

2018 ANNUAL MEETING KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

STEVEN SEXTON

Steven Sexton is an Enrolled Agent who has worked for H & R Block in south Minneapolis for the last 14 years. As a Master Tax Advisor, Steve serves as a Field Instructor, training other tax preparers in addition to serving clients directly. Early in his career, he worked as a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries for several local insurance companies, specializing in insurance corporate taxation. Between these two stints in corporate America, Steve pursued his passion for preparing delicious food as a professional baker, most recently as the pastry chef at the White Bear Yacht Club. A native of Superior, Wisconsin, he has lived in the Twin Cities since 1975.

ERIN LEONARD

Erin Leonard is the Executive Director of MSRS. Erin will be informing us of current legislative and pension issues regarding retirees.

SHANNON TUPPER

Shannon Tupper is an insurance benefits specialist with MMB. Shannon will be updating us regarding insurance issues.



MRSEA

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.*





Ruth M. Husom

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Annual Membership Meeting is quickly approaching. Register for this event and join us for informative presentations by Erin Leonard, Executive Director of MSRS and Shannon Tupper, Insurance Benefits Specialist with MMB.

We will also be discussing the important topic of the dissolution from the PAC Political Action Fund, which will be an agenda item at the annual meeting.

Our strength is your security. You can be very proud of your career in state employment. One of the rewards is knowing you've earned the right to a secure and enjoyable retirement.

Retired state employees founded MRSEA in the 1940's to help each other keep in touch and to provide opportunities for getting together with former co-workers. We expanded our focus in the early 1970's to include advocacy on behalf of our members—particularly in the area of state pensions.

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.

I would also like to thank Edward Burek for his three years of service on the board. At this time Edward has opted to not seek another three year term. I am please to inform you he will be continuing via an appointment to fulfill a one year vacant seat.

Join us online at our newly designed website www.mrsea.org

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

GERALD KNICKERBOCKER

RICHARD KRUEGER

JAKE MANAHAN

FRED V. MAURER

RICHARD PERKINS

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MRSEA WEBSITE IMPROVEMENTS!

The new and improved MRSEA website (www.mrsea.org) should be up and running by the time this newsletter reaches your mailbox. It is greatly enhanced from the prior website and includes the ability to obtain/renew a MRSEA membership online. Please visit the website contact page to send us your contact information and email address so we can better communicate with you.



MRSEA MINNESOTA RETIRED STATE
EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Our Strength Is Your Security

WWW.MRSEA.ORG



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018 ELECTION PROCESS AND SLATE OF CANDIDATES

Each year, five positions on the Board of Directors for the Minnesota State Retired Employees Association are up for election. In the fall of each year, current directors are surveyed to determine their interest in running for another three year term. Subsequently, an announcement is made in the winter newsletter soliciting MRSEA members who are interested in running to submit a letter of interest and qualifications for board membership. The Nominating Committee of the Board then determines which (if any) of the candidates are recommended for endorsement. Any candidates not receiving endorsement may have their name placed on the ballot as well. The election of Board of Directors members takes place at the annual meeting in May. At the meeting, endorsed candidates are requested to make a short statement regarding their work history and reasons for their desire to serve on the Board. Any other candidates requesting to be on the ballot or nominated at the meeting have the opportunity to address the attendees at meeting as well. A member nominated from the floor and not at the meeting must provide a written statement to be read at the meeting which states their qualifications and wishes to be on the board.

Four candidates are current incumbent Directors on the Board: Griebenow, Husom, Knickerbocker and Obermeyer. All candidates' names will appear on the ballot for the election of Directors at the May Annual Meeting

If a printed ballot is required the ballot election is conducted at the meeting. If no printed ballot is required a voice vote is conducted at the meeting. Each candidate must receive a majority of the vote to be elected. Candidates elected begin serving at the next (June) meeting of the Board.

2018 SLATE OF CANDIDATES


MRSEA

JOHN GRIEBENOW

John retired from the Minnesota State Board of Investment (MSBI) in 2014 with over 34 years of employment at the MSBI. A Chartered Financial Analyst with MBA and B.S. degrees in Business Administration from the University of Minnesota, John was the manager of Alternative Investments at MSBI in St. Paul, Minnesota for over 30 years.

RUTH HUSOM

Ruth retired in 1994. She served the state for 45 years in the Dept. of Veteran Affairs, Dept. of Education, and the Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Parks where she worked as an Administrative Assistant. Ruth is the current President of MRSEA and oversees all committees and Sub-Chapter Liaison Assignments. She has served on the MRSEA Board since 1995.

GERALD KNICKERBOCKER

Gerald retired in 1995 after serving in the Minnesota House of Representatives for 22 years. He was elected to the positions of Assistant Majority Leader, Assistant Minority Leader and House Caucus Leader; served as Chair of the Rules Committee,

Governmental Operations Committee, Midwest Council Conference of State Governments, Legislative Coordination Commission, Legislative Commission on Employee Relations and the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement; served on the Appropriations, Education, Financial Institutions and Insurance, Judiciary, Commerce and Labor, and Local Government and Metro Affairs Committees. Gerald also served on the Legislative Audit Commission and the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement for 14 years and has served on the Retired Persons Political Action Committee for several years. He has served on the MRSEA board since 2013

PETER OBERMEYER

Peter retired from the Bureau of Mediation Services in 2003. During his career with the BMS he served as commissioner, mediator, and hearing officer. He currently serves as an arbitrator and mediator of labor management disputes in the public, private and non-profit sectors. He has served on the MRSEA Board since 2006.



LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement (LCPR) unanimously passed a bipartisan Omnibus Pension Bill (SF2620/HF3053) on March 13th and was referred to the House and Senate. The bill has now passed through several Senate committees and on March 26th it passed unanimously on the Senate floor. That Senate bill has now been sent to the House and currently sits in the House Government Operations Committee. This bill is the product of three years of work but it still has a ways to go.

This bill puts \$2.3 billion in state aid into Minnesota's statewide public pensions over a 30 year amortization period. This new funding plus increases in employee contributions and reductions in benefits should put the retirement plans on the path to full funding. This is not only beneficial for the statewide retirement plans, but credit rating agencies will see that the state is managing its retirement obligations in a fiscally sound manner. Hence, allowing Minnesota's credit rating to remain solid.

The main effect to Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS) retirees is that our cost of living increases (COLA) will go from 2% to 1% for five years, then to 1.5%. This is a favorable position compared to Teachers Retirement Association (TRA) who will go from the current 2% to 1% for five years and then the rate will increase by .1% for another five years until it reaches 1.5%. Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) will be 50% of the Social Security increase, but no less than 1% and no greater than 1.5%. The differences in the COLA formulas for each plan reflect the financial position of each plan.

The LCPR will conduct a study regarding the purpose of cost of living increases and whether current law is consistent with that purpose, or if other approaches to determining a COLA would be more appropriate.

As you have read in this newsletter, MRSEA has a new website. MRSEA will now be able to keep our members better informed. Please use the website to keep updated on the progression of the current legislation.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CALL OR EMAIL:

www.mrsea.org

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

2018 UPCOMING MRSEA SUB-CHAPTER MEETING DATES

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

BRAINERD

Pizza Ranch
14643 Edgewood Drive-Baxter
JUNE 14
SEPT 2

DULUTH

JULY 25 Pot Luck By The Lake
-Moose Lake

MANKATO

Morson-Ario VFW Post #9713
1900 North Riverfront Dr. Mankato
JUNE 4
SEPT 10

NORTHWOODS

Location TBD
JULY 7

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

Prairies Edge Casino
APRIL 26

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



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MRSEA'S 2018 ANNUAL MEETING & SPRING LUNCHEON

LOCATION: JIMMY'S CONFERENCE CENTER 3565 LABORE ROAD, VADNAIS HEIGHTS, MN
DATE: MAY 9, 2018 **REGISTRATION and Brunch Buffet:** 10:30am-11:30pm
GUEST SPEAKER: Steven Sexton, Master Tax Advisor
GUEST SPEAKER: Erin Leonard, Executive Director MSRS
GUEST SPEAKER: Shannon Tupper, MMB SEGIP Benefits Specialist

From the NORTH

35E South, Exit County Road E East, Left on County Road E to Labore Road, Right on Labore Road, Entrance on Right

From the SOUTH

335E North, First exit past 694 (County Road E East), Right on County Road E East to Labore Road, Right on Labore Road, Entrance on Right

From the EAST

694 West to 35E North, First exit (County Road E East), Right on County Road East to Labore Road, Right on Labore Road, Entrance on Right

From the WEST

694 East to 35E North, First exit (County Road E East), Right on County Road E East to Labore Road, Right on Labore Road, Entrance on Right

*Please use Conference Parking lot on Labore Road**



REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES THE GRAND AFTERNOON BUFFET

Scrambled Eggs with Cheese, Bacon, Sausage, Cheesy Hash browns, Tossed Salad, Champagne Chicken, Roast Beef with Au jus, Mashed Potatoes, Sweet Buttered Corn, Rolls and Butter, Coffee and Juices

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO MRSEA

Mail to: MRSEA

PO BOX 416 Excelsior MN 55331

ATTENTION REGISTRATIONS

Do not include any other correspondence or dues renewals with your registration.

Your registration may not be received in time

**** RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY May 3rd 2018 ** NO REFUNDS IF NOT NOTIFIED BY May 3rd 2018****

I/We plan to attend the Spring Annual Meeting & Luncheon May 9, 2018

Member Name: _____ Address _____

Phone (_____) Dept. Retired From _____

Guest Name: _____

Guest Name: _____

Guest Name: _____

Registration Fee is \$25.00 per person

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$25.00 X _____ = \$ _____

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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Do you have a new address or phone number?

Please let us know.

1-877-487-0402

MRSEA PO BOX 416

Excelsior, MN 55331

REGISTRATION INSIDE: MAY 9TH, 2018

2018 ANNUAL MEETING & SPRING LUNCHEON

JIMMY'S, VADNAIS HEIGHTS, MN



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MIRSEA

Minnesota Retired State Employees Association

Spring 2018

Volume 1 Issue 29

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CONTACT INFORMATION:

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