

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

GENERAL EMPLOYEES AND UNCLASSIFIED RETIREMENT PLANS

Important

- ◆ The names of the candidates are listed alphabetically.
- ◆ Candidates supply the biographical information.
- ◆ MSRS does not verify the accuracy of the biographical information.

Michelle Baker

State Employment: Minnesota Department of Revenue, Revenue Tax Specialist Senior

Years of State Service: 10 years

Education, training, and experience:

I graduated from Cleveland State University with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in finance. Currently, I am on track for receiving my degree in accounting from Metropolitan State University. Lastly, I recently completed Minnesota Department of Revenue's Leadership Academy.

I received educational and work training in many subjects that I could utilize if selected, such as leadership, project management, and emotional intelligence training.

Throughout my career with Minnesota Department of Revenue, I have gained experience in problem resolution, building trust and relationships, prioritizing tasks to work towards the completion of the agency's goal, while keeping the agency's mission statement in the forefront.

Why I want to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors:

I would like to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors to be a representative for my colleagues. I am interested in learning more about MSRS and would like to share information on the work that MSRS does on behalf of State workers. I am also interested in building relationships with other individuals. Overall, I feel that serving on the MSRS Board of Directors will strengthen my purpose of being a public service employee. I would like to give back in more ways than just my position as a Revenue Tax Specialist.

Jason Bonnett

State Employment: Public Utilities Commission, Analyst Coordinator

Years of State Service: 18 years

Education, training, and experience:

In my current role at the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, I regulate the electric and natural gas utilities serving Minnesota and regularly deal with complex cases involving hundreds of millions of dollars addressing such issues as rate of return, return on equity, cost of debt, etc. I have a Bachelor's degree in finance and a law degree.

I have used my skills and experiences not only in employment, but in other public service leadership. I served as Minnesota Association of Professional Employees (MAPE) local 601 president (2019-2023), I walked the line in 2001, and served on six different negotiation teams (2003-2007 and 2019-2023). I am also a veteran and served in various leadership roles with the American Legion.

Why I want to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors:

As a state employee, I want to ensure that the MSRS plans remain healthy and viable now and into the future. Our pension, deferred compensation, and healthcare savings plans are vitally important for our retirement future and need to remain fully funded. In order to attract and retain quality employees, it is essential to fully fund out defined benefit plans. I believe that my years of service representing the people of Minnesota, both as part of MAPE and my time with the Public Utilities Commission have given me the knowledge and ability to achieve these goals.

Lajeana Iverson

State Employment: Board of Nursing, Office Administrative Specialist Intermediate

Years of State Service: 1 year

Education, training, and experience:

I have a two-year Associates degree in Liberal Arts from Normandale Community College. My experience comes from on-the-job training and community volunteering. I previously worked in Oncology scheduling people, and at Abbott Hospital Transporting Aid. These roles gave me the experience of customer service. I enjoy helping people. I have coached little league soccer, drove canoe trailers for youth, and helped organize a 40th camp anniversary for over 100 people.

Why I want to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors:

I want to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors to learn about the inner depths of the organization. To be able to give my input and give back to the community. I am a single mother and serving on the Board is a great way to learn about how the retirement works for the future. This role will build my professional skills in connecting with professionals.

Jodi Olson

State Employment: MN Department of Transportation, Heavy Equipment Mechanic

Years of State Service: 22 years

Education, training, and experience:

1987 Hibbing High school Graduate

1991 Graduate of Staples Technical College

Past member of the National Steel career development board

Past multi term President of the Chisholm, Hibbing Pathblazer's snowmobile club

Past MN DOT district 1 safety committee co-chair

Present Hibbing Trap club President

Why I want to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors:

I would like to serve on the board to give our state members of MSRS a voice.

Thank you for your consideration.

Allison Rose

State Employment: Department of Human Services, Grants and Contracts Manager

Years of State Service: 2 years

Education, training, and experience:

Master of Business Administration, 2024

MBA concentration: strategic risk and responsibility

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Relevant Areas of Experience: policy, budgets, benefits, and health care

Why I want to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors:

I'm interested in serving on the MSRS Board of Directors to learn from others and help promote long-term, positive change for Minnesota public employees. I have experience in policy and budget management, which I think would be an asset to this role and for the Board. I'd be grateful for the opportunity to work with motivated individuals on shared goals and to help support our future.

Tim Rush

State Employment: Minnesota Management and Budget, Statewide Payroll Services, Communications & Training

Years of State Service: 3 years

Education, training, and experience:

B.S Journalism with Financial Reporting Emphasis, Texas Christian University.

I am passionate about saving for retirement and helping others take these important steps to help them secure their own retirement and their other savings goals. I have over 28 years of board and committee service experience and am currently the President and Investment Committee Chairperson for the Preserve Association in Eden Prairie, MN. The Preserve Association is a very large neighborhood community comprised of 1,693 homeowners who share common community assets such as a swimming pool, pickleball courts, gardens, walking paths, tot lots, and an event center barn. To maintain, repair, and eventually replace these costly assets, I serve by helping manage a large reserve fund suitably invested in high interest paying fixed income instruments and other conservative, yet high yield investments selected for their low volatility and their superior company credit ratings.

Why I want to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors:

Money stress is the worst, but automatically contributing part of our paychecks into the state sponsored retirement plans is easy and can mean the difference between a worrisome retirement and a care-free retirement. My interest in joining the MSRS Board is to be a conduit to support our current state retirees with appropriate investments that keep their monthly pension checks coming with annual increases. Further, I want to contribute to the continuous education and encouragement of our working employees to save for their retirement; making it simple for them to understand their options; and then making it easy for them to participate.

Joseph Sullivan

State Employment: Minnesota Department of Revenue, Revenue Tax Specialist

Years of State Service: 14 years

Education, training, and experience:

I was elected to the MSRS Board in 2016 and have since served as a Board Member and as Chair of the Board's audit subcommittee. I have a Bachelor's degree with a double major in Accounting and Finance, and a Master of Accountancy, both from the University of Minnesota. I have fourteen years of experience analyzing and applying federal and state tax laws and reviewing/auditing financial documents and tax returns as a Revenue Tax Specialist with Minnesota Revenue. I also have ten years of experience reviewing the financial records of the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees (MAPE) to verify income and expenses of the union as a trustee on the MAPE Board of Trustees.

Why I want to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors:

As a state employee, I want to ensure that the MSRS plans remain healthy and viable for us all. Our defined benefit plans, in combination with our health care savings and deferred compensation plans, are vital assets for helping state employees retire with dignity after long careers of public service. Our retirement plans are also important to Minnesota itself, providing a positive economic impact in our communities from the money they provide our retirees while also allowing our state to attract and retain great employees who in turn work to provide vital services to the people of Minnesota. I believe the best way to ensure the long-term viability and survival of our retirement plans, both financially and politically, is to strive towards keeping them fully funded and responsibly invested and administered. I believe that my eight years of MSRS Board experience, in addition to my education in accounting and finance and my experiences as an auditor with Minnesota Revenue and Trustee with MAPE, have imbued me with the requisite knowledge and professionalism needed to help achieve those goals.

Joe Ventre

State Employment: MN Department of Commerce, Senior Corrections Agent

Years of State Service: 14.5 years

Education, training, and experience:

Master's degree in Public safety leadership from University of St. Thomas. Approximately 9 years working within a correctional facility under the Correctional Retirement Plan, and over 5 years as an agent under the General Retirement Plan. Instructor experience in various disciplines within the correctional facility and in the field. Served on various committees through the Department of Corrections.

Why I want to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors:

I want to participate in the governance of the retirement plan I am currently a part of. The MSRS Board affords me the opportunity to represent fellow employees who look to the Board to set effective policies and budgets in order to have a positive future for the retirement plan.