

2017 ANNUAL MEETING & GUEST SPEAKERS



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**



MANSCO PERRY,

Executive Director and CIO of State Board Of Investment

Mansco Perry was named Executive Director and Chief Investment Officer of the Minnesota State Board of Investment (MSBI), effective October 21, 2013. The MSBI is responsible for the management of pension and other state assets, totaling \$80 billion.

Prior to his appointment at the MSBI, Mansco served as the Chief Investment Officer of Macalester College, Chief Investment Officer of the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System, Assistant Executive Director and Deputy Chief Investment Officer of the Minnesota State Board of Investment. He has held various financial management positions at Cargill, Inc., Dayton Hudson Corporation, Target Stores, the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis and the Minnesota Department of Revenue.

Mansco has a BA from Carleton College, an MBA from the University of Chicago and a JD from the William Mitchell School of Law. He was awarded the Chartered Financial Analyst, the Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst, and the Certificate in Investment Performance Measurement designations. Mansco was admitted to practice law in the State and Federal District courts of Minnesota. He serves on the Board of Trustees of William Mitchell College of Law. Previously, he served on the Board of Directors Minnesota Philanthropy Partners and Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis. He has also served as a member of the Investment Advisory Council of the New York State Teachers Retirement System and on the Investment Committees of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Carondelet and the University of Baltimore Foundation.

Mansco was born in Newark, New Jersey. He is married to Nancy, and is the proud father of his two young daughters, Katherine Mei Xiaobing and Anna Hua. Mansco is an avid baseball fan and collector of baseball memorabilia. His other hobbies and interests include golf and numismatics.

ERIN LEONARD- *Executive Director of the Minnesota State Retirement System*

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

SHANNON TUPPER- *Minnesota Management and Budget Insurance Specialist*

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



MRSEA

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 Mansco Perry, Executive Director of the SBI, Erin Leonard, Executive Director of MSRS and Shannon Tupper, Insurance Benefits Specialist with MMB.

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.

As a retired state employee and president of the Minnesota Retired State Employees Association, I invite you to join with us and become a participating member renewing your 2017 membership. Please visit our website at www.mrsea.org for more details.

WHY SHOULD YOU BE A MEMBER OF MRSEA?

- MRSEA works to protect your State pension. We are committed to protect retiree benefits and to oppose efforts to diminish these benefits.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- MRSEA is available to you anywhere in the state. There are eight subchapters: Brainerd, Duluth, Fergus Falls, West Central, Mankato, Rochester, Marshall, and Northwoods.
- 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.

Sincerely,

MRSEA 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

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EDWARD BUREK

JEANNE CORNISH

GERALD KNICKERBOCKER

RICHARD KRUEGER

FRED V. MAURER

RICHARD PERKINS

MRSEA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017 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.

Three candidates are current incumbent Directors on the Board. Bicker, Krueger and Maurer. 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.

SLATE OF CANDIDATES

Howard Bicker- Retired in November of 2013 after 43 years with the Minnesota State Board of Investment. For the past 34 years he served as the Executive Director and Chief Investment Officer and was directly responsible for the investment of all the statewide retirement plans.

Jack Hirschfeld- Jack was a CPA initially employed by the MN Dept. of Agriculture as an accounting officer overseeing the financial activities of the Grain Division. Subsequent to this position Jack was employed by the Minnesota Office of the Legislative Auditor for 26 years. During this period I was supervisor over the audit of the State Board of Investment for several years, gaining knowledge of the investment of state pension funds and the responsibilities of the individual state pension funds.

Richard Krueger- retired in 2012 after having worked for the State of MN for over 44 years. The last 25 years Richard worked for the Minnesota Racing Commission including the last 22 years as the Commission's Executive Director. Beginning in 1985 he was instrumental in proposing and implementing the rules governing pari-mutuel gambling and racing. Mr. Krueger served four years on the Board of the Association of Racing Commissioners International and 10 years on that association's Model Rules Committee.

John Manahan- retired in 2003. Having a broad background in the private practice of law, in public service, and in the political process, John's work history includes: General practice of law from 1973 - 1987, and from 2003 to the present; Deputy State Treasurer from 1987 - 2003; served as the State Treasurer's representative on the Investment Advisory Council of the SBI for 16 years; served as the chair of the Information Policy Council for state government from 1993 -2003.

Fred Maurer- Retired as Pavement Management Operations Coordinator with MN DOT. Serving, as Past President of the Minnesota Government Engineers Council. Fred has served in a leadership role for the Public Employees Pension Coalition (PEPC) and has served on the MRSEA Board since 2003. Fred is the current Co-Chair of the MRSEA Insurance Committee as well as the serving on Legislative Committee.

CANDIDATES cont.

Board members Beth Arntson and Jeanne Cornish have opted to continue serving on the board by fulfilling a vacant seat which will be appointed by the board. Each seat is a two year term.

Beth Arntson- Retired in 2012 after 36 years with the state in a variety of human resources positions in several agencies. In addition to generalist positions, Beth served as HR Director of Trade and Economic Development for 7 years, Staffing Manager for the MnSCU System for 7 years; Chief HR Officer for Rochester Community and Technical College for 5 years and Workforce Planner for DHS for 4 years.

Jeanne Cornish- Jeanne retired 5 years ago after working at Metropolitan State University for 23 1/2 years as an academic advisor. Jeanne was in the Minnesota State University Administrative and Service Faculty union (MSUAASF), affiliated with Teamsters Local 320. During that time, Jeanne had started teaching at Metro State, and after 11 years of part-time teaching, decided that she was ready for this new direction. While working at Metro State, Jeanne served for many years on the MSUAASF contract negotiations team was a member of the Joint Labor-Management Committee on SEGIP (also known as the Coalition Bargaining Team during contract negotiations), served as both campus and state union president, and for several years was one of two MSUAASF representatives on MNSCU's DCR Advisory Committee.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

As you know from reading the Minnesota State Retirement System newsletter, MSRS faces a funding deficit due to two factors. One, people are living two years longer according to updated life expectancy tables. In fact, Minnesota has the second longest life expectancy after Hawaii. Two, in 2016 MSRS lowered its assumed rate of return on future investments from 8.5% to 8%. MSRS is proposing lowering the rate further to 7.5% based on expected interest rates, expected inflation, and asset performance projections. Because of the lower expected rate of return more funding is required. These two factors plus lower than expected earnings over the past couple of years has created a funding deficiency of 2.6 billion dollars.

To address this deficiency and put MSRS on a path to full funding they are proposing an

approach which represents a shared sacrifice on the part of retirees, active members and the employer. MSRS is proposing to increase employee contributions by .5% to a total contribution of 6% of salary. The employer contributions would increase, in stages, by 2.5% to 8% of salary. In addition, MSRS is proposing to reduce future post retirement increases (sometimes called COLA) to 1.5%

The Board of Directors of MRSEA is committed to protecting the interests of retirees and the defined benefit pension plan for future state employees. After careful consideration of the situation, the MRSEA Board chose to support the MSRS proposal for two reasons. First, to share the sacrifice of reducing the funding deficiency. Second, to limit the reduction of the COLA to not more than the proposed .5%. We will oppose any reduction larger than .5%. Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) is currently receiving a 1% COLA and Teachers Retirement Association (TRA) is proposing to reduce their COLA to 1%. TRA had no COLA increase in 2011 and 2012.

2017 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

JUNE 15
SEPTEMBER 21
DECEMBER 14

DULUTH

APRIL 26 Evergreen Sr. Center
JULY 26 Pot luck 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
Alpine Room
401 6th Street S.W., Rochester, MN, 55902

APRIL 28
OCTOBER 27

FERGUS FALLS

Eagles Ship
120 S. Peck Street, Fergus Falls

FIRST TUESDAY EVERY MONTH
EXCEPT JULY

MARSHALL

APRIL 27
Prairies Edge Casino Granite Falls
SEPTEMBER 28

WEST CENTRAL

FALL - TBD

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CALL OR EMAIL:

info@mrsea.org

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



MRSEA

MRSEA'S 2017 ANNUAL MEETING & SPRING LUNCHEON

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

DATE: MAY 10, 2017 REGISTRATION & SOCIAL TIME: 11:00 am-12:00pm

GUEST SPEAKER: Mansco Perry, Executive Director SBI

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

35E 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*

SELECT ONE ENTRÉE PER PERSON

Option 1 : Pork Tenderloin Medallions

With a Hard Cider Sauce, Baby Red Potatoes and Sautéed Vegetables, Tossed Salad, Rolls and Butter

Option 2: Broiled Walleye

With Lemon Cream Sauce, Wild Rice Blend and Sauteed Vegetables, Tossed Salad, Rolls and Butter

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 1st, 2017 ** NO REFUNDS IF NOT NOTIFIED BY May 1st, 2017****

I/We plan to attend the Spring Annual Meeting & Luncheon May 10, 2017

Member Name: _____ Address _____

Phone (_____) Dept. Retired From _____

Entrée Selection _____ \$ _____

Guest Name: _____ Entrée Selection _____ \$ _____

Guest Name: _____ Entrée Selection _____ \$ _____

Guest Name: _____ Entrée Selection _____ \$ _____

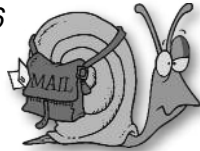
Registration Fee is \$23.00 per person **TOTAL ENCLOSED \$23.00 X _____ = \$ _____**

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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Permit 32797

Do you have a new address or phone number?
Please let us know. You may submit any changes online at mrsea.org. **MEMBER INFORMATION**, select **Address Change**, complete and submit online form, or call 1-877-487-0402 or regular mail MRSEA PO BOX 416 Excelsior, MN 55331



SAVE THE DATE: SEPTEMBER 27, 2017 FOR THE ANNUAL FALL MEMBERSHIP EVENT RIVER BOAT CRUISE



MRSEA

Look for details in the Fall Newsletter and at www.mrsea.org



MIRSEA

Minnesota Retired State Employees Association

Spring 2017

Volume 1 Issue 26

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