Fall 2017



ACTION

A publication for Education Minnesota Retired members

From the President



Julie Jagusch

your friends!

I recently met with staff from TRA to talk about where we go from here on protecting our pension benefits. We will put updated information on our web page and our Facebook page as we know more. Be sure to keep informed on what is happening and contact your legislators to remind them of the importance of pension issues to their constituents.

event. Please consider joining us. Information on how to register can be found in this newsletter. Bring

As I mentioned in our last newsletter, we are planning to have some regional meetings this year. We have not yet made any definite plans on where or when, but you will be informed via email, the web site, and the Facebook page when plans are complete. If you are not receiving emails from us, contact <u>Matt.Blewett@edmn.org</u> to give us your updated email address.

Education Minnesota Retired Elections

Have you thought about getting involved in Education Minnesota now that you are a retired member? Now is your chance as Education Minnesota Retired is accepting nominations for the 2017-18 retired elections.

The Education Minnesota Retired Board is made up of:

- Executive Committee
- Congressional District Directors
- At-Large Representatives

You may nominate yourself or a fellow Education Minnesota Retired member to serve on the board, but please check with them to make sure they are interested.

Other positions up for election are the delegates to:

- Education Minnesota Representative Convention
- The NEA Retired Annual Meeting & Representative Assembly

2017 NEA Retired Annual Meeting By Bobbie Margo



This year's 34th NEA Retired Annual meeting was held at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel in downtown Boston from June 26-28. Education Minnesota Retired delegates attending were Julie Jagusch, Sharon Kjellberg, Larry Koenck, Bobbie Margo, Walt Munsterman, Judy Rohde, and Lynette Wayne.

Greetings and speeches were conveyed to us from NEA's top leaders Lily Eskelsen Garcia, President; Becky Pringle, Vice President; and Princess Moss, Treasurer. We, as retirees, were

reminded that there is constant movement in Congress to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.

NEA Executive Director John Stocks stated that we need M.O.R.E. – to Mobilize, Organize, Recruit, and Engage.

2017 NEA Legacy Project By Bobbie Margo

2017 Legacy Project

Since 2015 NEA has offered an opportunity for retired members to work with our student members in the Legacy (Leaders Empowering Grassroots Advocacy for Communities and Youth) Project which aims to organize, educate, and lead change for the communities of parents and students that our educators serve.

Our destination was Everette High School in Everett, MA. Five Education Minnesota

Retirees participated in this year's project; Julie Jagusch and Sharon Kjellberg worked at the Geography station, Lynette Wayne worked at the STEM station, Larry Koenck worked at the fitness and nutrition station, and Bobbie Margo worked at the Literacy and Library station.

In addition to benefiting the community, these Legacy Projects are the perfect way to introduce our NEA student members how to lead hands-on projects in their classrooms. Also, by working with NEA Retired members, it is the perfect way to show new educators that being an NEA member is like being part of a family.



Call for Volunteers!

By Sharon Kjellberg

The National Education Association (NEA), one of our national parent organizations, will be holding its Representative Assembly (RA) in Minneapolis in 2018! The last time the NEA RA was held in Minneapolis was in 1995. Approximately 12,000 people, including delegates and their families, exhibitors, press, visitors, and NEA leaders and staff will come to the city from June 30 to July 5. Each year the RA's host state organization selects a Host Committee to help in the operations. Education Minnesota President Denise Specht has appointed Retired board members, Sharon Kjellberg and Lynette Wayne, as co-chairs of the Minneapolis Host Committee. The Host Committee also includes a treasurer and the chairs of five subcommittees also appointed by President Specht. Bill Hjertstedt was appointed as treasurer (Sandra Skaar as vice chair). The other subcommittee chairs are: Joan Beaver, Sue Witt, Mary Supple, Mark Steffer, Joann Campbell Sudduth, (vice chair Victoria Ellis), and Luke Merchlewitz, (vice chair Brenda Merchlewitz). The Host Committee recruits and coordinates about 300 volunteers to facilitate activities during the RA including meetings and social events.

The Host Committee is looking for Education Minnesota members, active and retired, as well as friends or family members who may be willing to volunteer. **Please note: members who volunteer cannot serve as delegates to the NEA RA.** Volunteers should have good communications skills, be able to walk long distances in the convention center and, for many jobs, remain on their feet. A small stipend as well as parking, breakfast, lunch and snacks will be given to all volunteers.

Questions can be emailed to: neara2018@gmail.com

Volunteers can sign up at: https://goo.gl/6Cnpab

This a wonderful opportunity to promote Education Minnesota, Minneapolis, and the great state of Minnesota as well as be a part of this amazing example of democracy in action!

Education Minnesota Retired members Sharon Kjellberg and Lynette Wayne have been selected to chair the 2018 NEA RA Host Committee.

They need your help!

Sign up to volunteer at

https://goo.gl/6Cnpab

Eye on the Pension



Retiring TRA Executive Director Laurie Hacking

By Marti Zins

After a nation-wide search, which included 51 applications, the TRA board offered the position of Executive Director to J. Michael Stoffel. He was formerly with the Duluth retirement system for 22 years and served as Deputy Director for TRA for 3.5 years. Laurie Hacking, current Executive Director, will retire January 3, 2018. There will be more transitions in the next few years as well. Several TRA staff plan to retire so a new cadre will succeed them.

Thankfully, board membership is stable as only three of the eight board members are new. They include: Will Baumann (college math instructor, Willmar), who succeeds Rob Gardner as an elected trustee, Paul Moore replacing MMB former rep Susan Earle who now works for the City of St. Paul in finance, and Kirk Schneidawind, Executive Director of MSBA, who is filling in for the late Tiffany Rodning until such time that they name a new representative.

This past legislative session was déjà vu all over again.

After diligent work by the TRA board and staff, there was no TRA bill passed during in the final days of the legislative process. The result is the continuation of the 2% COLA and the recommended changes put on hold.

The TRA board is currently putting together its goals for FY18. They will include reworking a new legislative proposal for the February 2018 legislature. With the stock market being up on June 30, 2017, TRA went from an actuarial funded ratio of 68.7% up to 76.7% or a market value ratio of 69.1 to 77.1%.

TRA, MSRS, and PERA plan to hold a joint meeting to discuss areas to work together. There is discussion about the assumed rate of return as we are all invested in the same pot of money. In addition, the mix of where the money is invested is changing and will be reported under a different format from the State Board of Investments.

Meanwhile, TRA is in conversations with politicians and stakeholders as we begin to formulate a proposal. TRA is reviewing actuary information, looking at experience study information, salaries, assumed rate of return, data from our five-year "Select and Ultimate" experiment that begun in 2012 and ended this year, investment returns (FY 17 unaudited was 15.19%), and our guiding principles. It will be a busy fall. Stay tuned.



Incoming TRA Executive Director Jay Stoffel

2017 NEA Representative Assembly

By Bobbie Margo

The 2017 NEA Representative Assembly was held on July 2-5, 2017 in Boston. All Education Minnesota Retired delegates to the NEA Retired Annual Meeting also represented Education Minnesota Retired at the Representative Assembly.

 President Lily Eskelsen Garcia noted that education is about opportunity, access and equity. Our diversity and our strength allow us to listen, debate, and take action. By uniting, we WILI prevail. All top three executive



allow us to listen, debate, and take action. By uniting, we WILL Education Minnesota President, Denise Specht, Executive Director Sara Gjerdrum, and Retired Board members take a picture with University of Minnesota Duluth student and scholarship recipient, Amethyst Stegbauer.

positions were up for election and all three were re-elected: Lily Eskelsen Garcia, President; Becky Pringle, Vice President; and Princess Moss, Treasurer.

Sydney Chaffe, Teacher of the Year, told us that education is the fabric of who we are. Saul Ramos, ESP of the Year, told us that organizing isn't everything, it's the ONLY thing.

The 2018 NEA RA will be held at the Minneapolis Convention Center from June 30-July 5.

Education Minnesota Retired Delegates sincerely thank you, the members of Education Minnesota Retired, for giving us the opportunity to represent you at the NEA Representative Assembly. All of the delegates were thrilled to represent our state and our retired organization. We represented you with pride and professionalism.

Bobbie Margo (sitting on the left) was elected to the NEA Retired Executive Council.

Judy Rohde (sitting on the right) was re-elected to her third term representing NEA Retired on the NEA Resolutions Committee.



Back row: Lynette Wayne (Treasurer), Walt Munsterman (Vice President), Julie Jagusch (President), Sharon Kjellberg (District 4).

Front Row: Bobbie Margo (District 2), Larry Koenck (Past President) and Judy Rohde (District 4).

Medicare Made Easy! Please join us for one of the following FREE seminars!

Know Your Options!

As a member of Education Minnesota you and your spouse/partner are eligible for negotiated group Medicare solutions offered through Humana, Medica and UCare. In addition to exclusive pricing and savings, members enjoy benefits which include low annual out of pocket maximums as well as multiple options offering prescription drug coverage through the coverage gap or "donut hole". Please 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 2018 runs from Oct. 15 – Dec. 7, 2017.



Space is limited, please RSVP at your earliest convenience:

To register, please send Deb an email at Deborah.Skog@edmn.org **Questions? Email:** <u>Deborah.skog@edmn.org</u> or call 651-292-4856 / 800-642-4624 Sponsored by Education Minnesota ESI Member Benefits 41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103 esi.educationminnesota.org

All workshops take place from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. unless otherwise noted

Date	Location	Address	
Oct. 17	Minnetonka Community Center	14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka, MN 55345	
Oct. 24	Education Minnesota (4:30-6 p.m.)	41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103	
Oct. 26	Wyndham Garden Rochester	1625 S. Broadway, Rochester, MN 55904	
Oct. 31	Holiday Inn and Suites	75 South 37th Ave., St. Cloud, MN 56301	
Nov. 2	Maple Grove Community Center	12951 Weaver Lake Rd., Maple Grove, MN 55369	
Nov. 7	Duluth Comfort Inn West	3900 W. Superior St., Duluth, MN 55807	
Nov. 9	Hilton Garden Inn	20 Civic Center Plaza, Mankato, MN 56001	
Nov. 11	Education Minnesota	41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103	
Nov. 16	Eagan Community Center	1501 Central Pkwy, Eagan, MN 55121	

2017-18 Education Minnesota Retired Nomination Form

Retired Member submitti	ng this form:		
Candidate Name:			
Phone:Email Address:			
Candidate Information			
I am declaring myself as a ofI am nominating the following			
Candidate Name:			
Address:			
Phone:Email Address:			
BOARD POSITIONS (Plea	se check only one position)		
Treasurer (1 position)	Secretary (1 position)		

Congressional District 1 (2 positions)
 Congressional District 3 (2 positions)
 Congressional District 3 (2 positions)
 Congressional District 7 (2 positions)
 At-Large Representative (1 position)

Find your Congressional District at www.retired.mn.aft.org

DELEGATE POSITIONS (You may run for one or both of these positions)

- Education Minnesota Representative Convention (3 Delegates) April 27-28, 2018 Doubletree by Hilton Bloomington, Minnesota
- NEA Retired Annual Meeting & Representative Assembly (7 Delegates) NEA Retired Annual Meeting, June 27-28, 2018 NEA Representative Assembly June 30-July 5, 2018 Minneapolis, MN

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 27, 2018 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 \$2,000 toward expenses. Any expenses incurred over \$2,000 will be paid for by the delegate. All Education Minnesota Retired members will receive a ballot customized for the district they live in, members should vote for Executive, Board and Delegate positions on their ballot. Submit this form and a photo by November 1, 2017. Nominations must be submitted by mail, postmarked by November 1, 2017 and sent to: Education Minnesota Retired Nominating Committee. 41 Sherburne Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55103-2196. NO ELECTRONIC NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED Digital photos may be submitted electronically to matt.blewett@edmn.org. Candidates will receive an email confirmation that their nomination has been received. • A ballot, including candidate photos and bios will be sent by mail the week of Nov. 20, 2017 . If you have questions, call the Education Minnesota Retired office at 651-292-4877 or 800-642-4624, or email matt.blewett@edmn.org.

ELECTION TIMELINE

- Nov. 1, 2017 Nomination form **and picture** must be returned, postmarked on or before November 1, 2017.
- Nov. 20-24 Ballots and candidate statements will be sent by mail to Education Minnesota Retired members the week of November 20, 2017.
- Dec. 22 Ballots must be returned (post marked on or before December 22, 2017) to: Education Minnesota Retired Elections
 - 41 Sherburne Ave.
 - St. Paul, MN 55103

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, Dayonna Knutson 800-652-9073

Mail contributions to:

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

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ALCON LAND
FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

Foundation Contributions

Contributions to Education Minnesota Foundation from Education Minnesota Retired Members

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP:

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

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

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.

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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 at 800-652-9073. PAGE 10

2017 Legislative Action: New Minnesota Teacher Licensing Process and Board

By Joan Beaver

The 2017 Legislature could not pass a bill to adjust the TRA pension system that the Governor would sign; however, they did make big changes in the licensing of professional educators.

We will have a four-tiered system of licenses. Tier 1 will be similar to the previous "Community Expert" licensing. Tier 2 and 3 will accommodate teachers licensed in other states and newly Minnesota prepared teachers. However, it also creates a path for those without teacher preparation training. Tier 4 will be similar to current licensing requirements, and will be renewed every five years. All teachers who have a current five-year license when the transition occurs in 2018 will automatically be placed in this tier.

One of the biggest changes affecting us is that retired Minnesota teachers (effective July 1, 2018) will be able to get a lifetime short- or long-call substitute license without having to renew the license or complete continuing education requirements as long as they previously held a Minnesota teaching license and are collecting a pension from TRA or SPTRFA. Retirees previously had to complete continuing education and other renewal requirements in order to maintain licenses that allowed them to work for more than 15 consecutive days for the same teacher. A lifetime long-call substitute license will allow them to teach for longer periods, including for one or more consecutive school years, provided they are replacing a teacher who is absent. Any teacher who meets requirements for a long-call substitute license will qualify for a Tier 3 or 4 license, but they will need to apply for that license unless they hold a valid 5-year license as of July 1, 2018.

As of January 1, 2018, the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) will establish the rules and standards for teacher licensure and issue the licenses, and will handle disciplinary issues. The Board, appointed by the Governor, will have a slim majority of teachers, one each from charter, metro, greater Minnesota schools, one each from teacher prep faculty, superintendent, district HR director, Special Ed Co-op administrator, principal, and public.

The new licensing law changes renewal requirements and the new PELSB will adopt the rules for that process. We do not know whether National Board Certification will continue to qualify for renewal units. You can find more information at www.educationminnesota.org/resources.

Identity Theft Notice

You have probably heard about the recent Equifax data breach and we just wanted to let you know that we are here to support you.

- Check your credit reports regularly to keep an eye on any unauthorized activity
- Monitor your online bank and financial accounts for early signs of fraud
- Sign-up for an identity theft recovery plan at negotiated rates*

Rest assured, if you become a victim of identity theft (or suspect you are), give the recovery team at Securus ID a call and they will get to work on your behalf.

Sign-up for a Securus ID plan at http://educationminnesota.securusid.com/

If you have any questions, call Securus ID at 877-833-9041 or email at <u>info@securusid.com</u> *Securus ID is an Education Minnesota ESI Member Benefit

To find out if you are impacted by the Equifax data breach, go to www.equifaxsecurity2017.com

2017 Retired Fall Breakfast Thursday, October 19, 2017 At the Science Museum of Minnesota Hot breakfast buffet included Enclosed is \$ for reservations. (Cost is \$15/person)		2017 Retired Fall Breakfast Who can attend: Education Minnesota Retired members, spouses and friends.			
Name(s):		-	Thursday, October 19 9 - 11 a.m.		
Address:	p:		Visit the MEA sessions and exhibits after the conference.		
· · ·	μ		Where: Science Museum of Minnesota 120 W Kellogg Blvd St Paul, MN 55102		
Education Minnes 41 Sherburne Ave	n and check to: ^{ota Retired} ., St. Paul, MN 55103 nline at <u>retired.mn.</u>	New to Retin Want to get invo First time attended attend at no co aft.org/event	 blved? es can ost Connect with old friends Stay Informed Learn how you can support Detined and Active members 		
	Legislative Command R	mission on etirement hap	sure to keep an eye on what's ppening with your pension. The gislative Commission on Pensions d Retirement (LCPR) has already		
	LCPR Updates	sta	rted meeting.		
Minnesota Pension Plan Basics Plan Basics	What happened to the 2017 Omnib	The LCPR approved the pension Bill? The LCPR approved the pension bill at its meet from there, the bill, a state Government Fir Elections, Rules and / Finance Committees i H.F. 565, to the Gove 2. Elections Policy, Rule: Administration, and S Finance Committees i was amended in seve approved by each cor it. On Sunday, May 21, 1 and, with several amendministration and S Finance Committees i was amended by each cor it.	proved ti at its mean the bill, a miniment Fir ules and J miniment Fir ed in seve y each cor miniment Fir ules and J miniment Fir ules and J miniment Fir ed in seve y each cor miniment Fir ules and J miniment Fir ed in seve y each cor miniment Fir ed un seve y each cor miniment Fir ules and J miniment Fir ed un seve y each cor miniment Fir educators!		
Legislation Pending pension bills Omnibus pension bill	Governor Dayton vetoed S.F. 3 on May 30. The le the veto focused on his objection to the preempti				
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Retired

Fall 2017

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

ELECTION NOMINATION FORM ENCLOSED

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 19	Education Minnesota Retired Breakfast
	Science Museum, St. Paul

- October 19 Education Minnesota's MEA Conference St. Paul RiverCentre
- November 11 Veteran's Day
- November 23 Thanksgiving Day
- December 25 Christmas Day



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

Look us up on the web at http://retired.mn.aft.org



https://www.facebook.com/EducationMinnesotaRetired

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