

# SERREAM

## Newsletter

Fall 2022

### President's Message: Barb Hunter

#### **Hello SERREAM Members!**

It is that time of year again with cool mornings, back to school sales, and we aren't going back to the classroom. Or are we? Some of us may be planning or are considering doing substituting or volunteering in schools. What else can we do to support our teachers as we face a huge teacher shortage? We need to be aware of how the shortages are being addressed. We also need to be concerned with assuring that the pension we and the current staff put funds into will be there for the future.

Please consider attending the REAM conference to be held at Treasure Island Casino in Red Wing, MN on September 26th and 27th, 2022. It is bound to be very informative and fun.

SERREAM is hosting the annual Fall Legislative and Health Conference in Rochester MN on October 19th, 2022. We have included the agenda and registration in this newsletter. If you haven't attended in the past, please consider doing so. Our board has tried to make this an informative and interesting day for all. I hope to see you soon!

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**Due to the low numbers of people receiving flu shots at the conference the shots have been discontinued as part of this event.**

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**Registration for SERREAM Fall Legislative and Health Conference  
Wednesday, October 19, 2022**

**Rochester International event Center, 733 Airport View Drive SW**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration fee, includes lunch**

**\$25 by 10/9/22 --- After 10/9/22 registration fee is \$30**

**Make checks payable to: SERREAM**

**Mail Registration and Check to: Sharon Baratto  
779 Bluffview Circle  
Winona, MN 55987**

**Agenda of Fall Legislative & Health Conference**  
**Wednesday October 19, 2022**  
**Rochester International Event Center (at the airport)**  
**7333 Airport View Drive SW**  
**Rochester MN**

**Agenda**

- 8:30-9:00** Registration- Coffee, Juice, and Rolls
- 9:00-9:05** Welcome by SEREAM President Barb Hunter
- 9:05-10:05** Strengthening Students Mental Health by Dr. Kent Pekel  
Dr. Pekel has had a diverse career and is presently Superintendent of Rochester Public Schools. He has sought to bridge research, practice, and policy to help all young people thrive. He has held positions in Search Institute, U of M College Readiness Consortium, St. Paul Public Schools and in the Clinton administration. His home state is Minnesota.
- 10:05-10:15** REAM President Anita Hellie
- 10:15-10:30** Break
- 10:30-11:30** Legislative Candidates(Gene Pelowski, Carla Nelson)
- 11:30-12:15** Lunch of salad, tomato basil soup, and chicken salad sandwich.  
Flu shots are not available to us during lunch this time.
- 12:15-1:15** PERA and TRA Updates by Amy Strenge (PERA) and Jay Stoffel (TRA)
- 1:15-1:25** Break
- 1:25-1:30** Humor THAYER-apy by Edna Thayer
- 1:30-2:15** Curt Hutchens, Sustainability of Our Organization
- 2:15-2:45** REAM Legislative Committee (Tim Moynihan, Lonnie Duberstein, Henry Carbone)
- 2:45-3:20** My Tale by Fatima Said  
Fatima is executive director of Project Fine in Winona and a refugee from Bosnia. She will tell her story of fleeing Bosnia and arriving in the United States. She has a background in education and business.
- 3:20-3:30** Wrap up and Door Prizes

Each local is asked to please bring a door prize for our conference. Please remember the deadline for conference registration is October 9th.

**Minutes of the SEREAM Board Meeting**  
**August 17, 2022**  
**The Homestead at Rochester**

The meeting was called to order by President Barbara Hunter. Present were Barb Hunter, Keith Larson, Kay Morcomb, Lyle Olson, Phoebe Praxl, Edna Thayer, Don Zwach, Ben and Sharon Baratto and Margie White a new representative from Winona. Gayle Goetzman Stolpa resigned from the board. We are remembering Carol Lozon as she battles cancer. She was a former president of SEREAM and is a mainstay of the Kenyon - Wanamingo unit.

**Secretary's Report - open position** The editor (me) made a big error in the last newsletter. She submitted Sylvia's excellent minutes of the Spring Conference and Annual meeting in Faribault to the printer, but neglected to submit Sylvia's minutes of the May 18th SEREAM Board which she graciously did one meeting after her term was over. Therefore, those minutes are printed in this newsletter too.

**Treasurer's Report (Sharon Baratto)** The total in our checking and savings accounts is \$10,916.63. However, as the hospitality industry recovers from losses in the pandemic the charges for a venue for conferences and the meal cost have risen sharply. Upcoming expenses are October conference, newsletter, officer and editor stipends, and some board meeting expenses.

**President's Report (Barb Hunter)** The Rochester International Event Center changed their way of operating necessitating a discussion of food options to keep the cost for our October SEREAM conference at \$25 per person price that we voted on at an earlier planning meeting.

The REAM Conference is September 26 & 27 at Treasure Island. Please register if you have not done so. Barb has agreed to be a co-president elect for REAM. This is a 2-4 year commitment serving 2 years as president elect and two years as president. That means we should have a SEREAM president-elect now to become SEREAM president in 2024 when Barb's term for us ends. Changes are being made at REAM. Presently there is no executive director. There will be more information after their September Board meeting.

**Membership (Ben Baratto)** Currently there are 574 members. In September most dues should come in although new members may join at any time and we certainly accept late dues.

**Educator Award (Edna Thayer)** Edna announced that Barb Hunter will be receiving the REAM Educator Award at the REAM conference. Come to celebrate with Barb.

**Legislative - open position?** This is an extremely important position as we see attacks on our schools and foes of our defined benefit pension running for office.

Register for the October 19th SEREAM Fall Legislative and Health Conference. Info in this newsletter.

Next SEREAM Board meeting is Wednesday, November 16, 2022.

**Kay Morcomb**

**SERAM Board Meeting**  
**May 18, 2022**  
**The Homestead**

The meeting was called to order by the new president, Barb Hunter, at 9 AM. Present were Ben and Sharon Baratto, Gayle Goetzman Stolpa, Barb Hunter, Keith Larson, Kay Morcomb, Lyle Olson, Phoebe Praxl, Sylvia Swede, Edna Thayer, and Don Zwach. The mileage sheet and the breakfast envelope were passed around. Kay has been unable to get any response from Carol Lozon. Are we losing the Kenyon-Wanamingo unit?

**Secretary's Report** The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed. Since Sylvia is retiring, Gayle will take the minutes at the next meeting.

**Treasurer's Report (Sharon Baratto)** See the report handed out at the Faribault gathering. There is a concern about rising prices.

**President's Report (Barb Hunter)** There is a concern that younger teachers are not getting involved. Are we aging out?

**Membership (Ben Baratto)** Our membership is 557, but we will be dropping the names of those who haven't paid dues the last two years.

**Legislation** We need a legislative chair. Don talked about Senator Rosen's proposal to raise the Cola. If passed, how would this change the funding of our pension? We are currently 92% funded. Don will write an article for the next newsletter.

**Newsletter (Kay Morcomb)** Articles for the newsletter are due May 25. The newsletter will be printed June 15.

**REAM Report (Barb Hunter)** The REAM conference will be held September 26-27 in Red Wing.

**Continuing Business** There was discussion regarding our website, which needs improvement if it is to be continued. Barb's daughter has some ideas and is willing to work on it. We looked at the agenda for the fall conference. It was believed that we need a speaker for the afternoon. Ben had a suggestion and will pursue it. For a morning session Ben has secured a representative for the Democratic side (Pelowski) and tried to secure Jeremy Miller for the Republican side, but he may not be able to come. Carla Nelson could be approached to take his place. Prices for food and rental are rising. We will need a good attendance in order to break even. It was m/s/c to keep the registration fee to \$25 for the fall conference.

The next board meeting is August 17

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25.

**Sylvia Swede, Secretary**

## **Educator Award**

Congratulations to Barb Hunter who will be receiving the REAM Educator Award at the REAM Convention at Treasure Island on Monday night, September 26. It will be great to have a large delegation from SEREAM in attendance to congratulate her!

It is a good time to start thinking about whom you wish to nominate for the 2023 SEREAM Educator Award. Although these aren't due until January 31, 2023, it's nice to start the process early. All I need is a nomination letter with the contact information and I can facilitate compiling a resume. The criteria will be repeated in the next newsletter, but it is basically for someone who has contributed substantially to education, both while teaching and after retirement, to professional groups, and to their community. The winner must be a member of SEREAM.

**Edna Thayer, Chair**

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## **Legislative Report**

A volunteer is needed to be our legislative reporter.

Be sure to read all of your REAM News and get first hand latest reports by coming to the REAM Conference September 26 & 27 at Treasure Island and/or to the SEREAM Conference October 19th at the Rochester International Airport

## **Health Report**

(The topic and background of the first conference speaker)

### **A Priority from the Pandemic: Strengthening Students' Mental Health and Well Being**

No one is better prepared to address this topic than Dr. Kent Pekel. In July 2021 he became the Superintendent of Rochester Public Schools. His prior position was nine years as President and CEO of the Search Institute, a not-for-profit organization that conducts applied research that promotes positive youth development and advances equity. Dr. Pekel led the design of the Developmental Relationship Framework used across the United States and around the world to build strong positive connections between young people and adults in school and out of school time programs. In 2018 the Search Institute received an award for Organizational Excellence in Research and Programming for Youth.

Always seeking to connect research, practice, and policy, the positions held by Dr. Pekel before he joined the Search Institute include Executive Director of the University of Minnesota College Consortium. He led the creation of Ramp-Up Readiness, an advisory program that guides middle and high school students through a research-based sequence of courses, projects, activities, and experiences that prepares thousands of students each year for success in some form of post-secondary education. He was Executive Director of Research and Development at St. Paul Public Schools. He also led the launch of the Minnesota Principals' Academy, a year-long executive development program to aid leaders in creating and sustaining high performing schools. Dr. Pekel held several senior staff positions in the Clinton administration including special assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Education.

Dr. Pekel began his career as a high school teacher in his home state of Minnesota. He holds a B.A. from Yale University, a Master's in education from Harvard University, and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Minnesota.

Don't miss this conference and the opportunity to learn more about a concern that has been exacerbated by the pandemic and about the research, practice and policy that can help students.

## GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

Marion Mueller

From: Kay Morcomb

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Remember the teachers who have worked through these recent past and continuing difficult times. We benefit from the defined benefit pension established and paid into by educators before us. Now we must maintain a defined benefit pension for current and future teachers.

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**Probably you have already joined for the  
September 1 - August 31, 2023 year.**

**There is always the opportunity to invite new members  
to be on the mailing list for the Fall conference.**

**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES FOR  
LAST YEAR, 2021 THRU 2022?  
DUES ARE NOW DUE FOR  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2022 THRU AUGUST 31, 2023**

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### ***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, 2022–August 31, 2023

**The newsletters can be found at [SERAM.org](http://SERAM.org).**

SOUTHEAST RETIRED  
EDUCATORS ASSOC. OF MN  
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Winona, MN 55987

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