

## **MARSP Key Points for Public Presentations in 2018**

- **MARSP is an association representing all 215,000 public school retirees.** Your position as an active employee is of no consequence in retirement. Only MARSP accepts all public school retirees regardless of affiliations during your working years.
- **MARSP has a strong non-partisan lobbying presence on public school retiree issues.** This allows us to discuss critical issues with members of both parties at all times.
- **MARSP played a critical role in retaining the defined benefit pension plan for current and retired public school employees.** MARSP was the only retiree organization invited by the Governor's office to participate in the 2017 reform negotiations.
- **The 2017 reform negotiations also resulted in the retention of the existing health care plan** for retirees and improved the employer contribution level to hybrid plan participants. This effort results in hundreds of dollars of savings every month for MPERS members.
- **MARSP holds a seat on the MPERS Board** as the largest retiree association with over 41,000 members.
- **More members = more influence!** Legislators take great interest in the number of people who vote in elections.
- **MARSP asks all public school retirees and active employees to become educated on candidates for election** and inquire into candidates' positions on education and retirement benefits for public school employees. MARSP encourages support for candidates who take positions strongly supporting retirement benefits for public school personnel.
- **MARSP publishes a quarterly newsletter**, the VANGUARD, and a mid-quarter electronic newsletter, the VISION, to keep members fully informed of ongoing issues of importance.
- **MARSP members have access to numerous valuable discount offers** through a private member benefits program.