



Retired

Action Newsletter

From The President



Wes Tessman

Like everything else, Education Minnesota Retired continues to grow and evolve over time. Our membership is now on the verge of 10,000 strong. We are the largest local, Local 7300, under the Education Minnesota umbrella.

I would encourage you to continue contacting your state legislators. Just because it's a non-funding year for the Legislature doesn't mean that important work in education and for kids can't get accomplished. With your help, great things can get done. After all, it was you and your letter writing campaign that helped Mary Broderick get selected to the T.R.A. Board. She'll be an outstanding representative for both retirees and actives. Thank you for your amazing effort!

Please contact your family and friends that are active educators who are considering retiring this spring. Remind them about the benefits of continuous membership they have as members of Education Minnesota. We are the only state retiree organization that doesn't charge an annual membership fee. One of the many benefits of being a Retired member is having access to liability coverage as a day-to-day sub.

My thoughts go out to those of you who are guardians or have been steadfast in caring for your loved ones, including parents, spouse, partner, or your long-time friends and neighbors. You often do the thankless jobs and chores that others do not. For that, we sincerely thank you. You truly are someone's hero each and every day.

Finally, a couple of personal reminders. Live every day with great intention. Listen carefully. Continue to learn. And don't forget to give a kid a pat on the back. Let people know that you care. It really does make a difference in people's lives. The very best of wishes, my friends.

Yours In Solidarity,

Wes

Communications Update

By Myrna Doran



Communication to members is extremely important to Education Minnesota Retired. The Communications Committee has been concerned about reaching those members who do not have email addresses. In past years, Retired has mailed only one printed newsletter to all members. Starting with this issue, Retired will be mailing three printed newsletters to all members each year. These publications will be shorter than the annual December issue of the

Action Newsletter sent to all members in prior years. Our committee will be continuing our monthly electronic Insider Newsletter at the beginning of each month as well as sending electronic information pieces we call blasts on topics that are needed on a timely basis. Our webpage is in the process of being updated.

If you would like to receive the electronic publications, please contact Stephanie.berg@edmn.org. If you have suggestions for our publications, please contact Communications Committee chair at doranmm@comcast.net.

"History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, and if faced with courage, need not be lived again." Maya Angelou

Required Minimum Distribution - What is it?

By Sharon Kjellberg



Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) are the minimum amounts you must withdraw from your retirement accounts each year. You generally must start taking withdrawals from your traditional IRA, SEPO IRA, SIMPLE IRA and retirement plan accounts when you reach age 73. These withdrawals are added to your income for that year and will be subject to federal and state taxes. Roth IRAs do not require withdrawals until the death of the owner; however, beneficiaries of a Roth IRA are subject to the RMD rules.

Several strategies are available to avoid taxes on your RMD:

1. Donating to qualified charities: Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) allow you to transfer money from an IRA to an eligible nonprofit organization, 501(c)(3), without being taxed. Your IRA custodian must agree to transfer the funds to your chosen charity(ies) on your behalf. You can't donate directly. You can't claim that donation as a charitable deduction on your taxes. You can check if your charities qualify for this by using Charity Navigator to see if the charity is a 501(c)(3).
2. Rolling your account balance into a Roth IRA: Keep in mind that converting a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA doesn't mean you avoid taxes completely. You'll owe ordinary income taxes on any assets you roll over.
3. Purchasing an annuity (Qualified Longevity Annuity Contracts) with money from your IRA: This removes this amount from your RMD calculations. You don't have to begin receiving payments from the annuity until age 85. At this point they'd be subject to income tax.

Discuss these options with your financial advisor for more details.

Contributions to Education Minnesota PAC—Education Minnesota Retired Members

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Home/Cell Phone _____ Email _____

I am eligible to vote in the United States. Yes No

Enclosed is a check payable to Education Minnesota PAC in the amount of \$ _____

Return this form and your contribution to 41 Sherburne Ave. St, Paul, MN 55103

*Education Minnesota Retired members can participate on screening teams if they contribute to Education Minnesota PAC.



Through affiliation with Education Minnesota, Education Minnesota Retired retains access to political action and resources essential in electing friends of education and the lobbying efforts essential to maintain and improve Minnesota teacher retirement programs. Concurrently, retired educators also remain vitally active and interested in educational programs critical to quality education in Minnesota. **To support these efforts, the Education Minnesota Retired Governing Board encourages retirees who are eligible to vote to contribute at least \$20 to Education Minnesota PAC.** Education Minnesota Retired members who contribute are eligible to participate on screening teams that interview candidates and recommend endorsements of friends of education. If you have questions, please contact the Education Minnesota Public Affairs Dept. at 800-652-9073.

TRA Update By Joan Beaver



The Teachers Retirement Association board appointed Mary Broderick in January to fill the open Retired position. Marti Zins resigned in October for personal reasons. The Education Minnesota Retired board supported Mary’s appointment to the retired position. She will complete Marti’s term, which ends in 2025, and retired TRA members will then elect the next retired trustee.

Mary brings a wealth of experience to the TRA board including:

- Served as an active trustee from 2007 until 2019. She left the TRA board when her term ended and retired from teaching.
- Served as President of the St. Cloud Education Association for 22 years, having served on the bargaining team before that.
- Has been a leader in the Minnesota AFL-CIO as a member of its executive board since the merger of MFT and MEA.



Mary described her previous experience on the board as rewarding. “TRA meetings were energizing, with the opportunity to work, and learn from, a lot of really smart people who worked on a common goal, by brainstorming and problem solving together to maintain the sustainability of the fund.” During the 12 years that Mary served on the TRA board as an active member, she said, “Marti was an amazing mentor. She is so knowledgeable in both national and state pension issues.

I learned how to lead and keep focused on our fiduciary responsibilities. Working closely with her, she taught me to be an active listener and that when you see something isn’t right, you don’t waver on your principles. I value her experience and leadership.”



Thank you, Marti, for your years of service and fierce advocacy on behalf of retired educators.

Education Minnesota Retired Governing Board

Wes Tessman	President	Dan Larson	District 3	Vacant	District 7 Director
Sharon Kjellberg	Vice	Elaine Rothman	District 3	Roberta Margo	District 8 Director
Jayne Schwalbach	Secretary	Joan Beaver	District 4	Kathy Hegstrom	District 8 Director
Bob Millette	Treasurer	Judy Rohde	District 4	Jeanne Brown-Kruesel	At Large
Julie Jagusch	Past	Myrna Doran	District 5	Walter Munsterman	At Large
Cathy Stringfield	District 1	Pixie Pixler	District 5	John Lipke	At Large - ESP
Diane Larson	District 1	Bob Nystrom	District 6	Chuck Lyons	At Large - Higher Ed
Wes Hanna	District 2	Susan Witt	District 6		
Jeannie Ness	District 2	Roger Josephson	District 7		

Education Minnesota Retired Needs You

The Retired Governing Board currently has a vacant seat in District 7. After April 19, there will also be a vacant seat in District 3. If you live in either Congressional District 7 or 3, you are needed to represent the retired educators in your area. For more information and to submit your name, please contact Stephanie Berg at StephanieBerg@edmn.org.



Retired

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Calendar of Events

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| April 19 | EdMN Retired Annual Meeting |
| April 19-20 | EdMN Representative Convention |
| April 27 | Minnesota State Retirees Council Fundraiser |
| May 13 | Retired Board Meeting |
| May 14 | Retired Regional Meeting in Woodbury |
| June 30-July 1 | NEA Retired Annual Meeting, Philadelphia |
| July 3-7 | NEA Representative Assembly, Philadelphia |
| August 12 | Retired Board Meeting |
| September 16-18 | EdMN Retired Fall Conference, Chase on the Lake in Walker, MN |

Did you know?

The National Education Association (NEA), one of our parent organizations is the largest labor union in the United States with three million members.

See "Calendar" on www.educationminnesota.org for additional Education Minnesota, NEA and AFT meetings, events and other information.



<http://retired.mn.aft.org>