ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
Board Minutes
100 North Park – MPERA Office, 2nd Floor Conference Room
February 17, 2026

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting of the Association of Montana Retired Public Employees (AMRPE) Board of Directors was called to order by President Carol Grell Morris at 9:30 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
In-person: Carol Grell Morris, President; Lois Menzies, Secretary; Sandi Olsen

Zoom: Leo Hudetz, Vice President; Sheri Scurr; Sheryl Olson; Chris Behan

Excused: Bruce Brensdal

GUESTS
Zoom: BKBH – Brian Thompson

Members of the Public: NONE

MINUTES
Minutes from January meeting: Board members reviewed the January 2026 meeting minutes prior to the meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Lois and seconded by Leo to approve the January 2026 minutes as presented.

Result: Motion carried unanimously.

MPERA PRESENTATION

The MPERA update was scheduled but Bill Holahan was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict.

- Members were reminded to review their MPERA statements, particularly regarding cost-of-living adjustments and withholding elections.
- Members with questions were encouraged to use the MPERA general information phone line for assistance.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Legislative Update was provided by Brian Thompson, BKBH.

- The SAVA Committee has not met since January and is scheduled to meet again March 11.
- Interim Committee activity has primarily focused on elections, with minimal pension discussion so far.

- The candidate filing period runs February 17 through March 4.
- Brian will continue monitoring meetings and provide updates or recordings when pension matters arise.

REPORTS

With Bruce out for this meeting, order of presentation was updated:

Legislative Report

Sheri Scurr, chair of the Legislative Committee, confirmed she will coordinate closely with Brian Thompson to monitor pension-related legislation.

Treasure Report

Leo Hudetz provided summary of reports while Bruce is out.

- Financial activity since the last meeting has been limited.
- Membership renewal letters were sent later than usual, which delayed incoming revenue.
- A $60,000 certificate of deposit matured, generating interest income.
- Minor discrepancies in revenue reporting were discussed and clarified regarding how renewal payments are recorded.

Motion was made by Leo and seconded by Sheryl to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Contractor Coordination Committee / SEGBAC

Committee member Leo Hudetz provided the report.

- The committee has not yet met for 2026.
- A review of AMRPE insurance policies by this Committee was suggested to compare coverages and prices.
- Bruce continues to represent AMRPE on the State Employee Group Benefit Advisory Council (SEGBAC) and will provide updates following upcoming meetings.

Membership Report

Lois Menzies provided the Membership Report summary.

- 960 renewal letters were mailed to members.
- 436 renewals received to date, approximately a 45% renewal rate.
- Renewals include 323 one-year memberships and 12 lifetime memberships.
- Two additional members joined since the last report.
- Board members discussed the importance of continued recruitment and outreach efforts.

Nominating Commitee Sheryl Olson provided the update.

- The Board currently has one vacant position.
- No candidates have yet expressed interest.
- Board members were encouraged to identify potential candidates from multiple retirement systems, including law enforcement, fire, and judicial retirees.
- The current open seat runs through the end of 2026, with the expectation the candidate may continue in future terms.

Member Communication (Website and Outreach)

Carol Grell Morris and Morisha Daniely (CMS) provided an update.

- A website plugin expiration caused temporary functionality issues.
- The issue has been resolved, and the membership renewal link is functioning correctly.
- Archived newsletters are once again accessible on the website.
- The committee will continue reviewing potential website improvements and communication strategies.

Audit Committee

Leo Hudetz provided the report.

- The Audit Committee will review 2025 financial records.
- The review will include sample transaction testing to confirm accuracy.
- Leo will prepare written procedures and worksheets documenting the audit process to assist future committee members and maintain continuity.
- It was reiterated that the Treasurer should not serve on the Audit Committee to avoid conflicts of interest.

By-Laws Committee

Chris Behan provided the update.

- The organization's bylaws are due for biennial review.
- Chris will circulate questions and potential revisions to committee members to begin the review process.
- The committee name "Constitution and By-Laws" was discussed, as AMRPE has Articles of Incorporation and bylaws but no constitution.
- The Board may consider renaming the committee and clarifying responsibilities, including oversight of the desk book.

OLD BUSINESS

Website Work

Website functionality issues caused by an expired plugin have been resolved. Future improvements may require additional programming or design support.

MPERA Retiree Webinar

Sheri Scurr will attend the upcoming MPERA retiree webinar and confirm that the video recording is available and accessible for members.

Membership Outreach

The membership and communications committees will continue coordinating recruitment and outreach efforts.

NEW BUSINESS

Welcome Letters for New Members

The Board discussed reintroducing a welcome letter/postcard for new members.

- Historical welcome letters were located and reviewed.
- The letters previously included space for the President's signature and member identification information.
- The Board agreed to redesign the welcome letter and resume sending them, particularly for new members joining in the fall.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Sheryl, and seconded by Sandi.

Time of adjournment: 11:15 a.m.

The next meeting will be on March 17, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. by video conference call or in-person.