Now that the Minnesota Legislature is in session, educators need to keep an eye on what is being proposed under the guise of reform. As retirees, we should also accept our share of responsibility to keep track of proposed legislation. The new Speaker of the House, Kurt Daudt, set out the Republicans first five ideas in the form of five bills (Star Tribune, Thursday, January 8).

1. Grow additional better-paying jobs for all
2. Refocus transportation dollars on roads and bridges
3. Make sure every child receives a world-class education
4. Protect aging adults quality of life
5. Ensure fair access and affordability in health care

This is in sharp contrast to what Republicans in Congress have proposed in the past:

- Reduce Social Security to handicapped and elderly
- Repeal the Affordable Care Act
- They won't increase the Federal minimum wage
- They won't fully fund Special Education

As Retirees we need to protect our pensions at the state level and Social Security at the national level. As grandparents or great grandparents we have to support increased funding for public education by staying in contact with our Legislators and members of Congress. Make sure they know what we support or oppose. As a voter you will receive propaganda from sources you may or may not agree with.

Recently, on two separate occasions, I received flyers from "Minnesota Action Network", a right wing group that has nothing in their materials that I agree with. Both of the flyers were attacks on Senator Jim Carlson, who happens to be my State Senator. While they do have the right to free speech, there are many such groups that come up with names that appear innocuous. Don’t let them fool you.

**Political Contribution Refund is Back!**

- Your political contributions may qualify for a refund*
- $50 per person/$100 per couple*
- Contributions made for qualified contributions* Political contributions you made to eligible state candidates or political parties after June 30, 2013.
- Complete a Refund Application to receive money back (see instructions at link below)

*For more information on the Political Contribution Refund program, visit: http://www.revenue.state.mn.us/individuals/individ_income/Pages/Refund_for_Political_Contribution.aspx
TENTATIVE RETIRED ELECTION RESULTS

EDUCATION MINNESOTA REPRESENTATIVE CONVENTION (3 Delegates)

Julie Jagusch
Larry Koenck
Walt Munsterman

NEA RETIRED ANNUAL MEETING/ NEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY – 7 Delegates

Julie Jagusch
Larry Koenck
Diane Larson

Bobbie Margo
Walt Munsterman
Judy Rohde

Cathy Stringfield

RETIRED GOVERNING BOARD
EFFECTIVE APRIL 18, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Term Expires</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Larry Koenck</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julie Jagusch</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lynette Wayne</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lowell Ueland</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walter Munsterman</td>
<td>Past-President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ed Mikulich</td>
<td>District 1 Dir.</td>
<td>2018</td>
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<td>Cathy Stringfield</td>
<td>District 1 Dir.</td>
<td>2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wes Hanna</td>
<td>District 2 Dir.</td>
<td>2017</td>
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<td>Jerry Klebs</td>
<td>District 2 Dir.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jean Scheu</td>
<td>District 3 Dir.</td>
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<td>—VACANT—</td>
<td>District 3 Dir.</td>
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<td>Sharon Kjellberg</td>
<td>District 4 Dir.</td>
<td>2017</td>
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<td>Judy Rohde</td>
<td>District 4 Dir.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Myrna Doran</td>
<td>District 5 Dir.</td>
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<td>Lois Wendt</td>
<td>District 5 Dir.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joan Beaver</td>
<td>District 6 Dir.</td>
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<td>Warren Misiewicz</td>
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<td>Charles Hellie</td>
<td>District 7 Dir.</td>
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<td>John Lipke</td>
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<td>Roberta Margo</td>
<td>District 8 Dir.</td>
<td>2017</td>
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<td>Jan Cummings</td>
<td>District 8 Dir.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandra Skaar</td>
<td>At Large</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lori Nord</td>
<td>At Large</td>
<td>2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marti Zins</td>
<td>TRA Representative</td>
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</table>

Get involved!

Board members and non-board members serve on various committees such as:

- **Membership** (organizing and obtaining new members)
- **Communications** (Newsletters, Web site, etc.)
- **Resolutions** (Annual Meeting resolutions and monitoring new pension bodies)
- **Government Relations/Policy Development** (PAC/Lobby Day, political initiatives)
- **Program** (full conference, fall breakfast and other social events)
- **Finance** (Budget planning/procedures)
- **Special Committees as needed.**
The 2014 Education Minnesota Retired Fall Conference was held at Ruttger’s Bay Lake Lodge in Deerwood, Minnesota. This conference had a fantastic combination of educational sessions on important topics to retirees, speakers that entertain members, and time for individuals to gather in small groups to talk and learn from one another.

This year the educational sessions were: A legislative session update by Jodee Buhr, emotional wellness by Jim Keenan, a health insurance update from Tim Schatz of the Minnesota Health Insurance Network, an economic update from Kent Schutte of EFS Advisors, an elections update from James Haggar and a presentation on the state of our pensions from Laurie Hacking, the TRA Executive Director.

Updates on these topics are included every year because members attending have indicated they want and need to be kept informed. This is especially noted with the topics of TRA and pension benefits as well as legislative and elections information. The emotional wellness was a new session this year and gave very interesting ways to look at understanding ourselves, how we communicate and things to consider for change. The Minnesota Health Insurance Network presentation gave important information for people to consider when choosing a health insurance company.

Entertainment included a new Doug Ohman presentation on projects built in Minnesota with the New Deal. Dave Nimmer, recently retired journalist, talked about how to live as a senior citizen with its rewards and challenges.

Some of the perennial favorite activities of the retreat include the pontoon ride around the lake to view wildlife, the bonfire and the social cabin, where old friends can catch up and where new friends are made.

If you have never attended an Education Minnesota Fall conference, we invite you to come. You will find it worthwhile!

You can register for the 2015 Education Minnesota Retired Fall Conference today by calling: 888-242-7306 or 218-547-7777.

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2015 Fall Conference
New Location!

Where: Chase on the Lake, Walker, MN
When: September 14-16
Cost: Double Occupancy: $222.46 per person
     Single Occupancy: $356.43 per person

To register call 888-242-7306 or 218-547-7777

Your registration includes:
- 2 Nights stay
- Day 1: Dinner
- Day 2: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
- Day 3: Breakfast
- Meeting space, conference materials

Complimentary activities include:
- 1/2 hour welcome reception with refreshments
- 2 hours complimentary bowling
- 10% off Copper Door Spa services

Other activities:
- Shopping in Walker, MN
- Boating & Fishing on the lake
- BonFire
- Bicycling around Leech Lake

To register call 888-242-7306 or 218-547-7777
The 2015 Minnesota State Legislature convened on Tuesday, January 6, 2015. Individuals wishing to receive current information on the happenings at the Minnesota Capitol can receive emails on a regular basis. Every year one must subscribe to receive this information.

- Visit www.leg.state.mn.us
- At the top of the page, click “Get connected”
- Select the list you would like to join...House, Senate, etc.
- Follow the instructions to register for the desired list(s)

This website will also give you information on how to communicate with your Senator and Representative by phone or email.

It is very vital for all of us to communicate with our elected officials so they know what issues are important to us and how we would like them to vote on these issues.
2015 Retired Annual Meeting
Tentative Agenda

2015 Retired Annual Meeting
Sheet Metal Workers’ Union, Maplewood, MN
Friday, April 17, 2015

PLEASE NOTE:
The cost is $20 per person
Cost includes FULL breakfast and lunch buffet
Participate in the future of Education Minnesota Retired

Parking is free!

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 13, 2015
Please cut out and mail Registration Form to:
Education Minnesota Retired
41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103
Or Fax registration form to 651-292-4815

NEW Location
Friday, April 17, 2015
Sheet Metal Workers’ Union
1681 Cope Avenue East
Maplewood, MN 55109

9:30-10:00 am  Registration  (Enjoy a full breakfast buffet)
10:00-10:15  Welcome
Larry Koenck, Education Minnesota Retired President
10:15-11:00  2015 Legislative Update
Education Minnesota Lobbyist
11:00-12:00  Senior Scams—MN Attorney General’s Office
12:15-1:00 pm  Lunch
Greetings from Education Minnesota
1:00-2:00  Call to Order
Approval & Adoption of Agenda
Approval of April 25, 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes
State of the Union—Larry Koenck, President
Business Meeting (Budget & Financial, President & Standing Committee
Reports, Continuous Membership,
Proposed Bylaw Revisions, Resolutions, Other Business)
2:00-3:00  TRA Presentation—Laurie Fiori Hacking
3:00-3:30  Installation of New Officers
Door Prizes & Wrap-Up
3:30  Adjourn

Enclosed is $_____ for _____ reservation(s). (Cost is $20 per person)

Name(s):__________________________________________________________
Address:__________________________________________________________
City/State/ZIP:____________________________________________________
Home Phone:___________________________Cell Phone:_________________
E-Mail Address:___________________________________________________

“Excellent information”

“Well run meeting, very interesting - this was my first Retired Annual Meeting.”
The Education Minnesota Retired Fall Breakfast was held on Thursday, October 16 at the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul. The agenda included a full breakfast, excellent guest speakers and the chance to network with Education Minnesota Retired colleagues. The speakers included:

- **State Auditor Rebecca Otto**, who was very specific in stating that MN is **NOT** the next Detroit. Otto outlined the state of Minnesota’s pensions and provided insight into the new Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) rules that take effect this year. **FACT:** pensions provide retirement security in our communities—not poverty.

- **Education Minnesota Secretary-Treasurer Rodney Rowe** stressed elections, elections, elections. He went on to discuss the task force created to study continuous membership, how they are progressing and some of the challenges they are overcoming as they work to bring a resolution proposing continuous membership to the floor at a future Representative Convention.

- **Dan Mikel** spoke about the restoration of the Capitol building in St. Paul. He went on to share a YouTube video featuring our own Walt Munsterman entitled, “Public Pensions At Risk.”

- **Rick Winters** wrapped up the morning with an update on his project, funded by AFT that puts retired educators to work to help in elections. The program has been a great success thanks to the effort of our Education Minnesota Retired colleagues.

A special thank-you to the Program Committee for planning this event. All-in-all, what a great way to spend the day! Hope to see you next year—in the fall—at the breakfast!

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**Investment Assumption Rate of TRA***

By Marti Zins

First, the good news: The State Board of Investment returns for the most recent fiscal year, ending June 30, 2014, yielded 18.6%. If you look at thirty year returns the yield is 10.3%. The five-year returns are 14.5%. The actuarial assumption for earnings (defined in pension law) is currently 8% and is returning to 8.5% in 2016.

The funding ratios for the three state systems are: MSRS at 91%; PERA at 81% and TRA at 83%. TRA is finally finished with the negative years that we carried in our five year smoothing so, at least for the current cycle, those carried losses are gone. Our work in 2010, along with our shared sacrifice approach coupled with a more rosy investment scenario, has the funding for TRA on the right track.

Now the bad news. Why is this an important issue for retirees and why is there discussion among some legislators to alter the actuarial assumption rate for TRA? When you move the rate downward, the money has to be made up somewhere else; either through higher contribution rates for active teachers, or lower COLA’s for current retirees. The effect of dropping the assumption rate reduces TRA’s funding ratio to 78%. A higher COLA kicks in when TRA’s funding ratio rises above 90% for two consecutive years, that goal becomes more distant for current retirees.

Look for TRA’s Experience Study on Public Pensions that will be released in May 2015. This outlines the health of Minnesota pension systems. The assumption rate going forward will be discussed and debated. You have a stake in the outcome so stay tuned and become involved in the process.
Education Minnesota has established a non-profit, charitable organization whose purpose is to provide grant funds to members and certain other non-profit groups. The Education Minnesota Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning is governed by a Board of Trustees who are members of Education Minnesota. Since its inception, the Foundation has funded 868 projects and awarded more than $2.4 million in grants.

If you have any questions, please contact the Education Minnesota Foundation director, Dayonna Knutson at 800-652-9073.

Mail contributions to:
Education Minnesota Foundation
41 Sherburne Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55103

CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions to Education Minnesota Foundation from Education Minnesota Retired Members

Name(s):
Address:
City/State/ZIP:
Home Phone: Work Phone:
E-Mail Address:

Enclosed is a check payable to Education Minnesota Foundation in the amount of $__________

All donations to the Education Minnesota Foundation are tax deductible!

Mail contributions to: 41 Sherburne Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55103

CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions to Education Minnesota PAC from Education Minnesota Retired Members

Name(s):
Address:
City/State/ZIP:
Home Phone: Work Phone:
E-Mail Address:

Enclosed is a check payable to Education Minnesota PAC in the amount of $__________

*Education Minnesota Retired members can participate on screening teams if they contribute to Education Minnesota PAC.

Mail contributions to: 41 Sherburne Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55103
February 2015

Education Minnesota Retired
41 Sherburne Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55103
http://retired.mn.aft.org/

Phone: 651-292-4877 / 800-642-4624
Fax: 651-292-4815
E-mail: matt.blewett@edmn.org

Registration Information Enclosed
2015 Annual Meeting (NEW LOCATION!)
2015 Fall Conference (NEW LOCATION!)

C A L E N D A R  O F  E V E N T S

February 20-21  President’s Appreciation Weekend
February 23  Education Minnesota Retired Board Meeting
March 24-26  NEA Retired Organizing Meeting, Atlanta, GA
April 17  Retired Annual Meeting
          Sheet Metal Workers’ Union, Maplewood, MN
April 17-18  Education Minnesota Representative Convention
            Minneapolis Hilton (downtown)
September 14-16  SAVE THE DATE! 2015 Fall Conference at
                  Chase on the Lake

Mark your calendars!

Join your friends and former colleagues at Chase on the Lake in Walker, MN for the 2015 Fall Conference

See “Calendar” on www.educationminnesota.org for additional Education Minnesota, NEA and AFT meetings, events and other information.

V I S I T  O U R  W E B  S I T E !

http://retired.mn.aft.org/