



Retired

It's not too late
to register for
the
Fall Breakfast

October 17
9-11am

Come and listen to
**3 candidates for
MN Secretary of
State!**

See page 9

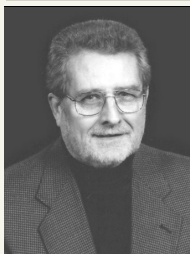
**Nomination
Form
Enclosed**

INSIDE

NEA Retired Annual	2-3
Identity Theft	4
NEA Outreach to Teach	5
Medicare Made Easy Sessions	6
Nomination Form and Election Info.	7-8
Breakfast and PAC	9
Fall Conference	10-11

ACTION

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Walter Munsterman

As you have probably been following in the media, retired public employees are being blamed for causing financial problems for the Government and taking advantage of the taxpayers. This message has also been presented to the Legislative Pension Commission which has met four times in the last two months. Several Education Minnesota Retired members, including me, have attended these hearings.

Topics of discussion have included possible mergers of Duluth and St. Paul retirement systems into the TRA, the select and ultimate assumption for investment return, and the defined benefit plan versus defined contribution and possible hybrid plan options.

Education Minnesota Retired is on record in support of the merging of Duluth and St. Paul provided they come into TRA with full funding, as Minneapolis did. At the time of this writing, Duluth members have voted for merger, St. Paul has voted against it. This will be interesting, given that the bill Governor Dayton signed only gave these systems extra funding for two years.

Investment return legislation passed on July 1, 2012 for a select rate of 8.0% for the first five years, July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2017, then returning to 8.5%. The question is whether to keep it this way or

Continued on page 4



2013 RETIRED ANNUAL MEETING

BY BOBBIE MARGO

This year's 30th NEA Retired Annual Meeting was held at the Atlanta Hilton in Atlanta, GA from June 28-30, 2013. The theme - "We Educate America-The Commitment Continues." Participants (400+) listened to a "Welcome" from Lynda Wolf Smith, the President of the Georgia Association of Educators-Retired. Our own NEA-R President, Tom Curran, gave his remarks and spoke of the past, difficult year at NEA. Due to a devastating loss of members, the budget has suffered a loss of many millions of dollars (65 million+). There are 75 fewer NEA staff members, and numerous programs have been totally cut or downsized. Retirees are the only group showing an increase in membership. So far this year, the NEA retiree group has increased by 8,820, bringing our total membership to 315,585-way to go retirees! Our potential is great-and now we need to continue to work even harder to attract new members!

The keynote speaker of the first day was Captain Mehran S. Massoudi. Massoudi is a Captain in the U.S. Public Health Service and works for the CDC. (Center for Disease Control) Massoudi's presentation was full of thought provoking facts/figures on aging and disease. (sometimes scary too!) The U.S. has had a 30 year life expectancy gain in one century. In 1900 the life expectancy was 47.3 years. In 2010 the life expectancy grew to 78.7 years. Our population is aging at an unprecedented rate, and by 2030, 1 out of every 5 Americans will be considered an older adult. Massoudi concluded his remarks by saying that his ideal vision is to strive for all people to be living healthy lives free of chronic disease.

Along with sessions on the second day, President Dennis Van Roekel and Vice President Lily Eskelson Garcia (recently married) addressed the group. Their remarks were upbeat, stressing that there will be no more planned budget cuts in programs and/or staff this year. Even more upbeat was the Budget Presentation by Secretary-Treasurer Becky Pringle. She stated that she had BBN-better budget news. Even though NEA has lost

234,000+ members, the entire structure of the organization has been reorganized, and the tide of the losses has been lessened. Even though more is being required of NEA in a time when it has less, as an organization, it is becoming leaner and more fully charged and energized. Pringle noted that this budget, which would be presented for approval to the Representative Assembly as a whole in the coming days, was a balanced budget.

On the 3rd day, two \$2,000 scholarships from the Jack Kinnamon (Cat in the Hat) Fund were presented. Eight new business items were also discussed and voted upon. The day's



final speaker was Mary Kusler, Director, NEA Government Relations. Ms. Kusler spoke about "Congress in Action: The Latest from Washington D.C." On April 10, 2013 President Obama sent his proposed annual budget plan to Capitol Hill. The proposal would cut Medicare and other health programs by \$400 billion and lead to benefit cuts in Social Security by converting the current cost-of-living payments to a new inflation formula known as "chained C.P.I. Of note, July 29, 2013 marks the anniversary of the 48th year of Medicare. On education, Obama's budget proposal includes billions in mandatory funding for education jobs and would also retroactively replace across-the-board cuts triggered in March. As always, close attention needs to be paid to our lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

As an aside, I again ran to be elected for a spot to represent NEA Retired on the NEA Resolutions Committee. I was thrilled to be

Continued...

one of six elected (there were 15 names on the ballot) for the 2014 year. I am proud to be able to represent ED MN Retired in this capacity.

The NEA Retired Annual Meeting adjourned on Sunday, June 30. All of the ED MN Retirees packed up their multitude of suitcases, and we switched hotels to join our Education Minnesota State Delegation in order to attend the 92nd Annual Representative Assembly-the 151st Annual Meeting. The NEA RA was held at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, GA. From July 3-6, 2013. We were reminded by the Convention Host Committee, Georgia, that we were in the land of peanuts, Vidalia onions, Muscadine grapes, and fine, very fine wine. NEA President Dennis Van Roekel told the delegates that we can no longer accept stale excuses for disunity. The DNA of the NEA is all about “student-centered union-led change”; it is time for us as educators to transform public education by taking charge of our profession. As educators we are leaders-the time for action is now-so that we are prepared to face the so-called “corporate reformers-the greedmongers who define public education in terms of money.”

Teacher of the Year, Jeff Charbonneau, (science-Washington State) and Education Support Professional of the Year, Donna Schulze, (bus driver-Maryland) addressed the group. Charbonneau informed us that every single day in the classroom is the most important day in a child’s life. That child needs to believe that we are NOT a nation of failing public schools. We are a nation of schools that are continually working to improve and to adapt to a changing world. Schulze said that Hollywood has distorted the general public’s perception of what teachers and ESP support staff really do in schools. Public school employees are a team. As that team, we need to make sure that we are heard at city hall, the statehouse, and the White House.

This year’s “Greatest Education Governor Award” was presented to Jerry Brown, Governor of California, last year it was Mark Dayton of MN. Brown received a standing ovation when he reminded the delegates that 38 years ago he signed a collective bargaining law in California. Recently Brown passed Proposition 30 into law in California. This law raises taxes on the wealthiest Californians along with instituting an additional ¼ % sales tax. The generated funds will be significant and will be used for public education.

Delegates elected 2 Executive Committee members, 3 at-large Board of Director members and 2 alternate at-large Board of Director members. Again by secret ballot, delegates voted on 2 constitutional amendments and 3 by-law amendments. Discussion “on the floor” over 4 days involved 93 new business items, 17 legislative amendments, and a number of resolutions, standing rules, and amendments to policy statements. Of note, was the vote to pass a \$3.00 increase in membership dues (this will not affect Minnesota at all because we are a merged state). This dues increase will generate over \$6 million in new funds to improve student success and to strengthen education professions, specifically to provide Great Public Schools Grants to NEA state and local affiliates. Delegates also overwhelmingly approved a completely new Policy Statement on Digital Learning. This new statement takes a progressive stance on digital education, pushing educators to incorporate as much technology as they think they can effectively use within their classrooms; as long as said technology increases student learning. At the same time, this NEA policy rejects the idea that students can learn completely online and without any adult interaction.

The NEA Fund for Children and Public Education raised over \$3million for the 2013 fund raising year. Business at the 2013 Representative Assembly for the 7,149 registered delegates concluded as the gavel officially sounded adjournment at 8:16 p.m. on Saturday, July 6. The 2014 Representative Assembly will be held in Denver, Colorado.

On behalf of Arlyce Anderson, Larry Koenck, Diane Larson, John Lipke, Walt Munsterman, Judy Rohde, and myself, we **sincerely THANK YOU the members of ED MN Retired** for giving us the opportunity to attend NEA. We represented you with pride, enthusiasm, and professionalism.



FROM THE PRESIDENT, CONTINUED...

move it to a lower number. Our position is to let the legislation that was passed work its way through the timeline.

Education Minnesota Retired maintains the position of retaining the defined benefit system. You can keep up on these issues by going to the TRA web site, www.minnesotatra.org.

As you will see in this newsletter, elections are being held for a number of positions on the Education Minnesota Retired Board of Directors. These will include congressional district directors, officers and delegates to conventions. I encourage anyone who may be interested in being a candidate to apply for these positions.

I know many of you are already getting into the swing of working in the upcoming election year. This will be a very important year in that all of the state officers and all of the house members will be up for election. We need to elect candidates who support pensions, public education, increase of the minimum wage, and support social programs. Having spent time at the legislature, I have seen the difference it makes when we have legislators who support these issues that are beneficial to our state and its citizens.

New Offer - Special Pricing for Members of Education Minnesota Retired!

As a member of Education Minnesota Retired, you can enroll in the most comprehensive identity theft program available for only \$4 per month! (Regularly \$7.95)



Sign up today and receive...



WebCrawler Monitoring



SSN# and Address Monitoring



Credential Vault/Lost Wallet

Identity theft protection plan also includes fully managed identity theft recovery service

Visit our secure website to enroll today at:

<https://educationminnesota-retired-securus.merchantsinfo.com>

OR call 612-238-0340 for assistance.



2013 NEA OUTREACH TO TEACH

BY BOBBIE MARGO

This year in Atlanta, **Outreach To Teach** returned to its roots. The program began in 1996 as a beautification project to give back to schools. What started with a few students wanting to clean up a local school where their annual Student Leadership Conference was being held has grown into a full blown remodeling project with hundreds of volunteers. This year's school was Thomasville Heights Elementary School in Atlanta, GA. **One hundred percent** of the students at Thomasville Elementary School receive free or reduced lunch. However, free and reduced is how the students eat, not how they learn.

2013 marks the 17th year in which NEA volunteers have devoted their time and their energy into completely "making over a school." This year Arlyce Anderson, Larry Koenck, Diane Larson, Walt Munsterman, Judy Rohde and myself participated along with 10+ student members from Minnesota and their advisor Tammy Barnes. There were 400 of us! The main idea with this school make-over thing is to grab hammers, shovels, paint brushes, scissors, mops, tools, pins, elbow grease-whatever works-and amid the chaos/organization the school gets to looking pretty spiffy!



Walt worked on bulletin boards, Diane and Arlyce worked in the Parent Center doing books and furniture, Judy worked as a Teacher's Assistant, Larry worked in the gym, and I (you guessed it!) put together furniture in the Teacher's Lounge. I put together a cabinet with sliding glass doors. Funding for this year's "Outreach" program was provided by the Atlanta Public Schools, the Atlanta and the Georgia Association of Educators, NEA Retired, (of which ED MN Retired is a member) Higher Education, the Student Program, Education Support Professionals, Lysol, and NEA Member Benefits.

The big project this year was a map of the United States. The map was about 1/3 the size of a football field and was on a part of the playground area that was covered with a roof. The States were marked with a professionally purchased stencil pattern and were then painted red, yellow, green, and brown. The color blue filled in the Great Lakes area. The design and the painting were downright impressive!

Check out the "Outreach To Teach" video at UTube-then search "Outreach To Teach". Along with other years of "Outreach" videos, "Outreach To Teach 2013" should pop up.

Medicare Made Easy!

Please join us for one of the following FREE seminars!

Know Your Options!

Members of Education Minnesota and their spouses/partners are eligible for group Medicare solutions through Humana, Medica and UCare. In addition to competitive pricing and savings, members enjoy low annual out of pocket maximums as well as multiple options offering prescription drug coverage through the coverage gap or “donut hole”. Attend one of our “Medicare Made Easy” seminars to learn more about Medicare and the benefits of group insurance. We will cover the basics of Medicare – Parts A and B and provide you with an overview of plans only offered to Education Minnesota members.

PLEASE NOTE: the open enrollment period for 2014 runs from Oct. 15 – Dec. 7, 2013.

Space is limited, please RSVP at your earliest convenience:

Email: Deborah.skog@edmn.org **or call**

651-292-4856 / 800-642-4624



Date	Location	Address
14-Oct.	Mystic Lake Casino	2400 Mystic Lake Blvd., Prior Lake, MN 55372
15-Oct.	Holiday Inn MSP Airport SE	2700 Pilot Knob Road, Eagan, MN 55121
22-Oct.	Duluth Comfort Inn West	3900 W. Superior Street, Duluth, MN 55807
23-Oct.	Grand Casino Hinckley	777 Lady Luck Drive, Hinckley, MN 55037
29-Oct.	Minnetonka Community Center	14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka, MN 55345
30-Oct.	Hilton Garden Inn Mankato	20 Civic Center Plaza, Mankato, MN 56001
5-Nov.	Maple Grove Community Center	12951 Weaver Lake Road, Maple Grove, MN 55369
6-Nov.	Clarion Rochester	1630 S. Broadway, Rochester, MN 55904
12-Nov.	Holiday Inn and Suites St. Cloud	75 South 37th Avenue, St. Cloud, MN 56301
13-Nov.	Hiway Federal Credit Union Bldg.	840 Westminster Street, St Paul, MN 55130

2012-13 EDUCATION MINNESOTA RETIRED NOMINATION FORM

Retired Member Submitting this form:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Candidate Information

☐ I am declaring myself as a candidate ☐ I am nominating the following as a candidate

Candidate Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

BOARD POSITIONS (PLEASE CHECK ONLY ONE POSITION)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PRESIDENT | <input type="checkbox"/> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2 DIRECTOR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VICE PRESIDENT | <input type="checkbox"/> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 4 DIRECTOR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AT-LARGE GOVERNING BOARD | <input type="checkbox"/> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 6 DIRECTOR |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8 DIRECTOR |

DELEGATE POSITIONS (YOU MAY RUN FOR ONE OR ALL OF THESE POSITIONS)

- ☐ EDUCATION MINNESOTA REPRESENTATIVE CONVENTION (3 DELEGATES)
APRIL 25-26, 2014, DOUBLETREE BY HILTON, BLOOMINGTON, MN
- ☐ NEA RETIRED ANNUAL MEETING—JUNE 28-30, 2014 AND
NEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY—JULY 1-6, 2014
(7 DELEGATES) DENVER, CO

Please provide your statement on the reverse side of this form.

NOMINATION STATEMENT

In 40 words or less, please indicate why you are running for the chosen position. If more than 40 words are submitted, the nominations committee reserves the right to edit.

Election Guidelines

- Elected candidates will assume office immediately following the Education Minnesota Retired Annual Meeting on Friday April 25, 2014.
- Nominations must have the permission of the person whose name is being submitted for election.
- Nominees are required to attend all meetings at the events for which they are elected. Delegates to the NEA Retired Annual Meeting & NEA Representative Assembly will be reimbursed a maximum of \$1,000 towards expenses. Any expenses incurred over \$1,000 will be paid for by the delegate. Based on previous years, expenses have been approximately \$2,000 per delegate.
- All Education Minnesota Retired members will receive a ballot to vote for Delegates, and only vote for the Congressional District Director Candidates for your District.
- Submit this form and a photo by Friday, November 1, 2013 (Postmarked by Nov. 1, 2013) to Education Minnesota Retired Nominating Committee, 41 Sherburne Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55103-2196. Pictures can be emailed to shelley.macdonald@edmn.org.
- Photos and Bios of each candidate will be included with the ballots that mail on Nov. 22.
- If you have questions, call the Education Minnesota Retired office at 651-292-4877 or 800-642-4624.

ELECTION TIMELINE

Nov. 1, 2013	Nomination form and picture must be returned, postmarked on or before Nov. 1.
Nov. 22, 2013	Ballots and Bios will mail to members based on the congressional districts they live in.
December 13	Ballots must be returned to Education Minnesota Retired. Must be post marked on or before December 13, 2013.

Hear from MN Secretary of State Candidates!

PAGE 9

The candidates for MN Secretary of State will address the group at the breakfast. Hear from Debra Hilstrom, Jeremy Kalin and Steve Simon.

Fall Breakfast Registration Form

NEW LOCATION!

317 on Rice
175 W. Kellogg Blvd.
(next door to River Centre,
faces Rice Park)

**Thursday, Oct. 17
9:00 - 11:00 AM**

Registration Deadline:
October 10, 2013

Have breakfast, listen to
presentations and head
next door to the Education
Minnesota Professional
Conference at the St. Paul
RiverCentre.
Visit exhibits and attend
various sessions.

2013 RETIRED FALL BREAKFAST

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2013

Enclosed is \$_____ for _____ reservations. (Cost is \$15/person)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: October 10, 2013

Please cut out and mail Registration Form and check payment to:
Education Minnesota Retired
41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103



PAC CONTRIBUTION

Contributions to Education Minnesota PAC
from Education Minnesota Retired Members

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____



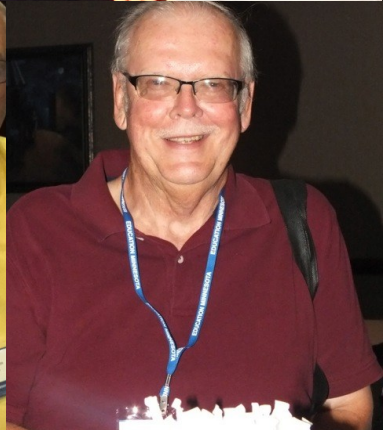
Enclosed is a check payable to Education Minnesota PAC
in the amount of \$_____

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

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

Through affiliation with Education Minnesota, Education Minnesota Retired retains access to political action and resources essential in electing 'friends of education' and the lobbying efforts essential to maintain and improve Minnesota teacher retirement programs. Concurrently, retired educators also remain vitally active and interested in educational programs critical to quality education in MN.

To support these efforts, the Education Minnesota Retired Governing Board encourages retirees to contribute at least \$20.00 to Education Minnesota PAC. Education Minnesota Retired members who contribute are eligible to participate on screening teams that interview candidates and recommend endorsements of 'friends of education'. Contact Education Minnesota Public Affairs/PAC Dept. with questions.
800-652-9073



2013 Retired Fall Conference Review

PAGE 11

By Bobbie Margo

The 2013 Education Minnesota Fall Conference was held September 9-11 at Mystic Lake Casino and Hotel in Prior Lake. Forty+ individuals attended the conference in anticipation of good sessions, good entertainment, good food, and a **great** time with fellow retirees. This year's fall conference did not disappoint.

Of particular interest was a presentation from TRA Executive Director Laurie Fiori Hacking. She had good news in that the TRA funds have rebounded steadily from the market downturn in 2008-09. But we are still in fragile territory. The TRA Board is concerned about the overall financial future and the status of the Duluth and the St. Paul funds. Both funds have had infused money from the legislature, but that will be only for 2 years. Duluth poses a special problem in that the city population is declining, school age children are declining, and teacher employee numbers are dropping. But Duluth **does** want to be part of our TRA system and will work with us. St. Paul poses a much larger problem; they are in financial trouble, and they wish to remain by themselves. A consolidation study dealing with the Duluth/St. Paul funds is due to the legislature on January 6, 2014. Significant threats to the pension system in the form of anti-pension propaganda and scary rhetoric continue to remain. National/local taxpayer groups attack pension benefits in their blogs and in newspaper editorials. If it's negative, it's news.

Another highlight was hearing from a special guest speaker, Boyd Huppert, KARE 11-**Land of Ten Thousand Stories**. Huppert brought several videos with him of actual stories that have been "on the air." During his presentation, Huppert stated numerous times how **exciting** it was for him to talk to teachers. He explained that he uses teaching/story board techniques when he formulates his stories, many of which are sent to him through emails. In describing Huppert's presentation, one word comes to mind-**FANTASTIC!**

The "Health & Wellness" activity with Paula Woischke was fun. Woischke has been doing senior fitness classes for 12 years and recently



received her Masters Degree in Gerontology. "Thera bands" were distributed, and Woischke got us up, moving, stretching, and doing strength exercises for an HOUR-to music-it was good!

Newly elected President of Education Minnesota, Denise Specht came to address our group. Her presentation dealt with her vision for strong schools, strong communities, and a strong union. This vision included five talking points: 1) educator voice, 2) collaboration, 3) professional prestige, 4) social justice, and 5) a modern union. Specht elaborated on each of these

five talking points with retirees being included in her message.



A HUGE "thank-you" to the Education Minnesota Retired Program Committee for planning this year's wonderful conference. Thanks for the memories. See you next year!

For the full version of the Fall Conference Review and more pictures, go to the Retired web site:
<http://retired.locals.educationminnesota.org>



Retired

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October 2013

Education Minnesota Retired
41 Sherburne Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55103
<http://retired.locals.educationminnesota.org>

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

ELECTION NOMINATION FORMS ENCLOSED

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Mark your
calendars!**

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| October 17 | Education Minnesota Retired Breakfast
<i>317 on Rice Park, St. Paul</i> |
| October 17 | Education Minnesota Professional Conference
<i>St. Paul RiverCentre</i> |
| November 11 | Veteran's Day |
| November 18 | Retired Governing Board Meeting |
| November 28 | Thanksgiving Day |
| December 25 | Christmas Day |

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



VISIT OUR WEB SITE!

<http://retired.locals.educationminnesota.org>