



CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

STATE PATROL RETIREMENT PLAN

IMPORTANT

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

Richard Orpen

State Employment: Minnesota State Patrol

Years of State Service: 21 years

Education, training, and experience

I graduated from the University of Minnesota in 2003 with a degree in Sociology, focusing on Law, Criminology, and Deviance. I was sworn in as a Trooper in March 2004. Since joining the Patrol, I've held various roles including first aid instructor, commercial vehicle inspector, crash reconstructionist, field training officer, and background investigator. I've served as the Minnesota State Patrol Troopers Association Treasurer since 2021. In that role I've streamlined reimbursement processes and adjusted pay structures, helping to maintain current union dues for several more years. In 2025 I joined the MLEA negotiations team and the MSRS Board.

Outside of work, I've been actively involved in community service. I served on the Saint Francis Economic Development Authority from 2012 to 2014 and as a city council member in St. Francis from 2014 to 2016. Currently, I am a member of the Anoka County Library Board, serving as president since 2021. In this role, I work with library staff to review policies and procedures, advocate for the library, and come up with unique ways to keep the patrons engaged.

Why I want to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors

The importance of a healthy pension for the well-being of law enforcement professionals has been evident throughout my career. Over the past five years, it has become crucial to retain and recruit top talent for this noble profession. I aim to leverage my experience in government and as a member of the MSPTA Board to protect and promote the importance of all retirement benefits. My goals for the State Patrol plan are a COLA and contribution rate similar to other groups. Neither will happen overnight and only if the plan can support the health and longevity of the pension fund, ensuring it continues to serve those who have dedicated their lives to public service.