

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.

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

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Twin Cities, MN
Permit 32797

Do you have a new address or phone number?

Please let us know.

1-877-487-0402

MRSEA PO BOX 416

Excelsior, MN 55331

www.mrsea.org

Join our email list, keep informed about legislative issues, pensions issues, healthcare changes and more.

Send us an email to register or visit our contact page at www.mrsea.org



MRSEA

2019 ANNUAL MEETING

SAVE THE DATE : MAY 15TH 2019

Please mark your calendar now and save the day for our annual meeting. We will feature interesting speakers providing legislative and pension updates as well as board elections.



MRSEA

Minnesota Retired State Employees Association

Winter 2019

Volume 2 Issue 31

INSIDE —

- P1 - 2019 Annual Election Process
- P2 - President's Column
 - Insurance Open Enrollment
- P3 - Membership Drive
 - 2019 Subchapter Meeting Dates

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

2019 ANNUAL ELECTION PROCESS

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MRSEA BOARD MEMBER?

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 a MRSEA Board Member.

The Board of Directors conducts the business of the association. It meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month (except for July & August) currently meeting at the Retirement Systems building in St. Paul. The meetings generally take two to three hours.

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. The Nominating Committee is responsible for the initial aspects of the election process. This committee is charged with reviewing the qualifications of candidates and recommending a slate to the Board of Directors and the Association membership.

We urge all members to seriously consider serving on the board. The topics present challenges. The work is beneficial and rewarding. The time requirement is manageable. And you keep in touch with former co-workers across the state.

NOMINATING PROCEDURE

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;
- ◆ what you would like to accomplish; and,
- ◆ your name, street address, email address (if any) and telephone number for future contacts with you.

The deadline for submission is MARCH 6, 2019.

The Nominating Committee will review the letters of interest and the names of other potential candidates. The committee will consider candidate expertise, geographic representation and other qualities when recommending the slate of Board endorsed candidates. The committee will notify all candidates of the Board's endorsement decisions. Candidates not endorsed will be given the opportunity to have their name placed on the annual voting ballot.

If you have any questions, call or email: info@mrsea.org
952-470-6611 or 1-877-487-0402 (toll free)

Send your letter of interest to the following address:

MRSEA
P.O. Box 416
Excelsior, MN 55331
Or email 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**

Editor's Note:

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



Ernie Palmsten

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Legislative Committee Update in our fall newsletter reported on the passage of the comprehensive pension bill that put Minnesota public pension plans on a trajectory to full funding. Some good news as a result of this pension reform was an increase in the State of Minnesota credit rating. Two Wall Street rating agencies (Fitch, S&P) returned Minnesota to their highest credit rating of AAA.

Both of these developments are positive; however, Minnesota public pension plans still face headwinds such as anti-public pension sentiment and the pressure to lower the assumed rate of return which would negatively impact pension funding. In addition, there is always the possibility of longer life expectancy or market downturns that can affect pension funding.

MRSEA is dedicated to protecting retiree benefits, and the larger our membership is, the better we can protect those benefits. For this reason, we will be having our first membership drive. I hope you will aid us in our effort to increase our membership. Please read the membership drive article in this newsletter and join us in our effort.

Ernie Palmsten

MRSEA President



MRSEA BOARD OFFICERS

Ernest Palmsten
President

John Griebenow
First Vice President

Jeanne Cornish
Second Vice President

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JOHN SHERMAN

MRSEA

2019 INSURANCE OPEN ENROLLMENT

10TH ANNUAL EXCLUSIVE OPEN ENROLLMENT MEETINGS

The Open Enrollment Meetings for Retirees hosted by MRSEA in partnership with MMB (Minnesota Management & Budget) were a success. This was an opportunity for State retirees who have continued in SEGIP to learn more about the insurance coverage offered as their benefit. The Exclusive Retiree Open Enrollment meetings provide MMB and the carriers an opportunity to highlight the Senior Plans and the way they work in conjunction with Medicare. The meeting locations were determined by the higher number of retirees within the program area. This year, the meetings were held in Edina, Mankato, Brainerd, Rochester, Duluth, St. Paul, and St. Cloud.

MRSEA in accordance with its Mission Statement is pleased to be able to promote and educate retirees about the insurance programs through this venue. MRSEA thanks all of our members for your strong show of support and attendance; attending these sessions and participation is vital to keeping the program continuing.



MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Do you know a retired State employee who hasn't joined MRSEA? Do you know a former member of MRSEA who let his/her membership lapse? Are you in a bridge club or on a bowling team with some retired state employees? Please ask them to join MRSEA.

We need retired state employees to join MRSEA to influence the legislature and to block anti-public employee groups working to change public pension plans.

We need to influence the legislature because they control pensions and can change public pensions in the next legislative session. Our new ability to communicate with our members through email means we can notify our membership of any threats to public pensions and how MRSEA plans to respond.

There are groups seeking to undo defined benefit pension plans such as ours. These groups would prefer the State change to less certain and potentially lower paying defined contribution plans. We must counter misleading information these groups propagate with accurate information about the advantages of defined benefit pension plans.

Please encourage other retired state employees to join MRSEA so they will be well informed about public pension issues and will aid us in protecting our earned benefits.

Help recruit new members by giving them a copy of the membership application below or have them go to our website and apply online.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND MAIL APPLICATION TO:

MRSEA PO BOX 416 EXCELSIOR, MN 55331

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

MY EMAIL ADDRESS FOR UPDATES _____

MRSEA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP \$25.00

OPTIONAL DONATION TO MRSEA _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

2019 UPCOMING SUBCHAPTER MEETING DATES

Please visit our website
www.mrsea.org for further
details as they are confirmed.

BRAINERD

Pizza Ranch
14643 Edgewood Drive-Baxter
MARCH 21

DULUTH

Evergreen Sr. Center
5830 Grand Ave.
APRIL 24

MANKATO

Morson-Ario VFW Post #9713
1900 North Riverfront Dr. Mankato
**SECOND MONDAY IN MAY, SEPT.
AND DECEMBER**

NORTHWOODS

Tianna Country Club
**JUNE
OCTOBER**

ROCHESTER

Centerstone Plaza Hotel, Soldiers Field
Alpine Room 401 6th Street S.W.
APRIL 26

FERGUS FALLS

Eagles Ship
120 S. Peck Street, Fergus Falls
**FIRST TUESDAY EVERY MONTH
EXCEPT JULY**

MARSHALL

Praries Edge Casino
APRIL 25

Look For More Details on our website
www.mrsea.org