

MINUTES

**Wednesday May 14, 2008
Annual Meeting
JIMMY'S BANQUET CENTER
3565 Labore Road, Vadnais Heights, MN**

Board Members Present: Terry Dempsey Frank Dowzak, Gene Gere, Ruth Husom, Gloria Johnson, John Kuderka, Dennis Maki, Robert Lundahl, Fred Maurer, Richard Mesenburg, Lyle Nelson, Peter Obermeyer, Sally Olsen, Yvonne Ross

Board Members Excused: Don Buckner

Guests Present: Jason Davis-KSTP TV; Erin Leonard-MSRS Legislative Assistant

Others Present: Laura Dobozenki -MRSEA Business Administrator

President Husom called the meeting to order at 12:00 Noon and welcomed all the members in attendance.

1. Welcome and Introductions

A. Board Members

President Husom introduced the current board as well as former board members Faye Krohn, Gerry Bloedow, Mike Rajacich and Alice Langevin and sub chapter officers in attendance; Peggy Hildebrandt, Ross Anderson and Linda Pearson.

B. Special Guests

President Husom introduced and welcomed special guests Jason Davis and Erin Leonard.

2. Minutes –Financial Statements

President Husom announced a package of the following items is available for all at check in. 2007 Annual Minutes, 2006 Annual Financial Statement, 2007 Financial Statement unaudited and the proposed By Law changes and MRSEA Accomplishments list.

******LUNCHEON BREAK******

Convene Business Meeting 1:00 M

3. Annual Election

a. Nominating Committee Report

Mr. Kuderka reported the annual nominating procedure starts in the fall seeking interested candidates and setting forth the procedure in the winter newsletter. The spring newsletter identifies the endorsed slate and the election is held at the annual meeting. Floor candidates are welcome. There are five seats up for election. This year three incumbents are seeking reelection and two new candidates; Sandra Hale and Lois Willock.

Mr. Kuderka presented the slate and now turned the nominations over to President Husom.

b. Nominations from the floor

President Husom called for nominations from the floor three times, hearing none; President Husom declared nominations closed.

c. Nominee Introductions

Mr. Kuderka introduced all candidates and invited them to give a brief two minute presentation as to why they should be elected.

Sandra Hale- Served as Commissioner of Administration under Governor Perpich, served as an Associate Professor at the Metropolitan State University and is a member of TRA. Active in the

arts with was the Chairman of the Guthrie Theatre and MN State Arts Board. Also a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, primarily at the federal level in Washington.

Robert Lundahl-Mr. Lundahl is finishing his first three year term and finds being on the board a worthwhile experience that is challenging as well as interesting. Mr. Lundahl has really enjoyed working on the newsletter as it is our main tool of communication. Mr. Lundahl hopes to continue to improve communication with members. Mr. Lundahl welcomes any suggestions for the newsletter.

Fred Maurer- Fred is running for his third term, is also a member of PEPC (25 year president of PEPC). Has also served as liaison to groups for MRSEA such as the State Retiree Council and would appreciate the support to continue a position he enjoys.

Richard Mesenburg- Richard retired from the Dept. of Education; he also serves on the Member Appeals Committee for Health Partners. Mr. Mesenburg finds legislative issues very interesting and enjoys serving on the board. Mr. Mesenburg stated he looked for to the members support to re-elect him to the board.

Lois Willock-

Lois retired from DEED after 30 years. Lois also was very active in AFSCME, as local president for 20 years. Lois was also active on Council 6 Executive Board. One of Lois' memorable moments was serving on the Consolidated Clerical Committee; resulting in the grouping of clerical services to be more flexible to transfer between agencies statewide. Lois is looking forward to serving on the MRSEA board.

Mr. Kuderka stated all five candidates have been heard from, there are no floor candidates and called for a unanimous ballot for the slate candidates. Mr. Kuderka asked for all those in favor to say aye and opposed nay; hearing no nays a new slate was elected.

4. Guest Speakers

Jason Davis- Jason hosts “KSTP’s “On the Road”

Mr. Davis highlighted his historical background and experience as a reporter and journalist with entertaining highlights of behind the scene experiences. In addition Mr. Davis played a video of four interesting and inspirational people that had touched him in a special way. Mr. Davis was very appreciative of the invitation to come speak before MRSEA and thanked everyone for the opportunity.

Erin Leonard-

Ms. Olsen introduced Ms. Leonard, the Legislative Coordinator for MSRS. Ms. Leonard updated the membership that the Pension Bill is in conference Committee’s and is expected to pass. The Post Fund Bill is expected to pass as recommended by MSRS. PERA AND TRA. The goal is to continue to provide a financially secure retirement plan for current and future retirees. Even though the market has not been kind, the plan is well funded. Ms. Leonard expressed appreciation to all the support of MRSEA.

5. Committee Reports

a. Legislative Committee

Mr. Gere reported the most significant activity has been the modifications to the Post Fund Legislation. Mr. Gere commended the Post Fund Committee on their work and inclusiveness of all those who had an interest. MRSEA had threefold goal. 1. Keep the post fund solvent, treat retirees equitably, and optimize retiree benefits. Secondly, the committee has been working with the insurance committee on health care costs options such as working on legislation for MEDICARE to negotiate drug costs. This bill passed the House in five days and has sat in the Senate for a year and a half. Thirdly, we are working on HSA’s for retirees as well as tax exclusions for public pension income, either partially or wholly.

Mr. Gere also urged members to review the handout with candidate questions, and to review the state map of benefit payments statewide by county.

b. Insurance Committee

Mr. Maurer expanded on the HAS initiatives and reported we are partnering with organizations to move forward to make progress with legislation. We also have communicated with the department responsible for health plans and scheduling a meeting to express needs of retirees.

A member from the floor inquired as to the status of insurance through the University, as they are self insured. Mr. Maurer thought most state plans are self insured as to risk.

b. Meeting & Planning Committee

The planning Committee is responsible for planning the program today. Any recommendations for future meetings should be expressed to the committee.

c. Publications & Communications Committee

Mr. Lundahl reported the newsletter is the main subject for the report of the committee. We recently revised our format to expand from a four page newsletter to a six page newsletter. Mr. Lundahl encouraged members to submit any articles to the committee or office.

d. Technology Committee

Mr. Maki reported that the technology committee that in the last year recommended the purchase of new laptops to serve the membership better as well as handles administrative needs. The committee is always looking to assist the other committee through technology. A long term goal is to redesign the web site and to allow us to update our website frequently.

e. Constitution & By-Law Committee

Ms. Olsen thanked Ms. Ross, Ms. Husom and Ms. Dobozenki for their assistance on the revisions.

i. Constitution & By Law Changes for Retiree Chapter 6

Ms. Olsen highlighted this is necessary due to allow a provision to expand the membership. The last two items refer to constitutional cross references. Ms. Olsen called for questions relating to this particular page; given no questions Ms. Olsen moved on to the next item.

ii. By Law 6

Ms. Olsen stated in reviewing the by laws; we had no provision for removal of a member of the board of directors, this allows for the procedure of removal. Ms. Olsen called for questions relating to this particular page; given no questions Ms. Olsen moved on to the next item.

iii. By Law 9

Ms. Olsen reported this inserts the language from our Sub Chapter Document into the By Laws. In addition at item F2, we allow a first year free membership. This also addresses creation, inactivation and dissolution of Sub Chapters. In addition addresses relations between the MRSEA State Board and the Sub Chapters. Ms. Olsen called for questions relating to this particular page; given no questions Ms. Olsen moved on to the next item.

iv. By Law 3

Ms. Olsen clarified upon recommendation of our legal counsel of our PAC, we need to designate a dues year from May 1 of one year-April 30 of the next year, and have that in the By Laws. Ms. Olsen called for questions relating to this particular page. There were no questions.

Ms. Olsen moved the proposed changes to the Constitution and By Laws as presented in the spring newsletter and in the documents handed out today be adopted. President Husom asked for a second, upon a second and having no questions or discussion requested President Husom called the question the motion carried.

6. Elect Delegate and Alternate to AFSCME International Conference

Mr. Gere reported MRSEA routinely sends a delegate to the AFSCME International Conference will held in San Francisco in July. MRSEA feels it is very helpful to send a delegate to have a broader voice to issues. Mr. Gere stated Ms. Husom has been endorsed as the delegate and Ms. Olsen as the alternate to the conference. Mr. Gere called for any floor nominations three times,

hearing none; Mr. Gere called for a unanimous vote, hearing no opposition the motion carried for the nominated delegate and alternate.

7. Membership Report

Ms. Dobozenski reported the status of the current membership as being a membership close to 9000 Members.

8. Presidents Report

Ms. Husom announced the fall membership meeting will be held in the southern outstate area. If anyone had a meeting location suggestion, Ms. Husom asked they contact MRSEA.

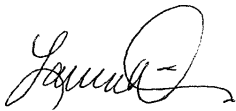
Ms. Husom recognized Frank Dowzak and Gloria Johnson with a commemorative plaque for all their dedication and service to the board.

9. Drawings-

Mr. Dempsey and Ms. Johnson distributed seventeen door prizes.

10. Meeting adjourned 3:35 PM

Respectfully Submitted,



Laura Dobozenski-MRSEA Business Administrator