

**ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES**  
**Board Minutes**  
**100 North Park – MPERA Office, 2nd Floor Conference Room**  
**November 21, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board meeting of the Association of Montana Retired Public Employees was called to order by Leo Hudetz at 9:30 a.m.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

James Driggers, Patty Mott, Lois Menzies, Tom Livers, and Tyler Coenen (staff) were present in person. Leo Hudetz, Bruce Brensdal, and Barbara Martens were present by video call. Melanie Symons and Geoff Badenoch were excused.

**GUESTS**

Mike O'Connor (Previous AMRPE President) was present in person.

**MINUTES**

Lois Menzies moved to adopt the minutes as submitted and Patty Mott seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**GUEST PRESENTATION**

Mike O'Connor was introduced as a previous AMRPE President and one of the founders of AMRPE. Mike used to go to the Legislature every year for cost-of-living-adjustments and eventually took the lead in establishing the GABA by identifying the historical average inflation of 3% and convincing the Legislature that retiree purchasing power goes down every year. Mike described one of the current issues is that people don't understand the unfunded liabilities. Mike also explained that while GABA cannot be tied to inflation, there can still be ad hoc adjustments to protect against inflation that is higher than the GABA.

**REPORTS**

**Treasurer's Report**

James Driggers recommended no further additions to the current CDs until they mature early next year. Lois Menzies noted that the budgets were very close to the actual costs of member education and member renewal/recruitment.

Patty moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and Barbara Martens seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Membership Report**

Patty mentioned that we recently sent out the new member letter and it has come to our attention that some current members received that letter. There is not 100% certainty why yet, but Patty mentioned that she found a field not populated in the database (membership type) which may be why, and if so, means there are approximately 200 current members who received this letter. This has prompted a double check of the database before the upcoming renewal letter and newsletters and recruitment letters in the future. Tyler Coenen mentioned that that field should automatically populate, and that the database form may not be working correctly.

James moved to authorize Tyler to work with the database programmer to get this figured out and keep the Board apprised of the costs for this and Lois seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Tyler mentioned that he is also in communication with the printer to identify if their process may

have been part of the issue and he will inform James if the bill will be adjusted or not before being paid.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### **Nominating Committee – vote on 2024 Board Officers**

The slate of Officers proposed for 2024 are – Tom Livers for President, Leo Hudetz for Vice President, Bruce Brensdaal for Treasurer, and Lois Menzies for Secretary.

Lois moved to adopt this slate of Officers and James seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

##### **Membership Committee – MPERA Presentations**

Patty mentioned that we need facilitators for these presentations.

##### **SEGBAC**

No update. They meet on 12/5 so there will be an update in December.

##### **Contractor Coordination Committee – CMS Contract**

The Committee made some proposed changes that CMS needs to review. A recommendation will be made in December.

##### **Constitution & By-Laws Committee – Amendments to By-Laws**

No update. Tyler was tasked with sending the Committee the By-Laws document.

##### **Items for December Agenda**

Patty found a publication called Montana Senior News that could be an advertising opportunity for AMRPE as this is the target audience.

##### **Additional Comments**

Thanks to Melanie for her service as President. Thanks to James and Patty for their long tenured service to AMRPE as Treasurer and Secretary, respectfully.

Leo Hudetz adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

The next meeting will be on December 19, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. by video conference call or in-person.