

2018 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, e-mail address (if any) and telephone number for future contacts with you.

The deadline for submission is **MARCH 2, 2018**.

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**

Editors Note:

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



Ruth M. Husom

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I would like to wish all of you a Happy, Healthy New Year.

I am excited as we move into 2018 and focus on our goals to better serve our members. Some of strategies include:

- *taking a stronger advocate role than a social organization;*
- *redesigning the website to be more user friendly;*
- *develop email database to communicate via email to members;*
- *work with MSRS on establishing an auto deduct from members' pensions; and*
- *dissolution from the PAC Political Action Fund, this will be an agenda item at the annual meeting;*

MRSEA continues to participate in the pre-retirement seminars.

We hope to educate new retirees to the value and mission of being a member of the organization. As a current member you are well aware of the importance MRSEA has played in achieving many of the current benefits and options we have as retirees. Collectively, over the last 78 years as an organization we have made a difference in the lives of Retired State of Minnesota Employees. Our eight greater Minnesota area chapters offer periodic meetings for those living outside the metro area to attend and enjoy luncheons, socialize, seek educational information and participate in the organization. Please encourage anyone you know who is a state retiree and has not joined, to really consider doing so. We also encourage you to visit our website for information about the organization and other topics of interest for state retirees. Please visit us at www.mrsea.org.

I once again would like to thank you for your continued support of MRSEA.

The 2018 renewal year will be underway. I want to thank our returning members whose membership lapsed for a while, and have rejoined!

Sincerely,

MRSEA President



**MRSEA
BOARD OFFICERS**

**Ruth M. Husom
President**

**Ernest Palmsten
First Vice President**

**Beth Arntson
Second Vice President**

**Peter Obermeyer
Secretary-Treasurer**

**John Griebenow
Assistant Treasurer**

DIRECTORS

HOWARD BICKER

EDWARD BUREK

JEANNE CORNISH

JOHN HIRSCHFELD

GERALD KNICKERBOCKER

RICHARD KRUEGER

JAKE MANAHAN

FRED V. MAURER

RICHARD PERKINS

Our Top Reasons to Join MRSEA!

WHY SHOULD YOU BE A MEMBER OF MRSEA?

(Minnesota Retired State Employees Association)

1. MRSEA works to protect your State pension. We are committed to protect retiree benefits and to oppose efforts to diminish these benefits.
2. MRSEA advocates for you in the Legislature. We monitor the Legislature and the Minnesota Retirement System Board of Directors. MRSEA Board members take appropriate action such as attending meetings and meeting individually with members of the Legislature.
3. MRSEA advocates for affordable retiree insurance benefits. We work with MMB (Minnesota Management and Budget) to maintain health and dental coverage and provide access to long term care insurance.
4. MRSEA keeps you informed of important issues that affect you. We will send you three newsletters annually. You may visit the

website anytime for important updates and schedules. Insurance Open Enrollment meetings for retirees are held throughout the State in the Fall.

5. MRSEA is available to you anywhere in the State. There are 8 Sub-chapters: Brainerd, Duluth, Fergus Falls, West Central, Mankato, Rochester, Marshall, and Northwoods.
6. MRSEA sponsors social activities. The Annual Spring Meeting and Luncheon is an opportunity to meet with former co-workers and get updates on benefits. The Fall event, typically a boat trip, gives you a chance to relax with friends. Join us to promote, protect and enhance Minnesota State retiree benefits. Your membership and support is necessary to provide a strong voice. There is strength in numbers. MRSEA is your retirement security.



LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Report on the LCPR (Legislative Commission on Pension and Retirement) January 12, 2018: Myron Franz, the Commissioner of Minnesota Management and Budget, reported that the Governor is interested in pension reform but is waiting until the February economic forecast to present his budget. The commissioner stated that the Governor's budget will be based on current law and he did not know how federal tax changes and taxpayer behavior in response to the changes would affect the budget.

Bond rating agencies appreciate the retirement plans going to a lower assumed rate of return and the concept of shared sacrifice. They also appreciate that the State of Minnesota has a reserve of \$1.2 billion. The commissioner also said that the Governor wants to increase the reserve to \$2 billion.

The rating agency Fitch rates Minnesota as AAA. The commissioner was asked what would the cost be to the state, if the bond rating went from AAA to AA+. The commissioner couldn't give a valuation to that, but said it would make a substantial difference when the state sold bonds.

The commissioner also addressed the issue of deferred augmentation in the context that he is the state's chief financial officer and chief HR officer. He said he is concerned that potential employees will think they are subsidizing longterm employees. It was noted during this discussion that Minnesota and South Dakota are the only state plans that offer deferred augmentation. PERA has already eliminated deferred augmentation.

The MSRS executive director, Erin Leonard, reported that MSRS has assets of \$12 billion and an unfunded liability of \$2 billion. She reported that lowering the assumed rate of return to 7.5% will add \$800 million to the unfunded liability. She also added that if the proposed senate bill had passed their would be a .4% sufficiency in contributions. If we continue with current funding, the unfunded liability will continue to grow.

The PERA executive director addressed the elimination of the COLA trigger which I know is of concern to members of our board. He said that by having a trigger you don't get the benefit of increased funding. The sooner the funding improves, the quicker the liability for the COLA increases. By eliminating the trigger, you can improve funding status without increased contributions. PERA is proposing to tie COLA to 50% of inflation up to 1.5%



2018 SCHEDULED 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 16
JUNE 15

DULUTH

APRIL 25 Evergreen Sr. Center
JULY 25 Pot Luck By The Lake
-Moose Lake

MANKATO

Morson-Ario VFW Post #9713
1900 North Riverfront Dr. Mankato
JUNE 5

NORTHWOODS

Location TBD
OCTOBER TBD

ROCHESTER

Centerstone Plaza Hotel, Soldiers Field
401 6th Street S.W., Rochester, MN, 55902
APRIL 27

FERGUS FALLS

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

MARSHALL

Location TBD
SEPTEMBER TBD

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CALL OR EMAIL:



info@mrsea.org

952-470-6611 or 1-877-487-0402 (toll free)



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

Non Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
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



MRSEA

2018 ANNUAL MEETING

SAVE THE DATE : MAY 9TH 2018

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 2018

Volume 1 Issue 28

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- Our Top Reasons to Join MRSEA!
- P3 - Legislative Committee Update
- P4 - 2018 Annual Meeting **SAVE THE DATE**
May 9, 2018

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