



FIREFIIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

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MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES March 11, 2021

IN ADHERENCE TO GOVERNOR EDWARDS' PROCLAMATION NOS. 17 JBE 2021 AND 18 JBE 2021, THE FRS CHAIRMAN RULED THAT THIS FRS BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD BY TELECONFERENCE. THE CHAIRMAN ALSO RULED THAT VOTING FOR EACH MOTION HAVING DISSENT MUST BE ACCOMPLISHED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE. PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE TELEPHONIC BOARD MEETING WAS POSTED IN A TIMELY FASHION, INCLUDING THE DIAL-IN NUMBER AND ACCESS CODE, AT THE PRIMARY FRS OFFICE AND ON THE FRS WEBSITE.

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on March 11, 2021 via teleconference. Chairman Perry Jeselink called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Mr. Jeselink gave the invocation and Mr. Romero led the pledge of allegiance.

Ms. Duhe called the roll. A quorum was present.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Perry Jeselink
Jerry Tarleton
Stacy Birdwell
Lindsay Schexnayder (designee of Commissioner Jay Dardenne)
John Broussard (designee of Treasurer John Schroder)
Louis Romero
Mayor David Amrhein
Mayor Ronny Walker

OTHERS PRESENT

Steven Stockstill	Joey David	Chad Landis	Chris Kaufmann	Chase Lord
Layne McKinney	Paul Schmidt	Daniel Sittig	Rodney Pilgrim	Stephen Farmer
Michael Becker	Brennen LeBlanc	Shane Stout	Bennie Ouber	Earl Borden
Jason Starns	Corey Broussard	Holden Leon	Corey Bourque	Lindsay Saienni
Benjamin Johnson	Dennis Mouton	Peter Bolton	Barbara Sellars	Ronald Brady
Brandon Trahan	Gordon Copell	C. Womack	April Bodin	Tristan Hebert
Ashley Duhe'	Gene McCall	Brent Landry	Joe Sunseri	Archie Watson
Chuckie Albert	Jason Benoit	Troy Gardner	Timothy Barras	Brian Barker
David Barnes	Craig Burkett	Eric Meaux	Adam Barker	Morgan Williams
Greg Curran	Terry Stuard	Joe Prator	Jonathan Knight	Tony Smith

**FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
BOARD MEETING**

**MARCH 11, 2021
PAGE 2**

Jason Shelton	Rodney Ourso	Verlyn Carter Vee	Hunter Tannehill
Richard Davidson	J. Ward	Blake Smith	Jeremy Hinton
Josiah Atkins	Paul Richardson	Timothy Wilson	Jeremy Faulkner
Ryan Foster	Brian Olson	Jeremy	Manny Sandoval
Randy Hess	Stevie Douglas	Ralph Segraves	Peter Bolton
Carlos	J. Hab	Marlo Francis	R. Bergeron
Taylor Wilson	Shane Spillman	Douglas Daussin	Chad Burden
Joey Sanders	Matt Lauterbach	ShaBrodrick Jones	Jacar Greer
Clebe Stutes			

EDITORIAL NOTE: IN THE FOLLOWING MINUTE ENTRIES, ACTION REGARDING EACH VOTE WHERE THERE WAS DISSENT WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY ROLL CALL VOTE. IN INSTANCES WHERE THE VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS, THE MINUTE ENTRY WILL SIMPLY MEMORIALIZE THE RESULT AS UNANIMOUS. ALL VOTING CAN BE VERIFIED BY AVAILABLE SOURCES.

MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Tarleton moved to approve the minutes of the board meeting held on February 11, 2021. Mayor Walker seconded. The motion passed unanimously

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

APPLICANTS

- New Members

PROCEDURE: The FRS enrollment process, including the completion of the applicant forms, the physical examination, and the completion of any waivers of preexisting conditions, must be completed and all documents received by FRS within six months of the date of employment. If the FRS enrollment process is not completed within six months from the date of employment, the applicant will be a member eligible to begin vesting for regular benefits from the date of employment, but not eligible to begin vesting for disability benefits until the completion of the enrollment process. It is the statutory responsibility of the employer to insure that the enrollment process is timely completed or to provide FRS with notice of noncompliance by the applicant. If a member who has not completed the enrollment process becomes injured in the line of duty and applies for disability benefits, then the member must prove that the disabling condition was not preexisting. Each enrollment application is reviewed by staff to determine eligible job classification, date of hire, employer certification, and medical waiver information. Each application for membership was completed and submitted in accordance with all applicable state laws.

Mr. Starns presented the list of new member applicants for the month of March 2021. (see attached Exhibit #1) He stated that all applications were in order.

**FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
BOARD MEETING**

**MARCH 11, 2021
PAGE 3**

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to approve the new member applicants for the month of March 2021. Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed unanimously

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

- Retirees

PROCEDURE: To retire, a member must furnish the retirement office with an application for retirement. When the application is received by the retirement office, the member's file is reviewed for proper documentation and to determine that the applicant meets the legal criteria necessary to receive payment in the form of a monthly retirement benefit. Calculations for retirement are performed by the benefit analyst and verified by the system's administrator. All retirement applications were submitted and benefits calculated in accordance with all applicable state laws.

Mr. Starns presented the list of new retirees for the month of March 2021. (see attached Exhibit #2) He stated that all applications were in order.

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to approve the retiree applicants for the month of March 2021. Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed unanimously

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

- Survivor Applications

PROCEDURE: Survivors applying for benefits must furnish the retirement office with a notarized application for survivor benefits, a copy of the member's death certificate, a marriage licence (if beneficiary is a spouse), and the beneficiary's birth certificate. Once received, the deceased member's records are reviewed by staff to determine survivor benefit eligibility and to determine that the survivor's benefit calculation is completed per all applicable state laws and any merger agreements.

[NOTE: Individuals who retired under another retirement system where FRS is a third party administering payments as a result of a merger, and where the individual becomes deceased after the merger, the beneficiary or survivor is still required to submit all necessary documents; however, payment is made as set forth in the merger agreement (contract) affecting beneficiaries and survivors.] (R.S. 11:2256 and R.S. 11:2259)

Tanika Edwards- Mr. Starns presented the application of Tanika Edwards, surviving spouse of John Louis Johnson. He stated that the application was in order.

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to approve the application of Tanika Edwards. Mayor Walker seconded. The motion passed unanimously

**FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
BOARD MEETING**

**MARCH 11, 2021
PAGE 4**

Betsy Wheat Martin- Mr. Starns presented the application of Betsy Wheat Martin, surviving daughter of Jonathan Hank Wheat. He stated that the application was in order.

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to approve the application of Betsy Wheat Martin. Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed unanimously

Virginia Renate Rozas- Mr. Starns presented the application of Virginia Renate Rozas, surviving spouse of Earl Rozas. He stated that the application was in order.

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to approve the application of Virginia Rengate Rozas. Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed unanimously

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

- Disability Conversion Applicant

PROCEDURE: Retirees who apply for conversion from regular retirement to a disability retirement are required to submit detailed medical information as part of the application in support of their claim that the disability was job-related and occurred during active employment as a firefighter, even though the actual physical disability may not have become manifest until after the effective date in DROP or after commencement of service retirement. Once received, the application is reviewed by staff and medical records are forwarded to a State Medical Disability Board doctor to determine if sufficient documentation is present to certify that the retiree's disability occurred during active employment and was a direct result of working as a firefighter. If the medical information submitted is not sufficient for the doctor to determine the date and cause of the disability, then an appointment is scheduled for the applicant to undergo a physical examination. For the applicant to become eligible for conversion, the State Medical Disability Board doctor must furnish a medical report certifying the retiree's disability and that the disability was a direct result of employment as a firefighter. (R.S. 11:2258(B) and Administrative Rule)

[NOTE: By giving advance notice on its posted agenda, the board of trustees reserved its right to enter executive session pursuant to R.S. 42:17(A)(1) for discussion of any privacy protected physical or mental health information related to the disability conversion applicant.]

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to enter executive session. Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to resume public session. Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

██████████ Mr. Starns presented the disability conversion application of ██████████ He advised the board that, based upon the report by the State Medical Disability Board doctor, the staff

**FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
BOARD MEETING**

**MARCH 11, 2021
PAGE 5**

recommendation was for the approval of disability conversion and suspending the requirement of disability recertification.

MOTION: Mr. Tarleton moved to accept the staff recommendation regarding [REDACTED] Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

MONTHLY FLASH REPORT - FEBRUARY 2021

Mr. Barnes presented the monthly flash report for the month of February 2021. (see attached Exhibit #3) The overall fund was up/down as follows: 1.6% for the month of February as compared to the allocation index of 1.1%; 16.8% for the fiscal year to date as compared to the allocation index of 16.2%; 18.1% for the trailing 12 months as compared to the allocation index of 18.5%; and 7.3% for the trailing 3 years as compared to the allocation index of 8.3%.

MOTION: Mr. Tarleton moved to accept the February 2021 Flash Report. Mr. Birdwell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

COMMITTEE REPORT - INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

[NOTE: The Investment Committee met March 10, 2021, via teleconference at 1:00 p.m. to discuss the following business set forth in its posted agenda- (i) The FRS monthly investment performance results for February 2021, (ii) Presentation by representatives of NEPC, regarding 2021 FRS Asset Allocation Update, (iii) Presentation by representatives of NEPC, regarding Infrastructure Market Overview, (iv) Presentation by representatives of Hamilton Lane and HarbourVest regarding investment management services in the form of a Fund of One private equity structure, (v) FRS Cash Policy, particularly regarding but not limited to the methodology for prioritizing and accessing or liquidating assets to meet system cash flow needs, (vi) Notice of investment manager change regarding Boston Partners Global Equity Strategies and placement on NEPC watch status, (vii) Notice of alleged fiduciary risk as provided by SEIU Local 32B, a union of property service employees concerning real estate wholly owned by AEW Core Property fund and all matters related to the foregoing items. The minutes of that meeting are embedded herein. Committee members present were Mr. Tarleton, chairman; Mr. Birdwell, Mr. Broussard, Mr. Romero and Ms. Schexnayder. Also present were Perry Jeselink, Mayor David Amrhein, Steven Stockstill, Layne McKinney, Michael Becker, Ashley Duhe, David Barnes, Chuckie Albert, Joey David, Lindsay Saienni, Seth Goldman, Drew Fox, Michael Koenig, Matt Silverio, Nina Kraus, Keith Kleinman, Monique Austin, Nathan Bishop, Edward Powell, and Melissa Cahill.]

Mr. Tarleton gave the investment committee report. In doing so he recognized Mr. Barnes who recalled his presentation of the investment performance results to the Investment Committee for the

**FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
BOARD MEETING**

**MARCH 11, 2021
PAGE 6**

month of February 2021. (see minute entry above captioned as "Monthly Flash Report - February 2021)

- NEPC - 2021 FRS Asset Allocation Update

Mr. Tarleton explained that David Barnes presented the investment committee with a report titled "2021 FRS Asset Allocation Update". (see attached Exhibit #4) Mr. Barnes provided the investment committee with an asset allocation overview, and then discussed the methodology of asset allocation, geometric return assumptions for equities, fixed income and real estate, capital market forecasts, portfolio scenarios, and risk budgeting. Mr. Tarleton said that there was no action taken by the investment committee and Mr. Barnes' presentation was only for educational purposes.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no action being needed or taken.

- NEPC - Infrastructure Market Overview

Mr. Tarleton explained that Seth Goldman with NEPC presented the investment committee with a report titled "Infrastructure Market Overview", all via teleconference. (see attached Exhibit #5) Mr. Goldman provided the investment committee with an overview of infrastructure investing, including cash flow and inflation protections, and a real asset pacing plan. Mr. Tarleton explained that there was no action taken by the investment committee and Mr. Goldman's presentation was only for educational purposes.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no action being needed or taken.

- Hamilton Lane and HarbourVest - Fund of One private equity structure

Mr. Tarleton explained that Drew Fox, Michael Koenig, Matt Silverio, Nina Kraus, and Keith Kleinman jointly presented the investment committee with Hamilton Lane's Fund of One private equity structure, all via teleconference. (see attached Exhibit #6) Each representative outlined key points in the way Hamilton Lane handles private markets. The representatives then answered questions from the investment committee and concluded their presentation.

Mr. Tarleton then explained that Monique Austin, Nathan Bishop, Edward Powers, and Melissa Cahill jointly presented the investment committee with HarbourVest's Fund of One private equity structure, all via teleconference. (see attached Exhibit #7) Each representative outlined key points in the way HarbourVest handles private markets. The representatives then answered questions from the investment committee and concluded their presentation.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no action being needed or taken.

- FRS Cash Policy

Mr. Tarleton explained that Michael Becker, FRS CIO, presented the investment committee with a proposed amendment to FRS Cash Policy, Policy No. 12082016 titled, "Custodial Bank Cash Account Balance Policy". (see attached Exhibit #8) Mr. Becker explained the purpose of this policy is to ensure that there is an adequate level of cash in the custodial bank cash account. Mr. Becker noted that both Blackrock Global Allocation Fund and AQR Risk Parity II MV Fund are proposed to be added by an amendment to the Cash Policy. Mr. Tarleton explained that the investment committee voted to recommend to the full board approval of the amendment to the policy.

MOTION: Mr. Tarleton moved to accept the investment committee's recommendation to adopt the amendment to the FRS Cash Policy. Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

- Boston Partners Global Equity Strategies - Watch Status

Mr. Tarleton explained that David Barnes presented the investment committee with a recommendation from NEPC to place Boston Partners on watch status. (see attached Exhibit #9) Mr. Barnes said the reason for placement of Boston Partners on watch status is to monitor the Global Equity team's transition of responsibilities. Mr. Tarleton explained that the investment committee voted to recommend to the full board approval of NEPC's recommendation to place Boston Partners on watch status.

MOTION: Mr. Tarleton moved to accept the investment committee's recommendation to accept NEPC's recommendation to place Boston Partners on watch status. Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

- Fiduciary Risk - AEW Core Property Fund

Mr. Tarleton explained that Mr. Stockstill presented the investment committee with a notice of alleged fiduciary risk regarding the AEW Core Property fund. (see attached Exhibit #10) Mr. Stockstill explained that the investment managers of AEW hired a contractor, Planned Companies, to provide concierge services at a hotel property owned by the AEW fund. The union, or some members thereof, sent a letter to FRS alleging that the service provider has violated labor laws and provided poor working conditions for essential workers, thereby causing a loss of value to the fund. Mr. Stockstill added that something similar to this happened many years ago and the board listened carefully to the union. Mr. Tarleton explained that the investment committee voted to recommend to the full board that Mr. Stockstill should be instructed to write a letter to AEW saying that FRS understands the information provided by the union and FRS expects AEW to act in good faith toward the union while maintaining AEW's fiduciary duty to FRS as an investor in the AEW fund.

MOTION: Mr. Tarleton moved to accept the investment committee's recommendation to instruct Mr. Stockstill to write a letter to AEW. Mayor Walker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

That concluded the Investment Committee report.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Mr. Stockstill explained the following legislation prefiled for introduction in the upcoming regular legislative session of 2021, including but not limited to HB29, with ancillary discussions of HB Nos. 28 and 34, and SB21, and amendments to any of these instruments regarding: **(i)** The procedures used by the FRS board of trustees for voting purposes, and **(ii)** employee and employer contributions-

- HB29 Jefferson Provides relative to Firefighters' Retirement System's Deferred Retirement Option Plan and unfunded accrued liability

Mr. Stockstill drew the board's attention to HB29. (see attached Exhibit #11) He explained the bill provides for several related matters, including extending DROP participation from three years to five years for members with 30 or more years of creditable service; collecting attorneys fees and court costs when contributions are delinquent; full and partial dissolution of fire departments; and the assignment of employee contributions to a firefighter credit union.

The board discussion evolved into a question of whether allowing an extension from three to five years for members who are presently in DROP would result in a cost that might cause the bill to fail being passed. Mr. Curran spoke concerning his opinion regarding actuarial costs. Based on Mr. Curran's observations, Mr. Stockstill recommended having an amendment ready to surgically remove that provision from the bill if it becomes necessary in order to salvage the entire bill from being deferred. He said having the amendment ready would provide an option for FRS if needed.

MOTION: Mr. Tarleton moved to have an amendment prepared and ready for HB29, but only in case it is necessary to save the bill. Mayor Walker seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion failed with the following tally-

Jeselink	No
Tarleton	Yes
Birdwell	No
Amrhein	Yes
Broussard	Absent
Ivey	Absent
Peacock	Absent
Romero	No
Schexnayder	Yes
Walker	Yes

(4-3)

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

**FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
BOARD MEETING**

**MARCH 11, 2021
PAGE 9**

[EDITORIAL NOTE: The provisions of R.S. 11:2260(A)(6) provides, in pertinent part- "Each trustee shall be entitled to one vote on the board. An affirmative vote by at least five members of the board of trustees shall be necessary for a decision by the trustees at any meeting of the board. The phrase 'affirmative vote' shall mean that the vote shall be cast in favor of approving any motion." By law, a motion with a vote tally of 4-3 does not pass.]

- HB28 Adams Provides relative to beneficiaries within the Firefighters' Retirement System

Mr. Stockstill drew the board's attention to HB28. (see attached Exhibit #12) He explained the bill would authorize an FRS member to name a trust or estate administrator as a beneficiary in order to probate a will containing instructions for paying benefits of a deceased firefighter; the bill further allows a member to remove any named beneficiary who does not have a community property interest of a member's benefits and to replace that beneficiary with any other person, provided the transaction is actuarially neutral.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no action being needed or taken.

- HB34 Kerner Provides for membership for certain contract firefighters in Jefferson Parish in the Firefighters' Retirement System

Mr. Stockstill drew the board's attention to HB34. (see attached Exhibit #13) He explained that the bill provides for certain contract firefighters who are employed by private corporations that provide fire protection services in Jefferson Parish to become members of the Firefighters' Retirement System.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no action being needed or taken.

- SB21 Mills Provides for the purchase of service and salary credit for members furloughed due to COVID-19

Mr. Stockstill drew the board's attention to SB21. (see attached Exhibit #14) He explained that the bill relates to the Municipal Employee's Retirement System (MERS), and provides that any member, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, who was involuntarily furloughed without pay due to a reduction-in-force of his employer or was involuntarily furloughed or placed on leave without pay may purchase service credit for each day of service during the period beginning April 1, 2020, and ending November 30, 2020, that he was furloughed or on such leave if such service was not credited to his account, subject to certain limitations.

MOTION: Mayor Walker moved to support SB21. Mr. Tarleton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

**FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
BOARD MEETING**

**MARCH 11, 2021
PAGE 10**

- 5-Vote Rule

Mr. Stockstill explained that it had been asked why the board votes according to a "5-vote rule". He drew the board's attention to a survey that was conducted in 2003. (see attached Exhibit #15) He explained that in 2003, passage of a motion only required a simple majority of the FRS board members. However, a majority of the board wanted passage of a motion to require more than a simple majority. Thus, the board adopted the 5-vote rule as a board policy. The board realized that a policy could be changed so the board voted to place the voting requirement into law. The law was changed in the 2003 legislative session by implementing the 5-vote rule. So, now, the FRS board votes in compliance with that law.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no action being needed or taken.

- Contributions Payable in DROP

Mr. Stockstill then drew the board's attention to documents provided by G.S. Curran & Company regarding employer contributions during DROP. (see attached Exhibit #16) Mr. Stockstill asked the Chairman to recognize Mr. Greg Curran to explain his actuarial analysis. Mr. Curran addressed the board. He explained that his office estimated a reduction in the employer contribution rate equal to approximately 4.5% if employee and employer contributions are collected on people who are currently in the DROP plan. He added that, alternatively, if employee and employer contributions are only collected when members enter DROP after the effective date of the bill, then the near term estimated savings would be reduced to about 3.5%. Mr. Curran concluded by answering questions from the board.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no action being needed or taken.

CAPITAL ONE CONTRACT

Mr. Stockstill presented the board with a Capital One contract that is indirectly related to the PTG software conversion. (see attached Exhibit #17) Mr. Stockstill asked the Chairman to recognize Layne McKinney, FRS System Controller, to explain the contract. Mr. McKinney explained that this contract is needed for the municipalities to send their contributions through ACH and that money would be automatically uploaded to the PTG system as well as the FRS accounting system. This contract would be a stepping stone towards the whole process being automated. Mr. Stockstill informed the board that once the signed contract is returned to Capital One, he will then come back to the board for approval on the cost for this process. In answering a trustee's question, he said the project would not go forward without that prior board approval.

MOTION: Mayor Walker moved to approve the Capital One contract. Mr. Tarleton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

**FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
BOARD MEETING**

**MARCH 11, 2021
PAGE 11**

OTHER BUSINESS

- Condolences

Mr. Romero acknowledged with sincere condolences the fact that former board Chairman Charlie Fredieu had passed away.

MOTION: Mr. Romero moved to name the board room at the FRS office in honor of Mr. Fredieu. Mr. Birdwell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

- Federal Local Fiscal Recovery Act of 2021

Mr. Birdwell informed the board about the possibility of some FRS employers receiving money from the new federal stimulus package. Ms. Schexnayder agreed and explained that funds will be made available to governmental bodies.

MOTION: Mr. Birdwell moved to instruct Mr. Stockstill to work toward getting a congressional person to attend the next board meeting to explain how to receive money from the new stimulus package. Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The discussion of this matter was concluded with no further action being needed or taken.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Tarleton moved to adjourn. Mr. Romero seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

FUTURE MEETINGS

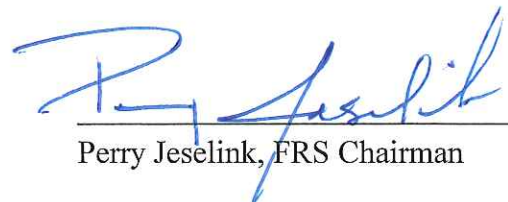
**FRS Board of Trustees
Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.
(Location and format TBA)**

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:



Ashley Duhe, FRS Board Secretary



Perry Jeselink, FRS Chairman