

**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.  
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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

**REGISTRATION INSIDE: MAY 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2019**

**2019 ANNUAL MEETING & SPRING LUNCHEON**

**JIMMY'S, VADNAIS HEIGHTS, MN**



**MRSEA**



# MRSEA

Minnesota Retired State Employees Association

Spring 2019

Volume 2 Issue 32

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## CONTACT INFORMATION:

Toll Free 1-877-487-0402

Web: [www.mrsea.org](http://www.mrsea.org)

Email: [info@mrsea.org](mailto:info@mrsea.org)

## MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. BOX 416

Excelsior, MN 55331

# 2019 ANNUAL MEETING GUEST SPEAKERS

## 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 a insurance benefits specialist with MMB. Shannon will be updating us regarding insurance issues.

*MRSEA Board members are attempting to have a member of the Governor's Office make a presentation during the annual meeting but as of the date of the newsletter we have not received a commitment.*



# 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.*





Ernie Palmsten

**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

*Major pension legislation was passed last year which improved the funding of Minnesota public pensions. During the March 5th Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement meeting, Mansco Perry, Executive Director of the State Board of Investment (SBI), Myron Franz, Commissioner of Minnesota Management and Budget, and Erin Leonard, Executive Director of the Minnesota State Retirement System, (MSRS) were asked to comment on how the 2018 law changes affected their organizations and any headwinds that they see for public pensions.*

*Erin Leonard reported that with contribution rates increasing to 6% for employees and 6.25% for employers totaling 12.25% there should be sufficient income to put MSRS on a positive funding trajectory, thus helping to eliminate our unfunded liability.*

*For more information on Executive Director Leonard's report and the reports by Executive Director Perry and Commissioner Franz, please go to our website at MRSEA.ORG and click on our report for the March 5th meeting in the Important Updates section.*

*May 15th will be our annual meeting at Jimmy's Event Center in Vadnais Heights. For those who would like to listen to experts regarding our pensions and health insurance, I recommend attending. Please complete the reservation form in this newsletter and send it in before the deadline.*

*Our membership drive is continuing. If you know a Minnesota state retiree who is not a member, please ask them to join and get involved. Conveniently, they may go to our website to join online.*

*Hope to see you at the annual meeting next month.*

*Ernie Palmsten*

*President MRSEA*



**MRSEA BOARD OFFICERS**

**Ernest Palmsten  
President**

**John Griebenow  
First Vice President**

**Jeanne Cornish  
Second Vice President**

**Peter Obermeyer  
Secretary-Treasurer**

**Jake Manahan  
Assistant Treasurer**

**DIRECTORS**

**BETH ARNTSON**

**HOWARD BICKER**

**NANCY BLUME**

**EDWARD BUREK**

**WAYLAND CAMPBELL**

**GERALD KNICKERBOCKER**

**RICHARD KRUEGER**

**D. WILLIAM O'BRIEN**

**RICHARD PERKINS**

**JOHN SHERMAN**

**MRSEA**

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT**

Proposed Amendment to be voted on at the MAY 15TH Annual Meeting.

All references are to the CONSTITUTION FOR MINNESOTA RETIRED STATE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION, which is dated May 11, 2011. The proposed amendment reads as follows:

"ARTICLE V, Section 5, of the Constitution is amended to read as follows:

Section 5. Action of Directors.

Any act of the majority of directors present at any meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the board. An action required or permitted to be taken at a board meeting may be taken by written action, signed or consented to by any electronic communication, including without limitation email, voicemail, or phone conversation, by the number of directors that would be required to take the same action at a meeting of the board at which all directors are present."



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019 ELECTION PROCESS AND SLATE OF CANDIDATES

Each year, five positions on the Board of Directors for the Minnesota 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 is recommended for endorsement. Any candidate 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 has the opportunity to address the 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.

One candidate is a current Director on the board, Rick Perkins. Five 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.

## 2019 SLATE OF CANDIDATES


**MRSEA**

### **RICK PERKINS** Endorsed Incumbent

After graduating from college, I worked for three years in management positions with farm cooperatives in Wisconsin and Minnesota. I left the work world for law school and after completing the program at William Mitchell, St. Paul, I entered private practice for sixteen (16) years, in Rochester and LeSueur, Minnesota. I was appointed to the bench in the First Judicial District in 1994 and was subsequently elected and re-elected, retiring in 2014. I continue to work as a Senior (retired) Judge in the First District and by appointment of the Supreme Court on statewide judicial panels. I was elected to the MRSEA board in 2016. On behalf of the organization, I act as Board liaison to the Mankato subchapter and to the Minnesota State Retirement System board. I wish to continue serving on the board.

### **RON KOEHN**

I retired in 2016 after a thirty year career with MNDOT as an engineer. The last few years of work I mentored and trained interns in doing construction plan reviews. The training I did was a way I felt I could help "pay it forward". I want to continue to do this while in retirement. One of the ways is to preserve our pension and health benefits for current and future retirees. In addition, I also participated in the "day on the hill" meetings with legislators for my union while I was an employee.

### **BRUCE ADAMS**

I graduated in 1972 from St. Cloud State College. I taught Jr. High math and science classes for two years prior to applying for a position for a Field Weights and Measures Investigator in the Dept. of Public Service. That position started my forty-one year career with the State. I retired in 2016 and have been an election judge, worked security for the main security contractor of the last fourteen Super Bowl games. I also participate with Toastmasters International, Dakota County 4-H, Burnsville Parks and Natural Resources Commission and Planning Commission. The purpose and objectives of MRSEA deserve support of all of us that are retired.

# 2019 SLATE OF CANDIDATES cont.

## MICHAEL LANDERS

I served for 27 years as a finance specialist with the Minnesota Department of Education. In this capacity, I was responsible for several areas in developing budget forecasts; completed fiscal notes pertaining to any legislative proposals in my area of expertise. Currently, I'm working with the Minneapolis Regional Retiree Council and the State Retiree Council on a number of issues including income and health care security for seniors. I would like to continue MRSEA's work in protecting and strengthening our pension system and in ensuring the long-term solvency of the Social Security System. It is also critical to ensure that state retirees have a voice at the table when retiree health plans are addressed.

## DAVE HAMMER

The MRSEA Mission Statement is aimed at some of the same topics which are important to me. Meaningful deliberation to give positive outcomes a chance; gaining and providing information to aid in one's personal as well as decision-making deliberations; communicating with other persons and groups who may be stakeholders; and, of course, gaining and continuing social contact. I earned a MS in School Administration. I have also taught classroom instruction at the high school and university levels, adult night courses, and 6th grade Sunday School Classes, research and project development for public schools as a Project Director for the MN Dept. of Education, Chief Financial Officer for major departments/divisions at both the U of M and State of MN, manager at a charitable non-profit foundation and a state-wide public employee retirement association and, also, volunteer involvement at a variety of levels in community and church organizations.



The Legislature has been in session for three months. The Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement (LCPR) has been meeting every Tuesday since February 26th. The MRSEA Legislative Committee has been tracking the Minnesota State Retirement administrative bill which contains housekeeping items regarding various plans and was added to the omnibus pension bill. The omnibus pension bill was designated HF 2583 at the LCPR meeting on March 19th.

At the LCPR meeting of March 19th there was testimony on a proposed bill which would require the State Board of Investment to divest from direct investment in fossil fuel companies by July 2024. For detailed information about this bill go to our website MRSEA.ORG and click on important updates regarding the March 19 LCPR meeting.

## IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CALL OR EMAIL:

[www.mrsea.org](http://www.mrsea.org)

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




## MRSEA 2019 UPCOMING SUBCHAPTER MEETING DATES

Please visit our website  
[www.mrsea.org](http://www.mrsea.org) for further  
details as they are confirmed.

### BRAINERD

Pizza Ranch  
14643 Edgewood Drive-Baxter  
JUNE 20

### DULUTH

Evergreen Sr. Center  
5830 Grand Ave.  
APRIL 24

### MANKATO

Morson-Ario VFW Post #9713  
1900 North Riverfront Dr. Mankato  
MAY 13

### NORTHWOODS

Location TBD  
JUNE 13

### 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](http://www.mrsea.org)



MRSEA

# MRSEA'S 2019 ANNUAL MEETING & SPRING LUNCHEON

**LOCATION: JIMMY'S CONFERENCE CENTER 3565 LABORE ROAD, VADNAIS HEIGHTS, MN**

**DATE: MAY 15, 2019 REGISTRATION and Brunch Buffet: 11:00am-12:00 Noon**

**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.**

**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 9th 2019 \*\* NO REFUNDS IF NOT NOTIFIED BY May 9th 2019\*\***

**I/We plan to attend the Spring Annual Meeting & Luncheon May 15, 2019**

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 \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_