



*Retired*

# ACTION

A publication for Education Minnesota Retired members

Winter 2019

## From the President

### Save the dates

**Thursday, Feb. 21**  
2019 Legislative &  
Political Conference  
(hosted by REAM)

**Friday, April 26**  
2019 Annual Meeting

**Regional meetings**  
**March 12** Woodbury  
**May 15** Rochester  
**May 16** Marshall



**Julie Jagusch**  
President, Education  
Minnesota Retired

Happy New Year!

I am so excited about the election results from November. Imagine what a teacher in the Governor's office can do for public education in this state! I cannot wait to see what happens next. But that also means that our work is not done.

Thank you to all of you who made phone calls, knocked on doors, and talked to your friends and neighbors to make sure they got out to vote. Now we need to keep up our activism and make sure that our newly-elected representatives do what is best for all Minnesotans. Watch your email for information on lobbying and other legislative activities that will be scheduled once the new legislative session begins.

I also want to thank all of the members who came out to our regional meetings. We had members and their friends attend meetings in Detroit Lakes, Chisholm and Brooklyn Park last fall. These meetings were well-attended. It was nice to see new faces and reconnect with old friends. We also signed up some new members! Each of these meetings features an update on pension changes from the bill passed in 2018. The meetings are a great opportunity to hear an update on changes from the 2018 pension bill, learn more about the Retired organization, socialize with other members, learn about Education Minnesota legislative priorities, and ways to support the legislative agenda. Upcoming regional meetings will be held in Woodbury in March and in Rochester and Marshall in May. Members are welcome to attend any of the meetings. Feel free to let us know what topics you might like us to address in these regional meetings. Please check this newsletter for registration information.

Make sure to register for our Annual Meeting in April! We look forward to connecting with more members in this year!

### Inside this issue

Regional meetings	2
NEA dental & vision	
2019 Annual Meeting	3
Legislative Action	
Committee update	4
Election results	5
PERA pension update	6
Retired Website	
Update contact info	7
TRA pension update	8
2019 Legislative &	
Political Conference	9
2020 Census	10
PAC & Foundation	
contribution forms	11
Calendar of Events	12

**Get involved in your union at the 2019 Retired Annual Meeting on April 26**

Jimmy's Event Center in Vadnais Heights

Registration form and more information are on page 3

## Plan to attend a Retired regional meeting

We had great turnout at our past regional meetings in Detroit Lakes, Chisholm, and Brooklyn Park. Don't miss the ones coming up in March and May! Our upcoming regional meetings will occur in Woodbury, Rochester and Marshall.

The regional meetings are a great opportunity to connect with your representatives on the Education Minnesota Retired Governing Board, get updated on legislative issues (including the latest on our pensions), and learn more about how retirees can support our fellow union members.

**Register today at [retired.mn.aft.org/events](http://retired.mn.aft.org/events)**

- March 12 - [Woodbury](#) 9:30 a.m...Registration
- May 15 - [Rochester](#) 10 a.m.....Meeting begins
- May 16 - [Marshall](#) Noon .....Lunch (working)  
2 p.m.....Adjourn



**Do you have a location suggestion for future Retired regional meetings?**

Send a note to [Matt Blewett](mailto:Matt.Blewett@edmn.org) with a recommendation at [matt.blewett@edmn.org](mailto:matt.blewett@edmn.org)

### Dental and vision insurance through NEA Member Benefits

Get comprehensive coverage. Procedures like fillings, crowns and implants are generously covered. Members 55+ can opt for the special retiree plan option with a \$1,200 annual maximum. If you are in need of coverage or want to find out more, visit [www.neamb.com](http://www.neamb.com) and follow the steps below.

- Sign in to your NEA Member Benefits account. If you do not have an account, please create one.
- At the top of the page, click "What we offer." Navigate to NEA Dental and Vision.
- On the Renaissance Dental website, select "Enroll Now" to begin your online application. While you're on the Renaissance Dental website, you can use the "Find a Dentist" tool, learn about plan benefits, print ID cards and more.



# 2019 Retired Annual Meeting

## Jimmy's Event Center

3565 Labore Rd, Vadnais Heights, MN 55110

Friday, April 26

9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

\$25 (breakfast and lunch included)

This meeting coincides with the Education Minnesota Representation Convention that will be held at the Hilton in Minneapolis.



## Agenda will include:

- Legislative update
- Pension information
- Retired business meeting

**Members may bring guests, however, the business meeting is ONLY for members. Non-members will need to leave the room during this portion of the day.**

## Register today!

Cost is \$25 per person

**If you register before April 15, the registration cost per person is \$15 per person.**

Register online at  
**<http://retired.mn.aft.org/events>**

You can also mail the registration form to:  
Education Minnesota Retired  
41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103

### PLEASE NOTE:

**The cost is  
\$25 per person\***

#### **\*Early Bird special:**

Save \$10/person if  
postmarked by April 15.

Cost includes  
breakfast and lunch

Be a part of the future of  
Education Minnesota  
Retired.

## 2019 Retired Annual Meeting

Jimmy's Event Center in Vadnais Heights

Friday, April 26, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

*Parking is free!*

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ reservation(s).

**Cost: \$25/person (\$15 if postmarked on or before Apr. 15.)**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



## Legislative Action Committee of Education Minnesota Retired

*By Joan Beaver*

Active and retired members of Education Minnesota had reason to celebrate the November mid-term elections. Many of the endorsed statewide candidates and a majority of endorsed legislators in the Minnesota House were elected. Many members worked hard to make the results possible and should be proud of their success.

At the top of the ticket, Tim Walz, a career teacher, will be sworn in as governor by the time you read this newsletter. He and Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan have pledged, "Every student in Minnesota deserves the opportunity to learn in the best schools in the country with caring, qualified teachers." In his victory speech on election night, Walz stated that Minnesota would provide the resources teachers need to help all students succeed.

The governor will find support for his education goals in a House majority with Education Minnesota-endorsed candidates. The House majority has announced a new committee structure and chairs. However, as of this writing, committee members have not been appointed. Rep. Jim Davnie will chair the Education Finance Committee, Rep. Cheryl Youakim will chair Education Policy, Rep. Connie Bernardy will chair Higher Education Finance and Policy, and Rep. Dave Pinto will chair a subcommittee of Early Childhood Finance & Policy. You can read the full announcement by Speaker Melissa Hortman at [www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/profile/news/12266/23253](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/profile/news/12266/23253).

There is no information on the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement (LCPR) as of this writing, and it is possible that the commission appointments will occur well into the session, which begins Jan. 8. The commission always has members from both the House and Senate, and the chair alternates between the two. The House majority will fill the Chair for the next two sessions. With passage of the major pension adjustment bill last spring, we do not expect any major changes from the LCPR. One issue Education Minnesota Retired is interested in promoting is the addition of one retired TRA member on its board of directors, for a total of two.

Education Minnesota Retired will organize a Lobby Day for our members to advocate for education finance and policies, as well as relevant TRA and PERA issues before the LCPR. Retired educators need to give legislators insights into the impact of their decisions on students and teachers. Watch for an announcement in an upcoming email.

Retired Educators Association of Minnesota (REAM) is hosting the political conference for retired educators on Feb. 21. We encourage our members to participate in order to prepare for advocacy throughout the session. You will learn about the specific bills that have been, or may be, introduced. You will find a registration form in this newsletter, or you can simply send your information and check to the address on the form without printing it.

# 2019 Election Results

## **At-Large Director—ESP:**

John Lipke

## **Education Minnesota Representative Convention Delegates:**

- Walt Munsterman
- Julie Jagusch
- Wes Tessman
- Adele Munsterman
- Sharon Kjellberg (1st Alternate)
- John Lipke (2nd Alternate)

## **NEA Retired Annual Meeting and NEA Representative Assembly Delegates:**

- Walt Munsterman
- Diane Larson
- Wes Tessman
- Julie Jagusch
- Bobbie Margo
- Sharon Kjellberg
- Adele Munsterman
- Charles Hellie
- Judy Rohde (1st Alternate)
- John Lipke (2nd Alternate)

**Positions will commence following the Retired Annual Meeting on April 26.  
Register for the 2019 Retired Annual Meeting at [retired.mn.aft.org/events](https://retired.mn.aft.org/events).**

## **Director at Large - Higher Education** Board position remains open

Education Minnesota Retired leadership is eager to include all of our retired membership in our organization. If you are interested in this position, please contact [Matt Blewett](mailto:matt.blewett@edmn.org) at [matt.blewett@edmn.org](mailto:matt.blewett@edmn.org).



# PERA Update

*By Doug Anderson, Executive Director of PERA*



Effective January 2019, retirees in the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) General Employees Retirement Fund will see a 1.4 percent increase in their monthly retirement benefit. This is an increase from the annual 1.0 percent increase that had been in place now for many years. The change was just one of the components of the 2018 Omnibus Retirement Bill that was signed into law by Gov. Dayton on May 31.

Under the new law, the PERA General 1.4 percent was determined as 50 percent of the announced Social Security Administration (SSA) 2019 increase of 2.8 percent. Since this amount was above the 1.0 percent minimum and below the 1.5 percent maximum, it becomes the actual amount of increase for the retirees in 2019.

The new law contained many other provision changes including increased contributions and benefit reductions. The changes varied from plan to plan. Uniformity of benefit provisions between the individual plans, including annual Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs), can be difficult due to the unique demographics, benefit structures, contribution rates, and histories of each plan. Uniformity in COLAs are particularly challenging because even small increases can be quite costly.

The change in the COLA structure for the PERA General Employees Retirement Plan was possible because it was considered to be cost neutral on a long-term basis with the prior COLA structure that would have provided 1.0 percent until the Plan is 90 percent funded and 2.5 percent thereafter. This particular change was done with the intention of trying to connect retiree increases more closely with inflation as opposed to trying to generate cost savings within the plan.

Another part of the new law included a COLA study to be undertaken in the fall of 2020 and considered by the Legislature in 2021. It's uncertain at this point what that study may consider or conclude, but it seems quite likely that there will be further discussion about trying to make all the varying COLAs for retirees more uniform.

The new law provides greater reassurance to all retirees about the security of their future benefits and the long-term sustainability of the plans. However, in all cases the likelihood of any significant increases in COLAs seems limited due to the significant cost for that benefit. The road to improved funding status for all of the plans will be long and rocky, but the results from last year put us all on a much better path.

## Check out the Education Minnesota Retired website for information on a variety of topics

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

- **Pensions**

Check out the information regarding the difference between defined benefit and defined contribution pensions so you can talk about the importance of our plans.

- **Janus decision**

Information regarding how the *Janus* decision affects our union and other public employee unions. This is a major change that should to be reviewed in order to explain it to others.

- **Events**

Retired events and registration links.

- **Resources**

Find past newsletters, membership information and more.



**You do not need to login to access the information!**

## Education Minnesota Retired wants to communicate with you!

We recently transitioned to digital communication including emails. Paper copies of the Retired newsletter are only sent to those who have requested one. Everyone else receives it by email through our Constant Contact system.

Please check with other Retired members that you know and make sure they are receiving the information. If they are not, please have them update their contact information by using the link below. If your contact information has changed, please update your information as well.



<http://retired.mn.aft.org/update-contact-information>

**You do not need to login to access the information!**

# TRA Board Update

*By Marti Zins, TRA Representative*



We had a successful year with the passage of the pension bill that was signed into law. However, we must now be diligent in assuring that the funding promised for pensions is part of the new budget bill that Gov. Walz will present. The economic forecast, released in December, suggests money is available.

The new legislative session has begun. There will be a new pension committee with a House member as the chair.

However, as of the end of December, members of the committee have not been named. To find out more information visit [www.lcpr.leg.mn](http://www.lcpr.leg.mn).

There will also be new commissioners at the Department of Education, and Minnesota Management & Budget (MMB). There will also be a spring election for two active educators to serve on the TRA Board. We thank Mary Broderick, a long-term member of board, who retired.

We also lost a very valuable member of the TRA staff. TRA's long-time attorney, Luther Thompson, succumbed to illness. It is likely that Rachel Barth will fill Luther's position. Rachel is the former deputy director of the Legislative Commission of Pensions and Retirement where she drafted pension bills, conducted legal and policy research, and analysis. Rachel will be a welcomed and knowledgeable addition to the TRA staff.

Currently, TRA is developing a three to five year strategic plan in addition to updating its communication. Go to [www.MinnesotaTRA.org](http://www.MinnesotaTRA.org) to browse and learn more.

The TRA and pension communities across the United States have identified challenges that face both public and private pension systems. A few of the issues include:

- Cyber security of the extensive data maintained by pension systems and the continued battle to keep information safe and secure.
- Health advances and the impact on pensions. For example, DNA manipulation that cure diseases and increase life expectancies or the opioid crisis for pension plans that fund health care.
- The sustainability of pensions when people want to retire younger while living longer.
- The volatility in the market regarding stocks, bonds, and new economic trends.
- Other issues such as wages, Social Security, workers and technology, teacher shortages, challenging classrooms, legislative bodies, public policy, and anti-pension groups.

There are many challenges that lie ahead and course corrections and monitoring for pension will continue. Teacher pensions have been earned and are generally spent in our local communities. Pension dollars spent, create jobs locally and contribute to keeping our communities alive and vibrant. Educators keep on giving.



## 2019 REAM Legislative and Political Conference

Public education is going to be a priority for the Legislature this year. Minnesota voters supported candidates who promised to bring our state together for the common good of everyone by returning control of the Minnesota House to the DFL, choosing Tim Walz as the next governor and electing current or former members of Education Minnesota to state offices. Thank you to all those who worked toward these positive election results. The Legislative session begins Jan. 8 and will end no later than May 20.

Our flexible schedules allow retired educators to play an important role in advocating for public education. Our elected officials need our insights into classroom needs and pension concerns. It is important for our members to write, call and visit legislators on issues important to education and retirees.

Please consider attending the retired political conference to learn more about education issues, pensions, and more. It is a great opportunity to learn how to advocate for public education. A combined conference with Retired Educators Association of Minnesota (REAM) is held every year. We alternate between hosting the conference and this year it will be hosted by REAM.

### Conference details

**Date:** Feb. 21

**Time:** 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

**Location:** 60 Empire Dr., St. Paul (TRA building)

**Cost:** \$25 (\$30 at the door) includes continental breakfast and lunch

**DEADLINE FOR PRE-REGISTRATION:** Thursday, Feb. 14

### **This event is hosted by REAM**

Please do not send checks/registration forms to Education Minnesota Retired.

## **Retired Legislative and Political Conference registration**

60 Empire Drive, St. Paul (TRA building)  
Thursday, February 21

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ reservations. (Cost is \$25 per person)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cellphone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Please send payment and registration form to:**

Tim Moynihan, 3670 Gettysburg Ave. S., Apt. #3  
St. Louis Park, MN 55426  
612-619-0497 tmoynie@gmail.com

# 2020 Census

By Myrna Doran

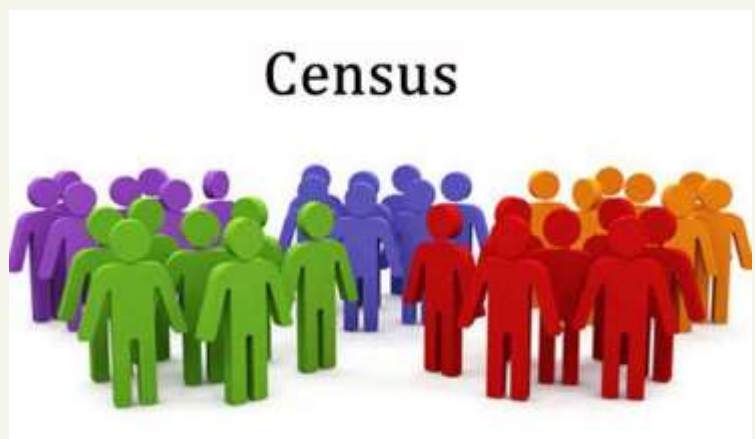
Andrew Virden, Director of Census Operations and Engagement from the Minnesota Department of Administration, presented information regarding the 2020 Census at the Minnesota State Retiree Council, AFL-CIO Annual Convention.

The following is background information about the census:

- The first census was in 1790.
- A census occurs every 10 years.
- The goal of the census is to have accurate information on every person.
- The next census is April 1, 2020.
- Every confirmed address will have a census form mailed to them.
- Workers are needed to assist with the census process.
- The form will consist of 10 basic questions.
- There is a push at the federal level to place an 11<sup>th</sup> question on the form asking about citizenship. Minnesota is one of the 16 states suing to block this question from the census form.
- Completing the form is safe and confidential.
- Information from the form cannot be released to the public or organizations for 72 years.

Mr. Virden explained the importance of having a complete count of every person living in Minnesota. The state and federal government need good data so needed services can be provided appropriately. Money comes to the state based on the census data. The amount coming to the state is at least \$1,532 per person. Some of the programs utilizing this money include Medicare Part B, Medicaid and SNAP. Accurate census data also determines the congressional districts in the state. A congressperson is elected to represent each congressional district. Minnesota may lose a representative if our population decreases in this census.

**How can you help?** Complete the census form and encourage others to complete it as well. Forms will be available in print, online or by phone. If you travel south for the winter, please complete the form in Minnesota so resources stay here. In addition, workers are needed on a volunteer and paid basis.



Learn more at <https://mn.gov/admin/demography>

## 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 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, 800-652-9073

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



## P A C C o n t r i b u t i o n s

Contributions to Education Minnesota PAC  
from Education Minnesota Retired Members

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cellphone: \_\_\_\_\_

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:  
Education Minnesota PAC  
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 the 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 Department, 800-652-9073

Mail contributions to:  
**Education Minnesota PAC**  
**41 Sherburne Ave. St. Paul, MN 55103**



*Retired*

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
TWIN CITIES, MN  
PERMIT NO. 582

## Winter 2019

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: [matt.blewett@edmn.org](mailto:matt.blewett@edmn.org)

## Calendar of Events

Feb. 21	Retired Legislative and Political Conference
March 12	Regional meeting, Woodbury
March 15-17	NEA Leadership Summit, Denver
March 17-18	2019 NEA Retired Conference, Denver
April 26	Retired Annual Meeting
April 26-27	Education Minnesota Representative Convention
May 15	Regional meeting, Marshall
May 16	Regional meeting, Rochester

Mark your  
calendars!

Event registration links can be found at  
<http://retired.mn.aft.org/events>

