

MARSP History



1960-1969

- 1960** Legislation again introduced to raise minimum retirement benefits to \$1,800 - again died in committee; BC/BS greatly increased benefits for retired public school employees; bill providing for State Committee on Aging passed; Michigan Retirement Fund Board, MEA and MRPSEA held first joint conference on pension reform.
- 1961** Legislation again introduced to raise minimum retirement benefits to \$1,800 - again died in committee; MRPSEA became aware of misuse of retirement funds; PL 87-61 passed which liberalized the Social Security Act which allows men to also retire at age 62 and increased minimum monthly benefits from \$33 to \$40 per month for those who retire at age 65; 2,975 members.
- 1962** Legislation again introduced to raise minimum retirement benefits to \$1,800 - again died in committee; 3,095 members.
- 1963** 5 articles of legislation introduced to increase pensions for retired public school employees but all died in committees (MRSPEA President Edwin L. Clark helped prepare one bill that was defeated by only one vote); S.65 introduced to establish a Hospital Insurance Benefits program for retired persons financed through Social Security to provide hospital and nursing home care; 3,709 members.
- 1964** Legislation again introduced to raise minimum retirement benefits to \$1,800 - again died in committee; MRPSEA Board met in the new MEA building; Michigan's first Governor's Conference on Aging was held; 3,963 members.
- 1965** MRPSEA Secretary appointed to Study Commission on Property Tax Relief for the Aging; Older Americans Act passed and established Administration on Aging in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare; Medicare laws passed; MRSPEA name changed to Michigan Retired Teachers Association (MRTA); revised MRTA Constitution and By-laws; July 23, SB 432 passed granting increase of minimum retirement benefits to \$1,800 (after 9 years of trying); MRTA and NRTA honored Michigan Representative McCullough for her dedicated help in getting the pension increase passed; MRTA has 36 chapters.
- 1966** HB2160 passed to establish a fund for retired teachers through an annual appropriation of the retirement funds; First Distinguished Service Awards given; dues increased to \$2.00 annually for everyone, life membership to \$25.00; MRTA incorporated October 12, 1966; MRTA mailing system switched from addressograph to key-punch; 1st MRTA Tour; MRTA has 44 chapters.
- 1967** MRTA hired first part-time secretary, Virginia Armour; first MRTA office space in MEA building; Legislative Committee created; MRTA mileage expense allowance increased from .07/mile to .09/mile; MRTA supported legislation to raise minimum retirement benefits to \$2,400; MRTA supported legislation to include a retired teacher on the Retirement Board; first area leadership training workshops were held; MRTA has 47 chapters; approximately 5,000 members.
- 1968** First Life Membership Cards distributed; Alvina Ward new office secretary; MRTA supports "Proposal M" which would allow retirees to join MRTA without joining MEA; MRTA supports legislation for adequate state appropriation, cost of living adjustments, comparable treatment for all annuitants, and earnings without loss of benefits; Battle Creek Chapter and NRTA initiated first Pre-retirement training session; 16,000 annuitants.
- 1969** MRTA Insurance Committee created; MRTA started answering members' questions regarding health insurance coverage problems in VANGUARD; Opinion No. 4660, Michigan Attorney General ruled all Michigan retired teachers' pensions are exempt from state income tax except for those in the Detroit system; Retirement Coordinating Council (RCC) founded; MRTA Legislative Fund implemented (to help fund MRTA legislative and RCC expenses); 4,894 members, 23,000 annuitants.
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