both the Federal and State level. The committee is going to look into alternatives to HSA's.

The goal is to obtain some relief of high health care costs. Open enrollment is scheduled for November 5-18, 2008.

Meeting & Planning Committee

Mr. Mesenburg thanked the committee members for all their hard work. The meeting is set for October 8th in Anew Ulm. The tour at Schells Brewery will start at 10:00 a.m. There will be a charter bus leaving from MSRS scheduled to arrive in New Ulm at 10:00 a.m.; in downtown New Ulm there will be a performance at the Glockenspiel and then the group will move over to the Kaiserhoff Restaurant for the meal and meeting. Mr. Dempsey also reported the Concord Singers will be performing at the Glockenspiel.

Publications & Communications Committee

Mr. Lundahl reported the committee met just prior the MRSEA Board meeting. The committee will announce the logo contest winner (Dave Fleming) in the newsletter. The committee will modify the entry slightly to incorporate the mission of MRSEA. The letter to the editor column will address the importance of renewing their membership. The New Ulm registration will also be in the upcoming newsletter.

The four page newsletter is running about \$2400 and about \$3600 for the six page newsletter from start to finish.

Technology Committee

Mr. Maki reported he is obtaining bids from various vendors and will be collating the information and then calling a committee meeting to review the information.

Constitution & By Law Committee

Ms. Ross reported the committee had no new items at this time.

MN State Retiree Council

Mr. Maurer reported the Council had their first showing of the video 'The Changing Faces of Retirement:'. Mr. Maurer reported he felt it was very well done. They are trying to make people aware of planning for retirement. This may be available to use at Sub Chapter meetings. Ms. Willock reported there are many important issues of retirement that are not covered by the state as employees retire.

MSRS

The Business Administrator reported for Ms. Olsen. The MSRS board is continuing to review the 2009 budget, IT Security Issues, Laptop vs. Desktop life spans, Executive Director Salary, Post Funds results and what comprises the High 5 Salary.

PEPC

Mr. Maurer reported the three executive directors of the pension funds reviewed the Post Fund Legislation and Accounting Changes. The Defined Benefits versus Defined Contributions issues was also a concern.

Chapter Liaison Reports

Brainerd- June 19, 2008

Mr. Lundahl attended the June meeting and reported the sub chapter had good attendance. Mr. Lundahl stated they would have a new liaison appointed in the near future.

Duluth-July 23, 2008

The Pot Luck Picnic was held in Moose Lake. The Sub Chapter had a lengthy discussion about their mailing list district. The conclusion was to obtain more information and make a decision at the October meeting. Mr. Lundahl reviewed the numbers provided by the administrator. If the sub chapter discontinued mailings south of Willow River there would be about 68 less, if it discontinued at Sandstone there would be 53 less mailing. Duluth averages just fewer than 30 members attending. The sub chapter also discussed bulk rate mailings, postcards. The Business Administrator clarified we need to have over 400 pieces to qualify for a bulk rate, we also then accrue vendor costs to do the mailing labels.

The sub chapter also questioned even sending out meeting notices. Perhaps using the newsletter to promote the meetings could be an alternative to the notices. Mr. Lundahl felt this could be a logistical problem given we only have quarterly newsletters. The board will be supportive of mailing changes the sub chapter would make.

Fergus Falls

The Business Administrator will be attending the meeting. A new liaison needs to be assigned.

Mankato Sept 8, 2008

Mr. Maurer and the business administrator will be attending the meeting Bob Lamont the current president will not be seeking reelection.

Rochester Fall 2008

The Business Administrator has not received the fall meeting date.

West Central

Mr. Kuderka reported the sub chapter met and elected a new president, Darlyne Pogose and as secretary treasurer Lois Beilke. Approximately twenty five members attended. Dave Bergstrom from MSRS and Lorene Dimock from DOER also attended as well as Representative Otremba.

Southwest

Ms. Ross reported she will be attending the meeting in September. The officers sent in a copy of the minutes which were included in the board packet.

Walker/Northwoods

Mr. Kuderka reported a good turn out for the meeting. Senator Olsen, who is on the Pension Commission also attended. The next meeting is in Akeley on October 9, 2008. The group is very appreciative of MRESA as an organization and what we do.

Other Business

Business Administrator Review Committee

Ms. Husom appointed Dennis Maki, Sally Olsen, John Kuderka and herself to perform the review. Ms. Husom would like to possibly have this done by the September meeting.

Senior Federation

Ms. Husom reported the Senior Federation is active again and there is no membership fee. However; we need to send in an affiliation form to receive notices for their meetings. Upon a motion and second the motion carried to renew our affiliation with the Senior Federation.

OTHER ITEMS

Ms. Husom reported on the International Convention in San Fransisco, over 90 resolutions were passed and referred to committees and or the executive board. Elliot Seide of Council 5 had a resolution on organizing public sector retirees. Ms. Husom read the resolution Mr. Siede proposed. There was no opposition to his resolution. Ms. Husom also had a couple handouts related to websites and newsletters.

Reimbursement of expenses to board members. The board considered alternative transportation reimbursements for those who may not be able to drive personally.

Upon a motion *“MRSEA will follow the current IRS rate of reimbursement for all board members attending meetings; this shall be limited to vehicle mileage and approved services of Metro Mobility transportation. The usage of teleconferencing would be an alternative option for board members to attend the meeting.”* Upon a second the motion carried.

Ms. Husom requested all committee assignments sheets to be filled out and submitted.

Next Meeting Date

September 10, 2008, 11:00 a.m. (joint meeting with Sub Chapter Officers). Ms. Ross suggested we look at ideas on encouraging members to attend the Sub Chapter meetings.

Meeting Adjourned 3:28 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Laura Dobozenski
MRSEA-Business Administrator