

The FSMSS Board of Trustees Hold Forum on Kosrae

At approximately 10:30 on the morning of February 17, 2005, the FSMSS Board of Trustees began its



scheduled public forum on the island of Kosrae. More than two hundred (200) people were gathered for the forum. The forum took place in the gymnasium of Kosrae High School. Board members that were present were Chairman Charles Chieng, At-Large Member Nahoy G. Selifis, Chuuk Representative Bernes O. Reselap, Kosrae Representative Nena Ned, and board ex-officio member Administrator Alexander R. Narruhn. Also present at the meeting from the FSMSSA were Kosrae Branch Manager Charley Palokoa, Kosrae Technical Specialist Dixon

George, and FSMSS Public Information Officer Francky Ilai. Throughout the course of the forum, Branch Manager Palokoa Charley acted as translator between the citizens of Kosrae and the trustees.

Chairman Chieng began the forum with the opening remarks. He revealed that the board had already conducted public forums in the states of Pohnpei and Chuuk and that the board intends to do a forum on each state at least once a year. The current theme of the FSMSSA is "Educating and Ensuring Future Security for all Working Citizens" and Mr. Chieng iterated how the forums played an important part in the FSMSSA's continuing efforts to increase the public's awareness of the FSMSSA. Mr. Chieng, recognizing the presence of students in the audience, turned the floor over to the Administrator to give a brief description of the FSMSSA for the students who may be unaware of the nuances of the program. Administrator Narruhn began with the history of the program, from its origin, through its transition period, to the present day. Mr. Narruhn then went on to reveal that the program is governed by its Board of Trustees, whose members are nominated by congress, confirmed by the president, and serve three-year terms. The FSMSSA has four branch offices for each state with a headquarters office headed by the administrator. The FSMSSA is funded solely by taxes paid by people working within the FSM. Funding is not provided by the National Government like other agencies. After going over the structure of the program and the manner in which things are carried out at the FSMSSA, Mr. Narruhn went over the benefits that are offered by the program. He went over retirement, disability, survivor and lump sum benefits. He explained the requirements of each benefit, their respective application processes, required documents, and terms and conditions that would affect each benefit once it has been granted, i.e. death of a beneficiary that would result in benefits stopping. Mr. Narruhn went over in great detail the FSMSSA taxation that is governed by law. After this, the floor was opened up for questions and answers.

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