

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

MSRS RETIREE MEMBER

Important

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

Rich Neseth

State Employment: Metropolitan Council (Metro Transit), Bus Operator

Years of State Service: 15 years, 3 months

Education, training, and experience:

Graduated from Kasson-Mantorville High School, May 1966

Dunwoody Industrial Institute, December 1968 with certificate in Architectural Drafting/Estimating

1969-1981: I was employed by several construction related companies as an architectural draftsman/estimator, reinforcing steel detailer, city desk salesperson, and concrete form designer/engineering technician.

1981-1984: I was employed as a full time salesman progressing to assistant store manager of an auto parts and accessories store.

1984-1993: I was employed as a full time automotive service advisor at two different Chrysler dealers.

1993-1999: I was self-employed as an independent Mac Tools distributor. As such I was responsible for every facet of running my own small business including sales, inventory, bookkeeping, financials, marketing, keeping tool truck clean and orderly and running my route schedule 5 days a week.

1999-2014: I was employed as a bus operator for Metro Transit Division of Metro Council, St. Paul, MN. I was responsible for the safe and on-time operation of a bus on any of the 135+ bus routes. During my driving career, I accumulated 14 years of accident free driving and 10 years of outstanding operator status. No responsible accidents, no filed customer complaints, no lates, no no-shows, and no more than 5 sick days per year.

I also volunteered as a team-member of a church group to distribute non-perishable food to food insecure families in NW metro.

I also served one term as vice president of a snowmobile club in Long Lake, MN.

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

I wish to serve on the MSRS Board of Directors just to have an inside view of the committee that oversees our pension benefits.

Wes Skoglund

State Employment: State Senator and Representative

Years of State Service: 30 years

Education, training, and experience:

Experience: I'm the current elected retiree representative and vice chair of the MSRS Board. My pension and state government knowledge helped boost our funds' solvency. Numbers are up for all plans - the General Employees Retirement Plan is now over 95% funded.

Career: DFL State Senator and Representative who was always endorsed by state employee unions. I chaired the Judiciary and Financial Institutions committees and authored over 200 bills ranging from pension protection to sex offender controls. In my private career, I worked as a Control Data Human Resources professional, special needs teacher and national guardsman.

Personal: University of Minnesota graduate. Served as a hospice volunteer, Special Olympics ski racing coach, volunteer for numerous community and civic causes, booster and fund raiser for our daughters' school teams and dishwasher for any school or non-profit function. I was part of a non-profit group that created Mental Health Connect, currently serve on a non-profit investment board and teach special needs kids how to ski. A neighbor and I co-founded a dull men's club (membership closed).

Family: Married to Linda Brown Skoglund, a MSRS retiree who had a 33 year career with DEED (unemployment department). We have two busy and adored grandsons, aged seven and four, whom we dote on.

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

Financially sound pension funds, like ours, are juicy targets for evil doers. Threats from cyber thieves, greedy connivers, and publicity-seeking-backward-thinking politicians who want to ransom, skim off, privatize, hybridize, borrow from, short change, or even shut down our pensions are real. I pledge to protect your retirement. Safeguarding pensions and the solvency of our funds is my uppermost goal.