

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

GENERAL EMPLOYEES AND UNCLASSIFIED RETIREMENT PLANS

IMPORTANT

- ◆ Candidates supply the biographical information.
- ◆ MSRS does not verify the accuracy of the biographical information.

Chet Jorgenson

State Employment: Department of Commerce

Years of State Service: 37 years

Education, training, and experience

I am currently the Statewide Treasurer of the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees (MAPE) and was President of MAPE for 13 years. As the current treasurer of MAPE I lead in the fiscal management of the MAPE budget and in monitoring investment returns. I am a current member of the MSRS Board. The Board has worked with many stakeholders at the Legislature in recent years to make modest changes to the pension to successfully ensure the pension's future and increase benefits. I work at the Minnesota Department of Commerce. At Commerce I am a regulator of Wall Street financial products.

Why I want to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors

Some state employees fear the pension will not be there for them when they need it. Our pension is strong and stable. The numbers show whether you retire today or just started employment with the state, the pension will be funded for you. We need to stand up to the organizations and politicians that distort the facts, and we need to explain the real story of our pension. Pensions put millions of dollars into the Minnesota economy. I am committed to getting these messages to the people of Minnesota. I am also committed to working my hardest to make sure our pensions remain strong!

Jim Joslin

State Employment: Department of Commerce

Years of State Service: 8 years, 9 months

Education, training, and experience

I bring more than 30 years of professional experience in financial services, investor protection, and risk management. Currently, I am a Senior Examiner with the Department of Commerce, conducting in-depth examinations of investment advisers and broker-dealers to ensure compliance with the state and federal regulations. In this role, I lead examinations, draft reports, and spearhead the Division's annual investment adviser risk analysis. I also serve as Vice Chair of the Seniors Issues Committee for the North American Securities Administrators Association.

My earlier experience includes senior product management at U.S. Bancorp, where I oversaw annuities, insurance and investment products, led due diligence reviews and new product launches. In addition, I spent over a decade in insurance and annuity sales, financial advising, and estate/business planning. These roles built my expertise in investment analysis, client services, leadership and strategic planning.

Educationally, I hold a B.A. in Business Administration from Bethel College, and I completed the Certified Securities Compliance Professional (CSCP) designation at the University of St. Thomas School of Law. I have also previously held S6, S7, S63 and S65 registrations.

Why I want to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors

I am committed to protecting the retirement security of Minnesota Public employees and ensuring that their pension funds are managed responsibly, transparently, and sustainably. With nearly nine years of state service and decades of financial industry experience, I understand both the technical and human sides of retirement planning.

I want to serve on the MSRS Board to apply my expertise in risk analysis, compliance, and strategic decision-making toward safeguarding the long-term stability of the system. I believe strong governance, accountability, and open communication are essential to maintaining member trust.

It would be a privilege to represent my fellow employees, to help guide MSRS in adapting to future challenges while preserving the benefits that so many of us have worked hard to earn.

Diana Kroska

State Employment: Department of Transportation

Years of State Service: 6 years, 6 months

Education, training, and experience

I have a degree in psychology from Metro State University in St. Paul. Prior to State Service I worked in the private sector. In this position I was a fiduciary for the 401(k) plan, selecting vendors, selecting investments, making deposits and withdrawals, administering loans and coordinating education for participants. I prepared quarterly reports for the Boards, and year-end reports to ensure that the HCPs were in compliance with limits. I also had the opportunity to serve on Scott County's Health and Human Services community Board. In this role I was able to make recommendations for community outreach/programs for seniors and under-served communities.

Why I want to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors

With my past experience this would be an opportunity to serve in an area that I enjoyed working in. I would like the opportunity to serve State employees in this role. Retirement savings needs to be protected so that they are available when needed. I would be honored to be able to serve in this capacity and utilize my past experience.

Brian Lebens

State Employment: Senior Financial Analyst: The Office of the Minnesota Attorney General

Years of State Service: 10 years

Education, training, and experience

Undergraduate and Graduate Education:

Finance Major – Bachelor of Science in Business

Master of Business Administration (MBA)

Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota

3M Company: Four years in Finance

Lockheed Martin: Four years in Finance

Attorney General's Office: Ten years as an expert witness testifying at the Court of Administrative Hearings on a variety of financial topics, including private equity, the cost of capital, and financial markets in general.

Why I want to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors

I would like to expand the ways in which I apply my background in finance and my interests in operational efficiency and continuous improvement to help improve the well-being of my fellow Minnesotans.

Josh Mereness

State Employment: Direct Care and Treatment

Years of State Service: 15 years

Education, training, and experience

A dedicated direct care professional with over 25 years of experience in the field. I have held various roles, ranging from entry-level support staff to my current position as a Designated Manager overseeing a long-term residential setting for Direct Care and Treatment. I earned a Degree in my 30s while maintaining full-time rotating work schedules. Additionally, I am self-taught and have achieved some success in the finance industry, and I am committed to continuous learning in my free time.

Why I want to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors

I am dedicated to supporting others, which has also increased my awareness of the importance of financial independence. Over the years, I have actively invested in my future and have assisted many of our direct-care staff members in doing the same. Recognizing that many are unaware of this benefit and the significance of compound growth, I am motivated to pursue this initiative to maximize its positive impact.

Smith Njweipi

State Employment: Direct Care and Treatment

Years of State Service: 1 year

Education, training, and experience

I hold a Bachelor's degree in Law and am a trained, licensed foreign attorney with a strong foundation in legal practice. I am skilled in coaching individuals with special needs to build independence and confidence, while also serving as a dependable team lead who effectively manages multiple priorities. I was recently trained as an ICMS (Integrated Conflict Management System) Facilitator, supporting staff across divisions in addressing and resolving workplace conflicts. I also have proven experience in conflict management, helping to resolve challenges with patience, fairness, and professionalism.

Why I want to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors

I am passionate about ensuring the financial security and well-being of Minnesota state employees. I believe I can contribute to the effective management and oversight of the retirement system, making informed and critical decisions that benefit the members and stakeholders. I am committed to acting with integrity, transparency and accountability. I am excited about the opportunity to serve the people of this beautiful state.

Shanna Ross

State Employment: Department of Higher Education; Normandale Community College

Years of State Service: 35 years, 7 months

Education, training, and experience

For the past 25 years, I have worked full time at Normandale Community College as the Textbook Buyer in the college bookstore. My academic journey began with LPN training at South Central College in Faribault, followed by earning my Associates degree from Normandale Community College, and then earning a Bachelor's degree in Business Management, Marketing, and Media from Metro State University. Throughout my career, I have actively contributed to institutional development by serving on multiple hiring and administrative committees, representing the college bookstore. I regularly collaborate with deans and faculty across departments, fostering strong relationships and ensuring alignment with academic goals.

Why I want to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors

I am passionate about education, community engagement, and institutional excellence. I believe my experience, dedication, and collaborate spirit would make me a valuable asset to your Board. My interest in joining the Board is to serve my fellow co-workers by sharing knowledge about retirement pensions, actively participating in decisions that shape retirement outcomes, and continuing to expand my own understanding of the retirement system. I believe that informed employees make empowered choices, and I am committed to fostering that awareness across our community.

Jonah Rothstein

State Employment: Office of the Secretary of State (OSS)

Years of State Service: 2 years

Education, training, and experience

I have fiscal management experience as a nonprofit staff member. At a nonprofit with a global constituency, I was responsible for a budget of up to 550k. In all 4 years of employment, I achieved my performance goals and budget surpluses. I currently am gaining significant fiscal governance experience as a member of two nonprofit boards, one house of worship, and one community organization. I serve as the Treasurer/Finance Committee Chair of one organization where I am responsible for the fiscal oversight of a \$1.3M+ budget that serves nearly 600 member households. I currently have spending authority in my state role, where I spend taxpayer dollars with extreme intention and care.

Why I want to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors

As an employee newer to state service, I hope to bring my experiences with nonprofit fiscal management and governance to the role of MSRS board member elected by fellow retirement plan participants. I plan to have a long career in service to the state and people of Minnesota. I seek to provide strong fiscal oversight of the general and unclassified employees retirement plans on behalf of all active plan members and retirees.

The retirement plans are among the best benefits of state service. They assist with state employee retention and allow agencies and offices to attract some of the best talent from across Minnesota. We must collectively ensure that the retirement plans remain strong and healthy into the long-term future. Active plan participants (current state employees) provide an essential voice for ensuring the continued strength of the retirement plans. I plan to bring my perspective as a newer state employee in the unclassified service with fiscal governance and management experience to the MSRS board. Thank you very much for your consideration of my candidacy.

Jacqueline Terry

State Employment: Department of Employment and Economic Development

Years of State Service: 42 years

Education, training, and experience

I'm a graduate of St Paul Central High School, and I have some higher education experience through various courses, workshops, and trainings. My experience includes over 40 plus years as a vested member of MSRS, and as a current Board member. Also, as a former member of AFSCME Council 5, Executive Board and Treasurer, and Local 22 President, VP, Executive Board member and Steward, and currently a MAPE Steward and Meet and Confer Committee member. I served on Generations of Faith Missionary Baptist Church Executive Board for many years and currently volunteer as the Ramsey County election Head Judge.

Why I want to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors

As a current MSRS Board member I would like to continue the hard work of overseeing and fighting for our pensions so that each one of us will be able to retire with dignity and respect. I would love to continue learning new strategies to better our pension plan for its members.