

MISSISSIPPI RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

OCTOBER 9, 2017, BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

MISSISSIPPI GAMING COMMISSION – JACKSON, MS

Board members in attendance included: Ann Thames, Ed LeGrand, Bob Rhoads, Mike Lightsey, Becky Cade, Virgil Belue, Sam Valentine, Lucian Hill, Hoopy Stringer, Mike Larsen, Michael Myrick, Margo Bowers, Olin Lewis, Dale Sullivan, Tony Byrne, Preston Ratliff, and Wynona Winfield.

Board members not in attendance included: Alton Cobb, Howell Garner, Lester Herrington, Wylma King, Thomas Loftin, Billy Thames, Anita Toler, Wilma White, George Dale, Randy McCoy, Mike Black, Evelyn Webb, Jane Dykes, Joe Johnson, Ronnie Bell, Robert McNeill, Keith Shaffer, and Marty Wiseman.

Guests included: Deirdre McGowan, president of Insight, Ltd. and executive director of MRPEA, and Emily Pote, MRPEA executive director candidate.

I. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

A. Thames called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

II. INVOCATION

A. Thames called on Valentine to deliver the invocation. Valentine led the prayer.

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

A. Thames asked for approval of the board meeting agenda. A motion was made by Cade to approve the agenda, and the motion was seconded by LeGrand. Motion carried.

IV. BUSINESS

A. Secretary's Report

A. Thames called upon Rhoads to present the Secretary's Report. Rhoads asked for a motion to approve the July 10, 2017, board meeting minutes, which had been provided to board members in advance of the meeting. Cade moved for approval; A. Thames seconded. Motion passed.

B. Treasurer's Report

A. Thames called upon Lightsey to present the Treasurer's Report. Lightsey reported fiscal year-to-date (August 1 through September 30) income of \$4,960.00 and expenses of \$4,593.24 with net income of \$366.76. Lightsey reported that, as of September 30, the reconciled Trustmark checking account balance was \$46,968.96 and the Regions CD balance was \$44,936.30 for a total of \$91,905.26. A motion was made by Cade to accept the Treasurer's Report and was seconded by LeGrand. Motion passed.

Lightsey presented a proposed amendment to the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget to include \$500 for Facebook (social media) advertising, which had been approved as an expenditure, but not included in the budget. A motion was made by LeGrand to approve the amendment to the budget, which was seconded by Cade. Motion passed.

C. MRPEA Executive Director

- i. A. Thames announced that McGowan had resigned as executive director for MRPEA due to her health. A. Thames presented a gift to McGowan and thanked her for her service to MRPEA. A. Thames introduced Pote as the Executive Committee's recommended replacement for McGowan, and Pote briefly summarized her education and work experience. A motion was made by Hill and seconded by Valentine to employ Pote as executive director for MRPEA effective immediately.

- ii. A. Thames called upon Rhoads to discuss the proposed management services agreement with Pote. Rhoads reported that the MRPEA Executive Committee recommends an annual base compensation of \$15,000 (\$1,250 per month), up from \$10,800 due to an expanded scope of work to include handling all communications for MRPEA.

In addition, the Executive Committee recommends a per diem of \$100 – not to exceed 25 days or \$2,500 – for any day that Pote attends a non-MRPEA-sponsored meeting or event on behalf of MRPEA with prior approval from the president. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the compensation package should include reimbursement for actual out-of-pocket travel expenses associated with approved travel to and from non-MRPEA-sponsored meetings and events. A motion was made by Lightsey to approve the proposed management services agreement and compensation package as discussed; Larsen seconded. Motion passed.

A. Thames asked for approval to employ both McGowan and Pote for a two-week period to help ensure a seamless transition of administrative responsibilities. A motion was made by Lightsey to approve employing McGowan and Pote simultaneously for a two-week transition period; Larsen seconded. Motion passed.

D. District Director Appointment

A. Thames nominated James Cushman to fill the vacant District 3 director post (previously filled by Rhonda Yates). LeGrand made a motion to accept the recommendation, which was seconded by Valentine. Motion passed.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Networking

A. Thames called upon Larsen to present the Networking Committee report. Larsen reported that he will coordinate with A. Thames to schedule another meeting with the partner organizations soon. Larsen reported that he, A. Thames, and LeGrand attended a September 12 meeting of between 150 and 200 retired faculty at Mississippi State University and served on a panel with Senator Hob Bryan. The representatives from MRPEA were well-received by most in attendance and shared timely information to those in attendance about MRPEA and its mission to protect the defined benefits provided through PERS.

B. Legislative

No report.

C. Communications

A. Thames called upon Rhoads to present the Communications Committee report. Rhoads reported that, since the last meeting, the summer issue of The Guardian had been published. Rhoads reported that, as of October 9, Facebook likes total 922, Instagram followers total 138, and that, since May 22, a total of 94 individuals have subscribed to text alerts, including 19 MRPEA board members. Rhoads reminded board members to encourage others to text the keyword “MRPEA” to the number 95577 so that they will receive text alerts sent by MRPEA. Rhoads also reported that the MRPEA mobile app is currently on hold for further discussion on who within the organization will administer the app.

D. Membership

A. Thames reported that MRPEA will be a paid-sponsor at the 2017 MAPA (Mississippi Association of Personnel Administrators) Conference October 12-13 in Jackson. The aim of participating in this conference is to recruit new members who are active employees and to

strengthen the partnership with the human resources directors. A. Thames asked for volunteers to man the vendor booth both days of the conference.

Cade reported that she recently represented MRPEA at St. Dominic's Senior Wellness Fest at the Mississippi Trade Mart in Jackson where she handed out membership brochures and talked with many attendees about MRPEA. Cade also reported that she and Winfield will be attending the Mississippi Library Association Annual Conference Wednesday, October 18, 2017, at Lake Terrance Convention Center in Hattiesburg where they will represent MRPEA and talk about life in retirement.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Thames reported that she, LeGrand, and Larsen had met with Pat Robertson, PERS executive director, on or about August 30 to find out what MRPEA can do to help support PERS. A. Thames also reported that she attended PERS Budget Hearing September 22 and that she, LeGrand and Larsen attended a Special Called Meeting of the PERS Board of Trustees September 25, 2017, which was held at the Woolfolk Building rather than the PERS Building.

A. Thames asked Winfield to present a report on the role of the MRPEA district director and the associated responsibilities. According to Winfield's report, the role of the district director is to serve as a liaison between the MRPEA leadership and the county membership in each director's appointed area. Winfield discussed the primary district director responsibilities as follows:

1. Being knowledgeable of MRPEA and PERS information relative to the mission of MRPEA for the purpose of sharing with retirees.
2. Promoting membership in MRPEA.
3. Recruiting a coordinator from membership list in each county to assist with maintaining current membership rosters, including dues reminders, and to help disseminate information.
4. Attending board meetings and called district directors meetings.
5. Implementing legislative grassroots efforts.
6. Contacting district media outlets with press releases and making guest appearances on local television or radio shows.

A. Thames reported that a meeting of district directors would be scheduled soon to discuss the role and responsibilities as a group.

A discussion ensued about getting more organized, including meeting with partner organizations and formalizing the role and responsibilities of the district directors.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Cade made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 11:45 a.m. The motion was seconded by Belue. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by:

Bob Rhoads
MRPEA Secretary