

ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
Board Minutes
100 North Park – MPERA Office, 2nd Floor Conference Room
March 18, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The Board meeting of the Association of Montana Retired Public Employees was called to order by Tom Livers at 9:28 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Tom Livers, Lois Menzies, Carol Grell Morris, and Tyler Coenen (staff) were present in person. Leo Hudetz, Bruce Brensdal, Geoff Badenoch, and Barbara Martens were present by video call. Dave Ashley and Sheri Scurr were excused.

GUESTS

Hollie Resler (MPERA Deputy Director) was present in person. Brian Thompson (AMRPE Lobbyist with Browning, Kaleczyc, Berry, & Hoven) was present by video call.

MINUTES

Lois Menzies moved to approve the minutes and Bruce Brensdal seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MPERA PRESENTATION

Deputy Director Hollie Resler reported on several bills and their statuses within both the House and Senate chambers. She reported that House Bill (HB) 370, HB 640, and HB 700 were all tabled. Senate Bill (SB) 141 and SB 419 were also tabled. Several bills were reported to have had hearings very recently or hearings in the near future, which included HB 358, HB 516, SB 20, SB 56, SB 208, and SB 316. A few bills' hearing dates were yet to be determined, including HB 62 and SB 287.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

AMRPE Lobbyist Brian Thompson reported that he and the Legislation Committee (Tom Livers, Geoff Badenoch, and Sheri Scurr) are meeting weekly throughout the session and that other Board members are welcome to join. Brian also suggested that the Board support HB 85 which aims to reinstate former employer contributions by repealing the use of layered amortization to determine contributions. Brian also reported that, at the time of the meeting, there were no bills that would be bad for pensions.

REPORTS

Treasurer Report

Bruce Brensdal reported that a couple of CDs will be maturing soon, and he plans to renew them. Bruce mentioned that he may shop rates and look at shorter returns for better rates.

SEGBAC

Bruce reported that SEGBAC projections were what was expected. The active employee side continues to grow and the retiree side continues to decline.

Contract Coordination

Bruce reported that the Contract Coordination Committee has created a draft contract. It was reported that the draft intends to expand on the scope deliverables and set clear expectations going into a session, while still allowing for some flexibility to accommodate the fast-paced nature of the Legislature. Bruce reported that he planned to share the contract draft with Brian (BKBH) on March

24th and hopes to have Brian's comments back by April 8th. There was some discussion on the effective dates of the contract and that the Board wants to get away from the cycle of trying to renew the contract right before or at the start of the legislative session. The Board decided to make this contract effective from June 2025 through December 2027 (2.5 years), then get onto a two-year cycle again. This would allow negotiating a new contract in off years, not right before the start of a session.

Leo Hudetz motioned to approve the draft contract with the discussed and agreed upon effective time frame and to allow Bruce to send the draft to Brian. Geoff Badenoch seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Membership Report

Lois Menzies reported that there has been one new member and 99 renewals since the February meeting. Lois also reported that there have been approximately \$1,500 in donations this year so far. It was also mentioned that the upcoming spring newsletter will have a renewal reminder.

Member Communication Report

Carol Grell Morris provided a draft summary of the committee duties that focuses on the newsletter and other membership communications. Carol also reported that she will reach out to committee chairs and other Board members for content ideas. The plan is to review the draft in April and publish it in May. Lois moved to approve the draft summary of duties and Carol seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Proposed Member Communication Committee Establishment

Bruce moved to officially establish the Member Communication Committee and Geoff Badenoch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Council of Public Retiree Association Executives

AMRPE received an email through the website regarding the creation of the Council of Public Retiree Association Executives (CPRAE) and an invitation to Tom Livers (AMRPE President) to attend to determine if AMRPE would like to join. It is a council of 18 statewide retired public employee association executives with the purpose of meeting regularly and exchange ideas and experiences to help each other grow and strengthen individual associations. Tom reported that we are monitoring this idea and asked for input from other Board members.

Items For April Agenda

- 2025 Spring Newsletter
- Legislation Updates
- BKBH Contract

Lois Menzies moved to adjourn the meeting and Leo Hudetz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Tom Livers adjourned the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

The next meeting will be on April 15, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. by video conference call or in-person.