



Retired

ACTION

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Walter Munsterman

With 2013 behind us, we look forward to a new year. With that comes new issues for us to be concerned about. The economy seems to be turning around and hopefully will continue to do so.

Most of you will have already received notification of your pension increase of 2%. It may not seem like much, but this does have a huge impact on the economy of Minnesota, as 49,941 TRA Retirees received \$1,350,453,742 in pensions in 2013 (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report FY 2013). This report is available at www.minnesotatra.org.

The Legislature will be getting pressure from certain groups that believe public pensions are costing taxpayers huge amounts of dollars. Every dollar paid to public retirees in Minnesota comes from three sources: approximately **69 cents comes from investment earnings, 17 cents comes from employers, and 14 cents from employees** (*Retirement Systems of Minnesota - Myth vs. Fact October 2013*). I believe these outside groups will continue their push to change the public pension systems. The major push is to change the defined benefit system to a defined contribution or hybrid system. Education Minnesota Retired is on record to retain the defined benefit system.

We are also on record of support for the mergers of Duluth and St. Paul retirement systems, provided they come into TRA with full funding. A report will be given to legislature on the study conducted by TRA regarding merger discussions.

2014 is an election year, the Governor and other State Officers, along with the House of Representatives, are all up for election. If we want to keep our supportive legislature and Governor in office, we will all need to stay involved in the political process. Attending precinct caucuses on Tuesday, February 4, 2014, is crucial.

Continued on page 4...

**2014
Legislative/
Political Action
Conference**

January 30

REGISTER TODAY!

You don't want to miss this event! Distinguished speakers, good food and friends.

REGISTRATION FORM
ON PAGE 6.

**ELECTION
RESULTS
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TENTATIVE ELECTION RESULTS

Ballot results were tallied on December 19, 2013 with the following results. The elected positions will commence with Board approval, following the Retired Annual Meeting on April 25, 2014.

EDUCATION MINNESOTA RETIRED PRESIDENT: Larry Koenck

EDUCATION MINNESOTA RETIRED VICE PRESIDENT: Julie Jagusch

EDUCATION MINNESOTA RETIRED REPRESENTATIVE CONVENTION (3 Delegates)

Walt Munsterman, Larry Koenck, Julie Jagusch

NEA RETIRED ANNUAL MEETING/ NEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY - 7 Delegates

Walt Munsterman	Bobbie Margo	Judy Rohde
Larry Koenck	John Lipke	
Chuck Hellie	Julie Jagusch	

UNCONTESTED RACES *The following positions were not contested and have therefore been declared elected:*

At-Large Representative: *Lori Nord*

Congressional District 2 Director: *Wesley Hanna*

Congressional District 4 Directors: *Sharon Kjellberg, Judy Rohde*

Congressional District 6 Directors: *Joan Beaver, Warren Misiewicz*

Congressional District 8 Director: *Bobbie Margo*

CURRENT EDUCATION MINNESOTA RETIRED BOARD MEMBERS

		Term Expires			Term Expires
Walt Munsterman	President	2014	Ed Mikulich	District 1 Director	2015
Richard Mans	Vice President	2014	Wesley Hanna	District 2 Director	2014
Lowell Ueland	Secretary	2015	Jerry Klebs	District 2 Director	2014
Boy Toy	Treasurer	2015	Joan Clark	District 3 Director	2015
Larry Koenck	Past President		Julie Jagusch	District 3 Director	2015
			Alice Faribault	District 4 Director	2014
			Judy Rohde	District 4 Director	2014
			Myrna Doran	District 5 Director	2015
			Lois Wendt	District 5 Director	2015
			Joan Beaver	District 6 Director	2014
			Warren Misiewicz	District 6 Director	2014
			Charles Hellie	District 7 Director	2015
			John Lipke	District 7 Director	2015
			Roberta Margo	District 8 Director	2014
			Joe Moren	District 8 Director	2014
			Lori Nord	At Large	2014
			Marti Zins	TRA Representative	

VOLUNTEERING IS REWARDING

BY MARK STEFFER

I started volunteering for the American Red Cross a few years before I retired. I became a member of the Disaster Assistance Team. The primary duties involve meeting with families immediately after a fire had damaged or destroyed their home. We provide assistance to make sure they have a place to stay, clothes to wear, and food. This often occurs even as smoke still rises from the embers and the firefighters are still pouring water to douse the last of the threats.

It is rewarding on so many levels to be the one who can make the worst of days a little better and provide the first steps to recovery.

I became interested in other types of local responses which included working in shelters when large apartment building fires displaced large numbers of folks. I worked in a shelter for victims of the North Minneapolis tornado.

Upon retiring, I was able to deploy for longer assignments. In the first six months I was sent to Duluth for flooding, Tampa for a hurricane, and New Jersey for Super-storm Sandy. It was in New Jersey, where as an EMT, I was assigned to provide health care in a shelter for over two hundred people. I saw up close how every individual is only a single incident from being homeless and needing to rely on the kindness of others for even the most basic of needs. No amount of planning, money, or insurance could protect these wonderful people from having nowhere else to go.

I continue to volunteer locally and will deploy nationally as can be practical. Red Cross provides all the training and puts volunteers in a group of terrific like minded people. After just a few, two to four hour classes, volunteers can be doing disaster relief, client casework, health care, mental health, logistics, or many other duties that make a difference in the community. As a retirement gig it allows me to pursue the interests that led me to teaching in the first place, but to do so in a completely new and ever so rewarding setting.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

As Education Minnesota Retired learns of volunteer opportunities, they will be posted on the new Education Minnesota Retired Web site.

Visit <http://retired.mn.aft.org> and look in "Action and Events" tab.

FROM THE PRESIDENT, CONTINUED...

At the Federal level, we must remain informed on discussions regarding Social Security and Medicare programs, and keep in touch with our U.S. Representatives and Senators and let them know how we feel about any changes and encourage them to keep the programs working.

On Thursday, January 30, 2014, Education Minnesota Retired will be holding a legislative/political action conference. (See page 6 in this newsletter). This conference includes speakers who will address current situations, as well as future expectations.

Education Minnesota Retired will be holding its Annual Meeting at the DoubleTree by Hilton, in Bloomington, MN on Friday, April 25, 2014. The agenda and registration form are on page 9 of this newsletter. Please make plans to attend these events to stay informed.

PLEASE NOTE:**Political Contribution Refund is Back!**

- ❖ For contributions given to **state** officers, senators and representatives
- ❖ For contributions made to a **state** political party
- ❖ \$50 per person
- ❖ \$100 per couple
- ❖ Contributions made from July 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013 for 2013
- ❖ Contributions given during the calendar year for 2014
- ❖ Receipt will be sent to contributor
- ❖ [Complete a Refund Application](#) to receive money back
- ❖ YOU can take advantage of this!

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

POLL BOOKS FOR MINNESOTA

BY MYRNA DORAN

The Minnesota Legislature has been discussing updates to the way voting takes place in the state. One of the possible methods of updating our voting process is to utilize electronic poll books.

St. Anthony, along with five other cities, participated in a pilot project utilizing poll books during the 2013 General Election. This technology was developed only for the check-in and registration process of voting. The actual marking of ballots and counting of ballots remains the same. Several companies provided their products for this trial. Some other states are already using this technology.

As an election judge in St. Anthony, I had the opportunity to be trained on the process of using a poll book as well as actually using them during the election. Our poll books had all the information of current registered voters loaded into the computer poll book. Attached to the computer were a card swipe unit, a bar code wand, a signature pad and a small printer.

The process of checking names and

addresses of registers voters was a simple and fast one. Once located, voters just signed their name on the signature pad (like retail stores have) and a receipt was printed with their information. This receipt was then taken to receive a ballot. The rest of the process was the same as before.

The process for registering new voters using the card swipe unit was rapid if voters had a MN driver's license or a MN photo ID. If they were not available, election judges typed the information into the computer. The information was then printed out for the new voter to sign.

Our City Clerk indicated there would be a great time savings at the county level in the processing and updating of all the data regarding voters.

The Legislature will be discussing this idea during the next legislative session. It will be interesting to watch this process and the discussions around this topic. As an election judge, I think it would speed up the process of voting and provide greater accuracy in data entered into the voter registration system.

LEGISLATIVE/POLITICAL ACTION CONFERENCE TENTATIVE AGENDA

PAGE 6

Sheet Metal Worker's Local #10

1681 Cope Avenue, Maplewood, MN

- 9:00 – 9:15 a.m. Registration**
9:15 – 9:30 Welcome
Walt Munsterman, Education Minnesota Retired President
Joan Beaver, Legislative/Political Action Committee Chair
- 9:30 – 10:30 Legislative Commission on Pensions & Retirement Update**
Senator Sandy Pappas, Chair
- 10:30 – 10:45 Break**
- 10:45 – 11:00 Retiree Involvement in Campaigns**
James Haggard, Education Minnesota Political Action Specialist
- 11:00 – 12:00 2014 Legislative Update**
Jodee Buhr, Education Minnesota Lobbyist
- 12:00 – 12:45 p.m. Lunch and Featured Speaker**
Guest Speaker to be determined
- 12:45 – 1:30 National Pension Climate and Social Security**
Dan Pedrotty, Research & Strategic Initiatives, AFT
- 1:30 – 2:45 Pension Retirement Report**
Laurie Fiori Hacking, Executive Director, TRA
- Duluth and St. Paul Mergers
 - Defined Benefit / Defined Contribution
- 2:45 – 3:00 Wrap-Up: Evaluations / Prizes**

RETIRED LEGISLATIVE / POLITICAL ACTION CONFERENCE

SHEET METAL WORKERS LOCAL #10

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2014

PLEASE NOTE:
The cost is \$20 per
person.

Continental Breakfast
and Lunch will be
provided.

If you are interested
in hotel reservations
for the night of
Jan. 29, you can call
the nearby Days Inn
at 1780 East County
Road D, 651-770-
2811. Room rates
start at \$69.90 plus
tax and will be at your
own expense.

Enclosed is \$_____ for _____ reservations. (Cost is \$20 per person)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

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



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

PAGE 7

BY ED RAPP

We were working the Retired booth at the Fall Conference last year, something we had done since the birth of Education Minnesota. This was a logical thing to do, since the retired wings of the MEA and MFT actually had merged before the parent organizations finally got their act together. Most of the teachers who dropped by the booth had us confused with the TRA, but we generally ignored this insult and pointed them down the aisle to their proper destination.

But she was different. She said she was looking for volunteers, people who had expertise, time, and a proven dedication to children. She certainly had come to the right place, but wanting something and getting it are often on opposite ends of the spectrum.

She called a couple of days later, and that's when we learned that her name was Karyn, her occupation was Outreach Director, her employer was Junior Achievement, and all her friends -- at least up to that point -- were business people.

The second time we saw Karyn was in Maplewood, a city we were familiar with as a result of being lost at least four times in the past. Somewhere in the southern part of town we entered Door "C" of a large building housing what might best be called a village within a village. This somewhat unworldly town was named *Biz*, not *Oz*, but it was inhabited by little people. And they were not *Munchkins*, but actually fourth graders, although the difference between the two might not be all that great.

Some highly motivated students ran the entire village, with jobs ranging from a mayor who was far too busy to grant an interview to a banker who supplied a checking account for all of the citizens of the town. And, to name just a few of the "buildings," the village held a city hall (occupied by real bureaucrats), a bank, a wellness facility, a newspaper, a radio, and a café supplying treats for all the bottomless stomachs.

The students had been well prepared thanks to a five to seven week unit of instruction. This is where the need for "volunteers" (AKA the readers) comes in. Help would be appreciated all along the route from the classroom to the remarkable village itself.

So, don't just sit there picking your nose. Instead, pick up the phone, dial 651-255-0055, ask for Karyn (Thompson), tell her Ed sent you, and be prepared to start a new career that could make today that proverbial first day of the rest of your life.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY!

The Education Minnesota Retired Communications Committee, chaired by Myrna Doran, would like to maintain open communication with all 6,774 of it's members. In order to do that, we need your help!

E-mail is a very cost-effective and efficient way to communicate. With that in mind, when something is time-sensitive, the Retired Communications Committee would like to send you notifications via email. Additionally, they would like to offer you the option of receiving your newsletters via email. Currently we only have email addresses for about one-third of our members.

As people are frequently changing email addresses, will you please make sure we have your current email address. **Please send an email to Matt.blewett@edmn.org with your correct email address.**

Ways to stay connected:



Website <http://retired.mn.aft.org> Site is updated regularly. Check back often. Event information and registration forms are on the site, as well as many links to other sites and more information. All information on the site is available without logging in. If you would like to view governing board information, you will need to sign in.

TO SIGN IN:

1. Find your Education Minnesota membership number, add MN000 to the beginning of it.
2. Use Local # 7300 (you may have to use 07300)
3. If you have difficulty, click on the 'Need Help' box and follow the directions.



Email notifications Retired will send timely notifications on upcoming events and important information (make sure we have your correct email address)



Newsletter—quarterly publication Retired mails to members with updates and registration forms for events.



Facebook Education Minnesota Retired would like you to 'like' them on Facebook. Retired shares stories, pictures, events and more on Facebook.



Call us! 651-292-4877 or 800-642-4624
Education Minnesota Retired is just a phone call away. If you have questions or need help, please give us a call. We'd be happy to assist.

2014 RETIRED ANNUAL MEETING

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TENTATIVE AGENDA

Friday, April 25, 2014

Doubletree by Hilton Bloomington
7800 Normandale Blvd, Mpls

9:30-10:00 am	Registration (Full breakfast buffet)
10:00-10:15	Welcome Walt Munsterman, Education Minnesota Retired President
10:15-11:00	2014 Legislative Update Jodee Buhr, Education Minnesota Lobbyist
11:00-12:00	Senior Scams John Howe & Dylan Kelly, Minnesota 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 26, 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes State of the Union —Walter Munsterman, 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, TRA Executive Director
3:00-3:30	Installation of New Officers Door Prizes & Wrap-up
3:30	Adjourn

"Food was perfect, convenient location with free parking and little traffic."

"Well run meeting, very interesting - this was my first Retired Annual Meeting."

RETIRED ANNUAL MEETING

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON BLOOMINGTON

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2014

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ reservations. (Cost is \$20 per person)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

*Parking is
free!*

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 11, 2014

Please cut out and mail Registration Form to:

Education Minnesota Retired

41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103



PLEASE NOTE:

The cost is \$20 per person.

A special room block for attendees has been reserved for April 24 and 25 at a special 'Education Minnesota' rate of \$132 plus tax.

Sleeping room costs are the responsibility of the attendees.

Make your reservation online:

<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/RepresentativeConvention2014>

Or by phone:
952-835-7800.

RETIREES HEAR FROM SECRETARY OF STATE CANDIDATES

By Bobbie Margo

Secretary of State Candidates addressed retirees at their annual fall breakfast which was held on Thursday, October 17, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. at 317 Washington Street in St. Paul.

Debra Hilstrom has been a member of the State Legislature since 2001. She is a product of the public schools. (one of Hilstrom's former teachers is one of us!-Myrna Doran) Hilstrom is currently an Assistant Anoka County Attorney. In the Legislature, Hilstrom has stood up against special interests and is totally against voting with one's wallet. She is against large corporations who are attempting to buy our elections. She believes that pension issues are also a part of the Secretary of State's job. (the Secretary of State works to protect identity theft and senior citizen safety) Hilstrom has worked to pass home owner foreclosure legislation-so one's own home is not pulled out from under him/her by a large corporation. Minnesotans will vote for the Secretary of State in the November 2014 election.

Steve Simon has been in the Minnesota Legislature as a Representative for 10 years. He is from the Hopkins area and is a product of the public schools. Simon has helped to make Minnesota's election system one of the best in the nation. He wants to build on Minnesota's proud tradition of leading America in voter turnout and in voter engagement. In his speech, Simon states that "everything in our democracy stems from the ballot box-**front and center!**" He helped pass the new "no-excuse" absentee voting law in Minnesota. Simon's vision as a Secretary of State includes: **1)** ease voter registration/expand voter outreach, **2)** streamline business services, **3)** support/expand the "Safe At Home Program" for domestic violence victims, **4)** as Secretary of State he will work for **ALL** Minnesotans. Minnesotans will vote for the Secretary of State in the November 2014 election.

**FOUNDATION
CONTRIBUTION**

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 it's 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, Sara Ford 800-652-9073

Mail contributions to:

**Education Minnesota Foundation
41 Sherburne Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55103**



FOUNDATION 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

**PAC
CONTRIBUTION**

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 Minnesota.

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'. If you have questions, please contact Education Minnesota Public Affairs/PAC Dept. 800-652-9073

Mail contributions to:

**Education Minnesota PAC
41 Sherburne Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55103**



PAC 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



Retired

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January 2014

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
Email: matt.blewett@edmn.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Mark your
calendars!**

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| January 20 | MLK Jr. Day Observed (Offices closed) |
| January 30 | Legislative/Political Action Conference
Sheet Metal Worker's Local #10, Maplewood |
| February 17 | President's Day (Offices closed) |
| February 10 | Retired Governing Board Meeting, 41 Sherburne Ave. |
| February 25 | Legislative Session starts |
| April 25 | Retired Annual Meeting
<i>DoubleTree by Hilton, Bloomington</i> |
| April 25-26 | Education Minnesota Representative Convention
<i>DoubleTree by Hilton, Bloomington</i> |
| May 19 | Legislature adjourns |

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



VISIT OUR NEW WEB SITE!

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