



Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 12, 2018
Mississippi Library Commission

Welcome and Call to Order

The MRPEA Board Meeting was called to order at 12:51 PM by Ann Thames.

Members Present

Virgil F. Belue	Ed LeGrand
Troy Byrne	Olin Lewis
Mary Bowers	Michael Myrick
George Dale	Keith Shaffer
Howell Garner	Dale T. Sullivan
Lucian Hill	Ann Thames
Joe Johnson	Wynona Winfield
Mike Larsen	Marty Wiseman

Members Not Present

Ronald Bell	Randy McCoy
Richard Black	Robert McNeil
Alton Cobb	J. Stringer
James Cushman	Billy Thames
Jane Dykes	Anita Toler
Lester Herrington	Sam Valentine
Wylma King	Evelyn Webb
Mike Lightsey	Wilma White
Thomas Loftin	

Guest

Emily Pote, MRPEA Executive Director	Davetta Lee, PERS
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Invocation

Ann Thames called on Howell Gardner to give the invocation for Sam Valentine. Howell led the prayer.

Agenda Approval

Ann Thames asked for the approval of the board meeting agenda. Ed Legrand made a motion, Mike Larsen seconded the motion, and all approved.

PERS Update

Davetta Lee from PERS reported that as of June 30, PERS had 153,003 active members and 104,000 retired members. She went over the Facts and Figures document and pointed to the fact that PERS had a 14.96% return on assets this past year. Lee noted that they may increase



employer contribution rates in the next couple of years. Lee also noted that PERS is 61% funded. She asked the board to go to the PERS website and read the State of the Plan that was put out in December. This gives a clear picture of where the system currently is.

Lee asked the board to please encourage all retirees to update their information with PERS. She also reported that PERS will be rolling out a self-service program where retirees should be able to update their information online. This should be live by the end of the year.

Lee reported that all legislation that had PERS code in it is dead. She also reminded the board that Pat Robertson will be retiring by June 30, 2018, but possibly as early as April. She noted that it is not the responsibility of the PERS Board to change policy, it is the legislature's.

Old Business

Treasurer's Report

Emily Pote gave the treasurers report for Mike Lightsey. She reported that the 2018 fiscal year budget has been approved. Pote reported fiscal YTD income of \$6,770.80 and expenses of \$15,165.61 with a net loss of \$8,394.81. Pote reminded the board that membership is often slow at this time of year, but that she will begin a membership drive in April. A motion was made by Gardner and seconded by LeGrand. Motion passed.

Approval of October 11, 2017, Board Meeting Minutes

Ann Thames asked for a motion to approve the October 9, 2017 board meeting minutes, which had been provided to the board members. LeGrand moved for approval, and Belue seconded. Motion passed.

Executive Director's Report

Emily Pote presented her executive Director's Report, prepared in advance. She noted that she has worked to clean up MRPEA's financial reporting and to finalize the budget. She also filed MRPEA's taxes and had been working to more effectively use MRPEA's money. Pote has worked on marketing and getting to know MRPEA. She will begin a membership drive in April and plans to put out the Spring Newsletter in March.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee

Ann Thames presented the Executive Committee meeting minutes. She touch on some of the things they discussed. The committee approved the branded tablecloth and expanded Day at the Capitol budget. They also discussed financing Emily Pote to work towards getting CAE Certification. She reported that Bob Rhoads has resigned as Secretary and she is in talks with a couple of people to take this position. Wynona Winfield has taken on the role of Communications Committee chair.



Networking

Mike Larsen reported on the Partners Meeting, noting that it was a good quality meeting. He let the board know that this committee will be focused on updating each group on what is going on in the legislature and that the partners dialogued the best ways to accomplish this goal, as well as more effective ways to get members involved.

Legislative

Ed LeGrand reported that the Day at the Capitol was a good event and gave us an opportunity to engage legislators. LeGrand also informed the board that all bills with PERS code have died in committee.

Communications

Wynona Winfield presented the new communications piece that has been developed. She also reported that as the new communications chair, she hopes to put together a plan that would complement all committees. She and Pote are also working on a legislative piece and an annual report that would replace the Summer Guardian.

Membership

Howell Garner presented the membership report. Since August, we have had 34 new annual members, 219 renewals, and 2 life members sign up. He encouraged everyone to reach out to those who might be interested in becoming a member.

New Business

Purchase of Promo materials

Ann Thames and Emily Pote presented the proposal to purchase marketing materials for exhibiting.

Other New Business

Ann Thames reported that she and Emily Pote went to speak to Senator Fillingane about 6 bills related to PERS in the Senate and Ann spoke with Representative Reed about 10 bills related to PERS in the House. Both legislatures were not interested in touching PERS at all which was encouraging. Ann stressed that not this year or the next (which was an election year), but the next year MRPEA would be concerned. She also noted that if PERS decides to increase the employer contribution, the legislature will probably not fund it.

George Dale asked for any recommendations or suggestions from the board as it pertains to PERS. He also thanked the board for the opportunity to serve on the PERS Board.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ann Thames made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 2:06 PM. Ed Legrand seconded the motion and all approved.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Emily Pote