ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Board Minutes

100 North Park – PERA Office, 2nd Floor Conference Room

January 15, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

The board meeting of the Association of Montana Retired Public Employees was called to order by Lyle Manley at 9:30 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Lyle Manley, Patty Mott, Cathy Kendall, Jan Brown, Jim Lewis, and Kim Hoxie (staff) were present in the board room. Leo Hudetz, Dale Boespflug, James Driggers were present by conference call. Connie Welsh was excused.

GUESTS

Brian Thompson, Browning, Kaleczyc, Berry & Hoven P.C.

Duane Preshinger, Administrator for the Health Care & Benefits Division, State of Montana

Amy Jenks, Operations Bureau Chief for the Health Care & Benefits Division, State of Montana

Dore Schwinden, Executive Director, MPERA

Health Insurance Update:

Amy Jenks highlighted the 2019 health plan changes and discussed with the board ways to improve communication with the retirees. This summer, Amy Jenks will provide information detailing the process of finalizing insurance rates and AMRPE will prepare and distribute an informational email to the membership.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Brian Thompson, BKBH, distributed the Montana Legislature Preference List with two bills listed for the board’s review and comments; Bill LC0468, a revised funding provision for the Game Warden’s and Peace Officers’ Retirement System and Bill LC1376, revised income tax law to exempt military pensions. At this time the board sees no need for action on these bills.

MPERA UPDATE

Dore Schwinden stated that MPERA is tracking 27 bill placeholders with pension related topics. MPERA is closely monitoring the Game Warden’s and Peace Officers’ Retirement Systems funding bill, hoping that it will get funded this session. Dore Schwinden stated that the member portal is on hold until some issues with the new computer system are fixed.

MINUTES

Cathy Kendall made a motion to approve the December minutes, Jan Brown seconded the motion, and the December minutes were approved unanimously.

NEWSLETTER

The board reviewed the combined newsletter and renewal notice publication and decided that a renewal letter should be sent out separate from the February newsletter. The renewal notices will be sent out by the end of January and the newsletter will be published February 15th. Articles for the newsletter are due to CMS by January 31st.

Assigned Articles: Legislature update – by Dave Galt; New Board Member and Board Changes article – by Lyle Manley; President’s Message – by Lyle Manley; and Healthcare Clarification – Connie Welsh.

REPORTS

**Treasurer’s Report**

James Driggers presented the 2019 Budget. James Driggers, Connie Welsh and Dale Boespflug will research treasury notes and present their findings at the next board meeting. The board will make an investment decision, at next month’s meeting, on current CD’s that are set to expired at the end of February.

**Per Diem Board Meeting Travel Policy**

Cathy Kendall presented the new Board Meeting Travel policy for the board to review. The policy is based on the board member arriving in Helena the night before the meeting and leaving to go home the same day after the meeting adjourns. The board has determined that to encourage members to join the board from other communities in Montana, it is important to reimburse travel expenses to attend board meetings in Helena.

**Board Meeting Travel Policy**

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| --- | --- |
| Lodging with receipt | $125.00 |
| Lodging no receipt | $ 50.00 |
| Food | $ 40.00 per day |
| Mileage | $ .50 per mile |
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James Driggers made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Travel Policy, Jim Lewis seconded the motion, and the Board Meeting Travel Policy was approved unanimously.

**Membership**

Patty Mott stated that she has received 138 new memberships since the September board meeting. The total breakdown of new members is as follows: Lifetime, 11(8 %); 1 year, 78 (57%); 2 year, 30 (22%); 3 year, 22 (16%).

**Committee Assignments:**

Lyle Manley presented the 2019 committee assignments and no changes were made.

**2019 Audit**

Dale Boespflug and Leo Hudetz tentatively scheduled the audit of the financials in April 2019.

Jim Lewis moved to adjourn the meeting. Cathy Kendall seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

The next meeting will be held February 19th, 2019 at 100 North Park – PERA Office, 2nd Floor Conference Room.