

MARSP History



1970-1979

- 1970** MRTA Membership Committee created; developed retirement handbook; 5,313 members, 25 life memberships.
 - 1971** MRTA implemented pilot program for “Voluntary Unified Membership Drive” with 9 chapters participating; RCC requested donations from local chapters; MRTA Constitution amended to include Affiliate, Associate, and Honorary memberships, and unified membership in MRTA, local chapters and NRTA; State Aid Bill passed to increase retired teachers’ minimum pension from \$1,800 to \$2,400 (after 6 years of trying); MRTA reimbursed directors’ mileage expense at 10/mile; 55 chapters; 6,561 members.
 - 1972** Voluntary Unified Membership Drive is official; MRTA implemented Gift Certificate Membership program; School Aid Bill passed to allow retirees with less than \$2,500 income to earn additional \$1,500 without loss of benefits; minimum pension increased to \$3,000 and teachers retired after 1956 to receive increase of 1% per year up to a maximum of 15%; 57 chapters; 40 life members; 29,000 annuitants.
 - 1973** Supported property tax relief for retirees; president initiates “telephone chain” for legislative issues; first MARSP XTRA published and mailed to “all” retirees; 7,500 members.
 - 1974** New constitution; name changed to Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel (MARSP); ten (10) areas formed; annual dues increased to \$5.00, life \$50.00; Teacher Retirement Bill passed and included cost of living adjustment, 9,365 members.
 - 1975** MARSP started reimbursing Annual Convention voting delegates mileage expense @ .06/mile; new MARSP logo/official seal; State of Michigan appropriated \$70,000,000 of amount required to match pension fund; MARSP pushed for and got deletion of part of bill that would have forced state income tax on pensions; first Nominating Committee; MARSP members contributed articles to the Michigan edition of the “Pride in America” book; approximately 10,000 members, 40,000 annuitants.
 - 1976** 25th Anniversary; MARSP supported the RCC suit against the State of Michigan and the MPS-ERB for violating the State Constitution regarding the \$70,000,000 appropriated from the Retirement Fund; publishing of VANGUARD moved to Lansing; published 1,000 copies of the “Michigan Pride in America” book; SB 122 passed to provide supplemental retirement allowance; 11,337 members, 1,503 life memberships, 39,000 annuitants.
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