

**MINUTES OF THE
UTAH STATE MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
December 2, 2024, 12:00 Noon
Utah Retirement Office
Hybrid Meeting**

Council Members Participating in Person:

Mr. Marty Peterson, Chair, Professional Firefighters of Utah
Mr. Rod Hurd, Vice Chair, Utah Education Association
Mr. JJ Allen, Utah League of Cities and Towns
Mr. Brad Hardesty, Utah Association of Retired Public Employees
Mr. Larry Millward, Utah Retired School Employees' Association
Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme, Utah Association of School Business Officials

Council Members Participating via Video Conferencing:

Ms. Heather Anderson, Utah Association of Special Service Districts
Ms. Sheri Dearden, Utah Association of Counties
Ms. Jenny Gravier, Utah Education Association
Ms. Anna Lewin, Utah Education Association
Ms. Lisa Nance, Utah Public Employees' Association
Judge Kara Pettit, Utah Judicial Council
Mr. Brandon Wolf, Utah School Employees' Association

Excused: Mr. Scott Wilberger, Utah Peace Officers' Association

Staff Participating in Person:

Mr. Ryan Ashcraft, Retirement Planning Director
Mr. Daniel Boster, Savings Plans Director
Mr. Russ Bulloch, Retirement Planning Advisor
Mr. Mark Cain, Deputy Executive Director
Mr. Kory Cox, Director of Legislative & Government Affairs
Ms. Liza Eves, Senior Associate General Counsel
Mr. James Hammer, Employer Services Director
Mr. Dee Larsen, General Counsel
Ms. Stacie Petersen, Executive Assistant

Staff Participating via Video Conferencing:

Mr. Dan Andersen, Executive Director
Mr. Dustin Seely, Retirement Benefits Director

Guests Participating in Person:

Mr. Donovan Minutes, Professional Firefighters of Utah

Guests Participating via Video Conferencing:

Mr. Jason Putman, Professional Firefighters of Utah
Ms. Hadlie Stringham, State Division of Human Resource Management

Welcome

Chair Marty Peterson called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. and welcomed Council members, staff, and guests.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Marty Peterson asked for approval of the November 4, 2024, Membership Council Meeting minutes.

ACTION: Mr. Rod Hurd moved, seconded by Mr. Brad Hardesty, to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2024, Membership Council Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Report from Member Organizations

Chair Marty Peterson asked Council members and guests to provide a report from their organizations. He stated when firefighters are required to work mandatory overtime that no Social Security benefits are provided on that income. The Federal Government saves relatively very little money by not offering this benefit.

Mr. Brad Hardesty reported retirees are hoping to get a bill passed that will do away with state taxes on Social Security benefits. Mr. Kory Cox said there have been a couple of bills to help in lowering those taxes.

Ms. Anna Lewin said that the UEA has a great legislative team who are traveling the state informing members about legislation that might affect education.

Mr. JJ Allen stated that the Utah League of Cities and Towns attention is focused on housing, the homeless, water, and gravel pits.

Ms. Jenny Gravier reported that the UEA is worried about how legislation will try to undermine unions, especially teachers' unions.

Most members reported their groups are watching what will happen in the legislative session. Otherwise, there were no other legislative reports from the Council Members.

Director's Report

Mr. Dan Andersen gave a presentation on the AUREUS (Advanced Utah Retirement End User System) project including the background, how the program will revolutionize business going forward, benefits to employers and members, the complexity of the data being processed, and a timeline update.

2025 Legislation Update

Mr. Dee Larsen and Mr. Kory Cox reported that the legislative session begins Tuesday, January 21 and ends on Friday, March 7. The Retirement and Independent Entities Interim Committee has completed their meetings for this year. Leadership changes in the House, Senate, and committees were also discussed. The volunteer firefighter bill passed the committee, which in essence increases the dollar amount per year that can be earned as a working retiree for this group. Mr. Larry Millward asked about the Tier 2 employer pickup bill. Senator Harper is sponsoring that bill, which did receive committee endorsement but not unanimously. When the bills are numbered, the information will be distributed to Membership Council members. Mr. Kory Cox stated that the Governor will release his budget on Thursday this week and that could affect some organizations.

Individual Retirement Planning Sessions

Mr. Russ Bulloch gave a presentation on Individual Retirement Planning Sessions and covered the question, "Are you on track to retire with the financial stability you desire?" He discussed the following in more detail:

- Retirement planning purpose
- How to register and prepare
- What to expect
- Location, format & frequency
- What these sessions are not

Other Business

None.

Adjournment

ACTION: Mr. Larry Millward moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

The next Membership Council Meeting will be on January 6, 2025, at 12 Noon. This will be a hybrid meeting.