

Changing of the Guard

The AMRPE Board would like to thank Rusty Wrigg for his years of service as President. Rusty led our board through tenuous times involving last minute legislation that threatened the value of all our pensions. He is a direct party in the pending trial that AMRPE set in motion to protect the 3% GABA promised to Montana's retired public employees. Rusty was pivotal in garnering support for our cause among our membership, in the community and by coordinating various media campaigns throughout the state. His wife, Jan Sensibaugh, was also instrumental in the collection of dues and donations that saw us through this busy era. Her work in an unofficial capacity was invaluable. We hope they retire for real now!

We are also pleased to announce Cathy Kendall as our new president and Mike O'Connor as Vice President. Their dedication and commitment will bode well for our members and we are confident they will shepherd us well through the lawsuit and the legislative session where Mike will also act as our point man.

New Board Members

At its regular scheduled December 16, 2014 meeting, your board elected two new members to fill the positions of Rusty Wrigg and Jim Christnacht who resigned effective December 31st. Jim served as a past president and dedicated much of his retired life to advocating for retirees. As members of a larger community, we would also like to acknowledge Mr. Christnacht's service in the Korean War to a grateful nation.

We are very pleased to announce two new board members who volunteered their time and talent to serve our AMRPE membership.

Patty Mott of Clancy retired from the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) in 2012 with 32 years of PERS enrollment. Prior to her work for the DLI, she worked for the Departments of Justice, Health & Human Services, Revenue, Administration and Corrections. She looks forward to assisting AMPRE with the mission of preserving retiree benefits.

James Driggers of Helena retired from the Department of Public Health and Human Services after 31 years as a member of PERS. Over those years, he worked as a Bureau Chief for the Senior and Long Term Care Division, as a case management supervisor, a program manager and a recreation therapist at Montana Developmental Center. He is a long-standing board member of Growing Friends of Helena. James is married to Elly and they have two sons.