

**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. You may submit any changes online at [mrsea.org](http://mrsea.org). Simply go to the contact us page, click on membership information, then click address change, or call 1-877-487-0402, or regular mail MRSEA PO BOX 416 Excelsior, MN 55331



## 2017 ANNUAL MEETING SAVE THE DATE : MAY 10<sup>TH</sup> 2017



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 2017

Volume 1 Issue 25

## INSIDE —

- P1 - Interested in becoming a board member?
- P2 - President's Column
- P3 - 2017 Sub Chapter Meeting Dates
  - Insurance Committee Report
- P4 - SAVE THE DATE -MAY 10 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

**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

# 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 an 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 **FEBRUARY 27, 2017**.

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.



## 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.*

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

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





Ruth M. Husom

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

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

*MRSEA is very excited to be participating 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 may know of 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](http://www.mrsea.org).*

### ***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.*

*I once again would like to thank you for your continued support of MRSEA. The 2017 renewal year will be underway. I want to thank our returning members whose membership lapsed for a while, and have rejoined!*

Best Regards,

*Ruth M. Husom*  
President MRSEA



## 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**

**CATHERINE HENNESSEY**

**GERALD KNICKERBOCKER**

**RICHARD KRUEGER**

**FRED V. MAURER**

**RICHARD PERKINS**



## 2017 MRSEA SUB CHAPTER MEETING DATES

### BRainerd

Pizza Ranch 14643 Edgewood Dr.  
Baxter, MN

**MARCH 16**

**JUNE 15**

**SEPTEMBER 21**

**DECEMBER 14**

### DULUTH

Evergreen Sr. Center  
5830 Grand Ave. Duluth

**JANUARY 25** Evergreen Sr. Center

**APRIL 26** Evergreen Sr. Center

**JULY 26** Potluck By The Lake-Moose Lake

**OCTOBER 25** Evergreen Sr. Center

### MANKATO

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

**JUNE 5**

**SEPTEMBER 11**

**DECEMBER 4**

### NORTHWOODS

Lucky Moose  
441 Walker Bay Blvd.

**JUNE 8**

**OCTOBER -TBD**

### ROCHESTER

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

**APRIL 28**

**OCTOBER 27**

### FERGUS FALLS

Eagle Arie Ship  
120 S. Peck St. Fergus Falls  
**FIRST TUESDAY EVERY MONTH  
EXCEPT JULY**

### MARSHALL

Hitching Post  
1104 East Main St., Marshall

**APRIL 27**

**SEPTEMBER 28**

### WEST CENTRAL

Spring TBD  
Fall TBD



## INSURANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

### 8TH 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 and St. Paul, with over one thousand retirees attending.

MRSEA in accordance with its Mission Statement is pleased to be able to promote and educate retirees about the insurance programs through this venue. This year, we had 1100 retirees attend these meetings so the program continues to grow. 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.