



Retired

Action

From the president

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Julie Jagusch

Wow! Strange times we live in. I hope you are all well and safe. As you can probably assume, your Education Minnesota Retired leadership and Governing Board have not accomplished a lot since the last issue of Action. We did hold our board meeting in February, but everything since then has either been canceled or held virtually. We canceled the Duluth and Owatonna regional meetings that were scheduled for April, but we hope we can reschedule and proceed with regional meetings soon. We also had to cancel lobby day this year. Your leaders have been following the guidelines from Governor Walz, staying home as much as possible and using social distancing. I am sure you have all been doing the same!

Our Annual Meeting was held in April, and I want to thank all the members who were on the conference call with us. We were, of course, unable to have presentations, but we did get a little business finished. We passed two Constitution and Bylaw amendments that will help us to continue our strong connections with our state and national unions. I sincerely hope that we will be able to hold an in-person meeting next year so that I can see your faces and talk to you. I really missed that! Reports and documents from the meeting can be found on our website.

Due to the uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus, we have decided to postpone our scheduled Fall Conference at Ruttger's resort until September 2021.

Due to our increase in membership, we had nine delegates to the NEA Retired Annual Meeting and the NEA Representative Assembly this year. Both of these events were held virtually, so we attended from our homes. The agendas were limited but we took an active part in those proceedings. It was interesting having a virtual representative assembly with thousands of people.

Thinking about our increase in membership, please be sure to talk to the new retirees from your former locals and remind them to become members of Education Minnesota Retired. Most new retirees have been paying their Retired membership dues through their active dues for the past few years and may not have to pay additional dues to transfer their membership from their active locals to our retired organization. However, they must complete the form on our website.

Please stay safe, stay home, stay healthy and stay union strong!

ESI coronavirus resources

With the COVID-19 pandemic, our world is changing daily. Not only has our work changed but finances may be tight, retirement plans may have changed and paying bills may be difficult or impossible.

ESI Member Benefits and our business partners are here to support you. Please reach out to the individual programs or contact ESI at 651-292-4856 if you have questions or are in need of assistance.

Financial concerns and support including budgets, investments and pensions

EFS Advisors

www.efsadvisors.com | 763-689-9023

Personal loans and other assistance
NEA Member Benefits

www.neamb.com | 800-637-4636

United Educators Credit Union

www.uecu.coop | 651-264-0669

Payment flexibility and billing relief options

Liberty Mutual

www.libertymutual.com/agent/darlenevonarx |
952-229-5692

Travelers

www.travelers.com/educationminnesota |
888-695-4640

California Casualty

www.calcas.com | 866-680-5143

NEA Life Insurance

www.neamb.com | 800-637-4636

Trauma counseling

AFT Member Benefits

www.aft.org/benefits/trauma | 800-238-1133

Office Max/Office Depot discount program

NEA Member Benefits Office Max/Office
Depot Discount Program

www.neamb.com/products/nea-office-depot-officemax-discount-program

Additional resources

Educators Lifetime Solutions – life and long-term care insurance

www.educatorsltc.com | 763-689-9023

Lifesprk – caregiving resources and in home care

www.lifesprk.com/edmnnav | 952-345-3317

Minnesota Health Insurance Network – health insurance and Medicare supplements

www.educationmn.mnhi.net | 952-465-0072

PerksConnect - online shopping

edmn.perksconnection.com

Securus ID – identity theft protection and recovery

www.educationminnesota.securusid.com |
612-238-0340

Tradition Mortgage – purchase and refinancing

www.mneducatorshomes.com | 952-252-4490

Zebit – shop now and pay over time

www.zebit.com/edmn

NEA Member Benefits

www.neamb.com | 800-637-4636

AFT MB

www.aft.org/member-benefits | 800-238-1133

PERA Update

By PERA Executive Director Doug Anderson



PERA Executive Director
Doug Anderson

You may have concerns about the security of the monthly benefit you have earned under the PERA General Employees Retirement Plan and how it may be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This article will provide you with information about PERA funds that may help address some of your uncertainty.

Pension funds are generally structured to withstand market fluctuations with minimal or no impact on a member's benefit. Only in rare cases across the nation are benefit payments at risk. The PERA Plan is far from being in the at-risk category. In fact, since its inception in 1931, PERA has never deviated from regular monthly benefits to our retirees, nor has there been a reduction to retiree benefits.

The certainty of PERA's monthly benefit payments has endured other crises, including wars, major market adjustments and economic recessions.

Only in the event of more permanent economic impacts, or changes to future assumptions, would adjustments be considered through the legislative process. Even if changes are considered, state law protects retiree benefits from being reduced. However, if investment losses were to be sustained long-term, there could be a change to how future Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increases are granted. In other words, the benefit will not be reduced, but it may not increase as much in the future as initially expected.

PERA's funds are managed by the State Board of Investment using a diversified portfolio, which helps dampen volatility and can mitigate losses. Also, employee and employer contributions are expected to continue to flow into the fund without interruption. As of the date this article is being written, the fund's returns for the fiscal year to date were in positive territory. While the fund may not reach its assumed 7.5 percent for FY20, we still expect that if future assumptions are met, the plan will be on a path to being fully funded.

Finally, it is important to remember that PERA's fund has rebounded from poor returns before. For example, in fiscal year 2009, the fund had a negative 19 percent return. In the following 10 years, the fund earned nearly an 11 percent annualized rate of return.

While pension plans are built to weather storms, there are no guarantees about the long-term economic impact of the COVID-19 virus. Determining the future of the plan in the post-COVID-19 world will require expert analysis and time to evaluate. Any changes that come as a result of shared sacrifices among all stakeholders will require legislative action.

View expanded articles & photos at
<http://retired.mn.aft.org>

Keep informed with news and events on our website and Facebook page.
[facebook.com/EducationMinnesotaRetired](https://www.facebook.com/EducationMinnesotaRetired)

NEA Retired Executive Council Report

By Bobbie Margo

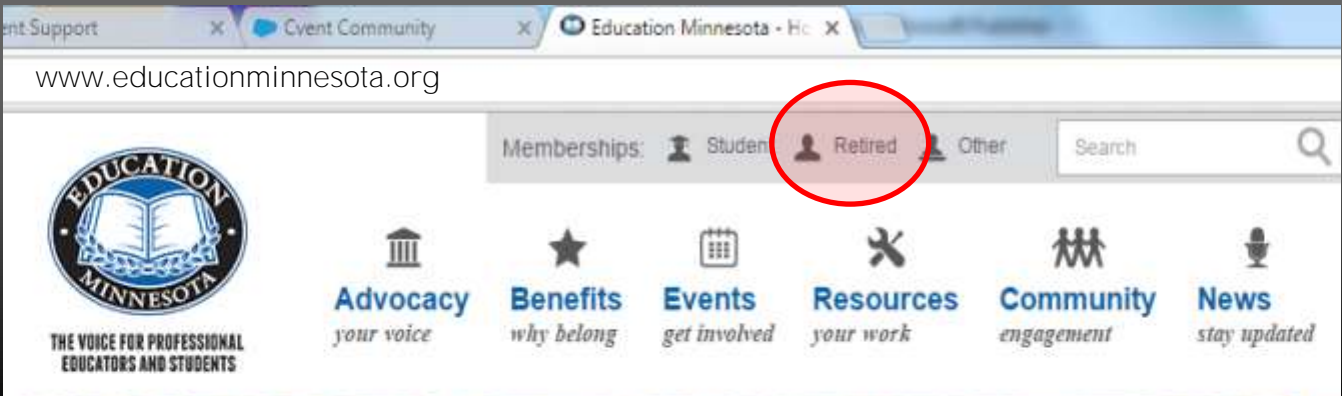
NEA Retired was formed in 1951 and has become a powerhouse of activism by working closely with NEA and its mission. NEA Retired has its own Executive Council and representation on NEA's Board of Directors and Resolutions committee.

The Executive Council is comprised of the NEA Retired president, vice president and secretary along with six at-large members. Executive Council positions are elected by the delegates to the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting, are for three year terms, with a two term limit.

One of these Executive Council positions is held by Bobbie Margo, who is currently in her first three year term. Margo's position is to represent all of the 300,000+ members of NEA Retired. In addition, she also serves as a liaison to Education Minnesota Retired. The Retired Executive Council held virtual meeting on May 4-5. Planning at the May meeting included the virtual agenda for the NEA Retired Annual Meeting held on June 29-30.

Important information for 2020 Retirees

Please notify your newly retired colleagues



The screenshot shows the website www.educationminnesota.org. The navigation menu includes 'Memberships' with sub-links for 'Student', 'Retired', and 'Other'. The 'Retired' link is circled in red. Below the navigation are icons for Advocacy, Benefits, Events, Resources, Community, and News. A banner image at the bottom shows a man in a purple shirt looking at a microscope.

Do you know members who retired this year?
Have them register at www.educationminnesota.org.
Click the "retired" membership link at the top of the page.
Register Today!

TRA Update

By Marti Zins



TRA Board Chair
Marti Zins

As retirees, we are grateful! Our monthly pension check has been deposited into the bank as usual with no interruption of service.

Since the horrific events of Sept. 11, 2001, the TRA board and staff have watched how the New York City pension staff responded to the crisis. Since then, we have been developing and investing in an “interruption of service plan” in the event of a major catastrophe in Minnesota.

We began with upgrading the electronic record-keeping system, hiring more IT security staff and training staff in usage of the system. We also implemented offsite work sites, upgraded the phone system and developed detailed plans for offsite operation if needed. More member services became available online and TRA counseling sites were located throughout the state for easier access.

Security plans and disaster plans were put into place and reviewed annually.

Schools now transmit payroll information electronically so all the information is current. Money is invested by SBI in a timely way. Over 90 percent of retirees opt for electronic payout of monthly retirement funds, making the payout system efficient, more secure than paper checks and less expensive than drafting and mailing checks.

TRA then turned its attention to developing a catastrophe plan, staffing, equipping and training. The priority was what to do if a disaster struck and how to keep the operation not only going but delivering on the promise of a monthly pension payout. Time, money and personnel were invested by the board and staff. We kept the wonderful example the New York City pension before us as a template to build upon. We hoped we wouldn't have to institute the plan, but felt we must be ready.

Schools and colleges are functioning remotely across Minnesota and educational instruction continues. Payroll sums are collected, transmitted and invested. TRA continues to function as before because of the diligent planning and work of school personnel, TRA staff and the TRA board.

I am pleased to report, with most TRA staff working remotely, that we are successfully continuing the administration of TRA. We can and will get through this pandemic! Be safe.

2020-2020 Retired Governing Board

Julie	Jagusch	President	Dan	Larson	District 3 Director	Charles	Hellie	District 7 Director
Wes	Tessman	Vice President	Vacant	Vacant	District 3 Director	Jayne	Schwalbach	District 7 Director
Lynette	Wayne	Treasurer	Joan	Beaver	District 4 Director	Roberta	Margo	District 8a Director
Sharon	Kjellberg	Secretary	Judy	Rohde	District 4 Director	Jan	Cummings	District 8b Director
Larry	Koenck	Past President	Myrna	Doran	District 5 Director	Sandra	Skaar	At Large
Ed	Mikulich	District 1 Director	Lois	Wendt	District 5 Director	Walter	Munsterman	At Large
Cathy	Stringfield	District 1 Director	Vacant	Vacant	District 6a Director	John	Lipke	At Large ESP
Wes	Hanna	District 2a Director	Susan	Witt	District 6b Director	Chuck	Lyons	At Large Higher Ed
Vacant	Vacant	District 2b Director						

Opportunities to help educators and local families

School and Child care Worker Relief Fund

This fund is a joint effort between the Education Minnesota Foundation, Education Minnesota, SEIU Local 284 and ISAIHA to raise dollars to help school and child care workers who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Education Minnesota Foundation, Education Minnesota, SEIU Local 284 and ISAIHA's Kids Count On Us Coalition have launched a fund to help school workers, child care workers and educators who have been laid off by their districts, under the threat of being laid off or have had to close their child care centers due to the current COVID-19 crisis. Most importantly, we know that these workers are disproportionately women and people of color. It is imperative that our union and the larger labor movement see this as an opportunity to be genuine allies in the fight for racial, gender and economic justice, and provide support to our most vulnerable school workers.

[For more information and to contribute click here](#)

Minneapolis Federation of Teachers

When the families of Minneapolis were impacted by the events in the city, and left without access to stores for necessities, the MFT gathered supplies and donations. Teachers from many cities and even other states collected donations and items and brought them to MFT so that families could gather what they need. Many teachers come to MFT to collect and deliver directly to families as well. Knowing the effected businesses would not be open anytime soon, and the ongoing need, as well as seeing how many families we are able to serve, several teachers have committed to keeping the donation site open for the remainder of the summer from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays.

Contributions can be dropped off on Thursdays between 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Education Minnesota headquarters building at 41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul. Education Minnesota staff will deliver to the MFT building.

Items needed include:

- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Lotion
- Deodorant
- Body wash
- Bar soap
- Hand soap
- Diapers (all sizes)
- Baby wipes
- Formula
- Cleaning supplies
- Dish soap
- Laundry detergent
- Fans
- Feminine hygiene (pads/tampons)
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Bleach



Foundation Contribution

Education Minnesota has established a nonprofit, charitable organization whose purpose is to provide grant funds to members and certain other nonprofit 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 Education Minnesota Foundation Director, Dayonna Knutson at 800-652-9073
Mail contributions to:

**Education Minnesota Foundation
41 Sherburne Ave.
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 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 Dept. at 800-652-9073

Mail contributions to:
**Education Minnesota PAC
41 Sherburne Ave.
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: _____

Email 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 Ave., 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: _____

Email 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 Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103





Retired

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Summer 2020

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

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

C a l e n d a r o f E v e n t s

- Oct. 15 Education Minnesota Retired Fall Breakfast
Science Museum of MN
- Oct. 15 Minnesota Educator Academy (MEA)
RiverCentre, St. Paul, MN

In-person
events
subject to
change.

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



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