ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Board Minutes

December 17, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

The board meeting of the Association of Montana Retired Public Employees was called to order at Cathy Kendall’s house by Lyle Manley at 3:35 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Patty Mott, Cathy Kendall, Jan Brown, James Driggers, Jim Lewis, Lyle Manley and Mackenze Braun(staff) were present. Connie Welsh and Leo Hudetz were present by conference call and Dale Boespflug was excused.

GUESTS

Brian Thompson, AMRPE Lobbyist

Julie Reardon

Lois O’Conner

Mike O’Connor

Tim Reardon

MINUTES

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

REPORTS

**Treasurer’s Report**

James Driggers presented the December financial report. He commented that the financial statement didn’t have a lot of movement from last month. He did mention that in January the association may consider pulling a CD depending on funds for future expenses.

Leo Hudetz stated that the budget compared to the actual incoming money looked good in reference to the efforts of promoting new members.

Patty Mott made a motion to approve the December financial statement. Jan Brown seconded the motion, and the
December financial statement was approved unanimously.

**Membership**

Patty Mott stated that there is a total of 128 new members (with 18 in November). This year, the 128 new members make up 6% of the 2,346 letters sent to new retirees. Patty mentioned that the percentage of new members is similar to last year’s membership from 2018 at 5.4% of the total letters sent to new retirees. The total breakdown of new members is as follows: Lifetime, 11 (9%); 1 year, 69 (54%); 2 year, 28 (22%); 3 year, 20 (16%).

**Nominations for Officers**

Cathy Kendall stated that she had discussions with Board member officers: James Driggers as Treasurer; Jan Brown as Secretary; Cathy Kendall as Vice President; and Lyle Manley as President. Each officer agreed to continue service in their respective positions on the board.

Cathy Kendall moved to approve the Board member officers in their same respective positions for 1 year. Patty Mott seconded the motion and the AMRPE Board officer positions were accepted.

OLD BUSINESS

**Revisions of By-laws**

James Driggers stated that the By-laws updates include Article 1, Section 5. The recommendations presented from Connie Welsh were reviewed.

Jim Lewis motioned that the By-laws be approved as presented to the board. Cathy Kendall seconded the motion, and the By-law updates were approved unanimously. The By-laws will be valid for two years and then reviewed once again.

**Newsletter**

Mackenze Braun presented updated formatting and language for the newsletter to the board, highlighting the updated language in the membership & referral article sections. Edits to the language were adopted to the newsletter draft. The board discussed the timeline of membership letters and the newsletter for best practices and plan to discuss newsletter topics further via email and have a plan before the meeting in January.

NEW BUSINESS

**State Employee Group Benefit Advisory Council (SEGBAC)**

Jim Lewis presented to the board his findings referencing the outlook of the health insurance program for retirees. Connie mentioned taking action to review the legislative drafts for program funding. Jim Lewis will be in touch with appropriate contacts to show interest in reviewing drafts and potentially participating on the committee.

**Legislative Committee Presentation**

Brian Thompson presented on the Interim Study Committee on Pension Sustainability.

Brian recommended a call to action sent to AMRPE members. Moving forward Brian Thompson and Mike O’Connor will write an informative letter to send to AMRPE members including a letter template for members to write to their congressional representatives concerning changes to the pension system.

Brian will set up a meeting with Dore Schwinden, Lyle Manley, Mike O’Connor and Jim Lewis to review how AMRPE can help MPERA.

Brian received an email from Representative Tom Burnett asking if AMRPE members have concerns regarding pension solvency. He will respond to Representative Burnett’s email on behalf of AMRPE. He recommended inviting Representative Burnett to an AMPRE board meeting.

Brian discussed that his contract will be up and need approval for continuing to work beyond December 31st.

Jim Lewis moved to adjourn the meeting, Connie Welsh seconded and the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be held January 21, 2020, 9:30 a.m. at 100 North Park – PERA Office, 2nd Floor Conference Room