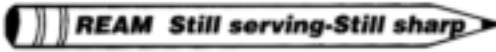


The REAM News



Volume 48, No. 5

www.mnream.org

SEPTEMBER 2010

President's Report

The 2010 REAM Convention is almost here! It's not too late to register. See the July issue of the REAM News or go on line at www.mnream.org where you will find the July issue of The REAM News and the registration form. Look for the Convention Schedule elsewhere in this issue of the The REAM News.

Our Keynote Speaker is Linda Hutchinson who will speak on "Laughter". On Monday, September 30 at 3:30 p.m. Janell Lamp-Wiese will speak on "Wellness". That is a change from the previous schedule. Mary Mortier of Mankato is the chair of this year's convention at Jackpot Junction and she has been working hard to make this a great convention. Many thanks to Mary! Don't forget to bring a door prize for the convention. We are asking each unit around the state to provide a door prize for the convention.

At our business meeting at the convention we will be installing our REAM Officers. Our new President will be Curt Hutchens. President-Elect is John Fisher. Vice President will be Joyce Sukola. Karna Brewer will remain as Secretary and Gordy Wagner as Treasurer. I move to Past President.

Retiring from the REAM Board will be John Hagman who has been serving as Vice President the last several years. John has been a dedicated REAM Board member for many years and has served as President of REAM and also the first President of AARP of Minnesota. He will be missed. Thank you, John, for your many years of service.

This will be my last column as REAM President. The last two years have gone by very quickly. Thanks to all of the REAM Board members for helping me

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



*Chuck Hellie,
President of REAM*

serve as President. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your REAM President.

I hope to see you at Jackpot Junction!



Linda Hutchinson to give keynote address

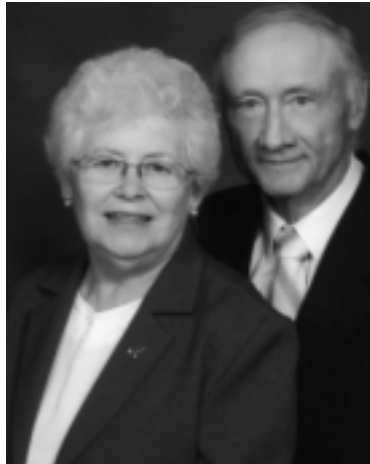
Linda is a national keynote speaker, adult educator, consultant and author with over 30 years of professional experience designing and delivering educational programs for large and small corporations, non-profit organizations and professional associations.

Know someone who is not yet a member?

Help make a difference, numbers count! Pass your newsletter on when you are done with it and urge your friends to complete the membership application.

E C L E C T I C I S M S

EDITORIAL



Move over Whopper and Big Mac, According to Men's Health Magazine a Cold Stone peanut butter and chocolate shake contains the equivalent of 68 strips of bacon or 30 chocolate chip cookies. That's 2,010 calories with 68 grams of saturated fat. Bob Hahn in an article in the Minneapolis Star Tribune quotes a study by the Minnesota Department of Health and Blue Cross Blue Shield that, "...only one-third of Minnesotans will be of healthy weight this year. (That's one-third of us!) It continues to say that by 2020 the cost of treating an

overweight or obese individual will be 61 percent more than treating a person of healthy weight.

You may have read an article in The American Teacher magazine which tells of the efforts by the Obama administration to stop the epidemic of overweight. One-third of our children are overweight or obese. Some of you may have watched Chef Jamie Oliver's program on television. He is making an effort to get schools to serve healthy food. I haven't eaten in school in some time, but on his program it seemed all the kids were served at school was hamburgers, French fries, pizza, chicken tenders and chocolate or strawberry flavored milk. Small wonder when they are constantly bombarded by the ads on television pushing anything with sugar, fat or salt, all to the detriment of our children's health.

I recall years ago, the school cooks where I worked would come to school early and begin to prepare the school lunches from scratch.

Their reputation was such that some townspeople would ask them to prepare food for their special occasions. Later the potato peeler was sold and it became "cheaper" to buy prepared foods. So the freezers were enlarged and much of the food came in boxes and packages with a list of ingredients most of us never heard of before.

Michelle Obama is leading a national campaign called "Let's Move" which is spearheading an effort to get schools, families and communities to be more active and to eat more healthy foods. I don't think a steamed broccoli stand at the Minnesota State Fair will make it, but as Dr. Oz says, "It's the little steps that count."

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BUSINESS MEETING

Do you wish to get an item of business, motion, or a resolution on the agenda for the annual REAM business meeting on Wednesday October 1st, in St Cloud?

Any member may submit an item of business to any REAM Board member before September 11th. This item will be checked for duplication, accuracy, and appropriateness at the September REAM Board meeting. If approved, it will be put on the annual business meeting agenda, and the member will be notified for presentation. Some board member addresses are listed to the left.

CURT'S COMMENTS



Curt Hutchens, President-Elect

It's wake up time folks! Take your TRA check and divide it by V2 . That's roughly what you would be getting for a pension if Legislators wanting Minnesota Public Employees to have a (DC) Defined Contribution plan had their way as recently as 2005 going forward in this economic climate. According to Dr. Andrea Lubov's 2008 study Measuring the Impact of

Minnesota's Retirement Systems the following information was found:

- Minnesota's public pension systems serve nearly one-half million persons, one in ten Minnesotans, who have contributed to or are receiving benefits from the systems.
- The public systems paid out over \$2.5 billion in benefits to 129,000 Minnesota residents in fiscal 2007.
- Benefit payments had an impact on the state's economy of \$3.3 billion.
- Beneficiaries' spending led to 22,500 additional jobs statewide.
- State and local taxes paid by pension benefit recipients and the holders of the 22,500 new jobs exceeded the public employer pension contributions to the systems by \$80 million.
- The impact of benefits paid was larger than the gross state product attributable to several major economic sectors in Minnesota, including the mining sector; the crop and animal

production sector; and the air, rail and water transportation sector.

If MN Public Employees were in a DC plan, getting roughly 50% of their current pensions the past two years we would have been a huge part of the worst MN recession since the 1930's with many more businesses and jobs lost right down main street of every community in the state. Instead, with our (DB) Defined Benefit plan we were able to act as an economic stimulus in every community of the state that kept businesses and jobs in every county of the state operating on an on going basis. Now some Legislators, unless we can educate them appropriately, want to weaken our DB plan and possibly throw MN Public Employee pensions under the bus.

MN-TRA, REAM and many other state groups dealt with this same issue in the 1980's and many of you helped us at that time to educate our Legislators to the benefits of a DB pension program which has served MN retirees and the state very well.

Continued on Page 4

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The No Child Left Behind legislation has raised the question of teacher performance, and that was reflected in the pension debate during the last legislative session. This can be seen in the passage of the 2010 Pension bill this session. While we can be pleased with its passage, we be aware that the bill's passage was intriguing and signaled danger on the horizon. Recall that on the floor of the senate, a proposal was made to change to a 'defined contribution' plan for new teacher hires--starting in 2010. This occurrence was not only evidenced in Minnesota, BUT reflected a national mood to change retirement plans around the nation. Also recall that the directors of the

three major pension plans (TRA, PERA & MSRS) are charged with the legislation to present a report to the MN legislature (the Legislative Commission on Pension & Retirement--the LCPR) in June of 2011. REAM must be diligent during this period of pension reflection. For a review of 'defined benefit' & 'defined contribution' plans and their implications, see President-Elect Curt Hutchens article in this REAM News.

We must be aware that the legislature can act as it wishes. The only influence we have is to be player on the political stage. As REAM members we ought to become actively involved in this years

political process. We need to ask candidates for state office--including those that are running for the Minnesota house & senate what their priorities are in relation to pensions. We can do this - be actively engaging them in question & answer sessions; via e-mails and by asking them directly when they seek your vote.

Your vote is important, use it wisely. Please inform your REAM legislative chair the results of your interactions with legislative and constitutional candidates, or send directly to: johnffisaher@hotmail.com

Dennis Deanovic & John F Fisher

Continued from Page 3

Now the MN legislature has mandated the following study: "The executive directors of the Minnesota State Retirement System, the Public Employees Retirement Association, and the Teachers Retirement Association shall jointly conduct a study of defined benefit, defined contribution, and other alternative retirement plans for Minnesota public employees. The study must include analysis of the feasibility, sustainability, financial impacts, and other design considerations of these retirement plans. The report must be provided no later than June 1, 2011, to the

chair, the vice-chair, and the executive director of the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement."

So over the next several months my articles will try and update what you already know about DC/DB plans using information from a broad base of resources like, NRTA National Retired Teachers Association, NIBS-National Institute on Pension Security, MN-TRA, etc. What do we need from all of you? First, we need you to help us educate your legislator on the DC/DB issue. Second, we need you to help us get more retired

TRA/PERA members on board with REAM, so that when our Legislative team speaks at the Legislature we have a strong base of members behind us. Most of the Legislative committees want to know how many members we have. They count votes folks. They know retirees tend to vote better and more often than most other voting age groups. So let's get started. The following chart explaining the difference between a DC/DB plan is from the NRTA-National Retired Teachers Association, Pension Education Toolkit:

	Defined Benefit Plan (Traditional)	Defined Contribution Plan (401(k)s/403(os,457s)
Contributions	In the public and private sectors, contributions are made on behalf of each employee by the employer. In the public sector, many pensions are "contributory," meaning that employees also contribute to the Plan out of their own paychecks.	Employees make their own contributions to their savings account at whatever rate they choose. Often, employers will make a certain match—for example, 50 cents on the dollar up to 6% of pay—but they are not required to contribute- at all.
Investments	Contributions for all employees are pooled, and invested by professional asset managers in a range of assets--stocks, bonds, real estate, etc.	Employees usually make all investment decisions themselves. They can choose from a range of investment options offered by the plan.
Amount of Money in Retirement	The monthly benefit is determined by a set calculation---usually based on years of service and pay at the end of one's career.	The money available in retirement is simply the amount that one has accumulated in the savings plan, through contributions and investment earnings.
Payout in Retirement	Payouts are provided as a monthly income stream that is guaranteed for the remainder of the retiree's life.	Plans are not required to offer a lifetime income payout. Payout can even be a one-time, lump sum payment.
Supplemental Benefits	Spousal protections, disability benefits, and cost of living adjustments are common.	Supplemental benefits are not applicable.

In conclusion, you are all welcome to attend state meetings on this issue. The Retirement Systems of Minnesota are planning joint Systems stakeholder meetings starting this fall to describe their DC/DB options research study outline approach and to solicit feedback. The first meeting is tentatively set for September 23, 2010 in Room 106 of the Retirement Systems of Minnesota building. Stay tuned!

REAM Convention Schedule

Monday, September 20

1:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Registration- Upstairs in Hallway
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.	Historical Bus Tour — Load in front of Hotel
2:30 - 3:30 p.m.	AMBA Presentation — Jeanie Coffey — Crossed Arrows 1
3:30 - 4:30 p.m.	"Wellness" — Janell Lamp-Wiese — Crossed Arrows 1
4:30 p.m.	Cash Bar — Tatanka Ballroom I-IV
5:00 p.m.	Awards Ceremony — Tatanka Ballroom I-IV
6:00 p.m.	Dinner — Choice of Pork Chop or Stuffed Chicken — Tatanka Ballroom
7:00 p.m.	Entertainment: "Blue Ox Jazz Babies" Evening Host: Chuck Hellie, REAM President

Tuesday, September 21

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast — Tatanka Ballroom
8:00 - 12 noon	Registration
9:00 - 2 p.m.	Exhibits Open — Hallway outside Ballroom area
9:00 a.m.	Open to visit Exhibits
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.	General Session I - Crossed Arrows I & 2 Pension issues: Laurie Hacking, TRA Executive Director Mary Vanek, PERA Executive Director Howard Bicker, State Board of Investments, Executive Director
11:00 - 11:30 a.m.	Retiree Issues: AARP, Heidi Holste — Crossed Arrows
11:30 - 12 noon	Open to visit the Exhibits
12 noon	Lunch — Tatanka Ballroom I-IV
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Visit the Exhibits 2:00 p.m. — Break Out Session I A. David Larsen — Speaking on how the American Religious Freedom Act of 1978 saved his life. Room Host: Pat Hansen B. Ron Boulduan — Speaking on growing up on the Minnesota River. Room Host: Merrill Frydenall C. Doug Ohman — Speaking on the Minnesota Country Schools. Room Host: Anita Hellie D. Edna Thayer — Speaking on Feisty Lydia: Memoirs of a German War Bride. Room Host: Karen Frydenall
3:00 p.m.	Refreshment Break
3:30 p.m.	Break Out Session II Above listed sessions repeated except C. Doug Ohman — Speaking on Minnesota State Parks.
5:00 p.m.	Reception & Cash Bar — Tatanka Ballroom
6:00 p.m.	Dinner — Tatanka Ballroom
7:00 p.m.	Entertainment: "Irish Minstrels" Tatanka Ballroom Evening Host: Curt Hutchens , REAM President-Elect

Wednesday, September 22

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast Tatanka Ballroom
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.	Annual Meeting — Crossed Arrows I & II 10:00- 10:30 a.m. Hotel Room Check Out
10:30 -11:30 a.m.	Key Note Speaker — Linda Hutchinson on "Laughter" Crossed Arrows I & II
12:00 - Noon	Lunch & Door Prizes — Tatanka Ballroom

MENU for the 2011 Convention at Jackpot Junction

Monday, September 20

Dinner A Center-Cut Loin Pork Chop Topped with Sauteed Granny Smith Apples and Sweet Onions in a Mustard Cream. House Salad, Garlic Roasted Baby Reds and Petite Green Beans Almandine.

Or -

A Boneless Stuffed Chicken Breast filled with Proscuitto and Boursin Cheese and topped with Herb Cheese Sauce, Fresh Green Beans Almandine served over Rice Pilaf.

Both Dinners include Dinner Rolls, Coffee, Tea and Milk
Dessert: Carmel Apple Crisp with Whipped Topping.

Tuesday, September 21

Breakfast Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, American Fried Potatoes, Fresh Baked Muffin and Fresh Fruit Garnish plus Coffee, Tea, Milk and Juice

Lunch Soup and Sandwich. Assortment of Ham, Turkey or Roast Beef on Fresh Baked Deli Bread with Swiss Cheese, Lettuce and Tomatoes. Served with Chicken Wild Rice

Soup, Chips and a Pickle Spear plus Coffee, Tea and Milk.

Dinner USDA Grilled Sirloin 8 oz Steak. * All Beef Entrees will be served Medium or Medium Well. Includes Fresh Seasonal Vegetable Saute and Baked Potato.

Or - Lightly Breaded Walleye with Tartar Sauce and Lemon, Broccoli Spears And Baked Potato. Both Dinners include: Mixed Greens Salad with Strawberry Vinaigrette, Dinner Rolls, Coffee, Tea, Milk.

Dessert: New York Style Cheesecake with Assorted Toppings

Wednesday, September 22

Breakfast Cinnamon French Toast with Warm Syrup, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage Links, Fresh Fruit Garnish, Coffee, Tea, Milk and Juice.

Lunch Oven Roasted Turkey with Sage Dressing, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy and Buttered Corn, Dinner Rolls, Butter, Coffee, Tea or Milk.

All meals are plated, not buffet.

WHAT IS REAM?

REAM is an independent, autonomous, self governing organization of ALL retired school employees who wish to belong.

PURPOSE OF REAM

1. To monitor the actions of the State Board of Investment and the Legislative Commission on Pension and Retirement as they relate to TRA and PERA.
2. To inform REAM members by producing an informative newsletter six times per year, by conducting workshops, and by holding an annual state convention.
3. To cooperate with the other senior organizations in the development of programs.
4. To assist in the organization of REAM local units and to recognize the unit as a vital part of REAM.
5. To improve the economic, social, civic, cultural, and professional status of its members.

A FULL MENU OF BENEFITS

AMBA -Association Member Benefits Advisors, is a nationwide full-service agency focused on plan design, negotiations, and implementation of benefits for associations. AMBA provides expertise in evaluation benefits and providers to assist REAM in making quality benefits with flexible choices available to their members. Examples include: Long Term Care, Medicare Supplement Insurance, Tax Deferred Annuity, Dental & Vision Plans, Hearing Benefits, Dell Computer Discount Program, AAA Travel membership discounts, and many more.

MEMORIALS and GIFTS

<p>In Memory Of: CONNIE BARTHOL From: Stillwater Area REAM\$10.00</p> <p>In Memory Of: LLOYD W. DUDA From: Gary/Elinore Duda, Brainerd\$10.00</p> <p>In Memory Of: CHAR HEIDIN From: Charles/Anita Hellie, Sauk Centre\$10.00</p> <p>In Memory Of: SHARON WELLS HOTCHKISS From: Carol Rathje, Bloomington\$10.00</p> <p>In Memory Of: DON MEIER From: Sauk Centre Area REAM\$10.00</p>	<p>In Memory Of: MARCIA OGREN From: Stillwater Area REAM\$10.00</p> <p>In Memory Of: MARY J. SMOOTZ From: Carlton County REAM\$10.00</p> <p>In Memory Of: DORIS SORUM From: Moorhead Area REAM.....\$15.00</p> <p>In Memory Of: JERRY WEBSTER From: Duane Mattheis, Eden Prairie\$10.00</p> <p>In Memory Of: DONALD GUSTAFSON From: Carlton County REAM\$10.00</p>
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IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

By the time you receive this newsletter, those of you whose REAM membership expires in 2010 will have received a letter from President Hellie and me, along with a membership renewal form and information on AMBA benefits for PERA and TRA retirees. We have appreciated your past support, and hope that you will renew your membership once again!

The preparation for the mailings to retirees included the deletion of REAM members who have already paid their 2011 dues, but this did not always happen. Our apologies if you received the letter and have already paid your dues for 2011. You may check your membership expiration date above your name and address on this newsletter. If you are a LIFE member, it will state, "RENEWED THROUGH: LIFE." If you have already renewed your membership or are a LIFE member, we THANK YOU for your continued support! If you

have not renewed your membership, we wish to remind you that you will need to renew your membership in order to continue to receive this newsletter and to be eligible for REAM benefits.

2010 MEMBERSHIP

The total number of 2010 REAM members was 7,482, which included 3,062 Life members. A breakdown by region is listed below.

Central	1,438
Metro	2,380
Northeast	.543
Northwest	.601
Southeast	1,170
Southwest	.641

The number of REAM members living in other states totaled 709.

HAVE YOU MOVED? DO YOU HAVE A WINTER ADDRESS?
If you have moved, please contact Judy Resler at iresler@comcast.net or



"Schneiderhan's Savvy"

*-Rosemary Schneiderhan,
Membership Chair*

651-484-6030 so that you will continue to receive this newsletter. **The Post Office will not forward your REAM newsletter.**

Also, please let Judy know if you have a winter address, and indicate which months you will be at this address. The database allows for two addresses for each member.

**See you in Morton on Sept. 20, 21, 22
Don't forget to register!!
Be there to meet and greet friends old and new!**

The REAM News

P.O. Box 130547
St. Paul, MN 55113

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REAM Statement of Purpose

Represent all school retirees, present and future, certified and classified.

Educate and inform all school personnel on matters related to the improvement of their economic and social status.

Assist and work to strengthen local and regional units in every way possible.

Monitor the actions of, and cooperate, with the legislature, all government units, and other organizations that deal with present and future retired school personnel.

If you are retired or within 5 years of retirement as an educator (*any* school personnel) you are eligible for REAM membership.
FOR AN EDUCATOR THE CHOICE IS EASY – JOIN REAM

MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION - RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA, INC.

Legal Name _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Mailing Address (Street or Route Box) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

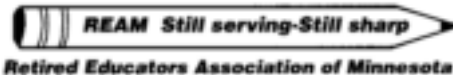
Winter Address if different _____

*If winter address is not known at this time, please notify us when you do know it, either by regular or e-mail: jresler@comcast.net.

Phone _____ Email Address _____

CHECK MEMBERSHIP DESIRED: Please check appropriate box so that we can record accurately.

1. \$175 Life
2. \$70 Five Year New Renewal
3. \$15 Annual New Renewal



- PENSION SOURCE:
- TRA
 - PERA
 - St. Paul, Duluth
 - Other

Membership Year Sept. 1 to August 31

Make check payable to REAM. Mail payment and form to: REAM MEMBERSHIP, BOX 130547, ROSEVILLE, MN 55113.
For membership card, enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. www.mnream.org