

The Minnesota Retired State Employees Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 416
Excelsior, MN 55331

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Note: We are a private nonprofit association. Please do not confuse us with the Minnesota State Retirement System-the state agency which sends us our monthly pension checks.

Do you have a new address or phone number?
Please let us know. You may submit any changes online at mrsea.org, simply go to the contact us page, click on membership information, then click address change or call 1-877-487-0402 or regular mail MRSEA PO BOX 416 Excelsior, MN 55331



MRSEA

Dues renewals are on their way!

Please remember to sign your check and mail a separate check for renewals and annual meeting registrations.

We thank you in advance for your patience in processing your renewal.



MRSEA

Minnesota Retired State Employees Association

Spring 2011

Volume 1 Issue 12

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CONTACT INFORMATION:
Toll Free 1-877-487-0402
Web: www.mrsea.org
Email: info@mrsea.org

MAILING ADDRESS:
P.O. BOX 416
Excelsior, MN 55331

MRSEA BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

Our purpose is to ask that you consider submitting an application to be appointed to our board of directors. Before providing you with information on the appointment/election process, some highlights of MRSEA's functions are:

1. Following, attending and testifying at legislative hearings regarding pension and insurance issues affecting employees retired from the state and other jurisdictions.
2. Providing information on issues affecting retired employees through newsletters and a Web Page (www.mrsea.org)
3. Sponsoring informational meetings throughout the state for open enrollment under the state retiree insurance plans.
4. Supporting/Sponsoring MRSEA sub-chapter meetings throughout the state.
5. Meeting with and discussing pension issues with the Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS) and its Executive Director and supporting its actions in the legislature.
6. Meeting with and discussing health insurance issue with representatives of the state employee insurance program (SEGIP).
7. Sponsoring an annual spring meeting/banquet.
8. Attending meetings of the MSRS Board

Currently, there are five vacancies on our board . The procedure for election was provided in our most recent newsletter. It is also listed as a tab on our Web page. The timelines as listed are proceeding but it is never too late to submit an application. The MRSEA board can appoint directors on an interim basis. We have 10 meetings per year (excluding July and August).

Board members traveling more than 40 miles are reimbursed mileage. We meet in the retirement building in St. Paul on the second Wednesday of the month at 1:00 PM.

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors,

This letter should include:

- a short statement of 100 words or less regarding your work history
- skills you would bring to the position
- what you would like to accomplish.
- Please include your name, street address, telephone number and E-mail address (if any) for future contacts with you.

The nominating committee will review the letters of interest and names of other potential candidates. The committee will consider when possible, candidate's expertise, geographic representation and other qualities when considering applications. The board terms are 3 year terms.

If you have questions you may reply to this message or call our Administrator at 952-470-6611 or 1-877-487-0402 or email : info@mrsea.org (toll free) or call or contact members of the nominating committee: John Kuderka 651-771-9675 or e-mail jakuderka1@comcast.net or Pete Obermeyer 952-928-9207 .

The pay and benefits, especially pensions, of public employees are under question more than ever. Serving on the board of MRSEA is one way for you to receive information about our system and thus help us in advocating for the well-being of state retirees. We need your help! Thank you for your consideration.



Mission Statement

United to advocate for the well being of state retirees by:

***monitoring the deliberations of the legislature and the Minnesota State Retirement System Board of Directors; and responding as appropriate to promote , protect and enhance retiree interests.**

***providing educational information on state and national issues affecting retirees**

***maintaining working relationships with other retiree organizations**

***promoting social activities through local sub chapters and statewide meetings**

***advocating for the affordability of state retiree health and long term care benefits**

Editors Note:

Articles are contributed by MRSEA Committees comprised of board members, who are assigned to specific committees on an annual basis.

SAVE THE DATE AND REGISTER NOW!!

MRSEA ANNUAL SPRING MEETING MAY 11, 2011

Plan now to join us for the MRSEA Annual Spring Banquet/Meeting at Jimmy's Conference Center in Vadnais Heights. With all the media attention and political controversy surrounding public pensions get up-to-date and accurate information from our key-note speaker, Dave Bergstrom, MSRS Executive Director. Additionally, socialize with former fellow employees while enjoying lunch, anticipate a possible surprise visit by a leader in state government, and participate in the operation of your organization (dues and constitution considerations).

Plan now - mail your reservation early! Please complete and mail back your reservation on page 2.



PRESIDENTS COLUMN

Please join us for our Annual Meeting by sending in your reservation today. Your reservation is included in this newsletter. Thank you for your patience in receiving your renewal cards for 2011. Please remember the renewal cards need to be mailed in separately from your reservations.

MRSEA is actively monitoring all the recent proposed legislation, as well as the Design Benefit Study Commission.

We encourage you to participate with your area sub chapter meetings. You may find the meeting dates posted on the MRSEA Website. www.mrsea.org.

MRSEA'S 2011 ANNUAL MEETING & SPRING LUNCHEON

LOCATION: JIMMYS CONFERENCE CENTER 3565 LABORE ROAD, VADNAIS HEIGHTS, MN

DATE: MAY 11, 2011 **REGISTRATION & SOCIAL HOUR :** 11:00 a.m. -12:00pm
LUNCH-ELECTIONS -DOOR PRIZES TO FOLLOW

GUEST SPEAKER: DAVE BERGSTROM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MSRS

From the NORTH 35E South, Exit County Road E, Left on County Road E to Labore Road, Right on Labore Road, Entrance on Right

From the SOUTH 35E North, First exit past 694 (County Road E),

Right on County Road E to Labore Road, Right on Labore Road, Entrance on Right

From the EAST 694 West to 35E North, First exit(County Road E), Right on County Road E to Labore Road, Right on Labore Road, Entrance on Right

From the WEST 694 East to 35E North, First exit(County Road E), Right on County Road E to Labore Road, Right on Labore Road, Entrance on Right

Please use Conference Parking lot on Labore Road



**REGISTRATION FEE IS \$20.00 PER PERSON
INCLUDES ONE ENTRÉE PER PERSON**

1. Lasagna with Garlic Bread Stick and Dessert
2. Pork Medallions with Hard Cider Sauce, Roasted Baby Red Potatoes, Sautéed Vegetables and Dessert
3. Raspberry Chicken Salad-Grilled Chicken Breast, Red Onions, Caramelized Almonds, Raspberries with Dinner Roll and Dessert

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO MRSEA** MAIL TO: MRSEA PO BOX 416 EXCELSIOR MN 55331 **

**** RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 4, 2011 NO REFUNDS IF NOT NOTIFIED BY MAY 4, 2011****

I/We plan to attend the Spring Annual Meeting & Luncheon May 11, 2011

Member Name: _____ Address: _____
 Phone (_____) Dept. Retired From _____
 Entrée Selection _____
 Guest Name: _____ Entree Selection _____
 Guest Name: _____ Entree Selection _____
 Guest Name: _____ Entree Selection _____

TOTAL NUMBER ATTENDING _____ X \$20.00 = TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____



**MRSEA
BOARD OFFICERS**

**Ruth M. Husom
President**

**Gene Gere
First Vice President**

**Fred Maurer
Second Vice President**

**Peter Obermeyer
Secretary-Treasurer**

**Peggy Hildebrandt
Assistant Treasurer**

DIRECTORS

- DAVE BEBERG**
- LORENE DIMOCK**
- JOHN KUDERKA**
- ROBERT LUNDAHL**
- DENNIS MAKI**
- RICHARD MESENBURG**

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT SPRING 2011

The Legislature has returned to St. Paul faced with a \$5.03 billion biannual budget deficit. We on the Legislative Committee will be focused on four primary areas

1. Legislation introduced; and
2. Activity of the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement (LCPR); and
3. The lawsuit challenging last year's pension reform legislation; and
4. The Joint Study of the Executive Directors of MSRS, PERA, and TRA which shall.. "conduct a study of defined benefit, defined contribution, and other alternative retirement plans for Minnesota public employees" Legislation.

Legislation affecting MRSEA members has been introduced in three areas- health care, pensions, and taxation of retirement benefits. Health care would be impacted by bills which would limit public employer contributions for current employees and prohibit employer contributions for health care costs for retired employees (HF871) and affect local government's health care options (HF768) and (HF 834). The subject of public employer pensions has received proposals which appear to bar public employers and public employees from contributing to a defined benefit pension plan after June 30, 2011, (HF594). A number of bills have been introduced increas-

ing the amount public employees would contribute toward MSRS, PERA or TRA. (see Star Tribune article dated MARCH 15, 2011 for a discussion of this legislation. And finally, (HF410) would phase in over 10 years, an exemption of social security benefits from the Minnesota state income tax. This would start with a 10% exemption in 2011 and would increase 10% over 10 years. Minnesota is one of 7 states in the Union which taxes social security benefits.

LCPR.

The Commission has received the names of the Senate members appointed to the Commission, As of March 15, 2011 the House has not appointed its members. No meetings have been scheduled.

LAWSUIT.

The lawsuit involving the 2010 modifications to MSRS, PERA, and TRA retirement plans will go to trial late March, 2011 in Ramsey County.

JOINT STUDY.

The Executive Director of MSRS, Dave Bergstrom, gave a report to the MRSEA Board of Directors on January 11, 2011, regarding the activities of the Joint Study participants. Please see MRSEA's website (www.mrsea.org) for a viewable copy of the presentation. A draft report from the study group is expected by late March early April.

We appreciate your support with these efforts and ask that you keep us informed on legislation, state or federal, that has an impact on retired employees, MRSEA Legislative Committee-Peter Obermeyer Chair.

PARDON US.... We missed introducing our newest Director in the Winter Newsletter.

DAVE BEBERG

Served the State of Minnesota for 41 years and retired in 2001. Worked for the Department of Transportation in the Materials and Research Office. During his employment, he served as treasurer on the Executive Board of Directors for the Minnesota Government Engineers Council. After retirement, he taught highway construction certification classes for Lake Superior College at Duluth for five years. He is currently serving MRSEA on the Insurance and Legislative Committees.

2011 SUB CHAPTER MEETING DATES

BRAINERD

March 17
June 16
September 15
December 15

DULUTH

April 27
July 27
October 26

MANKATO

June 6
September 12
December 5

NORTHWOODS

June 9
October 2011

ROCHESTER

May 6

FERGUS FALLS

May 3
June 7
August 2
September 6

MARSHALL SOUTHWEST

April 21
Sept

WEST CENTRAL TBD