

A Message from AMRPE President Tom Livers

AMRPE Board of Directors

Tom Livers, President
 Leo Hudetz, Vice President
 Bruce Brensdal, Treasurer
 Lois Menzies, Secretary
 Melanie Symons
 Geoff Badenoch
 Barbara Martens
 Carol Grell Morris
 Dave Ashley



(Photo Courtesy of Steve Barry)

This year is shaping up to be another interesting and important one for public retirement issues as state agencies and boards prepare their legislative proposals through the Executive Planning Process. With the advent of interim budget committees two years ago, the Legislature maintains a strong and expanded presence throughout the biennium. Committee work during the interim sets the table for both policy and budget actions during the upcoming 2025 90-day session.

The Association of Montana Retired Public Employees is active in this interim period, monitoring key policy and budget committees and strategically weighing in on issues that impact our members. Interim legislative branch studies and general housekeeping legislative proposals regarding public retirement have become almost commonplace, sometimes along with consideration of more significant changes.

I want to acknowledge and thank Melanie Symons for her work as past AMRPE President and for her continued service as chair of our Legislation Committee. I also want to thank long-term retired board members and officers Patty Mott and James Driggers for their hard work and service on behalf of our members. And, I'm happy to welcome new board members Carol Grell Morris and Dave Ashley, who joined the Board in January, 2024.

Thank you for your continued membership in AMRPE. We welcome your participation and input on key issues and invite you to consider joining the Board as we continually seek new members and ideas.

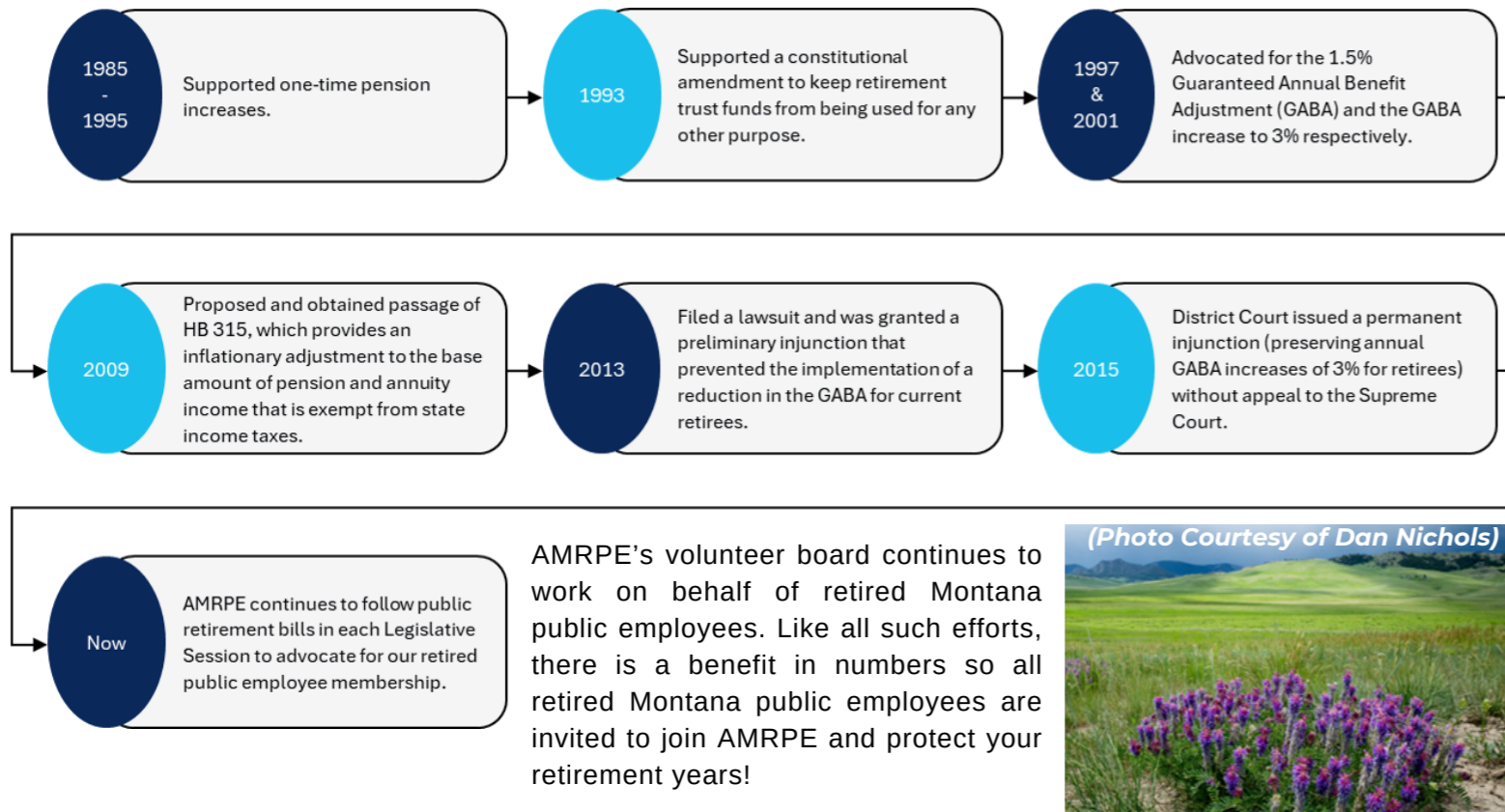
AMRPE
 Association of Montana Retired Public Employees
 PO Box 603, Helena, MT 59624
www.AMRPE.org



(Photo Courtesy of Susan Brueggeman Foster)

AMRPE Accomplishments

"A non-profit corporation serving Montana public retirees"
 By Geoff Badenoch, AMRPE Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chair



(Photo Courtesy of Dan Nichols)

Use your smart phone's camera to read the QR code to the left to visit our website at: www.AMRPE.org

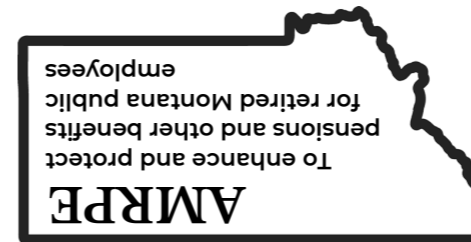


Look for AMRPE's Facebook page in the coming months and give us a like!



- A Message from AMRPE President Tom Livers
- Update on Legislative Interim Committees
- Membership Location Map
- And other important messages...

Association of Montana Retired Public Employees Spring 2024 Newsletter



AMRPE Member

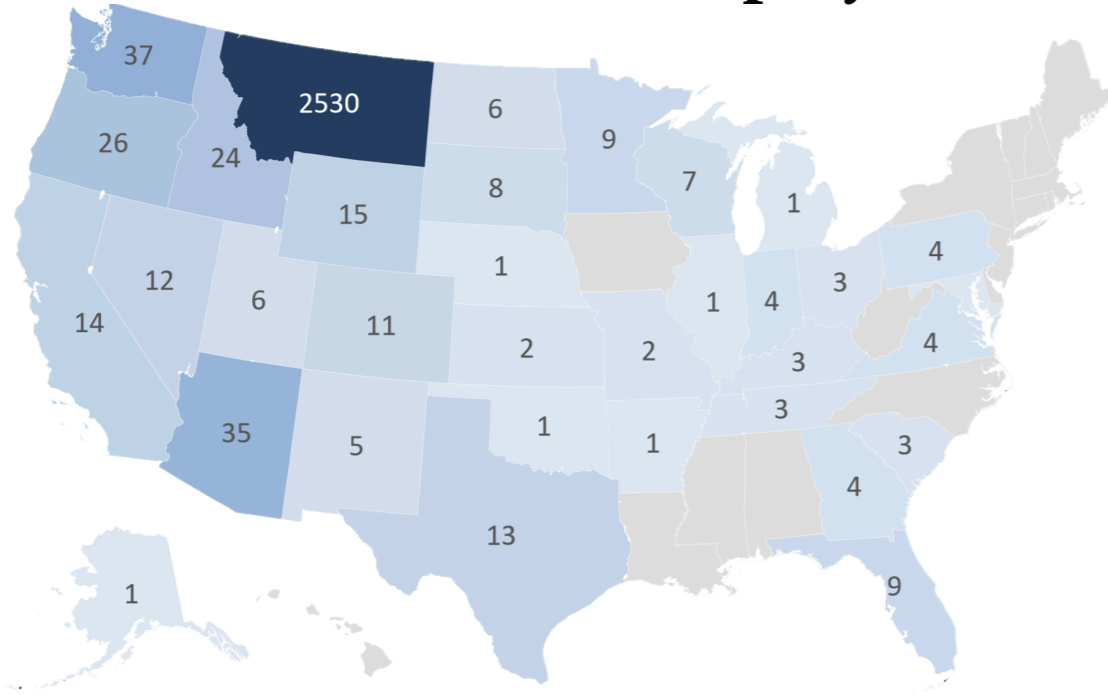
56,000+
Montana public employees

48,000+
Montana retirement systems benefits recipients

61
Average age at retirement for PERS members

22
Average years of service for PERS members

AMRPE Membership By State



Source: Green Sheets, Fiscal Year 2023, Montana Legislative Services Division

CALL TO MEMBERS: AMRPE members are invited to submit photos for use in future newsletters to tcoenen@cmsmontana.com

Legislative Update - SAVA Interim Committee

By Melanie Symons, AMRPE Legislation Committee Chair

Even when not in session, the Montana Legislature monitors your pension systems. The State Administration and Veterans' Affairs (SAVA) interim committee is charged with oversight of issues, rules, and legislation affecting Montana's public retirement systems.

First, SAVA has been working on HB 569 issues as that bill was passed by the 2023 Legislature. At its March 15, 2024 meeting, SAVA voted 8 – 1 to request legislation in the upcoming 2025 Legislative Session **repealing** HB 569. That 2023 legislation affected several public safety retirement systems (Highway Patrol Officers, Sheriffs and Game Wardens, and Peace Officers) by:

- Adding a requirement that Sheriffs and Highway Patrol Officers not only have 20 years of service, but also be age 50 to be retirement eligible; and
- Funding the systems based on an Actuarially Determined Employer Contribution (ADEC) with a 0.5% limit on contribution increases per year, but no limit on reductions in contributions.

Second, SAVA has also been working on an interim study of public pension funding issues called for by Senate Joint Resolution 4 (2023) (SJR 4). The study was assigned to a joint interim committee consisting of the SAVA committee and select members of the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC).

The joint interim committee has met on several occasions.

- November 2023
 - Legislative and Montana retirement personnel provided detailed education.
 - Issues of interest to the committee were identified and discussed.
 - Members completed a survey ranking their top areas of interest.
- January 2024 – development of a study plan based on discussions and surveys
- March 2024 – Consultants from an actuary firm and Pew Research Center provided information



(Photo Courtesy of Mike Murphy)

The joint interim committee's next meeting is May 23, 2024, during which:

- MPERA will report on average Defined Contribution (DC) member account balances broken out by age and/or years of service.
- The Board of Investments will address rates of return on Defined Benefit (DB) retirement system investments.
- A consultant from Pew will discuss various hybrid (DB/DC) plan options.

Please visit our website at www.amrpe.org for future updates.

Membership Update

by Lois Menzies, AMRPE Secretary & Membership Committee Chair

AMRPE membership stands at about 2,800 members, including over 80 new members who joined us last year. As you can see from the map above, our members hail from a variety of locations. As expected, 90.2% reside in Montana followed by 1.3% in Washington and 1.2% in Arizona. In total, we are scattered across 34 states.

Special thanks to those of you who joined during our 2023 new member campaign and to you who have renewed your membership by paying your 2024 dues. If you have not yet paid your dues for this year, do not fear! There is still time to do so. You may use the envelope sent to you in February or mail in the form below.

Did you Forget to Renew for 2024?

How to check your renewal year:
Look at the address section of this newsletter for your renewal year. If the year is prior to 2024, your membership fee is due!

Submission Instructions:
Cut out the section to the right on the dotted line and send your renewal to: **PO Box 603, Helena, MT 59624.** Or you can submit payment through our website: www.AMRPE.org.
If you have questions about your renewal or submission details please call: (406) 442-4934.

Please select a membership option below:

- New Member Renewing membership

- ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP**
 1 year for \$20
 2 years for \$39
 3 years for \$58
- LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP**
 \$225 if 60-70 years of age
 \$175 if 71 or older

Member Information (please print)

| | | | | |
|------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------|-----|
| FIRST NAME | | MI | LAST NAME | |
| ADDRESS | | CITY | STATE | ZIP |
| TELEPHONE | | *EMAIL (REQUIRED) | | |
| YEAR BORN | YEAR RETIRED | RETIRED FROM | | |

*Membership updates and Association action requests will be sent through email periodically.
Please make checks payable to AMRPE.

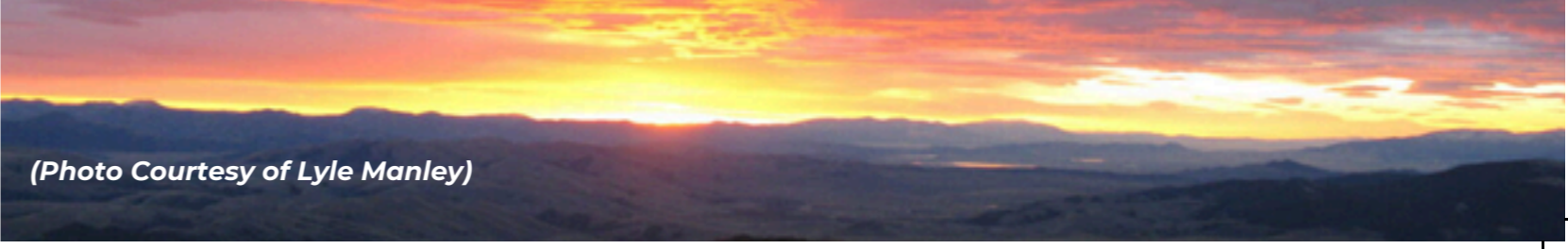
State Employee Group Benefit Advisory Council (SEGBAC)

By Bruce Brensdal, AMRPE Treasurer & SEGBAC Representative

The role of the State Employee Group Benefit Advisory Council (SEGBAC) is to provide advice on State Employee Group Plan matters and to meet quarterly, as presented in Mont. Code Ann. §2-18-810.

SEGBAC was created under Mont. Code Ann. §2-15-122 to provide Department of Administration with a body of state employees and retirees to provide advice on health plan matters. The council must include one retired state employee and specific labor organization representation.

AMRPE has a current board member who attends all SEGBAC quarterly meetings and provides comment as necessary on proposed health plan changes.



(Photo Courtesy of Lyle Manley)