



August 2023

# THE WATCHDOG REPORT

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF MISSOURI RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION AND PUBLIC SCHOOL PERSONNEL



MRTA is your pension watchdog!

## Thank You for Making the Second Annual MRTA Golf Tournament a Huge Success! More than \$31,000 Raised for Advocacy Supporting Missouri Public School Educators

Hartsburg, MO -- On June 22, 2023, the Missouri Retired Teachers Association (MRTA) hosted their second annual golf tournament at Eagle Knoll Golf Course in Hartsburg, MO.

A record turnout of 97 individuals and 20 teams of golfers gathered to play the beautiful and challenging course at Eagle Knoll and enjoyed some great weather and good fellowship. All proceeds from the golf tournament are used by MRTA to support and advocate for Missouri public schools, public school teachers and staff, and retired teachers and public school education personnel. Region 1 Vice President Sherry Rouner and MRTA Vice President Dr. Gale "Hap" Hairston were co-chairs of the MRTA Golf Tournament and Silent Auction Fundraiser Committee.

Thank you to all of  
our sponsors and  
supporters!



Guests and golfers enjoyed a tasty lunch provided by The Claysville Store and participated in a 50/50 drawing, golf casino hole and an online silent auction that included 60 different packages of goods and services including tickets to a Kansas City Royals game, tickets to Silver Dollar City, golf items, self-care and food baskets, and a Kate Spade bag. All silent auction items were graciously donated by members, staff and local businesses.



"We are just blown away by the turnout and support at our golf tournament," said MRTA Executive Director Maria Walden. "We are extremely grateful to all of our amazing event sponsors from the community, all of our golfers, and everyone who came out today to support retired teachers, school administrators and educational personnel. I also want to thank my staff who, once again, stepped up and worked so hard to make this wonderful event a success and our co-chairs, Hap Hairston and Sherry Rouner who volunteered and were instrumental in the success of the event."

MRTA has advocated for Missouri public school teachers and personnel since 1960. MRTA works together with other Missouri educational associations to strengthen and improve public education in Missouri, and the state's public school and education employee pension system.

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Missouri Retired Teachers Association is an association representing over 30,000 retired educators whose purpose is to promote the professional, social, and economic welfare of all active and retired school employees. MRTA has been instrumental in its advocacy efforts protecting the retirement security of the over 100,000 Missouri public school retirees and educational professionals. Throughout the past 60 years, MRTA has advocated for the retired teachers and educational professionals in Missouri. Our teachers and public school education personnel are the heart of our local communities.

### Congratulations to Golf Tournament Winners

Flight A - 1st Place	Thomas Schlimpert	Flight B - 1st Place	Corey Pontius
Flight A - 1st Place	Mark Kohnle	Flight B - 1st Place	Tucker Bartley
Flight A - 1st Place	Gary Oxenhandler	Flight B - 1st Place	Tony Brandt
Flight A - 1st Place	Steve Showalter	Flight B - 1st Place	Aaron Dickinson
Flight A - 2nd Place	Tim Drennan	Flight B - 2nd Place	Tom Livingston
Flight A - 2nd Place	Larry Jones	Flight B - 2nd Place	James Beattie
Flight A - 2nd Place	Rick Kitchen	Flight B - 2nd Place	Josh Johnson
Flight A - 2nd Place	Pat Brown	Flight B - 2nd Place	Dave Macpherson
Flight A - 3rd Place	John Cauwenbergh	Flight B - 3rd Place	Grant Paten
Flight A - 3rd Place	Paul Cauwenbergh	Flight B - 3rd Place	Bennet Patton
Flight A - 3rd Place	Steve Walden	Flight B - 3rd Place	Jalen Bell
Flight A - 3rd Place	Maria Walden	Flight B - 3rd Place	Eli Davis

### Congratulations to Contest Winners

Closest to the Pin	Larry Newman	Longest Drive - Women	Rikki Roscoe
Longest Putt	Anthony Walls	Winner of 50/50 Raffle	Randy McClain
Longest Drive - Men	Bennett Patton		

Missouri Retired Teacher Association - Foundation continues to provide grants to our active, public school teachers and education employees. We provided over 126 grants in 2023 to 14 regions in Missouri and 20 grants to our public school personnel. Since 2011, the Association's Foundation has awarded over \$611,000 in scholarships and grants back to current Missouri public school employees.

### Gold Sponsor

AMBA - 6034 W Courtyard Dr., Suite 300- Austin- <https://www.amba.info/>

### Bronze Sponsors

**Williams-Keepers** – 2005 W. Broadway, Suite 100 – Columbia – [www.williamskeepers.com](http://www.williamskeepers.com) – 573-442-6171

**The Carden Group** – Jefferson City, MO – [www.thecardengroup.com](http://www.thecardengroup.com) - 888-322-9443

**Dollar General Stores** - 1900 Cardinal Drive – Fulton – MO- 65251 - <https://www.dollargeneral.com>

**SGC Food Service** - 2415 W Battlefield Street - Springfield - MO – 65807

*The team from Last Flight Nathan Eddy, Will Cooper, Jared Cowley, and Mark Cowley.*

*MRTA members Tony and Barbara Schaefer along with Dave Kemna and Dennis Bosch from Central Bank.*

*MRTA volunteers, Denise Schebaum, Janice Douglas, and MRTA President Elect Maureen Hacker.*



## Honoring the Legacy of Former MRTA Executive Director Jim Kreider

August 1, 2023, marked a somber day for the state of Missouri and the Missouri public education community, as we bid farewell to a dedicated leader and public servant, James (Jim) Kreider. Jim was a true friend of public education, and public pension plans advocating on behalf of Missouri educators and public schools both during his service as a state lawmaker, and later as Executive Director of MRTA.

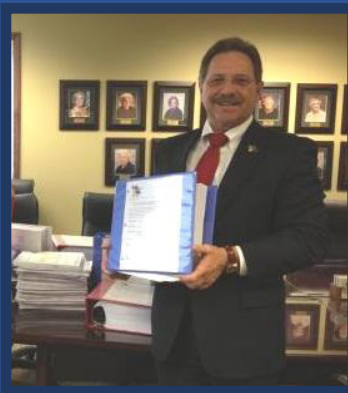
Throughout his career, Jim demonstrated an unwavering commitment to bettering the lives of others. He was known as a champion of Missouri public education and the educators who make it great. Through his work, he left a lasting impact, not just for those in his southwest Missouri legislative district, but for the entire state.

Born on June 24, 1955, in Nuremberg, Germany, Kreider, graduated from Nixa Public High School in 1973 and received a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural business and economics from Southwest Missouri State University in 1977. He lived on his Christian County farm for most of his adult life.



Jim was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in 1993, the first Democrat to represent the 142nd district (covering parts of Christian and Greene Counties) since 1904. His legislative district was the fastest-growing in the state during the 1990s. In fact, the 2000 redistricting created three legislative districts to replace the one he represented.

He was elected five times and served in the House for 10 years, from 1993 to 2003, eight of those years as a member of House Leadership starting as President of the freshman class of 1993, then serving as Speaker Pro Tem and finally ending his service in the House as Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives.



Jim made supporting public education a priority from the start, and during his freshman year in the Missouri House, he helped write and voted for The Outstanding Schools Act of 1993. He was also a member of the Elementary and Secondary Education Committee. In 2002, he ended his career in the House by fully funding the Missouri School Foundation Formula during a time of shrinking state revenues. Jim knew the positive impact our teachers and public schools had on the children in the state.

After leaving the Missouri Legislature, Jim joined MRTA as the organization's first, full-time Executive Director in August 2003. As Executive Director, Jim worked tirelessly at the Capitol to help pass many bills benefitting PSRS/PEERS, retired educators, and Missouri public schools. One of Jim's most impactful victories was

in 2013, defeating several bills introduced by Senator Lamping that would have changed the independent governance of PSRS/PEERS among other detrimental changes to the system. He used the voices of MRTA members with a statewide petition drive of MRTA members and active teachers, administrators, and school employees garnering over 40,000 signatures.

Jim was also instrumental in moving the MRTA office from Columbia to Jefferson City, building a permanent home just down the road from the Capitol, and paying for the facility completely with donations in under three years. He also served as Treasurer and as a Board Member for the Missouri Retired Teachers Foundation (MRTF). MRTA grew significantly under his 18-year leadership, starting at just



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# Honoring the Legacy of Former MRTA Executive Director Jim Kreider

(Continued)

12,000 members and at his retirement in December of 2021, had more than 30,000 members.

"Jim was an outstanding leader for MRTA," said John Pohl, former MRTA President. "He did a great job of encouraging membership around the state. He was a wonderful human being. He brought me into MRTA and provided me with opportunities for leadership. Judy and I will forever be indebted to him for his leadership and friendship."

In addition to his work on behalf of MRTA, from August 2010 to August 2014, Jim served as President of the Association of State Retired Teacher Executives (ASRTE), a nationwide association working on state and federal retirement issues and representing over 600,000 education retirees nationwide. Jim was a leader in advocacy nationwide with education association executives promoting the value of public pension plans and public education.

Always involved in his community, Jim found time to serve on the Nixa Parents as Teachers Advisory Board, as an ASCS Board Member, and was Vice President of the Christian County Farm Bureau.

"As we remember Jim and his legacy, all of us at MRTA will work to honor his tremendous dedication to the citizens of Missouri, especially the children," said MRTA Executive Director Maria Walden. "We are grateful for his accomplishments, and especially for his commitment to protecting Missouri public schools and public school employee pensions. He worked tirelessly advocating for Missouri's public schools, public school educators, staff, and retirees." She added, "We will continue to build upon the foundation he laid and ensure that his impact endures for generations to come. Rest in peace, Jim, you will be missed."

If you would like to send a card to Jim's family, you can send them to Jim Kreider c/o MRTA 3030 DuPont Circle, Jefferson City, MO 65109 and we will get them to the family.



## Inspiring Minds You Want to Know. MRTA Board Members Share Insights, Future Plans and Inspiration for All.

MRTA is indebted to the 26 members of our board. Our elected officers, committee chairpersons and regional vice presidents provide steady, reliable leadership for MRTA at all levels and in all parts of the state. Their service helps ensure we can successfully meet our goals to promote the professional, social, and economic welfare of all retired school employees, protect pensions for our public school teachers and educational staff, and support Missouri public schools.

Let's get to know three of our strong and inspiring leaders, MRTA Region 14 Vice President Erma Nevels McNeil, MRTA Legislative Chair Randy McClain, and MRTA Region 1 Vice President Sherry Rouner



Erma Nevels McNeil



Randy McClain



Sherry Rouner

## MRTA Board Members Share Insights, Future Plans and Inspiration for All.

### Keeping it Real and Making Things Right - Erma Nevels McNeil, Region 14 Vice President

Erma Nevels McNeil knows where she came from, and she believes in doing what is right. She is a sincere, down-to-earth personality with a healthy, positive energy. She is upfront about her unbridled desire to help other people and to advocate for those who have been treated unfairly. "I believe you should judge others not by the color of their skin but by the way they think," she said. And her actions back up her words.

It takes only a few minutes of talking with Erma to realize that she is passionate about doing good for others; a woman who values freedom, family, and hard work. She impresses you quickly as someone who is a force for achieving positive results.

As Erma recounts a family history filled with love, hard work, and strong Christian values, her eyes beam with tenderness and pride. She has inherited an honest, humble sense of duty to others and the work ethic and compassion she saw demonstrated by her parents and grandparents even as they struggled with social and economic forces that put them at tremendous disadvantages.

Her passion to help her fellow educators and retired educators today clearly stems from her family, her faith, and the lessons she learned at home.

She herself has experienced many of the difficulties faced by her parents, growing up in a time when basic civil rights for African American families like hers, did not exist.

Raised in the St. Louis area (state of Illinois, city of East St. Louis, Illinois on the other side of the Mississippi river across the south side of the city of St. Louis), Erma watched her parents work hard to provide a good home. She

describes her father in particular as a diligent man, skilled at building, and a pastor even though he couldn't read. She drew strength from her parents, and her desire to help others started at an early age.

"Even as a child I was the one taking care of and teaching the other kids," she recalled. "I always loved taking care of animals and helping other people, and at first, I thought I wanted to be a nurse."

After high school, she was able to get financial assistance and attended Lincoln University to go into nursing. "My parents didn't go to college, but they wanted the best for me," she said. But after spending some time as a nursing student, the reality of the situation disappointed Erma, a woman keen on the importance of treating others with dignity and respect.

"I loved the work of being a nurse, but I didn't like the way the doctors treated the nurses," she said. "The nurses were the ones who knew the most about what the patients needed, because they were the ones there with them," she said. "I realized it wasn't for me."

While at Lincoln, she met her first husband and got married. And though he finished his undergraduate degree to become an educator, she stopped her education at

that time.

She was able to return to school in her 30s, and in 1972, she graduated from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri with a teaching degree, specializing in physical education and biology/science. Her first hiring was in Ballwin, Missouri,

a suburb of St. Louis in which she turned down in July 1972.

Erma turned down her job in Ballwin out of a personal sense of responsibility to her own community. "I felt like I needed to be somewhere where I could give back to them," she said. She began teaching for St. Louis Public Schools in September 1972 and stayed with the district, retiring in 2005.

"I taught P.E. and health classes, first at the elementary level, and then I moved up to both middle school and high school," she recalled. "It was a wonderful program and I loved it. It was very well structured even though I had to teach at multiple buildings." She added, "There was a real sense of community there and it was a great experience." Even though she retired, she didn't stop teaching.

"I went back to sub and did that until 2015," she said. Subbing brought her a variety of experiences in the classroom that fell outside her studied subject areas. But her passion for teaching and her philosophy of "keeping it real" served her well, even in these types of situations. "At

Wellston, I subbed as a music teacher," she recalled with a laugh. "I didn't know anything about music, but I let the students help me, and they were so good! I even put on a recital there." She laughed as she waved her arms, demonstrating how she pretended to conduct music even though she did not know how.

Erma's first husband, who was a naval hospital corpsman, accomplished



Erma Nevels McNeil



Erma's mother Lenora Ferrell and father Julius Ferrell.



Erma's son Nevels N. Nevels, daughter-in-law Eulonda, granddaughters Rachel (front) and Constance (right).

Continued on next page.

educator and coach in the Maplewood-Richmond Heights School District, passed away in 2008. She has since remarried and speaks with great pride and fondness of her family. She has one son from her first marriage, who has achieved a PhD in mathematics, two granddaughters and one great grandson.

Erma stays busy and still touches the St. Louis area education community through volunteering in Hazelwood School District and doing a summer camp in City of St. Louis each year.

She has long been an active member of her local teacher's union, while teaching she was an advocate for educators in the district, serving as building steward.

Upon retiring with the Public School Retirement System of the City of St. Louis (PSRSSTL), her focus became advocating for retirees to receive a cost-of-living adjustment or COLA, as retirees of PSRS/PEERS often receive. She considers this a simple matter of making things right.

"I have protested the St. Louis retirement board several times about the fact that we have never received a COLA," she said. It was this mission that resulted in her meeting former MRTA Executive Director Jim Kreider, and eventually led to her involvement with MRTA.



*Erma's great-grandson  
Caleb Nevells - Davis.*

"There was already a group of retired St. Louis teachers who got together regularly just for fun," she said. "After talking with Jim, they were able to become a part of MRTA, at first as part of Region 8," she explained. Erma was nominated as region 14 Vice President in 2017, and still holds the position. She is the third Vice President.

She enjoys working with Executive Director Maria Walden – "Maria is a doll, I love her energy!" she said, "and everyone at MRTA to advocate on behalf of Missouri public schools, educators, staff and retirees." Her vitality and propensity to help others makes her a valued part of the MRTA leadership group.

"Erma is such a wonderful, thoughtful person," Maria said. "She cares so much about making sure retired educators are treated fairly.

She is a pleasure to work with and have on our leadership team. Since I started working at MRTA, we have been working on trying to get a COLA for St. Louis and Kansas retirees. Diane Rome and Erma have been tirelessly working towards this endeavor."

Erma isn't done yet and has future plans to run for a seat on the PSRSSTL Board of Trustees and continue her work advocating for a COLA for the system's retirees. But even as she focuses on making things right for her fellow PSRSSTL retirees, she also draws from her personal experience and lessons learned to provide advice for the young teachers working hard in the classroom.



*Erma and her husband  
Thomas McNeil*

"Keep it real, keep it simple, and use your students to help convey information for you," she said. "I always used my best students to help teach others who needed help." She explained, "This method not only helps the struggling students who can learn from their peers, it creates camaraderie and a sense of community among the students. At the same time, it gives the more gifted students the opportunity to learn even more and develop a sense of pride in themselves by experiencing the good feeling that comes with being able to help others through sharing your own knowledge."

You get the feeling that Erma is quite familiar with the good feeling that comes with being able to help others. We hope she keeps on keeping it real and making things right for a whole lot longer.

## ***MRTA Board Members Share Insights, Future Plans and Inspiration for All.***

### **Staying Thankful for Human Connections - Randy McClain, Legislative Chair**

Always ready to give others credit and remind them they are appreciated and amazing. Randy McClain is the kind of man who, despite his many achievements, prefers not to be the center of attention and prefers to shine the spotlight on those around him.

Randy is quick to attribute his successes to the many positive relationships he has developed during his lifetime, starting at an early age. He talks a lot about the importance

of forming and fostering good relationships, and understands the importance of human connections, both personally and professionally. While he has experienced a life full of both great accomplishments and great loss, he discusses his experiences in an unassuming and grateful manner.

Randy grew up poor, on a farm in rural north Missouri. He attended public school in the town of Breckenridge. As a child,

he enjoyed being at school and spent much of his time there.

The relationships he developed with classmates, teachers and coaches made school fun. "If there was something going on at school, I was



*Randy McClain*

*Continued on next page.*

there,” he recalled. “Most of the time I was involved in it, but if I wasn’t, I was a spectator or a great cheerleader for other activities and sports.”

He describes how his teachers and coaches created prospects for him by talking to him about Pell Grants and working with him on getting scholarships to play football. “I would not have been able to afford to go to college without the opportunities that came my way because of the people and teachers at the school who helped me,” he said.

Randy went on to attend Central Missouri State University, now the University of Central Missouri (UCM), and experienced the same positive and supportive atmosphere. “The teachers and coaches there were incredible, as well. They guided me and provided me counsel and assistance.”

He attributes his success as a student to those early relationships, and the caring educators and coaches who were there for him. “Education, to me, is about those relationships, and I’ve been very blessed,” he said. “Education gave me a life, gave me opportunities that I would never have had.”

As a young adult, Randy experienced the unfortunate loss of both his parents and grandfather in close succession. He credits his faith and his school mentors and colleagues with helping him during that difficult time.

Tragically, he and his wife Robin also lost their only daughter, Heather, in an automobile accident in 2006. Randy recalls the outpouring of support they received from the people of Oak Grove. To give back, they established a memorial scholarship for Heather and have awarded over \$40,000 in scholarships with money that has been contributed.

“I’ve had lots of opportunities to leave Oak Grove and never did,” he said. “Thank God

that I didn’t. It’s a wonderful community.”

Randy spent his entire education career at the Oak Grove R-VI school district. He started in 1981 as a teacher and coach, and shortly after became activities director. He rose through the ranks, becoming the district’s first assistant middle school principal and then middle school principal, eventually moving to the district office to become assistant superintendent. “Being in central office, the part of that gig I didn’t care much for was I was away from the kids,” he said. “So, when the high school principal position opened up, I went there and that’s where I finished out my career at Oak Grove.”

He retired in 2012 after more than 30 years. His dedication to the district and his peers did not end upon retirement, however, as he spent two years overseeing construction of a new auditorium and was also elected to the school board. In 2017, he helped start the Oak Grove School District Education Foundation, which provides both scholarships and teacher grants. To Randy, giving back to the profession that gave so much to him is so important.

He also began his involvement with MRTA, attending meetings of his local retired teacher group. Through those meetings, he became familiar with the larger workings of MRTA as a statewide organization. “The local folks asked me to serve as legislative chair. Since I already followed legislation as a teacher and coach and administrator, and had developed relationships with legislators, I said I would do it.”

At a meeting in Grain Valley, the state MRTA President and Legislative Chair happened to be in attendance to hear Randy share information with the group, and they were impressed enough to ask

him to become Legislative Chair for Region 2. From there, he moved to the position of state Legislative Chair when health issues caused his predecessor to step down.



*Randy and his wife  
Robin McClain*

Randy’s dedication to his fellow educators, students, community and ability to cultivate meaningful relationships has made him an integral part of the MRTA statewide leadership team. His outlook for the organization is one that focuses on their ability to make positive change and promote positive messages about public education in Missouri. He speaks highly

of Executive Director Maria Walden, her staff and their work.

“Maria has been incredible, outstanding, amazing ... changing the face, changing the branding, changing the relationships MRTA has with other advocacy groups. I could go on and on and on about that. She’s been awesome.” He added, “Maria has also been developing positive relationships with legislators and she has met with a number of our representatives and senators. Now they see MRTA in a different light.”

“At MRTA, we are telling the good, positive stories about our schools – what’s right about public education,” he said. “I think the public has begun to realize there is great things going on in public schools in spite of the lack of support we have from some legislators.”

Maria, in turn, is complimentary of Randy’s assistance with the legislative aspect of what MRTA does. “Randy is a wonderful representative for MRTA, especially when it comes to legislative issues. He has a positive energy, truly understands the issues and is a well-spoken advocate for our educators, retirees and schools. Randy, also cares about the children that attend our public schools and want them to have the same opportunities he had as a child. He is passionate about ensuring that our active teachers have the

*Continued on next page.*



*Randy’s daughter  
Heather McClain*

same advantages and opportunities as our current retirees.”

Randy envisions a future where MRTA will continue to grow and strengthen working relationships with legislators. He is keen on the organization maintaining positive working relationships with other Missouri educational associations and doesn't rule out the possibility of partnering with other types of groups or student organizations that work for the benefit of Missouri's schoolchildren.

*"I know you contribute a pretty good chunk of your paycheck to retirement, especially for a young teacher whose getting paid very little in the first place. But if you can hang in there, the retirement benefits you will receive are incredible."*

He is pleased with MRTA's expanded focus to support working educators and schools as well as retirees. "I am hopeful that MRTA can get into schools and be a positive voice to help active teachers and education personnel. They need our support now more than ever."

Despite the many challenges they face, he encourages today's teachers to stay positive and focus on building bonds with those around them. He recounts advice he gave as a principal. "Just remember, they won't care how much you know until they know how much you care. That's something I try to live by and shared with my staff

all the time because again, it's about relationships."

He follows that up with good advice for anyone about keeping things in perspective. "The catastrophes that you are dealing with are probably not long-term. They are probably short-term problems. Solutions will come, and problems will go away. Better days are ahead if you can dedicate yourself and work through the tough times."

He also reminds new teachers that staying with the profession also has benefits later in life. "I know you contribute a pretty good chunk of your paycheck to retirement, especially for a young teacher whose getting paid very little in the first place. But if you can hang in there, the retirement benefits you will receive are incredible."

He views teaching as more of a calling than a job or a career, because, he says, "A calling is about heart." He is grateful for our teachers and what they do for our children and local community. "Teaching is heart work. Thank you for choosing this profession," he said.

With that, Randy recalls that he has been called a "thanker," and one can understand why. He is quick to give credit to those around him rather than taking it for himself. His selflessness provides us a real example of how important it is to be grateful for the people who touch us and help shape our lives.

"I am just thankful for so many people, the teachers who have impacted my life, the administrators I have worked for and with, the parents of so many people who I've developed relationships with ... and of course my family."



Randy (center) with (l-r) Kell Smalley, Jackson Walden, Maria Walden, Fred Price, Martha Schatz, Richard Phillips, and Karen Miller at the 2023 MRTA Region 2 meeting.

Whether in his personal life or as an educator, mentor, coach, or administrator, he credits the human connection and the relationships he has built with his ability to

accomplish positive outcomes. He provides a much needed reminder that nurturing healthy connections can lead to a more fulfilling and interconnected life.

For that, we owe you a big thank you, Randy.

## MRTA Board Members Share Insights, Future Plans and Inspiration for All.

### From Locker Room to Local Unit: The Leadership Journey of an MRTA MVP - Sherry Rouner, Region 1 Vice President

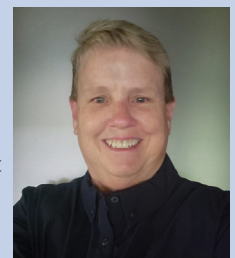
Sherry Rouner is someone you want on your team, be it on the diamond, in the classroom or in MRTA. She is a go-getter who isn't afraid to take on new challenges and stay busy. Her "can-do" attitude is rooted in years of experience and success as an athlete, coach, teacher, and school administrator. Even in retirement, an active lifestyle is something she takes in stride.

Sherry graduated from South Harrison High School and attended Missouri State

University on a softball scholarship. Her love of sport was fostered by her coaches and teachers over the years. A competitive softball player throughout school, she names her softball coach and junior high/high school P.E. teacher as one of her biggest inspirations.

"Nan Carter was a pioneer in getting women's sports started," she said. "She used her own money to sponsor a team I was on, and we traveled all over the United States playing softball."

One of the things that left an impression on Sherry as a young player was coach Carter's commitment to encouraging positive thinking. "I remember in her P.E. locker room there were these positive sayings all over the walls and I always read them," Sherry said. "She was big about



Sherry Rouner

thinking positive. She laid a foundation for me and was very good about teaching us to be mentally strong and standing up for what we believed."

Sherry still stays in contact with Carter, now 95, and recently went to watch her throw out the first pitch at a St. Joseph Mustangs baseball game. "She was my first big influence and I found myself using a lot of her philosophies when I was coaching and teaching."

Sherry's first college degree was in accounting, and she worked in that field for a couple of years before going back to college to get a teaching certificate in business. She ended up teaching for 25 years.

"I taught high school business, accounting, business law and finance classes at Mt. Vernon High School," she said. Sherry also coached tennis, basketball, baseball and softball. She stresses the importance of cultivating relationships with students. "My favorite part of teaching was building a rapport with the kids. With teaching elective business courses, my students were mainly juniors and seniors, and they were there because they wanted to be, so I didn't have a lot of discipline problems," she recalled.



*Sherry helping her former coach Nan Carter celebrate her 95th Birthday!*

coming from and build that rapport with them. I still stay in touch with my former students, and it is kind of fun seeing how they are succeeding in life."



*Sherry playing softball at Missouri State for Nanetta Carter who is also pictured.*

Sherry eventually went back to get both a master's degree and an education specialist degree and became a school administrator. She first secured a position as a grade 6 to 12 principal at Marion C. Early R-V in Morrisville for three years, and then returned to Mt. Vernon to find many of her former students were now the parents of her current students! Sherry eventually retired from Mt. Vernon in 2015. "I can't believe I have been retired for eight years; it goes so fast!"

She now divides her time between her family farm in northwest Missouri where she shares her childhood home with her identical twin brothers, and a 40-foot fifth wheel trailer she keeps permanently hooked up and under cover on a friend's property southwest of Springfield. Sherry is on the move and definitely has no problem staying busy.

She recalls that her involvement with MRTA began with a recommendation from the teacher who supervised her while she did her student teaching. "When I retired, she told me that when I went back home, I needed to look for the MRTA Unit there," she remembers. "And my first week back, I picked up the local advertising paper and there was an ad for a local MRTA Unit meeting in Harrison County."

Ironically, it was their first meeting, and it was Sherry's cousin who was starting the Unit. She got in on the ground floor and has been an MRTA officer ever since. She found that at the local Unit meetings, many of the members were still working part-time. Since Sherry's work gave her a more flexible schedule than some, she took on responsibilities, such as attending regional and state meetings for her Unit. This exposure led to her current role as

MRTA Region 1 Vice President.

She is fairly new to the Regional Vice President position, having held it only since September of last year. But the wisdom and experience she acquired as a coach and principal seem to be serving her well once again in this leadership role. She has embraced it, getting more involved and staying informed on issues of importance to the group and its membership.

Sherry credits Executive Director Maria Walden as one of the reasons she took the Vice President position. "Working with Maria has been excellent," she said. After hearing Maria speak at a meeting in Trenton, Sherry was inspired to step up for the position, when the person currently holding the spot announced they were stepping down. "I heard her speak and I thought, 'I can work with her!' I liked the direction she is taking us, becoming stronger advocates for public education and active teachers, and I liked that focus because I knew it needed to be done."

She also recalls a chance encounter with MRTA Assistant Director Sarah Hoeller that made a lasting impression on her and kindled her desire to be more active in the group. "When I was in my second year and I had only been to two or three meetings,

I was at a meeting and walked up to Sarah, and she knew my name. I was like, 'How does she know that?' I was pretty impressed."

"Sherry is truly a team player," Maria said. "She is a natural leader and uses her strengths to help us achieve our goals to advocate for our members. Because of her energy and ability to step up to the plate and get right to work, Sherry is a terrific Vice President."

Sherry volunteered this year to be a co-chair on our second annual MRTA Golf Tournament. She brought great ideas and energy to our team."



*Sherry showing her former P.E. teacher the gym uniforms she made her students wear.*

Sherry's MRTA experience has been unique because, unlike most members who take leadership positions, she didn't work as an educator with the folks in her unit and didn't know many people in Region 1 starting out. She explained, "I am representing northwest Missouri, but my former colleagues are in southwest Missouri where I taught. Going to all

the Unit and Region 1 meetings now, I am getting to know the people here."

And while she is pleased that attendance is good at local meetings in her Region, she talks about the need to encourage more retirees to get involved, preferably at, or soon after, retirement.

"When we're working, we join groups such as MSTA or MNEA to protect our interests and position," Sherry reflected. "This is no different. While I know many retirees don't want to attend more meetings, I want to help them understand these meetings are different from the professional

development type meetings they are used to. These meetings are run by people like you and are designed to inform you and help you protect your interests and your retirement."

As a PSRS retiree, Sherry uses her own experience and her accounting skills to run numbers and show working teachers the financial value of staying in the field long enough to get a PSRS/PEERS pension. She understands that teaching is challenging but takes a practical approach to giving advice on how to manage the stress and the advantages of sticking with the profession.

"You will have good days and you will have bad days, and that is ok because everybody does," she said. "You just have to remember that every day is a new day, and you can't dwell on the past, you have to keep moving forward. Try to find a mentor or a teacher who you gel with and can go to for advice," she added. "And be yourself. It's ok for the kids to know what you are really like."

She understands how important it is for MRTA to continue to build its membership and strengthen its voice in all parts of the state. She encourages all new retirees to join MRTA. "I know many new

retirees are still working; many have part-time or full-time jobs outside of teaching because they are retiring young," she said. "But they always say, 'We appreciate what you guys are doing,'" she laughed. "Well, it would be nice to see you join in!"

She added, "You can be as involved as you want. But if you want to get involved, you can do so quickly. It's learning by just getting in there and doing it. Which to me is good, it works with my personality."

Sherry is ready to continue to serve MRTA and its members in whatever role best fits her talents and experience. She notes that her predecessor in the role of Region 1 Vice President held the position for 18 years, and she is ready to serve in the position for the long-haul, if needed.

"I stepped up for the Vice President position because nobody else was and I knew we needed representation," she said. "I am glad I did, because it has gotten me a lot more involved."

We're glad you're on our team, Sherry. With your can-do attitude, we know your involvement with MRTA will lead to many future wins.



Sherry helped lighten the mood at the MRTA Unit President Summit by "stealing" the front desk bell and dingling it to mark the change in programs. Rumor has it the bell has not been seen since.



**Ask someone to join MRTA today! - MRTA is the best investment for your largest asset in retirement!**



**MRTA works to promote and protect public education, public schools, and public educator pensions.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Position Retired From \_\_\_\_\_

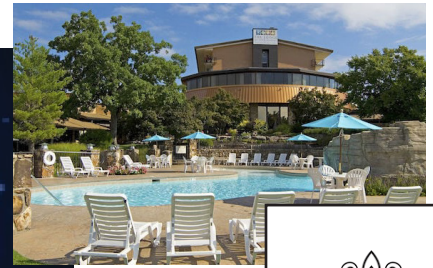
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

School District Retired From \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are \$44/year or \$117/three years. Active employees may join as associate members for \$25/year. (Associate members are anyone who is not actively receiving a pension check from PSRS/PEERS.)



## MRTA Announces Annual Meeting

MRTA President Martha Schatz invites MRTA members to attend our 2023 Annual Meeting! This year's event will be held at the Lodge of the Four Seasons at Lake Ozark.

The meeting starts on Monday, September 18th at 1:00 p.m. with a Delegates' Assembly for credentialed Delegates to vote on proposed ByLaw changes, see pages 13-19 for proposed changes. MRTA Units of Excellence and Diamond Regions will be honored at the events and there will also be speakers, activities, and time for reconnecting with former colleagues and peers.

On September 19th the meeting will continue with an awards luncheon to honor our MRTA Distinguished Retirees, see the next page for a list of Regional Distinguished Retirees.

To register for the meeting please visit us at [www.mrta.org/events](http://www.mrta.org/events) or use this QR code:



To book a hotel room at the Lodge of the Four Seasons use this QR code:

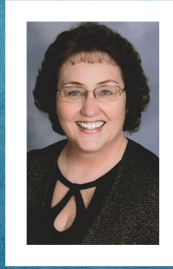


# 2023 MRTA Distinguished Retiree Regional Winners

Region 1 – Donna Boyer



Region 6 – Arleta Godwin



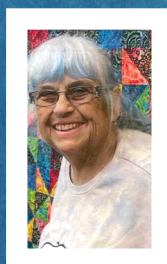
Region 11 – Brenda Ann Patt



Region 2 – Joan Judd



Region 7 – Debbie Anderson



Region 12 – Timothy Ward



Region 3 – Wanda Hartsock



Region 8 – Linda Taber



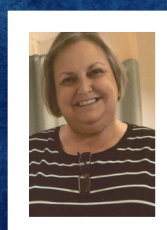
Region 13 – Rose Ann Weeks



Region 4 – Linda Sue Galloway



Region 9 – Peggy Dial



Region 14 – Dr. Lynn Beckwith Jr.



Region 5 – Rebecca Harbison



Region 10 – Jeanette Whipple



## Summary of the Changes to the Bylaws

*See pages 14-20 for more detailed information.*

The Internal Structure Subcommittee researched and discussed at great length the current Board Structure in comparison to other similar educational and retire teacher associations in the state and nationally. MRTA's 26 member board is one of the largest retiree association boards in the nation. There are several reasons why the committee reviews the size and structure of the Board of Directors is important to the success of the Association. The Board unanimously approved these changes at the July 2023 meeting.

The following is a summary of the changes to the Bylaws for the Delegates Meeting at the Annual Meeting on September 18, 2023, at the Lodge of Four Seasons:

- **Revising the Vision and Mission Statement**
  - Vision and Mission
- **Grammatical and Technical Revisions**
- **Bylaw Changes to Board of Directors Structure**
  - Qualifications of President-Elect
  - Qualifications of State Treasurer
  - Position and Qualifications of Vice-President
  - Roles of Regional Vice-Presidents
  - Position of Secretary
- **Factors Involved in Bylaw Changes to Board**
  - Cost Savings to Membership
  - Increased Accountability
  - Enhanced Board Effectiveness and Board Dynamics
  - Streamlined Decision-making



The changes to the bylaws should have impact on the following:

- **Cost savings:** The Association needs to be good fiduciaries of the finances, which allows membership dues to be kept low and services to remain excellent. A reduction in the size of the board also means reduced expenses related to board meetings, travel, compensation, and other associated costs. The Board, Strategic Planning Committee and the staff want membership fees to remain stable.
- **Increased Accountability.** A smaller and more functional board leads to greater individual accountability as board members have more direct responsibility for decision-making and oversight. Each board member has a more direct and visible role in decision-making and oversight.
- **Enhanced board effectiveness streamlined decision-making and enhanced board dynamics:** With a more manageable number of board members, it becomes easier to align the board's expertise and skills with the organization's needs. This results in a more effective and focused board that can streamline the decision making process and allow for enhanced board dynamics.

Ultimately, the ideal board size strikes a balance between having enough members to provide diverse

## BYLAWS OF THE MISSOURI RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION AND PUBLIC SCHOOL PERSONNEL – PROPOSED CHANGES

The Missouri Retired Teachers Association and Public School Personnel (MRTA) has completed work on a detailed strategic plan that will guide the organization as we continue to advocate for Missouri's public school retirees, educators and staff, and most importantly - your pension.

The plan, which was formally unveiled at the March 2023 MRTA Unit President Summit is the culmination of a year-long collaborative effort among members of MRTA, MRTA's leadership, executive director, and staff. Developed with the assistance of The Carden Group, a professional leadership consulting firm with clients around the globe, the strategic plan formally defines the organization's purpose, values, and goals. It is intended to serve as an anchor document for all future decisions within MRTA by providing a working structure for MRTA as we move forward to achieve objectives on behalf of our members. Importantly, it also provides MRTA with a way to measure success toward those objectives.

To start the process of carrying out these plans, six Task Force Subcommittees were formed, one of those, Internal Structure, was created, "To ensure that the MRTA Board and organization functions effectively and efficiently to accomplish our vision and core purpose." Part of the committee's objectives were to evaluate the current MRTA Board structure, makeup, and board member duties and responsibilities. The committee completed a thorough review of the bylaws and recommended changes to the MRTA Board of Directors. The MRTA Board of Directors met on July 20th to look over the recommended changes, adopting them to be presented to our Delegates at the September 18th MRTA Delegates' Assembly for final approval. This year's meeting will be held at Lodge of the Four Seasons at Lake Ozark.

***Below are the sections with changes.*** See page 13 for a summary. If you would like to see the entire bylaws with proposed changes visit us at [https://mrta.org/view/download.php/legislative/user\\_file\\_14](https://mrta.org/view/download.php/legislative/user_file_14).



Deletions are ~~red and struck through~~. Additions are {bracketed and blue.}

### Preface

The name of the Association shall be Missouri Retired Teachers Association and Public School Personnel abbreviated MRTA. MRTA is a 501(c)4 tax exempt corporation and is non-partisan. MRTA does not endorse candidates

#### ~~Vision~~

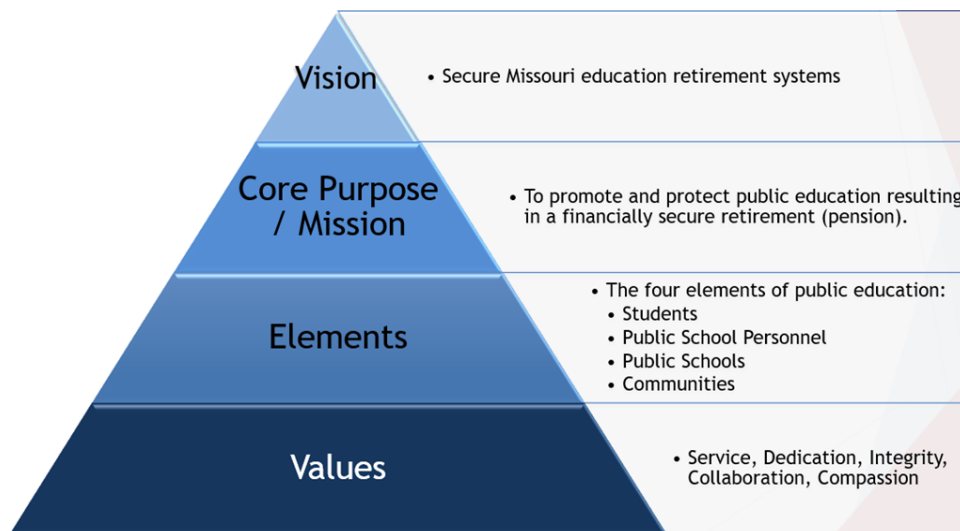
~~The vision of Missouri Retired Teachers Association and Public School Personnel (MRTA) is to promote and protect pensions, programs, and benefits of all public school personnel in retirement.~~

#### ~~Mission~~

~~The mission of Missouri Retired Teachers Association and Public School Personnel (MRTA) is to grow membership and work actively with government and its entities so that all public school personnel will be~~

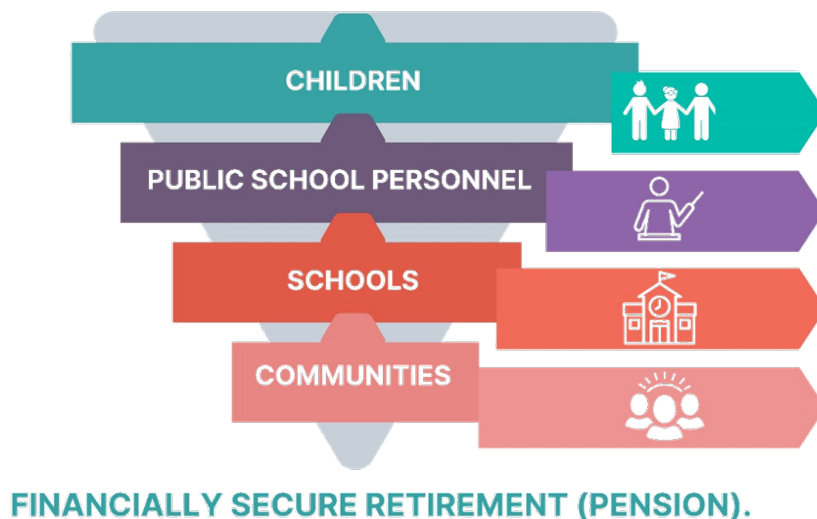
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{MRTA visuals below will be added}



**To promote and protect our children, public schools, public school personnel, and communities which will result in a financially secure retirement (pension).**

Through advocacy, members, collaboration, philanthropy and compassion we can elevate public education and careers in education for strong retirement/pensions.



## ARTICLE II PURPOSE:

{Section 1.} ~~(a)~~ To promote continued interest in the teaching profession and the issues of education.

{Section 2.} ~~(b)~~ To promote economic, social, and professional status of retired teachers and other school personnel.

*Continued on next page.*

- {Section 3.} (c) To promote passage of legislation of benefit to retired teachers and other school personnel.
- {Section 4.} (d) To promote involvement of retired teachers and other school personnel in community affairs.
- {Section 5.} (e) To foster good fellowship among retired teachers and other school personnel and concern for their well-being.

### ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP:

- {Section 1.} (a) Membership shall be open to retired teachers of public, ~~private, and parochial~~ schools {including community colleges;} ~~colleges and universities~~; administrators; supervisors; and other retired ~~school~~ {education} employees.
- {Section 2.} (b) Spouses of members, active teachers, {public education employees} and {plus} others interested in education may become associate members without the right to vote, hold office, or represent the Association.
- {Section 3.} (c) Non-voting corporate sponsorships are available ~~upon approval of the Board of Directors~~.
- {Section 4.} (d) Any member in good standing having attained the age of 90 shall be granted an MRTA Lifetime membership at no cost.

### ARTICLE V {MRTA BOARD} MEETINGS:

- Section 1. The ~~Association~~ {MRTA Board of Directors} ~~may~~ {shall} hold {at least} two {Board} meetings per year{.}; ~~one in the spring and one in the fall. The fall meeting may be designated as the Annual Meeting.~~
- Section 2. ~~Telephonic~~ {Virtual} Meetings. The MRTA Board of Directors, State Committees, MRTA Appointed Special Committees, and Assembly of Delegates shall {be} permit{ed} ~~any or all directors, state and special committee members, and the Assembly of Delegates~~ to participate in a regular or special meeting by, or conduct the meeting through, use of ~~conference telephone or any similar communications equipment by means of which all directors, state and special committee members, and Assembly of Delegates participating may simultaneously hear each other during the meeting.~~ The directors, state and special committee members, and Assembly of Delegates participating in a meeting by this means are deemed to be present in person.
- Section 3. Voting; Electronic Voting.
- (a) General. Each member of the MRTA Board of Directors, State Committees, MRTA

*Continued on next page.*

Appointed Special Committees, and Assembly of Delegates in good standing shall be entitled to one (1) vote on each matter submitted.

- (b) Electronic Voting. Electronic voting may be used in connection with meetings of the MRTA Board of Directors, State Committees, MRTA Appointed Special Committees, and Assembly of Delegates.
- (c) Meetings. For purposes of soliciting electronic votes in connection with a meeting of the MRTA Board of Directors, State Committees, MRTA Appointed Special Committees, or Assembly of Delegates at which a quorum must be present, the requisite number of votes that would have been required at such meeting to pass an action shall be required to pass an action via this electronic voting provision. Only those directors, state and special committee members, and Assembly of Delegates in attendance of the meeting shall be permitted to vote with respect to this Section. The deadline for receipt of electronic votes with respect to any such vote shall be submitted within one (1) week from the date of the meeting as announced prior to adjournment of such meeting.
- (d) Action Without Meeting. For purposes of taking action without a meeting, solicitation via electronic balloting and voting shall be permitted hereunder.

#### {Section 4. MRTA Board Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the State Association and of the Board of Directors meetings shall be recorded by MRTA staff. Staff will submit copies of these minutes to the Board of Directors within fifteen business days after such meetings, unless otherwise notified.}

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### ARTICLE VIII OFFICERS:

- Section 1. A Board of Directors Officer shall be a member of the local and state associations.
  - Section 2. ~~Elective~~ {Elected} officers shall be President, President Elect, Vice President, ~~Recording Secretary~~, and Treasurer.
  - Section 3. Members of the Board of Directors shall be: ~~Elective~~ {Elected} Officers, Past President, ~~Regional Vice-Presidents~~, Chairpersons of Standing Committees, and MRTF President.
  - Section 4. Members of the Executive Committee shall be President, President Elect, Vice President, ~~Recording Secretary~~, Treasurer, and the Immediate Past President. The Executive Committee shall have the responsibility to make emergency operational decisions between meetings of the Board of Directors.
- 

### ARTICLE IX DUTIES OF OFFICERS:

- Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association, serve as Chairperson of the Board of Directors and as ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee, appoint all {board} committees except as otherwise indicated and fill all vacancies

until the next regular election. With the approval of the Board of Directors, the President shall appoint the chairpersons of the Standing Committees who shall serve as members of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The President Elect shall assist the President in every way possible, and act as President when the President is absent or incapacitated. The President Elect shall meet with and assist the MRTA Standing Committees.

Section 3. The Vice President shall assist the President and the President Elect ~~in every way possible~~ and in their absence shall act in their stead. The Vice President shall ~~{chair,}~~ meet with~~{}~~ and facilitate the meetings of the MRTA Regional Vice Presidents. ~~{The Vice President shall represent the needs and concerns of Region Vice Presidents at MRTA Board meetings.}~~

~~Section 4. The Recording Secretary shall keep the minutes of the State Association and of the Board of Directors meetings and shall submit copies of these minutes to the Board of Directors within ten days after such meetings.~~

Section ~~5~~~~{4}~~. The Treasurer shall serve as chairperson of the MRTA Budget Committee. The Treasurer shall be responsible for signing MRTA checks, monitoring monthly financial reports and reporting to the Board of Directors.

~~{Section 5. The Immediate Past President shall serve as the chairperson of the MRTA Board of Director's Advisory Council, which consists of MRTA Past Presidents. The Advisory Council will meet at least once a year to discuss the state of MRTA.}~~

## ARTICLE XI COMMITTEES:

Section 1. Each MRTA State and Regional Committee member shall be a member of a local unit and the State Association.

Section 2. Standing Committees shall be Community Service, Informative and Protective Services, Legislation, Membership, and Retirement Education. The Board of Directors will ~~appoint~~ ~~{establish}~~ the Standing Committees ~~{and approve the members of those committees}~~. Standing Committees will have a representative from each MRTA region to be appointed for a three-year term. ~~{Committee Chairs may serve up to two consecutive terms and after sitting out one year may be re-elected. In case of long-term, inability to serve, the President can appoint a delegate to take over duties of the chair in event of his/he; absence.}~~

~~{Section 3. Special Committee}~~ ~~All other committee~~ chairpersons and committee members shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE XII {QUALIFICATIONS FOR} NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS:

Section 1. Officers, except the Treasurer and ~~{Vice President}~~ ~~Recording Secretary~~, shall serve for a term of one year. The Treasurer ~~{and the Vice President}~~ ~~and Recording Secretary~~ shall be elected for a ~~{three}~~ ~~two~~-year term and may be re-elected one time. ~~{The Vice President shall~~

*Continued on next page.*

serve at least one term as a Regional Vice President. The Treasurer shall have knowledge and experience in budgeting.} The President Elect shall succeed to the presidency upon ratification by the Delegates Assembly. {The President Elect shall have been an MRTA member for at least five years.} ~~The Vice-President shall succeed to President Elect upon ratification by the Delegates Assembly.~~

Section 2. Names of prospective officers may be presented to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee by individuals or local units by June 1. Nomination forms are available from the MRTA office.

Names of proposed ~~elective~~ {elected} officers shall be published in ~~the~~ {an} official MRTA Publication prior to the State Meeting at which elections are to be held. The Chairperson of the Nominating Committee shall, with the approval of the MRTA Board of Directors, present the slate of officers at the Assembly of Delegates' Meeting in the fall. Nominations may be made from the floor. Nominees for offices, whether presented by the Nominating Committee or from the floor, shall have given their consent before their names are presented. Elections shall be held ~~at~~ {during} the same meeting at which nominations are made. {Officers shall be elected by} a majority of delegates present ~~and voting shall constitute election~~. Installation of officers shall be held at the same meeting. Officers elected at the Assembly of Delegates' Meeting shall assume duties of office at the end of the {fall} Annual Meeting.

Section 3. The Regional Vice Presidents shall be elected at the Assembly of Delegates for a term of three years. {Regional Vice Presidents may serve up to two consecutive terms and after sitting out one year may be re-elected.} ~~The incumbent Regional Vice President shall preside until a new Regional Vice President is elected. One third of the~~ Regional Vice Presidents will be elected each year {in staggered terms}.

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## {ARTICLE XIV MRTA MEMBER MEETING

Section 1. The Association will hold at least two meetings per year: one in the spring and one in the fall. The spring Meeting will be designated as the Unit President's Summit, open to all unit presidents, unit vice-presidents and other leadership positions. The fall Meeting will be designated as the Annual Meeting and will be open to all association members.}

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## ARTICLE ~~XIV~~ {XV} ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES:

Section 1. The Assembly of Delegates shall elect officers of MRTA, approve all dues changes, and amend the Bylaws as needed. It shall meet on the first day of the annual meeting of MRTA at an hour and place designated in the program. In addition, at the meeting of the Assembly of Delegates the regional vice presidents shall be elected by the delegates in attendance from their respective regions.

Section 2. (a) Each local Unit shall be entitled to one delegate for the first one (1) to 100 MRTA and local Unit members and to one additional delegate for each additional 100 MRTA and local Unit members or major fraction thereof as of August 15.

- (b) Active members whose State and local Unit dues are paid shall be eligible to serve as delegates.
  - (c) MRTA Associate members are not eligible to serve as delegates.
  - (d) The MRTA Board of Directors and Past-Presidents shall be members of the Assembly of Delegates.
- Section 3.
- (a) The delegate(s) shall be elected from and by the local Unit.
  - (b) The local Unit Presidents shall send to MRTA headquarters the name/names of the delegates and alternates elected by their unit by August 15.
- Section 4. Delegates shall be entitled to seats in the {designated area} permanent organization of the Assembly of Delegates when credentials in the form of Certificates of Election have been approved by a Committee on Credentials.
- Section 5. The President of MRTA shall call the Assembly of Delegates to order and shall serve as permanent chairperson. The first order of business shall be the report and adoption of the Committee on Credentials. ~~The Recording Secretary of MRTA~~ {The Immediate Past President of MRTA} shall be the secretary of the Assembly of Delegates and shall be responsible for the recording of the minutes.
- Section 6. A majority of the Assembly of Delegates shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- Section 7. In all voting in the Assembly of Delegates each certified delegate shall be entitled to one vote. When there seems to be no clear majority on an issue, the chairperson of the Assembly of Delegates may call for a head count vote. This shall be taken according to regions with the Regional Vice President and an assistant from each region acting as tabulators for each region. When the individual region vote has been tabulated, each region shall report to the Vice President who shall then tabulate the vote.
- Section 8. Any issue considered by the Assembly of Delegates, other than in Section 1 of this article, must contain the clause, "Provided the unappropriated funds in the treasury of MRTA will justify such expenditures."

**Delegates will vote on proposed ByLaw changes at the 2023 Annual Meeting. The Delegates' Assembly starts on September 18th at 1:00 p.m. at the Lodge of the Four Seasons**

***See page 11 for more about the MRTA Annual Meeting and how you can attend.***

## **MRTA Golf Tournament – Hole Sponsors**

**Central Bank of Boone County** - P.O. Box 678 - Columbia MO – 65201 - 573-874-8483 - [www.centralbank.net/boone-county/](http://www.centralbank.net/boone-county/)

**Columbia EDP** - PO Box 1423- Columbia MO 65210 - 573-474-8431- [www.columbiaedp.com](http://www.columbiaedp.com)

**Doubletree by Hilton** - 422 Monroe St - Jefferson City MO – 65101 - 573-632-4154 – [www.hilton.com/en/hotels/jefdttdt-doubletree-jefferson-city/](http://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/jefdttdt-doubletree-jefferson-city/)

**Downtown Appliance** - 1104 E Broadway - Columbia MO – 65201 - 573-874-3333 - [www.downtownappliance.com](http://www.downtownappliance.com)

**GFI Digital** - PO Box 775010 - St. Louis MO – 63177 - [www.gfidigital.com](http://www.gfidigital.com)

**Hawthorn Bank** - 132 E. High Street - Jefferson City MO - 65101 - 573-761-6100 [www.hawthornbank.com](http://www.hawthornbank.com)

**Holmes and Griffith Financial Planners** - 636 W Republic Rd., Suite B108 – Springfield MO - 65807 - 417-887-1272

**Honda of Jefferson City** - 3625 Missouri Blvd - Jefferson City MO – 65109 - (573) 893-7676 - [www.hondaofjeffersoncity.com](http://www.hondaofjeffersoncity.com)

**Jefferson Bank** - 1910 Southwest Blvd- Jefferson City - 573-634-0870 - [www.jeffersonbank.com](http://www.jeffersonbank.com)

**Kwik Kar** - 2711 W Edgewood Drive- Jefferson City MO - 65109 - 573-893-4161 - [www.kwikkarmo.com](http://www.kwikkarmo.com)

**Lindell Bank** - PO Box 211 - St. Louis MO - 63166 – 314-645-7700 – [www.lindellbank.com](http://www.lindellbank.com)

**Loftis Health Services** - PO Box 162 - Mount Vernon MO - 65712 - (417) 466-7191

**MRTA President Martha Schatz Independent Avon Representative** – Billings, MO

**Meyer Electric Co., Inc.** - 3513 N Ten Mile Dr.- Jefferson City MO - 65109 - 573-298-6419 - [www.myerelectric.net](http://www.myerelectric.net)

**Midwest Mailing Services** – PO Box 723 – Columbia - MO - 65201 - 573-474-8877

**Missouri Association of Rural Education** - 710 N College St., Suite C - Warrensburg MO - 64093 - 660-747-8050 - [www.moare.com](http://www.moare.com)

**Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals** - 207 Peach Way Suite 106 - Columbia MO – 65203 - 573-445-5071 - [moassp.org](http://moassp.org)

**Missouri Retired Teachers Association Staff** – 3030 DuPont Circle - Jefferson City - MO 573-634-4300 - [www.mrta.org](http://www.mrta.org)

**Naught Naught Insurance** - 1441 Christy Dr - Jefferson City MO - 65101 - 573-634-2727 – [www.assuredpartners.com/jeffersoncity](http://www.assuredpartners.com/jeffersoncity)

**Prairie Farms Dairy** -3744 Staunton Road - Edwardsville IL - 62025 - [www.prairiefarms.com](http://www.prairiefarms.com)

**Remote Computer Services** – PO Box 23 – Westphalia MO - 65085 – 573-298-6007

**Representative Rudy Veit** - 515 E. High St. Jefferson City MO – 65101

**Roedel Cleaning Services** - 3436 N Ten Mile Dr - Jefferson City MO – 65109

**Rouner Brother Farms** - 38644 W State Hwy T'T – McFall MO - 64657

**Samco Business Products** - 3612 W Truman Blvd.- Jefferson City MO - 65109 - 573-634-3177 - [www.samco.com](http://www.samco.com)

**Scooters** - 2245 Missouri Blvd - Jefferson City MO – 65109 - [www.scooters.com](http://www.scooters.com)

**Steven Carroll & Associates** - 215 E Capitol Ave - Jefferson City MO - 65101 -[www.stevenrcarrollassociates.com/](http://www.stevenrcarrollassociates.com/)

**Strikers** - 2017 Christy Dr - Jefferson City MO – 65101 573-644-1006 - [www.strikersjc.com](http://www.strikersjc.com)

