



MRSEA

Minnesota Retired State Employees Association

Winter 2008

Volume 1 Issue 5



SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT RUTH HUSOM

Blessings and best wishes this Holiday Season. May you and yours have a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

2008 has been a productive year for MRSEA. With All your continued support, I am looking forward to continuing our efforts to protect and improve retiree benefits in he coming year 2009.

A NEW YEAR BRINGS:

- A NEW LOGO
- A NEW WEBSITE
- A NEW PHONE #

MRSEA'S NEW LOCAL PHONE NUMBER

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 12, 2009

952-470-6611

MRSEA'S NEW WEB SITE

MRSEA is moving its web site to a computer hosting site. We are taking advantage of the move by redesigning our web site. We want to provide our membership with more information and to provide a place for our members to go to get all of the latest news, meeting dates and a way to communicate with the Board of Directors. The redesigned web site will have the latest information on Legislative issues, topics that are important to our membership, MRSEA governing documents, financial reports, election process, MRSEA Directors information, MRSEA committee information and updates, copies of our newsletters, minutes of the Board meetings, MRSEA's mission statement, and information about our sub-chapters. We will also publish a calendar of MRSEA and sub chapter events and meeting dates.

The web site will have a new address;

MRSEA.org

Our e-mail address will also change 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.

INSIDE:

- P2 Sub Chapters Presidents Met with Board Legislative Update
- P3 Sub Chapter Information Election of Directors Info
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- P5 A Day in New Ulm
- P6 Sub Chapter Meeting dates

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Toll Free 1-877-487-0402
Metro 952-470-6611
Email: info@mrsea.org
Website: www.mrsea.org

MAILING ADDRESS:

MRSEA
PO BOX 270095
ST. PAUL, MN 55127

SUB CHAPTER PRESIDENTS MEET WITH BOARD

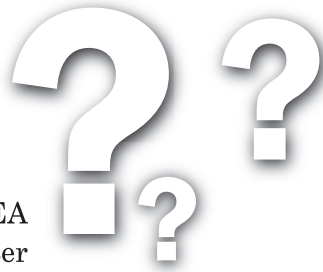
On September 10, the MRSEA Board invited the Sub Chapter presidents to participate in the annual joint meeting at the Board Office in St. Paul. The agenda for the meeting was to brainstorm ways in which both groups could reverse a reported decline in participation of retirees in sub chapter meetings and the decline in membership among new retirees and renewals.

A structured brainstorming process was used to involve all members in attendance.

The process invited participants to respond to a structured question addressing the issue of declining membership. Each participant generated his/her responses to the question. In a round robin fashion, participant responses were listed on flip charts, and then ranked by the participants.

Thirty responses were listed and then ranked in order of their potential use to respond to the issue of increasing membership. The following seven ideas were ranked as most important by the participants:

1. Create a new brochure describing the work of the Sub Chapter
2. Promote MRSEA at pre-retirement workshops held in individual Departments
3. Increase the use of the Newsletter to include information about members.
4. Use local media, i.e. newspapers, radio, TV, electronic media, etc. to promote the Sub Chapters.



Share successful efforts with Sub Chapters and Board

5. Alternate meeting locations and format, i.e. picnics, potluck meals, to facilitate participation
6. Create a Board level budget category to support Sub Chapters
7. Develop mentoring and training processes and materials to support Sub Chapter leadership and development

Member Input Is Invited

The meeting and Planning Committee invites members to comment on the ideas listed in the above articles. A brief questionnaire follows:

1. Which of the seven ideas for strengthening the Sub Chapters do you feel would be most helpful?
2. What are your recommendations for potential sites for the regional Sub Chapter meetings?
3. Do you have recommendations for speakers, or topics?

Please send your responses to the above questions to:

MRSEA
PO BOX 270095
St. Paul, MN 55127
Attention: Richard Mesenburg,
Chair, Meeting and Planning
Committee

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

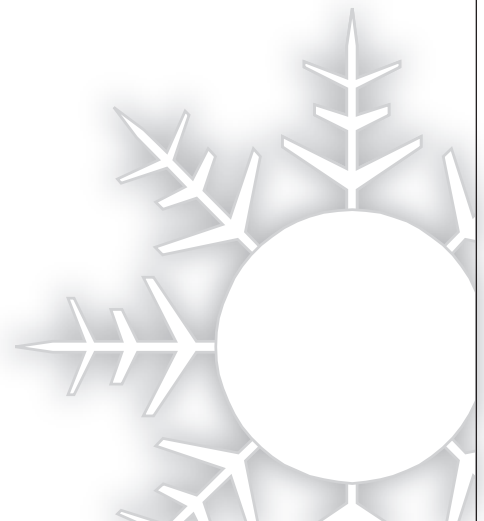
Post Fund to Merge with Active Fund

The Post Fund will merge with the Active Fund effective June 30, 2009. Legislation passed in 2008 called for the merger of the Post Fund assets with the Active Fund assets if the Post Fund fell below 80 percent funding ratio. As of June 30, 2008 the Post Fund was 79.7 percent funded, triggering the merger.

MRSEA supported this legislation to protect the financial security of the retirement system by providing a larger pool of assets from which to pay benefits.

The three statewide retirement systems - MSRS, Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) and Teachers Retirement Association (TRA) - will take their portion of the Post Fund and merge with their Active Fund.

The Plan will pay a fixed 2.5 percent annual adjustment to retirees regardless of inflation or investment returns. If the combined fund reaches full funding, each board will decide if the retirement plan will pay additional inflation increases.



KUDOS TO THE BRAINERD SUB CHAPTER -

The Brainerd Sub Chapter voted to



donate \$100.00 of their funds to the local Salvation Army Food Shelf. This is the second year the sub chapter has donated their per capita reimbursements and canned goods collected from their December meeting to support those in the area.-Great job Brainerd! The Sub Chapter meets quarterly in March, June, September and December-stop in to a meeting sometime and join in the fun.

KUDOS TO THE FERGUS FALLS SUB CHAPTER -

The only Sub Chapter to hold 11 meetings



per year. Quarterly MRSEA Business meetings are held March, June, September and December. The other eight are local business and social meetings. Stop in to the most active sub chapter MRSEA has, and have some fun.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

A fifteen member Board of Directors conducts the business of the Association. This board meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month (except for July & August) and is currently meeting at the Retirement Systems building in St. Paul. The meetings generally take two to three hours. Each year five of the Director positions are open for election which occurs at the annual meeting in May. For the three year terms beginning in 2009 current Directors Gene Gere, Ruth Husom, John Kuderka, Dennis Maki and Peter Obermeyer are at the end of their term. All Directors have decided to run for reelection.

The Nominating Committee is responsible for the initial aspects of the election process. This six member committee is composed of Directors Don Buckner, Terry Demsey, Robert Lundahl, Lyle Nelson, Richard Mesenburg and Yvonne Ross. This committee is charged with reviewing the qualifications of the candidates and recommending a slate of candidates to the Board of Directors and to the Association membership.

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, please submit a letter of interest to the Nominating Committee. This letter should include; a short statement of 100 words or less regarding your work history, skills you would bring to the position and what you would like to accomplish. Please include your name, street address, telephone number and E-mail address (if any) for further contacts with you. The deadline for receipt of your application is February 21st, 2009.

The nominating committee will review the letters of interest and names of other potential candidates. The committee will make its recommendations based on a candidate's expertise, geographic representation and other qualities when recommending the slate of candidates to the Board for endorsement. 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.

If you have any questions call Laura at 952-470-6611
or 1-877-487-0402 (toll free).

Send your letter of interest to the following address:

MRSEA
PO BOX 270095 ST. PAUL, MN 55127
Or by email: info@mrsea.org



MRSEA 2008-2009 BOARD OFFICERS

Ruth M. Husom
President

Sally Olsen
First Vice President

Gene Gere
Second Vice President

Yvonne Ross
Secretary-Treasurer

Lois Willock
Assistant Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Donald M. Buckner

Terry Dempsey

Sandra Hale

John Kuderka

Robert Lundahl

Dennis Maki

Fred V. Maurer

Richard Mesenburg

Lyle Nelson

Peter Obermeyer



MRSEA BOARD MEMBERS



DON BUCKNER- Completed 33 years with the Dept. of Economic Security as a Director, Assistant Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner. He retired in 1989, and has served on the MRSEA Board since 1995. He also served as Federal Advocacy Chair for AARP Minnesota and former member of MSRS Board of Directors. Don currently is on the MRSEA Nominating Committee and serves as Liaison to the Rochester Sub Chapter.

TERRY DEMPSEY- Served in the Legislature for 12 years and as a District Court Judge for ten years. Terry also served on the Minnesota State Board of Aging and Board of Judicial Court. Terry was elected to the Board in May 2007. Terry currently serves on the MRSEA Nominating Committee, Meeting & Planning Committee and on the Legislative Committee.



RUTH HUSOM- Served the State for 45 years in the Dept. of Veteran Affairs, Dept. of Education and retired in 1994 from her position as an Administrative Assistant in the Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Parks. She has served on the MRSEA Board since 1995. Ruth is the current President of MRSEA and oversees all the committees and Sub Chapter Liaison Assignments.

LYLE NELSON- Retired after 28 years as an Administrative Engineer in the State Architects Office in the Department of Administration. While in this position Lyle served as Staff Architect/Engineer on many state building projects. Lyle was elected to the Board in May 2007. Lyle serves on the Nominating , Meeting & Planning and Technology Committees as well as Liaison to the Fergus Falls Sub Chapter.



YVONNE ROSS- completed 34 years of state service in the Departments of Transportation, Education, Trade and Economic Development. Yvonne retired from the MN State College and Universities as the System Director of Classified Service in 1996. Yvonne has served on the MRSEA Board since 1997 and serves on the Retired Persons Political Action Committee. Yvonne also serves on the MRSEA Publications & Communications, Constitution & By -Law Committee and Insurance Committees. Yvonne is Chair of the Nominating Committee as well as Liaison the Southwest/Marshall Sub Chapter.

A Day in New Ulm

Over seventy MRSEA members met in New Ulm on a beautiful October day for the second annual MRSEA Regional meeting. The day began with a tour of the one hundred forty-eight year old Schell Brewery and a visit to the rathskeller so that all could attest to the quality of the root beer and, of course, the “good beer”. Following the tour we reconvened at the Glockenspiel, in the downtown for a concert of German music sung by the Concord Singers. A highlight was the appearance of a group of Naren; “little people from the woods” who entertained our members. Lunch was served at the famous Kaiserhoff Restaurant noted for their wonderful German food. A short business meeting, following lunch, concluded the day.



MRSEA
Retiree Chapter 6
AFSCME, AFL-CIO
300 Hardman Avenue So.
South St. Paul, MN 55075

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U.S. Postage
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St. Paul MN
Permit No. 3603

PROPOSED BY LAW AND ARTICLE AMENDMENTS

The MRSEA By Law and Constitution Committee has proposed the following two changes to be voted upon by the general membership at the Annual May 2009 Membership meeting.

Constitution for Retiree Chapter 6 Article VII, PAGE 5 OFFICER AND ELECTIONS
PROPOSED CHANGE to correct numbering error, change ARTICLE VII to ARTICLE VIII

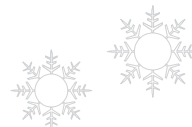
SUB CHAPTER CHARTER RELATIONS DOCUMENT -Amend amount of rebate to reflect Board approved increase to Sub Chapters.
Rebate of Dues-amended \$2.00 to \$3.00 per member attending a Sub Chapter Annual Meeting.

SAVE THE DATE :

MAY 13, 2009

MRSEA's ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING & LUNCHEON
TWIN CITIES METRO AREA

The MRSEA Meeting & Planning Committee are working on the Annual Spring meeting and luncheon. Watch for more information in our spring newsletter and be sure to put May 13, 2009 your calendar.



Minnesota Retired State Employees Association



FUTURE SUB CHAPTER MEETING DATES

PLEASE CONTACT THE MRSEA BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR AT 1-877-487-0402 IF YOU ARE NOT RECEIVING YOUR MEETING NOTICES.

- BRAINERD—** March 19, Bonanza in Baxter, Peggy Hildebrandt, Pres.
- DULUTH—** January 28, 2009, Sunset Bar & Grill, Ross Anderson Pres.
- FERGUS FALLS—** March 2, 2009 Quarterly Business Meeting, always meets First Tuesday of the month, VFW, Vince Thoma, Pres.
- NORTHWOODS—** June 11, 2009, Laverne Kennedy, Pres.
- ROCHESTER—** May 8, 2009 location to be determined, Merton Rew, Pres.
- SOUTH CENTRAL—** June, 2009 -11:30 VFW Riverfront Dr., Mankato, Faye Krohn, Pres.
- SOUTH WEST—** April 23., 2009 11:00 a.m., Wooden Nickel, Evelyn Henderson, Pres.
- WEST CENTRAL—** Spring 2009, Darlyne Pogose, Pres