

The OEA-R members attending the STRS Ohio Board Meeting were Mary Binegar, Carol Dixon, Delores Rome Hudson and Rita Walters.

This was the first meeting with new board member Pat Davidson. Dale Price is the new STRS Ohio Chairperson.

The meeting began with a presentation from the Member Benefits Department. Director Christina Elliott in conjunction with Christopher Doll from CEM Benchmarking (Cost Effectiveness Measurement, Inc.). Fiscal year 2022 costs and services were benchmarked against 41 leading global pension systems from the United States and Canada. STRS Ohio earned the second highest service-level score. STRS Ohio has had the top rated service level in 12 of the 25 years of the survey. This past year, the STRS Ohio service score was 93 compared to a peer median of 81 while the cost per active member and annuitant was \$98 compared to peer average of \$109. Between 2015 and 2022 STRS Ohio's total pension administration cost per active member and annuitant decreased 1.5% per year while our peers increased 2.2% annually.

Ms. Elliott provided an update on the Defined Contribution Plan. Most of the STRS Ohio membership is in the Defined Benefit Plan. In 2001 the Defined Contribution Plan was implemented on July 1, 2001. This includes the DC plan and the Combined Plan (CO). As part of the Funston Fiduciary Audit were the following recommendations.

- *Develop a board continuing education program for DC Plan fiduciary duties, plan design and oversight

- *Hire an independent DC Plan advisor and independent investment consultant

- *More formally assign an individual in the STRS Ohio organization to lead the DC Plan

- *Engage in a review of the DC Plan design and all policies, practices and processes for the DC Plan

- *Establish board agenda items explicit to required DC Plan and CO Plan matters and assign oversight of the plan features to a board committee

- *Establish a statement of Investment Objectives and Policy (SIOP) and monitoring process for the DC Plan. The board is in the process of addressing these recommendations. The percent of total enrollment in the plans are as follows:

Defined Benefit Plan - 92.4%, Defined Contribution Plan - 4.7% and the Combined Plan - 2.9%.

After the member benefits report the Board heard a presentation concerning Robert's Rules of Order which was to be presented last month but due to a lengthy Executive Session was moved to September. Mr. Fichtenbaum made a motion to adopt Robert's Rules for the Board. There was a motion to postpone the vote on Mr. Fichtenbaum's motion until October. Stacey Wideman, STRS Ohio General Counsel, will work on a motion that will incorporate what the law requires and Robert's Rules.

During public participation there were 12 speakers. The first five speakers addressed the closing of the Day Care Center at STRS Ohio. All but one of the remaining speakers were the regular ORTA complainers. The Executive Session was just about one hour.

There was a report from the Investment Department. Matt Worley reported that the total returns for August were gross return -0.95%, net return -0.97%. The preliminary fiscal year 2024 total fund return is estimated: gross return +0.62%, net return +0.60%. Preliminary total investment assets ended August at \$89.9 billion; lower by \$100 million in fiscal 2024. Steve Mayes provided an overview of the Securities Lending Program.

Bill Neville provided his Executive Director's Report. He announced that the distribution of Annual Statements will be delivered by the end of September. He also announced that the brochure **Understanding Your STRS Ohio Benefits - Plan Summary** was revised and delivered to more than 221,000 active members with an email address on file. U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) adopts new private fund Adviser rules. The actuary file has been completed and sent to the Board's actuary. A look at the data provides interesting insights into retiree longevity. As of June 30, 2023, STRS Ohio had 209 benefit recipients aged 100 or older - 180 females and 29 males. The total number of centenarians is the same as last year. Two are disability recipients. The oldest recipient is 108 years young. This member retired in 1973. The retiree who has been receiving benefits the longest - for 66 years --is a disability recipient. She began receiving a benefit in 1957 at the age of 27. Mr. Neville also reported that Cheiron, the board's outside actuary, will be providing a report in October on pension and health care valuations.

During Old and New Business new board member Davidson made a motion to discuss the situation with the closing of the day care. Mr. Price made a motion to postpone that motion until the October meeting. Mr. Price's motion to postpone passed. The October meeting will be October 19, 2023. Remember if you cannot attend in person you can sign up and join the meeting online. It is your retirement system, you need to be informed about what is actually happening.