



Robert W. Stein

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Current

Chair of the Board -- The State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio. Previously one term as Chair and two terms as Vice-Chair. Trustee board member 2009 to present.

During my term the board has:

- Designed a pension reform plan that moved the fund from actuarially unsustainable to 70% funded in 3 years. Arranged for passage of the legislation necessary for implementation.
- Broadened the STRS Ohio investment toolbox to improve investment returns. STRS Ohio now has one of the highest 5-year risk-adjusted investment returns of any major North American pension plan.
- Focused on systematically identifying, measuring, and managing enterprise risks.
- Improved fund governance and efficiency through staff leadership development, succession planning, and board member education.
- Overseen efficiencies and improvements that moved STRS member services to ranked #1 world wide. Cost per member to deliver #1 service for STRS is declining while the global average cost per member is rising. (CEM Benchmarking and others)
- Developed of an actuarially sound long-term funding policy. The policy contains an annually updatable dashboard that includes an innovative economic environment metric to help future boards avoid poor decisions anchored to recent business cycle events. Such anchoring is a persistent problem in almost all human policy endeavors and addressing it in funding policy is unique. (re: Callan Assoc., Segal Actuarial, International Monetary Fund, and others)

Ongoing efforts include the above as well as:

- Assuring a health care program that maintains the STRS Health Care Stabilization Fund as a continuing resource to reduce retiree health care costs.
- Completing the STRS 5-year actuarial experience review and updating of actuarial assumptions.
- Pursuing continued improvements in the investment toolbox. We can always do better. (~80% of pension payments are the result of investment returns.)
- Causing STRS to more efficiently communicate and work with stakeholder groups and other Ohio pension systems to encourage legislative policies that benefit STRS and other Ohio public retirees.

Business Experience

- Fee-for-Service financial planning practice. Registered Investment Advisor with the US Securities and Exchange Commission from 1985 to 1995. NASD Series 7, Series 6, and Ohio GS-63 securities licenses.
- Studied and traded stock, futures, interest rate, foreign exchange, and options markets since 1972.
- Purchased, remodeled, and resold rental properties. 1968- Present
- Owner Growth Choices, technical writing, educational consulting, and business planning. Primary clients were the Ohio Department of Education and the Professional Development division of Pearson Education. 2000 – 2008
- Praxis III Assessor – ETS certified private contractor for The State of Ohio; 2003- 2007
- Owner of Milleday Greetings -- Internet Publisher of software and greeting cards. 1991-1997
- Partner in a computerized financial aid location service. 1988-9
- Vice-President and later President of Renewable Fuels Corporation. Studied the feasibility of an ethanol fuel and feed facility in rural Ohio. Directed the portion of the study relating to the hedging, purchase, and sale of feed-stocks, fuel, and products. 1980-2
- Built homes that used energy-efficient wood heat systems. 1974-76.

Education

- Certificate of Achievement in Public Plan Policy (CAPPP) from The International Foundation for Employee Benefit Plans as well as workshops and distance courses related to service as a trustee of the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio. 2009 – Present
- Courses in Investments, Taxes, Insurance, Retirement and Estate Planning, and Employee Benefits; The College for Financial Planning, Denver, Colorado. 1982-84
- Workshops on professional writing. 1989 - present
- Praxis III Assessor Certification -- The Educational Testing Service 2003-2007
- Seminars, and CEU workshops on human brain development and advanced teaching techniques. 1975 to 1999.
- Workshops on web site design, e-newsletters, page preparation, and HTML editing. 1995-1996.
- Space Orientation for Professional Educators; N.A.S.A. Marshal Space Flight Center, U.S. Space & Rocket Center, and The University of Alabama at Huntsville. 1990.
- Post-graduate study in computer program design and computer science; Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio. 1982-1984.
- Master of Education; Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio; specializing in Curriculum and Instruction with additional concentration in counseling and Adolescent Development and Behavior. 1976.
- BSEd; Bowling Green State University, Ohio; Major in Elementary Education. 1972.

Teaching

- Instructor, Bryant & Stratton College. 2002.
- Twenty-seven years of teaching fourth through eighth grades in the Strongsville City Schools. This included:
 1. Cumulative nineteen years as an upper elementary math and science specialist or social studies and language arts specialist.
 2. Five years as a seventh and eighth grade science teacher.
 3. The remaining years teaching grades 4,5, or 6 in pod and self contained schools.
 4. Mentor in the Strongsville mentoring program for first year teachers 1997 & 1999.
 5. Presenter for workshops in various areas of teaching, child development, and parenting.

- Created and managed a 100+ page web site for the Strongsville City School District. 1999- 2003.
- Co-edited an OEA local newsletter which won second place in statewide competition; 1976-8. Sole editor 1995-1997. Held a representative or Executive Committee office most years 1973-98. Routinely was a member of both AFT and NEA, the only Strongsville teacher to do so.

Certifications & Awards

- Awarded tenure, a permanent teaching certificate with a validation in computer systems, and four merit-pay increases. 1974-1999.
- Crystal Apple Award given by the Cleveland Plain Dealer for teaching excellence. 1992.
- Won first place for science fiction writing at The Skyline Writers Conference -- a professionally judged literary contest. 1992. Won the non-fiction contest in 1999. The only two years entered.
- Hold a U.S. Patent for a math educational game licensed to an Arizona company.

Community Involvement

- Board Member, State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio. 2009 to present
- Active in the Cleveland State Alumni Association, College Now, and mentor to several college students.
- Ohio Retired Teachers Association, Life Member. Frequent speaker at their county and state level events.
- NEA, Ohio Education Association Retired, and Ohio Federation of Teachers Retired - after 27 years active membership in Strongsville Education Association, most as an officer.
- Eagle Scout, Committeeman, and Assistant Scoutmaster. 1964-92
- Steering committee of the Akron area chapter of the American Association of Individual Investors. 2001-2004
- Speaker to parent groups on an integrated application of adolescent and child development learning techniques to improve family relations as well as life-long academic and societal performance. 1991-99
- Published business planning, business management, and tax software reviews in nationally networked computer journal. 2002-2004
- Volunteer teacher for Junior Achievement. 2000-2003

- The only teacher to ever serve on the Strongsville Schools Business Advisory Council -- a joint organization of the city schools and the Chamber of Commerce. 1989-91.
- Co-edited the Strongsville Education Association Newsletter which won second place in statewide competition; 1976-9. Sole editor 1995-1997.
- President of the Skyline Writers-- a group of professional and semi-professional authors meeting in North Royalton, Ohio. 1994-96.
- Steering Committee that started a church in the Southwest Cleveland area. 1989
- N.A.S.A. Teacher in Space Program. 1985-86
- Speaker on trading and portfolio management to private investment groups. 1983-
- Chamber of Commerce of Strongsville, Ohio; 1979-81
- Originated and carried out a math-based academic improvement program in which less than 250 elementary students raised \$6,000 in one week to purchase computer systems for their school. Did the research and specified the computers, their suppliers, and software. 1980-81.
- Collected and presented information which caused local, county, and state safety officials to become involved in the formation of an emergency evacuation and mobilization plan for Strongsville, Ohio. 1975-78
- Formed an environmental group that arranged expert testimony to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission hearings on nuclear plant siting and licensing. 1970-72
- Co-editor of a newsletter published by a church consortium in Bowling Green, Ohio. 1968-70
- Chaired a faculty-student special committee that coordinated and promoted the month-long First Earth Day activities for Bowling Green State University. This included scheduling and logistics for over 70 workshops and programs featuring speakers of national and international repute affiliated with major universities, government, industry, and consumer interest organizations. 1970
- Used contacts and organization structure from the Earth Day committee to help form and coordinate a student organization that provided 24 hour patrol of the Bowling Green State University campus and rumor control during the upset period following the shootings at Kent State. The efforts of this group were a major reason that B.G.S.U. was the only state university in Ohio to remain open that spring. 1970
- Helped form and expand a 24 hour crisis intervention phone service in Bowling Green, Ohio which helped callers with problems including drug use, personal difficulties, and suicide prevention. 1969-1972