

# **MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT ENGINEERS COUNCIL**

## **Board of Directors Monthly Meeting**

**March 8, 2010**

The monthly meeting of the MGEC Board of Directors was held on Monday, March 8, 2010 at the MGEC office.

	Present	Not Present		Present	Not Present
President John Siekmeier	X		Director Joe Fleisher		X
Vice President Linda Heath	X		Director Rachel Guan	X	
Past President Peter Buchen	X		Director Marilyn Jordahl Larson	X	
Secretary Len Leitner	X		Director Paul Kettleson	speakerphone	
Treasurer Jessica Forsberg	X		Director Jerry Kotzenmacher	X	
Director Mohammad Dehdashti	X		Director Mike Lownsbury	X	
Director Andy Eller	X		Executive Director Dana Wheeler	X	
Director Pat Ferrin	X		Administrative Asst Rhonda Bauer	X	

**I. Call to Order:** President Siekmeier called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. The agenda was approved.

### **II. President's Report**

#### **A. Transportation Announcements:**

- i. John suggested expanding the Grievance Committee to include member issues and to be more proactive, and renaming it Member Issue Advocacy Committee. M/S/P
- ii. The board discussed the format and timing of the Annual Meeting which was held 2/18/10 at Ramada Inn Minneapolis, in conjunction with the MSES annual meeting. The Constitution Committee was asked to work out the agenda and policy for next year's annual meeting. A golf tournament is being planned for fall 2010. Send a reminder that members may also attend regular board meetings.
- iii. Suggestions for questions and topics for AFSCME and MAPE were noted. Reps from the two bargaining units may attend a future (possibly May and June respectively) MGEC board meeting.
- iv. The NASHTU and CESO conferences are April 26-29. John, Jessica and Peter expressed interest in attending.
- v. Board meetings - the time and day will remain second Mondays with call to order at 4:30 and ending at 6:30, finishing up with a brief round robin.

**III. Secretary's Report:** The February 2010 minutes were approved with a correction to Item VII.A.ii. Approval of the annual meeting minutes was tabled; they will be rewritten in the customary format.

**IV. Membership Report (enclosure):** As of 2/16/10 there were 1,033 members (916 full members, 52 fair shares, 65 associates) and 348 life members. Rhonda will check into status of a member who is coded as "terminated," and if they are eligible for life membership.

**V. Treasurer's Report (enclosures):** Jessica presented the March Treasurer's Report, which was approved subject to audit.

### **VI. Committees**

#### **A. Legislative:**

- i. **Day at the Capitol:** Board members provided brief reports of the first MGEC Day at the Capitol last Thursday. They felt the day was successful, and informative for both members and legislators. About a dozen members and board members attended, breaking into smaller groups to meet with legislators in the afternoon. Further debriefing was deferred to the committee. Any ideas for increasing participation in the future please forward them to Andy or MGEC. John reiterated the goal to get other agencies involved.
- ii. **Candidate Contributions:** A question was raised whether a contribution could be made to candidates in the form of a rebate to members. Tabled.
- iii. **Gubernatorial Candidate Survey:** Three candidates have responded to our survey questionnaire so far. If they are agreeable we will post their responses on our web site. Should any of the candidates agree to meet with our group we'll meet at a larger space during the regular board meeting time if possible. MGEC does not intend to endorse a candidate.

**B. Constitution:** Peter will contact committee members to set up a meeting.

**VII. Executive Director's Report:** Dana distributed his monthly status and activities report.

- A. Member Proposals:** A member had a concern related to vacancy filling (lateral v. promotion). This will be a topic at tomorrow's MnDOT M&C. Four other member proposals (e.-h.) were deferred to the Member Issue Advocacy Committee.
- B. Early Retirement Incentives:** Dana is working on a brief to help with making sense of the language. There is a 19-page legislative document explaining past incentives, their value to employee and state, etc. Ask Dana for a copy if you're interested. Mohammad asked about "buying" five years of service time.

#### **VIII. New Business**

- A. Project Lead the Way:** Discuss whether this would get engineering classes in schools across Minnesota besides the SEEDS and Phoenix schools. Tabled.

**IX. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. The next monthly board meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 12, 2010 at the MGEC office.

Respectfully submitted,

Len Leitner  
Secretary

Rhonda Bauer  
Administrative Secretary