

# 2011 BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS FIVE BOARD SEATS ARE UP FOR ELECTION

## **WANTED:** MRSEA BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

If you have an interest in maintaining, improving, having input into and increasing your knowledge of critical retirement issues such as: Pensions, Health Insurance, Social Security, Legislation or Information, please consider serving as an MRSEA Board Member.

The Board of Directors conducts the business of the association. The Board consists of fifteen members. Each year five of the board positions are open for election, which occurs at the annual meeting in May.

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 deadline for submission is February 23, 2011

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 recommending the slate of Board endorsed candidates. The committee will notify all candidates of the Boards endorsement decisions. Non- endorsed candidates will be given the opportunity to have their name placed on the annual voting ballot.

The board terms are 3 year terms.

**Mail Letters to:**  
MRSEA  
PO BOX 416  
Excelsior, MN 55391

or **Email Letter to:**  
info@mrsea.org



## **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

**MRSEA ANNUAL SPRING MEETING  
MAY 11, 2011**

## DIFFICULT BUDGET DECISIONS LEAD TO INTERNATIONAL AFSCME RETIREE PROGRAM DISAFFILIATION

The Minnesota Retired State Employees Association Board of Directors held a retreat in June 2009. The purpose of the retreat was to establish a reasonable, obtainable set of goals for the organization. During this process several critical issues were identified. Over the last sixteen months the board systematically addressed the issues.

The number one critical issue was "What are the best ways for MRSEA to recruit and retain members?"

During the brainstorming of how to achieve this, we realized several key points needed to be addressed.

One being to clarify MRSEA's affiliation with AFSCME. This was established by researching the advantages and or disadvantages of the AFSCME affiliation. The organization does not have a way of tracking which members may or may not have been with AFSCME pre retirement.

During our recruitment drives, it became very clear the organization had an "identity crisis" where people thought MRSEA was for union members only. All state retirees are eligible to join MRSEA.

Retired state employees founded MRSEA in the 1940s to help each other keep in touch and to provide opportunities for getting together with former co-workers. We expanded our focus in the early 1970s to include advocacy on behalf of our members, particularly in the area of state pensions.

The organization seeks to maintain a healthy and adequate pension for all retirees whose pensions are administered by the State of Minnesota, as reflected in our mission statement.

A second critical issue was developing a formalized budget. The organization relies solely on membership renewals as its source of operating revenue. The organization looked at the "big picture" of expense and income. The board needed to address a sizeable recurring annual shortfall.

During the review and analysis of what the organization spent and what was received for the dollar; one large annual expense was the Annual Per Capita Tax the organization pays to AFSCME, which averages about 14% of the budget or approximately \$18,000.00 per year. The board considered what did we receive for our affiliation?

The magnitude of budget issues is significant, totaling in excess of \$58,000.00, which requires substantial and painful reductions. In an effort to balance the budget, the Finance Committee made a recommendation for a series of budget adjustments, including a budget reduction of over \$18,000.00 by terminating our affiliation with the AFSCME Retiree Program.

We will continue our affiliation with the Minnesota State Retiree Council (AFL/CIO) because of the reasonable financial cost and its statewide focus.

Other reductions in the proposal included travel, consultant/staffing costs, and other reductions which total over \$18,000.00. Additionally the committee recommended increasing membership dues for 2012. Membership dues increases cannot occur without membership approval and it is anticipated that will be proposed for consideration at the annual meeting in May 2011.

The committee, in making its recommendations, focused on what activities are most important to the mission of MRSEA and to make sure that our limited finances be directed to these activities. The board passed the budget recommendations and as a result the MRSEA affiliation with the AFSCME Retiree Program is being terminated.



We look forward to continuing our support of the Sub Chapters and focusing all of our resources on the MRSEA mission of monitoring and advocating for the well being of all state retirees, as we have for almost 70 years.

Sincerely,

Ruth M. Husom



### 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**

IN MEMORY OF ....

**SANDRA J. HALE,**

Sandy served in the cabinet of Governor Rudy Perpich as Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Administration from 1983 - 1991. In 1986, her department's STEP (Strive Toward Excellence in Performance) won a Ford Foundation/Harvard Innovations Award. During this time she was featured in a FORTUNE Magazine article titled, "25 Who Help the U.S. Win." In 1988 she was elected a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. During her career she was awarded the American Society of Public Administration's "Lloyd Short Distinguished Service Award," and the Humphrey Institute's annual "Humphrey Medal for Public Service. Sandra served on the Minnesota Retired State Employees Association board of Directors from 2007-2010.

**ARNOLD BENTDAHL,**

Arnie worked for the MN Highway Department. Arnie was a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, the Eagles Club, a chapter charter member of the Sons of Norway, a member of the Mankato Norwegian Club, a charter member of Kato Wheels (Good Sam camping club). Arnie was a volunteer driver for VINE and volunteered his time at the Summit Center in the creative writing program. Arnie enjoyed camping, watching All Star Wrestling, creative writing, playing piano, traveling, and spending time with family and friends. Arnie also served on the Minnesota Retired State Employees Association Board of Directors from 1990-1996 Arnie also served as long standing President of the Mankato Sub Chapter of MRSEA.

**2ND ANNUAL INSURANCE OPEN ENROLLMENT MEETINGS A SUCCESS**

MMB and MRSEA, working together, produced the 2nd "Annual Open Enrollment Insurance Meeting for Retirees". As set forth in your last newsletter, the five meetings were held in St. Paul (MSRS); Southdale; Mankato; Brainerd and Duluth, between November 5th and 16th . The number of vendors and the number of attendees exceeded last year with the meetings considered a resounding success by all.

The Committee met with MMB on December 17th to de-brief this year's meetings and begin planning for 2011. We will be adding at least one more meeting at MSRS (largest venue) as well as other changes and possible additional sites in 2011.

If you have ideas or questions about these meetings or other insurance issues please give us a call or email us your suggestion.

Your committee continues to monitor and report Congressional and Legislative activities on issues of importance to Minnesota retiree's.

*Committee Chair, FRED V. MAURER*

**2011 SUB CHAPTER MEETING DATES**

**BRainerd**

March 17  
June 16  
September 15  
December 15

**DULUTH**

January 26  
April 27

**MANKATO**

June

**NORTHWOODS**

June

**ROCHESTER**

Spring

**FERGUS FALLS**

February 1  
March 1  
April 5

**MARSHALL  
SOUTHWEST**

April 21

**WEST CENTRAL**

Spring

Non Profit Org.  
US Postage Paid  
Minneapolis MN  
Permit 32797

**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](http://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 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

**Don't forget**, we are changing our renewal process for 2011, we will be sending membership renewals out in February, we will send all names starting with A-L, then M-Z. This will help our limited staff process your renewals more expeditiously. **Thank you in advance for your continued support of MRSEA.**



# MRSEA

Minnesota Retired State Employees Association

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