



Volume XX | Issue 3
Spring 2016

The Guardian

Mississippi Retired Public Employees' Association
Quarterly Newsletter

Officers | Board Members

Becky Cade
President

Ann Thames
Vice President

Vacant
Treasurer

Peggy Brewer
Secretary

Life Directors

Virgil Belue
Alton Cobb
Lester Herrington
Wilma King
Thomas Loftin
Billy Thames
Anita Toler
Sam Valentine
Fred Walker
Wilma White

2018 Directors

Richard Black
Ann Homer Cook
Lucian Hill
J.K. Stringer
Vacant

2017 Directors

Margo Bowers
Joe Johnson
Ollie Johnson
Dale Sullivan
Curt Thompson

2016 Directors

Jane Dykes
Martha Garrett
Mike Larsen
Ed LeGrand
Michael Myrick

Immediate Past President

Howell Garner

District Directors

See page 2 for district directors and
their contact information.

President's Message

Your vote is needed at 2016 Annual Meeting

By Becky Cade

Your Mississippi Retired Public Employees' Association (MRPEA) Board of Directors (Board) is hard at work preparing for the Annual Meeting to be held July 11 at the Hilton Jackson.

At the meeting, which begins at 1 p.m., the Nominating Committee will present the names of five individuals to serve on the Board for three-year terms that begin August 1, 2016, and end July 31, 2019. The Committee also will nominate an individual to fill the unexpired term of Col. James Ables, who resigned from the Board effective April 11 to focus on his health. That term runs through July 31, 2018. Members in attendance will elect the new slate of directors by majority vote of those present and voting.

In addition to the voting for leadership, possible proposed changes to the Constitution may be brought forward for a vote by members. A two-thirds vote of those present and voting will be required to amend the Constitution; however, we will publish any proposed changes on our website at least 30 days before the scheduled meeting date.

We are considering inviting selected vendors to be present for our meeting so that members may visit with vendors before and after the meeting; however, we would like to hear from you regarding any particular vendors you might like to see in attendance. Please email me at cade.consulting@att.net by May 31 with suggestions.

Make plans to attend the meeting July 11. Your participation is important at meetings and online. Let others know about MRPEA by inviting them to the meeting, following us on Facebook, and sharing our posts!

Together we are Guardians of Our Future!

Special recognition and thanks to Sarajeon and Mike Babin

It was with great sadness that the Board accepted, effective April 30, the resignation of Sarajeon Babin, who has served as our office manager and treasurer for many years. We so appreciate Sarajeon's diligence, expertise, and proficiency in maintaining the membership and financial records of the organization. We also appreciate the expertise provided by Sarajeon's husband Mike in building, upgrading, and maintaining the database software system that manages our current and former member data.



MRPEA District Directors

District 1 – *Forrest, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Lamar, Pearl River, Perry, Stone*

Wynona Winfield

601-955-4525

wwlsbeach@yahoo.com

District 2 - *Adams, Amite, Claiborne, Copiah, Franklin, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lawrence, Lincoln, Marion, Pike, Simpson, Walthall, Wilkinson*

Tony Byrne

601-431-2250

annetteb@cableone.net

District 3 - *Clarke, Covington, Jasper, Jones, Kemper, Lauderdale, Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Scott, Smith, Wayne*

Rhonda Yates

601-693-5340

rhondajates@gmail.com

District 4 - *Hinds, Madison, Rankin*

Vacant

District 5 - *Attala, Calhoun, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Clay, Lowndes, Monroe, Montgomery, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Webster, Winston*

Marty Wiseman

District 6 - *Bolivar, Carroll, Grenada, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Leflore, Sharkey, Sunflower, Warren, Washington, Yazoo*

Preston Ratliff

662-897-4333

p_ratliff2000@yahoo.com

District 7 - *Alcorn, Benton, Itawamba, Lee, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Tippah, Tishomingo, Union*

Robert A. McNeil

662-680-9024

ramcneil@comcast.net

District 8 - *Coahoma, DeSoto, Lafayette, Marshall, Panola, Quitman, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tunica, Yalobusha*

Thomas E. Toney

thomasetoney@bellsouth.net

MRPEA Committee Updates

Networking

Chairman Mike Larsen and the Networking Committee are working hard to establish an active, structured network of partner organizations whose members are participating in or receiving benefits from the Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi (PERS). If your organization is interested in partnering with MRPEA, contact Curt Thompson by emailing cthomp66@bellsouth.net.

Legislative

Chairman Ed LeGrand and the entire Legislative Committee did an excellent job planning and preparing for our first MRPEA Day at the Capitol event March 9. In fact, the event was such a success, we have already scheduled February 8, 2017, for our Second Annual MRPEA Day at the Capitol. Please plan to attend.

Legislative Committee members remained a visible presence at the Capitol throughout the 2016 Legislative Session, monitoring bills and discussions related to PERS. Fortunately, no legislation harmful to PERS passed this year, and, with requested assistance from MRPEA, PERS was able to get some of its legislative initiatives passed this year via House Bill 899.

Communications

Led by Chairman Bob Rhoads, the Communications Committee has worked determinedly to maintain and update the website and social media pages for our organization. The number of followers on Facebook and Instagram slowly continues to grow. Please like and share our posts and invite your friends to follow us on social media so that they, too, will receive valuable information about our organization and PERS.

Membership

Chairman Howell Garner and the Membership Committee continue to promote our organization as the guardian for PERS members and to seek opportunities to increase and renew membership in our organization. Board members and district directors continue to attend various PERS-sponsored and active employee-related events across the state to share with attendees the work that MRPEA is doing to protect their retirement benefits.

Organizational Review

Chairwoman Ann Homer Cook and the Organizational Review Committee made a number of recommended changes to the organizational structure that were approved in concept by the Board April 11 – subject to further review, discussion, and, if necessary, clarification – and are listed on page 3 of this newsletter.

With the Board's approval, the committee is taking the next steps in the process to select and convert to a web-based association management software package that will meet the long-term needs of the organization in maintaining accurate, up-to-date membership records and in communicating efficiently and effectively with our dues-paying members.



Contact MRPEA

Vacant
Office Manager

601-919-0670
mrpea@bellsouth.net
www.mrpea.org

Meetings and Events

MRPEA Board Meeting
July 11, 2016
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Hilton Jackson

MRPEA Annual Meeting
July 11, 2016
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Hilton Jackson

MRPEA Day at the Capitol
February 8, 2017
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
New Capitol Rotunda

Social Media



Organizational Review Committee Recommendations

The following changes to the organizational structure as recommended by the Organizational Review Committee were discussed and approved in concept by the Board of Directors at their April 11 meeting and are subject to further review, discussion, and, if necessary, clarification:

1. Provide that the Board will hold *regularly scheduled* meetings as determined by the Board, rather than mandated quarterly meetings;
2. Provide that the treasurer must be a dues-paying member of MRPEA, will be a volunteer, and will be a member of the Executive Committee;
3. Systematically reduce the number of elected board members from 15 to 10, with ultimately one board member being from each district and two at large members; and
4. Define life members of the Board as past MRPEA presidents who have served as vice president and president for a minimum combined period of four years.

PERS News

PERS Board Elections

At its April 19 meeting, PERS Board of Trustees (Board) certified results from its public school and community/junior college employees' representative election and announced open nominations for the institutions of higher learning employees' representative.

The PERS Board certified results of the election between incumbent Corinth School District Superintendent Edward Lee Childress of Corinth and Lamar County School District Director of Student Services Billy W. Folkes of Hattiesburg. Childress' term will run from May 1, 2016, through April 30, 2022.

The PERS Board also will be seeking candidate nominations for the institutions of higher learning employees' representative position due to the upcoming term expiration of Dr. Cecil L. Hill, Jackson State University associate professor of accounting. Candidates must be institutions of higher learning employees and active PERS members with at least 10 years of creditable service. Nomination forms, petitions, and a complete election schedule will be available on the PERS website, www.pers.ms.gov.

PERS-related Legislation

House Bill 899, which was sponsored by PERS and was approved by Governor Phil Bryant April 11, makes numerous technical amendments to the laws governing the administration of PERS. Refer to the PERS website for a complete summary of House Bill 899 and direct any questions to PERS at 601-359-3589 or 800-444-7377.

House Bill 114, approved by Governor Bryant April 18, names the PERS Building as the "Timothy Alan (Tim) Ford Building" after the late House Speaker Tim Ford, who served as speaker with distinction from 1988 to 2004.

Refer to the PERS website for a complete list of PERS-related legislation.



P.O. Box 5580

Brandon, MS 39047-5580

Prsrt Std
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 670
Jackson MS

Mail this form with check payable to: MRPEA, P.O. Box 5580, Brandon, MS 39047-5580

MRPEA Membership Application

MRPEA welcomes both retirees and active employees who are members of PERS into our membership.

- ☐ \$15 Annual Rate (August 1 – July 31) * ☐ I would like to serve on an MRPEA Committee
- ☐ \$250 Life Rate ☐ I want to support MRPEA with the enclosed donation

Please print clearly.

Name: _____ **County:** _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **E-Mail:** _____

* Annual Rate will increase to \$20 effective August 1, 2016.