

SERREAM

Newsletter

Fall 2021

President's Message: Kay Morcomb

Business meetings are generally not regarded as joyous occasions. However, the SERREAM board was very happy to meet in person for the first time in 18 months.

We are grateful for zoom to keep our board functioning and most thankful to members who maintained membership thereby keeping our organization alive. A pandemic not only causes the death of people but also causes the death of organizations. So you see the great importance of your membership even though several conferences were cancelled. We keep on planning with hopes we may see you in person also.

REAM, SERREAM, and local units emphasize educators means every public school employee, not just teachers. PERA as well as TRA members will be recognized at the SERREAM Fall conference by speakers and at awards.

The 2021 SERREAM Fall Health and Legislative Conference kicks off on Wednesday October 21 at the Rochester International Event Center! We will continue to monitor CDC guidelines in the coming weeks, and the most up-to-date guidelines will be followed at the conference. As part of this, we are asking for a phone number and email on the registration form in case we need to contact you quickly regarding the status of our conference. The \$20 registration fee is due October 9; late registration will be \$25. The registration fee includes coffee breaks and lunch

We have some great speakers lined up! Paul Ehrhard, the REAM President, and our REAM legislative committee members will give an update on pending legislative matters. Representatives of both TRA and PERA will speak on the future of our funds. Our morning guest speaker is Timothy Hunter, a social worker who is developing a Regional Crisis Center in SE Minnesota. In the afternoon we will be entertained by story teller, humorist, and author Al Batt.

Each local is asked to donate a door prize to be given away at the end of our conference. We have had some great prizes in the past and I am sure we will not be disappointed this year.

We are looking forward to seeing you all on October 21!

Barb Hunter, SERREAM Conference Chair

SERIAM Executive Board Meeting August 18, 2021

Kay Morcomb called the meeting to order at 8:40 AM. Present were Ben and Sharon Baratto, Gayle Goetzman Stolpa, Barbara Hunter, Keith Larson, Kay Morcomb, Lyle Olson, Phoebe Praxl, Edna Thayer and Don Zwach.

Secretary's Report (Sylvia Swede) In Sylvia's absence the previous meeting minutes were approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report (Sharon Baratto) The balance is about the same as the previous report of \$11,742.99. There has been little activity since the May meeting. Coming up will be newsletter and conference expenses and income from dues and conference registrations. A full report will be made at the conference.

President's Report (Kay Morcomb) See the front page message.

Legislative (...) An article will be submitted by Don Zwach.

Health (...) A health report will be about mental health, which is one of conference topics.

Educator Awards (Edna Thayer) See her report below

Business: The focus of our meeting was putting together all the details for the fall conference and what to publish in the newsletter. The last conference was a \$25 registration. It was moved, seconded, and carried to charge \$20 for timely registrations and \$25 for late registrations. The venue needs an early count for ordering supplies, then planning food preparation and setting up tables and chairs, speakers like to know the number to expect and may have hand outs, plus it certainly helps the registrar. It is important to have an early head count for producing a conference. Hopefully this is a little nudge to sign up asap. It was also moved, seconded, and carried to have SERIAM contribute a door prize this year in addition to the door prizes contributed by local units.

Announcements: SERIAM Conference, October 20, 2021 in Rochester
Next board meeting, November 17, 2021 in Rochester

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40.

Because of COVID cancellations, the 2020 SERIAM Educator award winners will receive their awards this fall. Ken Kangas and Irene Lande, whose tributes were in a previous newsletter, will both receive the REAM Educator awards on September 20 at the REAM Convention in Walker.

Their SERIAM awards will be given at the Legislative and Health Conference in Rochester on October 20. In addition, Ellen Bisping from FARE will be receiving the REAM Educator Award at the conference in Walker. Congratulations to all three.

Although nominations for the 2022 SERIAM Educator Awards aren't due until January 31, now is the time to think about whom you will nominate. If you have any questions about the process, please contact Edna Thayer at ednathayer@gmail.com or 507-267-4588. Guidelines will be printed in the November newsletter.

REAM Is Your Voice Protecting Our Pension for The Past 67 years!

REAM has been protecting our Minnesota Educator's Pensions since 1954! Your membership is critical in supporting the REAM Leadership Team working with the Minnesota Legislature to keep our pensions safe.

The Retired Educators Association of Minnesota (REAM) is the #1 organization actively working to protect and maintain our educator's pensions. Their work on our member's behalf includes:

- Regularly attending meetings of the Investment Advisory Council, the Minnesota State Board of Investment (the state agency responsible for investing all public employee pension funds) and the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement which establishes pension policies for all Minnesota public employees.
- Working closely with statewide public employee retirement systems including the Minnesota Teachers Retirement Association (TRA) and the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA).
- Conducting legislative workshops for its 48 local retiree units; providing speakers and other assistance upon request.
- Working at the state and national level with NRTA/AARP on issues of concern to all older citizens.

A big "thank you" for supporting your local Retirement Unit, SEREAM, and REAM whose mission is to protect our pension!

2021-2022 Legislative Commission Membership

Senate members

Sen. Nick Frentz
2415 Minnesota Senate Bldg
651-296-6153

Sen. Jeff R. Howe
3231 Minnesota Senate Bldg
651-296-7136

Sen. John Jasinski
2101 Minnesota Senate Bldg
651-296-0284

Sen. Sandra Pappas
2205 Minnesota Senate Bldg
651-296-1802

Sen. Julie Rosen
2113 Minnesota Senate Bldg
651-296-5713

Sen. Jason Rarick
3411 Minnesota Senate Bldg
651-296-5713

Sen. David Senjem
3401 Minnesota Senate Bldg
651-296-3903

House members

Rep. Kaela Berg
413 State Office Bldg
651-296-5387

Rep. Luke Frederick
487 State Office Bldg
651-296-5486

Rep. Kaoly Her
359 State Office Bldg
651-296-8799

Rep. Mary Murphy
343 State Office Bldg
651-296-2676

Rep. Michael V. Nelson
585 State Office Bldg
651-296-3751

Rep. Timothy O'Driscoll
237 State Office Bldg
651-296-7808

Rep. Jordan Rasmussen
291 State Office Bldg
651-296-4946

Keep this membership list handy. If you have questions or concerns about your pension, call one of these LCPR members. David Senjem is our local voice on the commission.

Health Report

Moving from Stress to Distress: The Impact of COVID on our Mental Health System

This presentation will be focused on how COVID-19 has impacted our communities mental health. It will focus on how this pandemic has influenced the way our system operates to provide services to those experiencing mental health challenges. The presentation will look at some of the symptom trends experienced in our communities. It will also callout fractures in the system and how we as a region and state reacted.

Bio: Timothy Hunter is a social worker who works with our regional mental health system to enhance our regional service delivery model and create a responsive system across the 10 Southeast Minnesota counties. He holds a master's degree from Augsburg College in Social Work. His education and work is focused on program development, policy and administration of human service programs.

Tim acts as our Regional Adult Mental Health Initiative Coordinator leading the program development of a regional crisis center, housing services and other initiatives. He participates in many collaborative groups across the state focused on mental health service delivery. He has been part of policy reform efforts in the state of Minnesota. He leads many multi-disciplinary groups with public and private providers aimed at educating staff and improving our system of care.

Agenda of 2021 Fall Legislative & Health Conference
Wednesday October 20, 2021
Rochester International Event Center (at the airport)
7333 Airport View Drive SW Rochester MN

Agenda

- 8:00-8:25 Registration- Coffee, Juice, and Rolls
- 8:25-8:30 Welcome by SEREAM President Kay Morcomb
- 8:30-9:30 Timothy Hunter, social worker Developing a Regional Crisis Center in SE MN
- 9:30-9:50 REAM President Paul Ehrhard
- 9:50-10:20 REAM Legislative Committee
- 10:20-10:30 Coffee Break
- 10:30-11:00 Future of PERA Director Doug Anderson
- 11:00-11:30 Future of TRA Directors Tim Maurer and Rachel Barth
- 11:30-12:30 Lunch Free Flu shots available during lunch. You need to show your Medicare card or social security number.
- 12:30-12:40 Edna Thayer Humor THAYER-apy
- 12:40-1:00 Awards- Edna
- 1:00-1:15 Stretch Break!
- 1:15-1:35 Curt Hutchens, REAM Executive Director
- 1:35-2:20 "Come Sit on the Front Porch with Al Batt"
- 2:20 Wrap-up and Door Prizes

Registration for SEREAM Fall Legislative and Health Conference
Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Rochester International event Center, 733 Airport View Drive SW

Name _____ Unit _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone Number _____

Registration fee, includes lunch

\$20 by 10/9/21 --- After 10/9/21 registration fee is \$25

Make checks payable to: SEREAM

Mail Registration and Check to: Barb Hunter

305 14th St NW

Austin MN 55912

MEMORIALS

Dorothy Meyering from Ruth Boser

MN Political Campaign Refund – Use It In 2021 and 2022!

Use the Minnesota Political Campaign Refund to support your local State House and Senate candidates or your County Political party, or State Political party (Does not apply to Federal Candidates). You can give up to \$50 per person, \$100 per couple and receive your contribution back dollar for dollar. You can take advantage of this campaign refund annually. Go to <https://www.revenue.State.mn.us/political-contribution-refund> for more information.

The recipient political organization or candidate that receives your contribution, will send you the appropriate MN Revenue Form and a voucher verifying your contribution. You then submit the forms to the Minnesota Revenue Department and receive your contribution back usually within 3 to 6 weeks.

Retirees must be engaged in the political process!

**More important now to show our strength in numbers to the
legislation to protect our pensions.**

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

SERAM Membership Form

Complete this form and mail with \$10.00 per person to:
Ben Baratto, 779 Bluffview Circle, Winona, MN 55987

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Make checks payable to SERAM.

Membership year: September 1, 2021–August 31, 2022

The newsletters can be found at SERAM.org.

SOUTHEAST RETIRED
EDUCATORS ASSOC. OF MN
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Winona, MN 55987

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