



Protecting Pensions. Serving Members.

THE NEWS

SPRING 2026

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www.mnream.org

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.

GREETINGS REAM MEMBERS!

I hope many of you participated in your local caucus this year. I'll admit it had been many years since I attended, and I was surprised others at my table were in the same situation. I'm trying to become more involved, and the caucus is a grassroots way to influence our government. Another is contacting your representatives at every level. Change is necessary for our future, and it's more important than ever to know who is on the ballot and vote on election day.

By the time this newsletter reaches you, spring will be near—a season of new beginnings. This spring also brings a new look for the REAM newsletter. We thank our executive director, Mark Hanson, for his work in making this happen.

John and I are always open to your ideas. If you have suggestions for the REAM board or our executive director, please reach out. Planning for our fall conference at Jackpot Junction has begun, and we welcome additional ideas.

I also encourage members in the southeast to attend the SEREAM spring conference on Wednesday, April 22, in Faribault. Great speakers, good food, and a chance to meet fellow retired educators await. Contact Barb at 507-440-4923 or hunterbarb41@gmail.com for registration information.

Happy Spring!

Barb Hunter,
REAM Co-President



A MESSAGE FROM MARK HANSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF REAM

Thank you. Your support continues to strengthen the Retired Educators Association of Minnesota (REAM) in meaningful ways.

As we navigate this period of transition, I'm grateful for your patience and trust. REAM is modernizing operations, strengthening advocacy, and preparing for a stronger future.

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE UPDATE

To remain fiscally responsible while maintaining quality communication, REAM will now mail the printed newsletter four times per year instead of six.

A NEW REAM NEWS WEBSITE

We are developing a member-focused website with more video content, easier access to benefits, travel information, legislative highlights, and Senior Planet updates.

ENHANCED MEMBER BENEFITS & LOCAL ENGAGEMENT

We will place greater emphasis on AMBA benefits, highlight travel discounts, and continue showcasing the important work of our local units.

Thank you for standing with Minnesota's retired educators as we build a stronger REAM.

REAM'S MEMBERSHIP GROWTH INITIATIVE

The Retired Educators Association of Minnesota (REAM) is entering a period of renewal and growth. As we strengthen advocacy, modernize communications, and expand our reach, one priority stands above the rest: growing membership to ensure a strong, unified voice for Minnesota's retired educators.

At the center of this effort is a meaningful request to those who have carried REAM forward for decades —

OUR LIFETIME MEMBERS.

Lifetime Members have long been the backbone of REAM. We invite you to consider a voluntary, one-time donation of \$50 to \$500 to support:

- Statewide outreach
- Membership materials and communication tools
- Events and grants that engage new members



Every contribution strengthens REAM's ability to grow, advocate, and serve at this pivotal time.

To contribute, please mail your donation to:

REAM Membership Campaign

PO Box 7519
St. Cloud, MN 56302

Or visit our donation page. Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant REAM.



For more information, visit www.mnream.org/events/register.aspx?id=2042902

NEWS FROM LOCAL UNITS

Owatonna Area Retired Educators Association News

OAREA has been working to raise funds and collect clothing for local schools. One donation included snow boots for Washington Elementary in Owatonna, along with items for two other elementary buildings and a Headstart program. Over four months, members contributed hats, gloves, mittens, and more than \$500, which was used to purchase additional items at Target with a 30% discount. Expedition Credit Union also donated about 50 clothing items.

Thanks to Mark Hanson, REAM Executive Director, for joining our gathering. We will meet at The Kitchen on the second Monday in March and April, with our spring business meeting and speaker at Torey's in May.

Story by Gary M. Schwartz,
O-AREA President
Presike1@live.com
(507) 363-1710 (C)



above: 24 members for our January gathering at The Kitchen: Ruth Thorager, Stephanie Kolbe, Doug Kolbe, Don Overlie, Fred Knudsen, Shelly Chicos, Ginny Thompson, Arlen Thompson.

Here is the thank you note we received from the Owatonna Schools.

12-2025
Retired Educators,
I want to extend my deepest gratitude for your generous donation of mittens, hats, gloves, snow pants + boots for our elementary aged students and also for the food donation to the OHS Husky Pantry!
Your kindness will have a direct + meaningful impact on the lives of our students who are experiencing homelessness or facing significant financial hardship.
Your donation not only offers material support but also sends a powerful message of compassion, letting our students know they →



*are seen, valued and cared for.
Thank you for embodying the spirit of generosity and community!
Nancy Williams
Lead Social Worker
Owatonna Public Schools*



“ I’ve been subbing for 26 years after a 32-year career teaching 4 grade at Cromwell Wright School.”

Jennie Hanson

The school gave a shout out to Miss Jennie Hanson on her commitment to being a Floodwood School substitute and her enthusiasm for our students. Check out her costume!!

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Timothy Moynihan

REAM Vice-President Legislative Committee Co-Chair

Greetings REAM members!

From the start of the 2026 Legislative Session, the legislative advocacy team readied itself to work.

Governor Walz has signed an order that created understandable measures that will present new layers of security for office and capitol access to legislators. That said, we are requesting greater member involvement.

More than ever before, we will be working with members to manage their contact with lawmakers. We will teach our members how to educate lawmakers about how to preserve, protect, and enhance our pensions. We will be putting together talking points so that

we can carry messages directly to our own representatives and senators. We will be reporting back later with the “How to” and “When to” educate your lawmakers. Together, we must show up to bring our messages to the source of those empowered to make change.

Our messages will be sent via mail, e-mail, phone calls, and to the extent possible, IN person! Adjustable COLA’s, fully funded pensions, and ongoing investment will continue to make up the framework of our messaging.

Let’s move our messages forward... together!
Thanks for listening.



BENEFITS STILL FIT?

CONSIDER ADDITIONAL INSURANCE COVERAGE

As your life changes, consider some of these benefits and discounts from **REAM & AMBA**:

- Dental & Vision Plans
- Long-Term Care
- Emergency Ground and Air Transportation Coverage
- Accident Insurance
- Medicare Solutions
- Final Expenses Whole Life & Guaranteed Acceptance Life Insurance
- Hearing Benefits
- Discounts on Travel, Dining & more

1.877.556.4582 

myambabenefits.info/ream 

Retired Educators Association of Minnesota



TRA BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2026 (SUMMARY)

The TRA Board met on November 19, 2025, and January 7, 2026.

Next meeting: March 11.

NOVEMBER 19, 2025 MEETING

- **Heard a member appeal.**
- **Approved Rachel Barth as Deputy Director.**
- **Received training** on the Board's statutory role in the Executive Director Performance Review.
- **Extended the Earnings Limitation suspension** for rehired annuitants through 2030.
- **Approved legislation** allowing licensed physician assistants to submit non-physician medical documentation for disability applications; this will be included in the 2026 TRA administrative bill.
- Actuarial firm **CavMac presented the July 1, 2025 valuation:** actuarial funded status **improved to 81.6%** (from 79.9%); market value funded status **rose to 84.5%** (from 82.1%). Notable facts: fewer than 2,000 active Tier 1 members remain; oldest TRA retiree is 108.
- **Discussed Minnesota Paid Leave law implications;** approved legislation to exclude Paid Leave program payments from TRA's salary definition.
- **Held a strategic planning discussion for 2026.**
- **Conducted the Executive Director Performance Review** in closed session.

JANUARY 7, 2026 MEETING

- **Heard another member appeal.**
- **Jill Schurtz** (State Board of Investment) **presented an overview of SBI;** 2025 investment return was **10.9%**.

Mary Broderick
TRA Board of Trustees Retired
Representative
mary.broderick99@gmail.com



For more information,
visit www.minnesotatra.org

APPLY NOW:

REAM Educator and John Moriarity Awards

Deadline July 31, 2026

The REAM Educator Award will be presented during the annual conference at the Jackpot **Junction Casino Hotel in Morton, MN on September 29-30, 2026.** This award is given to a noteworthy REAM member who has contributed to the growth of REAM or a local REAM unit. To nominate an individual or individuals, please use the following criteria:

1. Personal endeavors as a school educator
2. Promotion of the causes of education within the community
3. Service to schools and community as a volunteer
4. Service to retired educator groups at the local, division, and/or state level.

Letters of nomination should be brief and concise, but include the following items in the individual's resume:

1. Name, address, education (place, dates, degrees, etc.)
2. Teaching (or school related) places, level or work, years in service
3. Date retired
4. Experience, other than school-related
5. Honors received, organizations, offices held, etc.
6. Volunteer activities, church, community, etc.
7. Service to retired educator groups at local, division, and/or REAM level.

The John Moriarity Government Involvement Award is given to a retired educator and member of REAM who is/was involved in local, county, state, and/or national government activities and political activities such as REAM/AARP legislative activity, political party involvement and/or campaign work.

Possibilities to consider for this award are those who are/were:

- Elected or appointed to community government positions such as city councils, city commissions and board, or school boards
- Elected or appointed to county government positions such as county commissions and boards, or study or research groups
- Elected or appointed to state government positions such as state officers and commissioners, legislature, interns or advisors, or pension positions
- Elected or appointed to national offices such as cabinet members, Congress, staff assistants or interns, or those serving on boards or commissions involved in political activity such as REAM or AARP legislative activity, political party activity, or campaign workers.

Important: Please submit any **2025 REAM Award nominations** for the 2025 Annual Conference to: **jkh4president@gmail.com**

or this address (preferred snail mail):

Lindsay Lally
5560 Lally Rd
Cromwell, MN 55726

For questions call **Lindsay's mobile at 218-644-3739.**

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IN LOVING Memory

Received October, November, December 2025; January, 2026

IN MEMORY OF: FROM:

Andrew W. Smith	Nancy Smith, Tucson, AZ	\$25.00
Charlotte Davis	Carl Most, Rochester	\$20.00
Daisy Druhl	Patricia Arnold, Crystal	\$10.00
David Briner	Sheldon D. Johnson, Monticello	\$25.00
Eldon Wollmann	Sharon Hurley, Moorhead	\$30.00
Eldon Wollmann	Dee Pretty, Moorhead	\$50.00
Eloise Miller	Anoka-Hennepin Retired Staff Ass'n	\$10.00
Judy Doyle	Sheldon D. Johnson, Monticello	\$25.00
Judy Luzaich	Anonymous	\$25.00
LuVerne Bushlack	Carl Most, Rochester	\$20.00

GIFTS:

Charles Nelson	North St. Paul	\$50.00
Cleone Pritchard		\$100.00
Patricia Arnold	Crystal	\$10.00

REAM ACKNOWLEDGES AND APPRECIATES GIFTS WITH MEMBERSHIP

REAM MEMORIAL/GIFT DONATION

I'm happy to enclose a \$_____ gift to be used by REAM to carry forward the objectives of my organization, namely, the improvement of the civic, cultural, social, economic and professional status of its members;

(and/or)

I've enclosed a \$_____ memorial in abiding memory of _____ of the _____ Chapter.

My Name _____

Or Name of Chapter _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

____ Please do not print my name with this gift/memorial in
The REAM News

Mail to REAM Treasurer, Al Tonn,
602 W. North St.,
Janesville, MN 56048



Protecting Pensions. Serving Members.

PO Box 7519
St. Cloud, MN 56302

John Smith
PO Box XXX
XXXX, MN 55555



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member benefit!* Retirees,
Active-Friends-all are welcome!
For more information:
Mnream.org/travel

