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# Pension Updates



## Update No. 5

### We did it! So...now what?

Education Minnesota members...We did it! We turned out and voted for public education, for pension improvements, for respect and compensation that show our worth and so much more. Our turnout led to big victories across the state!

We reelected our governor, flipped the Senate and maintained a House majority. We did this, together. Thank you and congratulations!

**In Phase II, we have a lot to accomplish in a short period of time. See below for what those things are and what you can do.**

1. We need to push the TRA board to do the following:
  - Discuss improvements to member benefits.
  - Discuss the costs and get actuarial estimates for improvements.
  - Recommend and support benefit improvements.
  - Recommend and support increased funding from the state of Minnesota for improvements.
2. Education Minnesota staff are working closely with legislators to author pension bills for improvements and funding.
3. Be aware we have members in multiple pension plans and there are discussions about them as well. In addition, our fellow public employee groups have shared that they are planning to push for action on their pensions too.

### What should you do now?

The TRA board meets on Dec. 12 to discuss plan improvement ideas, but has already decided not to make any recommendations at that meeting. They meet again on Jan. 18 for a full board meeting where they no longer will have a narrow business agenda.

Board member positions are varied from strong support to not seeing a need for any changes to benefits. These board members need to hear from you prior to the Dec. 12 meeting.

Share why you believe improvements are needed and why now. The members

listed below have said they don't see or understand the need for improvements at this time:

- Joel Stencel (appointed) – Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA) - [jstencel@minnesotatra.org](mailto:jstencel@minnesotatra.org)
- Laurena Schlottach-Ratcliff (appointed) – Minnesota Management & Budget (MMB) - [laurena.schlottach-ratcliff@state.mn.us](mailto:laurena.schlottach-ratcliff@state.mn.us)
- Denise Anderson (appointed) – Department of Education (MDE) - [denise.anderson@state.mn.us](mailto:denise.anderson@state.mn.us)

Share why you believe this is the time to support state funding from the Legislature. As leaders of the board, the members below are very influential in moving the group:

- Marti Zins (elected) – Retiree and President - [mzins@minnesotatra.org](mailto:mzins@minnesotatra.org)
- Jay Stoffel (staff) – TRA Executive Director - [jstoffel@minnesotatra.org](mailto:jstoffel@minnesotatra.org)

### Important events/dates

- PERA board meetings – [Dates](#) (upcoming is Dec. 8)
- TRA board meetings – [Dates](#) (upcoming are Dec. 12 and Jan. 18)
- SPTRFA board meetings – [Dates](#) (upcoming are Nov. 16 and Dec. 14)
- [Education Minnesota ESI Member Benefits](#) provides informational seminars on pension benefits for members. Check out the flyer for [“When can I afford to retire?” seminar dates](#).

### Resources

[TRA document on pension basics](#)

[Education Minnesota pensions web page](#)

[Election results](#)

As we share information throughout this campaign, we will add to the resources on the website and share links for you to use.

If you have any questions, please email [Adam Janiak](#).

