

Summer 2018

Active & Retired Missouri State Employees
www.armse.org

Sue Cox
Executive Director
Evann Clayton
Administrative Manager
Mike Morris
Legislative Liaison

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- Hal Dulle --
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- Mariel Hale --
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- Steve Price --
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- LaRae Clark --
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Board Member
- Gary Findlay --
Jefferson City
Board Member
- Roger Schwartz --
Jefferson City
Board Member

Active Past Presidents & Current Board Members

- Jim O'Bryan --
Hannibal
- Bill Trimm --
Jefferson City

ARMSE Helps You; Please Help ARMSE !!!

-- Thoughts from Mark Reading, ARMSE president

ARMSE worked hard this year to inform legislators and members about state retirement and health care programs. This is the reason the group was founded in 1969 as a non-partisan association. We've had some great successes!

ARMSE established a Facebook page to provide timely updates on issues. Please join our page today; like us and share our posts. We need to reach more active and retired members, so they realize there are significant challenges to our retirement and health-care benefits. Each of us needs to help protect them.

And then check our updated website – armse.org. You can now join ARMSE and also pay your dues online! Please send a copy of our link -- <https://membership.armse.org/> -- to your former coworkers, current active employees and your friends and family to get them involved.

MOSERS received full funding. ARMSE worked with MOSERS to provide data and information to show the importance of the retirement system and how much good is done costing only 1.4% of the state budget.

SB 843 passed in this year's legislative session, signed by former Governor Greitens, will add two active state employees and one retiree to the MCHCP board. ARMSE drafted and proposed these provisions, and Rep. Bernskoetter (R-Jefferson City) sponsored a bill that got unanimous support in House committee. MCHCP board members, our new Governor, your legislator and candidates for the legislature need to hear from you about the health-care changes that are coming for state employees and retirees.

♦ **Annual Meeting Set for September 24 in Jefferson City**

You are invited to attend the 48th Annual Conference Monday, Sept. 24, 2018, at the American Legion Post #5, 1423 Tanner Bridge Road, Jefferson City, MO 65101.

- Registration:** Begins at 8:30 a.m.
- Conference Speakers:** Begin at 10:00 a.m.
- Luncheon/Business Meeting:** 12:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Information tables will be available in the conference room with representatives from the retirement and health-care plans at 8:30 a.m. The meeting will feature presentations by officials of the MOSERS and MPERS retirement systems and state medical insurance representatives. A guest speaker will discuss the current political environment concerning retirees in Missouri. During lunch, time will allow networking with retirees from other areas of the state and ARMSE board members. New ARMSE officers will be elected. Hope to see you there!

Cut & mail reservation fee by Sept. 14, 2018, to ARMSE, PO Box 11, Jefferson City, MO 65102
ARMSE ANNUAL MEETING RESERVATION

_____(Number of attendees)
\$15.00 per person - includes registration fee, materials and meal -- all attendees must register

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

2018 Legislative Session Yields Victory for ARMSE

Senate Bill 843, drafted by ARMSE, and successfully ushered through the session to final passage and now law will, for the first time, give members of MCHCP representation on the board that determines their health insurance costs and services -- thanks to the help of Rep. Mike Bernskoetter! The bill will bring the same input into health care decisions that already exist for the state retirement systems and the MODOT/Highway Patrol health-care plan. MCHCP covers active and retired members who have not had representation since health care was moved out of MOSERS in 1994 to create MCHCP.

This new procedure will not be in time for the decisions on the 2019 health-care plan. The plan may set the direction for MCHCP for years to come. ARMSE will continue to report on the development of the plan. MCHCP received only two-thirds of the increase it requested in its budget. Its only option at this point appears to be to substantially increase deductibles, medical out-of-pocket maximums and coinsurance/copayments.

MCHCP intends to implement SB 843 this year after the open enrollment period is over. MCHCP has asked for the MOSERS rule on conducting elections. It is using that rule as a model in drafting its own. MCHCP Executive Director Judith Muck is considering the contracting process used by MOSERS to obtain a vendor to conduct the election.

Muck recommended to the MCHCP board that MCHCP have its own IT staff design and implement the elections system rather than contract for the service to save money. MCHCP would do full electronic voting. However, it might include some paper ballots for people that visit the MCHCP office. This will be clearer when the rule is published.

Stay tuned for more information from ARMSE. In the meantime, please let your elected officials and those running for office know of your concerns about medical-plan costs and services.

♦ **We Need Active & Retired State Employees**

We want active state employees to understand how ARMSE is working to protect what they have to look forward to in the years ahead. We want them to understand how it's in their best interest to help us now, so they have the pension and health benefits later when they are ready to enjoy them and will need to rely on them. We want retirees to understand that we can't fall asleep at the wheel – the threats out there are real, and we must protect what we worked so hard to earn. Tell others! The membership form can be found on the website: www.armse.org.

♦ **FYI**

-- Join the ARMSE Facebook page – it's a great way to keep up with information and share with other retirees and active state employees. Chapters meet throughout the state. If you're interested in ARMSE chapter participation, information is on the website to help you make the contact: www.armse.org. It's not required for membership. And – remember – ARMSE is volunteers!!! Thank you for what you are doing to help others!

-- If you're interested in tracking all retirement bills and those closely relating to retirement issues, a tremendous source of information can be found through the Missouri General Assembly's Joint Committee on Public Employee Retirement or JCPER. The website is: www.jcper.org.

-- Speaking of websites! If you're a MOSERS retiree, don't forget: www.mosers.org. And, if you're a MPERS retiree: www.mpers.org. There is wonderful information at both locations that can answer so many questions, address rumors, explain issues and help with problems. If for some reason, your issue cannot be addressed, contact information is available for reaching the appropriate staff person.

ARMSE
PO Box 11
Jefferson City, MO 65102

ARMSE MEMBER

Street Address
City / Town State Zip