

MINUTES

**Wednesday, March 12, 2008
Retirement Systems Building
60 Empire Drive, St. Paul, MN**

Board Members Present: Terry Dempsey, Frank Dowzak, Gene Gere, Ruth Husom, Gloria Johnson, John Kuderka, Robert Lundahl, , Richard Mesenburg, Lyle Nelson, Peter Obermeyer,

Board Members Excused: Don Buckner, Dennis Maki, Fred Maurer, Sally Olsen, Yvonne Ross

Others Present: Laura Dobozenski -MRSEA Business Administrator

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

1. Set and Approve Agenda

Motion to approve with two additional items: 11a. Mankato Newsletter and item 11b. Sub Chapter Per Capita Reimbursement Rate, upon a second the motion carried.

2. Approve Minutes

a. February 13, 2008 Minutes

Upon a motion to approve and a second, the motion carried.

3. Accept January 2008 Financial Report

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

4. Membership Report

The Business Administrator reviewed the updated report. Mr. Kuderka inquired about the results of the new format of free memberships. The new retirees will receive a free year with all newsletters, when the renewals are done for 2009 we will know how many members that received the 2008 year free actually joined.

MRSEA, received a letter from a member, stating the member would not renew due to AFSCME's political endorsement. Mr. Kuderka suggested an article in the newsletter explaining that MRSEA does not endorse political elections. Mr. Mesenburg concurred. Mr. Lundahl will use the topic for the letter to the editor column.

5. MRSEA Committee Reports

a. Nominating Committee

Mr. Kuderka distributed the goal sheet for the committee. The primary goal is to identify candidates for elections and vacancies. In the fall to review recruitment material and prepare the newsletter articles for the winter and spring newsletter. The Committee will present the slate of candidates at the March meeting for the Board endorsement.

Mr. Kuderka also stated the entire nominating committee will be up for re-election next year. Mr. Kuderka submitted the newsletter article for the elections.

The nominating Committee reviewed two candidate letters of interest from Ms. Hale, and Ms. Willock. Current Board members seeking reelection are Fred Maurer, Robert Lundahl, Richard Mesenburg and Gloria Johnson. Frank Dowzak has declined to seek reelection.

The Committee has six candidates for five seats and feels all are strong candidates. Ms. Johnson upon further consideration withdrew her name from re-election.

Upon a motion to endorse Hale, Lundahl, Maurer, Mesenburg and Willock for the endorsed slate of candidates for 2008 the motion carried.

Mr. Obermeyer motioned to thank Gloria and Frank for their years of service to the association.

b. Legislative Committee

Mr. Gere will be calling a meeting when the rest of the committee is available. Mr. Gere reported the Post Fund Recommendations have been introduced in both the house and senate. The Bill (HF3421- SF3969) was introduced by the Chair (Murphy) and Vice Chair (Betzhold) of the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement. Hopefully this will be on the agenda for the Pension Commission Hearing soon. A letter will be sent to the Pension Commission outlining our (MRSEA) position, which is very similar to the Post Fund Committee letter.

The Insurance Committee is also working to develop a proposal for HSA's. A letter has been drafted to send to the Minnesota Congressional Delegation, this was done jointly with the Insurance Committee.

Mr. Gere reported there has been no further action on the NARFE Tax Exemption bill.

The Pension Commission met for about four and a half hours and heard many miscellaneous individual interest bills to be included into the Omnibus Bill.

The AFSCME Bill was introduced February 21, 2008 this would allow for automatic deduction from the annuity as requested by annuitant.

c. Insurance Committee

Mr. Obermeyer submitted a draft letter to the Minnesota Congressional Delegation regarding HSA's. Any Board member that may have suggestions for content please contact a committee member or the Business Administrator with suggested comments. The Legislative and Insurance Committee's will continue to work jointly on the draft. MSRS will be contacted to verify accuracy of statements when referencing MSRS.

The Insurance Committee submitted an article for the newsletter.

d. Meeting & Planning Committee

Ms. Johnson reported the Committee is working on the logistics of the Annual Meeting. Mr. Davis has been contacted for technology requirements as well as a biography and photo for the newsletter article.

e. Publications & Communications Committee

Mr. Lundahl reported the Publications Committee met and reviewed several items. The committee will work on proof reading and planned the layout for the new six page format for the spring newsletter. The committee distributed the logo entries received for the board to review. The next newsletter will announce the gas card as an incentive for more entries. The Committee would like to have the articles a week earlier than previously thought, the new deadline is March 21, 2008. The goal is to have the newsletter out to members by April 9, 2008. Another item which caused great concern for the committee was the issue of publishing any board members personal information in a newsletter. The committee is recommending the registrations be mailed to the MRSEA business address and processed from there.

f. Technology Committee

Mr. Kuderka reported Dennis sent information to the technology committee about the web site to review. The new backup computer has been purchased. Dennis and Laura will transfer the information to the new computer.

g. Constitution & By-Law Committee

No Report

6. MN Retiree Council

No Report

7. MSRS Board of Directors

Next meeting is April 3, 2008

8. PEPC

PEPC met March 11, 2008. The meeting was chaired by Julie Bleyhl. About fifteen people were in attendance. They focused on a variety of bills. The Post Fund Bill is being well received by many organizations. AFSCME in general has supported the bill, they have some continuing questions and are meeting next week. MMA has not taken a position yet.

Morgan Fleming, a long time lobbyist indicated he may propose a bill to allow pension exclusion from state income tax for state annuitants. Senator Bach has agreed to hold a hearing on the proposal from Morgan Fleming.

There was a great amount of time spent of the changing demographics of employees. The sense is current employees hear and respond differently than perhaps how retirees hear and respond to issues. March 26, 2008 is the next meeting.

Mr. Dowzak inquired to the two different 1099's. At one time pension contributions were taxed, and then there was a time period when it became pre-taxed.

9. Chapter Liaison Reports

- a. **Brainerd-March 20, 2008**
- b. **Duluth- January 23, 2008**

Mr. Lundahl reported Ross Anderson has expressed interest in being on the MRSEA Board. Ross has been active with the Duluth Sub Chapter. Mr. Ross attended the last AFL-CIO Convention as a delegate for MRSEA; he is also active with AFSCME's Political Club. The Sub Chapter will hold their elections in April 23, 2008. Due to term limits, all the positions are up for election.

- c. **Fergus Falls- First Tuesday of the Month**

Mr. Dowzak reported Fergus Falls meets the First Tuesday of every month. The March meeting had about thirty five to forty people in attendance. This was a social meeting and everyone had a nice lunch.

d. Mankato

The Business Administrator requested item 11a to be discussed under 9d. President Husom opened discussion. The Mankato Sub Chapter requested a newsletter be copied and sent to their members, this was distributed for the Board to review.

One item of concern is the address changes request being sent to the Sub Chapter Officers. These need to be sent to the MRSEA Office. The second is the conflict of our Sub Chapter Charter document limits us to only the meeting notice. The third concern is the MRSEA Office and AFSCME have received several calls from members who have received items and want extra mailings to cease.

Neither the Business Administrator nor AFSCME Council 5 has been able to locate where the mailing is actually originating from. One party in particular had been removed from both our mailing lists over a year ago. The Business Administrator reported she has received requests from several of the Sub Chapters over the last year wanting our mailing list for their area. While the intention of inviting people to a retirement party or to a local event is well intended, it is in violation of the Data Practice Act for MRSEA to distribute any information and we have had to decline the requests.

Mr. Lundahl commented that even if the mailing lists were no longer sent, the mailing labels could be photo copied thereby creating a "list". Mr. Dempsey concurred.

Mr. Lundahl suggested all additional inserts to the meeting notices must be approved by the Board.

Upon a discussion with the President the Business Administrator did send out an email March 7, 2008 notifying all officers any recreating of lists and mailings must cease. The email also was sent to all Board Members.

The Business Administrator received a phone call from the Mankato Sub Chapter Secretary, Mike Smith. Mr. Smith offered to supply the paper for copying the newsletter. The Business Administrator explained she did not have the authority to copy any additional inserts to the meeting notices, per the Sub Chapter Charter Relations Document (all officers have this in their handbook). Mr. Smith was told the Board would be considering this newsletter request today. The goal of the Mankato newsletter is to try to increase membership meeting attendance. This is a new request, to have a Sub Chapter send a newsletter.

Mr. Nelson stated it was reasonable to send the Sub Chapters a list of their particular members.

Mr. Kuderka recognized the dilemma of Data Practice, the MRSEA Sub Chapter Charter Document preventing us from sending the lists, and additions to the meeting notices.

Ms. Husom also recognized we have an agreement with MSRS in regards to usage of lists. All address changes for MRSEA should be done through the MRSEA Business Office.

Mr. Mesenburg commented his concern about the identity theft issue. We have no private information as social security information or MSRS annuitant numbers.

Mr. Kuderka recognized as a Non Profit we are probably subject to Data Practice.

Mr. Mesenburg will work with The Business Administrator to develop a policy statement and an "opt-out" option.

The Business Administrator expressed that she has four Sub Chapter's meeting notices to be processed, and requested a directive as to how to proceed. We currently print labels, send lists, envelopes and postage.

Mr. Lundahl felt we need to maintain our good standing with our agreement with MSRS and our member's information.

Mr. Nelson felt it was a lot of "to do" about nothing. Mr. Mesenburg stated, for those that care, they care a lot.

Mr. Kuderka felt the newsletter is a great idea for Mankato. Our policy of what is copied is prohibitive to them trying to encourage attendance. The Data Practice issues are bureaucratic procedures.

The Business Administrator stated the newsletter is a great idea, perhaps they need to just eliminate the last paragraph and the Board would need to revise the Sub Chapter Charter document.

Mr. Mesenburg stated we have an obligation to make a policy and perhaps locate a copy of the statute. Mr. Mesenburg will work with the Business Administrator to research for further information.

Upon the consensus of the Board, the Business Administrator will now discontinue sending lists to Sub Chapters.

All Sub Chapters will be notified of this change.

e. Rochester

Next meeting is May 9, 2008

f. West Central

Mr. Kuderka reported upon receipt of an email from Darlyne Pogose's desire to continue working on establishing a meeting location and time for June 2008. John and the Business Administrator will try to locate some alternate options for a meeting location and send them to Darlyne. Ms. Husom recommended a few Board members also attend.

Mr. Henneck, former Vice President, has verbally expressed his resignation to Darlyne Pogose. John Beilke, former Treasurer, made a notation on his survey he wants to resign and currently has the checkbook for the Sub Chapter. The Business Administrator reported that their terms have probably expired at this point.

g. Southwest

Next meeting is April 24, 2008

h. Walker Northwoods

Next meeting is June 12, 2008

11. Sub Chapter Reimbursements

Mr. Kuderka inquired if we could possibly enhance the Per Capita Reimbursement for the Sub Chapters. This would be a plus for MRSEA, and also help the Sub Chapters. Currently they receive a two dollar reimbursement per member attending the Sub Chapter Annual Meeting. Mr. Kuderka inquired as to what we pay for reimbursement per capita. Fergus Falls has an additional Sub Chapter Dues of \$2.00.

12. Next Meeting Date April 9, 2008

13. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 3:15

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Dobozenski", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Laura Dobozenski
MRSEA-Business Administrator