

**TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
January 16, 2010**

**In attendance:**

Archie Daily-State President  
Leann Hagee-State Vice President  
Duke Wrisinger-State Retiree

Dave Taylor- State Treasure  
Gaila Campbell-State Secretary

<b>Chapter 1</b>	<b>1 Member</b>	<b>Chapter 2</b>	<b>2 Members</b>
<b>Chapter 3</b>	<b>Not represented</b>	<b>Chapter 4</b>	<b>Not represented</b>
<b>Chapter 5</b>	<b>3 Members</b>	<b>Chapter 6</b>	<b>Not represented</b>
<b>Chapter 7</b>	<b>1 Member</b>	<b>Chapter 8</b>	<b>2 Members</b>
<b>Chapter 9</b>	<b>1 Member</b>	<b>Chapter 10</b>	<b>2 Members</b>
<b>Retiree</b>	<b>1 Member</b>	<b>Guests</b>	<b>3</b>

Meeting called to order by President Archie Daily 9:00 a.m. Archie welcomed everyone, and each individual introduced themselves, and the Chapter they represent.

**Secretary's Report:** Copies of the minutes were submitted for approval.

**Treasurer's Report:** Copies of the treasurer's report were submitted for approval. A motion was made, seconded and carried. Each Chapter is to fill a financial statement, and furnish a copy of their bank statement so the treasurer may check funds.

**Chapter Reports:**

**Chapter 1:** 208 members, \$3200.00 in Savings, and \$935.00 in checking, \$25,700.00 in Needy Family Fund. We have adopted a couple of employees who are off the extended leave, and that are out of time. One of the co-workers was involved in a car wreck. We assisted them in helping with their medical bills. The employees are approaching Cobra Insurance, and the Needy Funds will probably cover these additional costs. When new employees have orientation we get to speak with them about T.E.A.M... Our D.E. is very supportive.

**Chapter 2:** 268 members, \$4838.00 in checking, and savings. Marshal Construction office, and Sweet Spring office sponsored a Golf Tournament, and Don Hillis was present. The Golf Tournament raised \$1760.00, and the district donated \$880.00 to the Fallen Worker Memorial, and \$880.00 to the Employees Fund that was established. We have 3 people off on extended leave. We received permission to set up a table at our Fall Meeting, and signed in 54 new members.

**Chapter 3:** Not present

**Chapter 4:** Not present

**Chapter 5:** 441 members, \$26.73 in checking, savings, \$15,291.24 in CD's. Currently the chapter is working on increasing memberships.

**Chapter 6:** Not present

**Chapter 7:** 340 members, \$767.31 in checking, \$1005.68 in Credit Union. When we participated in the Fall Employee Fairs last October we were able to sign up about 40 new members, and have two new Gold Card members.

**Chapter 8:** 376 members, 4 retirees, 5 new members \$8766.69.23 in checking. Our Chapter will be working with Kris Sandgren on the Bike Ride for the Fallen Worker Memorial

**Chapter 9:** 1 Present, 254 members, and \$1370.75 in the Credit Union.

**Chapter 10:** 2 present, 273 members, and \$5849.00 in checking. A membership drive was held at the Annual Snow Academy. We sponsored a drawing, and the winner received a B.B.Q Grill.

**Guest Speaker: Sue Cox, Vice Chair for Retirement Board  
Susie Dahl, Executive Director of Mpers**

At our previous meeting in August, Sue encouraged T.E.A.M. to be informed and learn about the retirement system. Today, Sue Cox and Susie Dahl visit us with information concerning changes in our retirement system. Sue discussed the changes that have been made since she began working with the Retirement Board as the MoDOT employee representative. The Board began working on board governance rules to guide how the board does business. Examples include how an item is put on the agenda, the number present for voting, other voting procedures and bringing new information before the board. This guidance has helped bring order, and see that all eleven members have an equal vote. The changes have helped make a better functioning board that uses a democratic process. The new change is more open and is more accountable to members of the retirement system. Sue discussed fiduciary duties for each member of the board. Fiduciary means by law the responsibilities of overseeing the retirement fund and taking care of the funds for the people you represent. The Board was created in 1955 with 10 members, and in 2007 the members increased to 11 members. When trustees participate they must all act as a group in the best interest of the plan participants.

Senator Roger Greisheimer and Rep. Charles Schlottach, due to term limits, will end their term after this legislative session. In January, we will get two new board members, and it is important that these members know our retirement needs. Sue encourages us to visit with our Senator, to have our input on things that will be concerned with our retirement needs.

In discussing the latest information on our retirement: the actuary that set forth our financial information suggest the Board put five million a year increase for 15 years to help with the unfunded liability for our retirees due to the economic situation the past year, and the Board passed this recommendation. The five million dollars can come from anywhere within MoDot. This year the contributions are 121 million dollars, the accelerated contribution rate will go up, but it was due to go up because of the losses incurred. We have already come back some, but the contributions could go as high as 200 million over the next few years.

Susie Dahl testified before the House Retirement Committee about our retirement funding situation and what we are trying to do about. Susie said she felt like the Retirement Board stepped up, and the Board sees the problem, and what they will have to do to fix it. The

Retirement Board stated they were responsible to the members of this trust. The Board is to be commended, they fought a good fight, and they got it done, and got more money to put into the system. Susie commended Sue Cox, and the Retirement Board for stepping up to do the right thing.

This is a critical year for us as we have board elections coming up in January, There are four vacancies, Sue Cox position, active MoDot member, active retiree, and retired MoDot, and retired representative have to run for re election. Sue Cox has been diligent in establishing a working relation with members of the Board, and will be running for re-election for the new term. Sue is dedicated to protecting our benefits, and making good decisions. Sue has a great start, and wants to do more to help accomplish positive results. Legislators do not run, just the elected. The Speaker of the House appoints the legislators for the program. Roger Stottlemire, a former colonel of the Highway Patrol, is the patrol's retiree representative, and was voted Chairman of the Retirement Board.

Our retirement plan differs, as we are not contributory. When our plan was created back in 1955, it was contributory, and the majority of the plans are contributory. In a recent survey, there are at present 6 defined benefit plans that are in the public plan that are not contributory, and that's where we fall out of the mainstream. The guidelines we follow, and administer our plan are by law, and that is an advantage. Our health insurance at MoDot especially for retirees, are by the choice of whatever the Commission decided to do, so we have no security in a law. This means the Commission has the authority to make medical plan changes. Based on retirement system we have laws that protect our benefits. The Commission can have a legislator sponsor change with legislation, they do not have to go before the board, and they have the right to file legislation that says you have the right to change the retirement age, the multiplier, and no cost of living increase for retirees. They can put this legislation out there, and if it passed we would have to go by it. Employees can request changes in multiplier perceptively, not retroactively, but there would have to be a bill to pass. Sue will follow-up regarding the medical insurance questions that were asked and forward the information to T.E.A.M. As a group, we can communicate with the medical insurance representative to be informed, and ask the division director or district engineers for informational updates.

#### **Sue recommendation for the T.E.A.M., and our members**

1. We need to stay informed, ask questions, ask questions, and ask questions!!
2. Hold the Board of Trustees accountable – stay informed and seek information that you need.
3. Think big picture and work to protect the benefits we have. Now is not a good time to expect benefit enhancements.
4. Help Susie to be a good liaison, and be good stewards, share information, and keep other informed.
5. Stay aware of the minutes of the Board, they are on the website, and they are accessible.
6. Know that you are welcome to any retirement board meeting. They are open to the public, and the Highway Patrol Troopers' Association attend the meetings.

**Information is power, be in the know!**

**T.E.A.M appreciates the efforts that Sue and Susie devote to helping keep us informed; we will pass this valuable information on to our co-workers, and retirees.**

**Legislative Report:** Lobbyist Harry Hill was present to bring us new information from the capitol. January 6, 2010 the session ended, and adjourned due to a snow storm. Elections are coming up this next year, and there will be a lot of changes due to term limits. There will be sixty new members in the house, a twelve in the Senate. Due to changes the Fallen Worker Memorial project got held up at the last meeting. There is some debate about the Office of Administration wanting the MoDot Building. Lobbyist Harry spoke to a member of the Commission, and found out that would be an expensive undertaking. For twenty years OA has tried to take over the MoDot Building. The projected price would be 20 million to purchase, and due to the state of the economy that would be highly unlikely. Conditions for the memorial that if OA ever purchase the MoDot building, the Fallen Worker Memorial would have to be moved. MoDot has agreed to move the memorial if that ever happens.

Retirement issues are still the big issue at the present.

There are several bills out, and they are tow roads, no age limit on driver's that text, a bill in the house concerning motorist talking on the phone when driving.

Harry noted that public perception is very good of MoDot.

**New Business:** Next meeting date in March 17, 2010 at 9:00 a.m., at the Truman Hotel in Jefferson City.

Kris Sandgren from District 8, Sunshine Maint. Facility, joins us today with news for helping get pledges for the Fallen Worker. Kris was reading about the 87.2 walk that Jim, and Theo Feeny made on the Katy Trail for the Fallen Worker Memorial. Jim's story inspired Kris to make a decision to help get pledges for the memorial. We have had several Fallen Worker's in our district, and Kris felt the decision that would be a tribute to honor all the Fallen Worker's. Kris is a bicyclist, and he has decided he will ride from Anacortes Washington, just under the Canadian Border to Jefferson City. Kris will ride approximately 97 miles a day, and it will take him 30 days approximately, 2900 miles. T.E.A.M. will post his adventures on the website about the ride.

Kris shared pictures, and stories of some of his past adventures with us, and they impressed T.E.A.M so much that we want to help him reach his goal. Kris takes a sleeping bag and tent and says he tries to make his trip as economical as possible. A motion was made, and seconded that each chapter donate \$50.00 towards his expenses. We are going to have local, and national press coverage about his trip. We will be sending pledge cards out, and hoping to reach our goal for the Fallen Worker Memorial. Kris Sandgren has dedicated himself for this worthy cause, and he is to be commended for his integrity.

T.E.A.M will stay informed, and help keep our members informed. Our next meeting will be at Lobby Days, on March 17.

Adjourn