

MARSP History



1980-1989

- 1980** Signed agreement with MEA (which many of us didn't know about until the 1982-83 merger was proposed)
 - 1982** Dues increased to \$10.00; House passed receipt of 13th check.
 - 1983** MARSP membership rejected a merger proposal from MEA; MARSP became independent!; MARSP office moved to downtown Lansing; hired first Executive Director, Bonnie J. Carpenter; 16,684 members, 50,000 annuitants.
 - 1984** New by-laws adopted.
 - 1985** MARSP membership voted to withdraw membership in Retirement Coordinating Council and to retain a legal firm with a legislative agent to handle the lobbying affairs of the organization; 19,715 members.
 - 1986** Direct Telephone Inquiry Unit for Blue Cross Group 59000 claims; toll free number made available nationwide – 1-800-422-9146; decision made to hold all future MARSP Annual Conventions in Lansing.
 - 1987** MARSP office moved just outside city limits to 3410 Lansing Road, Lansing; 23,968 members.
 - 1988** MARSP Foundation incorporated; Irving W. Burt Building Fund established for new MARSP headquarters; 26,105 members.
 - 1989** State divided into seventeen (17) areas; MARSP purchased property at corner of Jolly and Collins Roads in Lansing, adjacent to the Lansing Post Office, on which to build the MARSP Center; dues increased to \$15.00; HB4559 passed to add vision, dental and hearing coverage to benefits; 32,856 members.
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