

MAESP Conference

Well, the snow came but neither snow, sleet, hail, freezing cold can keep MRTA from making its appointed rounds. However, I was a little worried on Sunday morning when the snow just kept coming down. We were to be open 3-6 and I wasn't sure it would happen, but our condo crew plowed the big hill at 1:00 and I did make it! I was worried about the bitter cold but found one last spot in the underground parking garage. 10 Vendors never showed up. The conference actually started the day before so most of the 280 attendees were already there. The flow was pretty steady. Talked to lots of people and handed out many packets. **WE PICKED UP 7 NEW MEMBERS-2 \$35 MEMBERS-ONE BEING A RENEWAL AND 7 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.**

The second day was 8:30-12:30 with lots of traffic also. It was really cold when I had to walk Jake at 4:45 for 30 minutes at -15 wind chill. He was really glad to get back to the warm house (I was, too). Again, I found a spot in the underground parking. MRTA angels smiled down on me. Many knew about the grants and shared their teachers had received one and one principal said she received one when she taught. Several mentioned their retired MRTA members bringing information to them-Trudy Riddle and Ruth Cutright specifically. I used the "We NEED you to help fight his war!" The seven signed up on the spot. One principal signed up as associate and then immediately signed up her husband as he had already retired. She said we need all the support we can get. She is sure right. I also had several who took the membership form and were going to send it in to the office. Several took the packets for teachers nearing retirement. It was a good conference.

Betty Beal
Chair