At the May luncheon the chapter held its annual election of officers for the year ending next May. Newly elected office holders were Donna Mulder (treasurer) and Jackie Smart (recording secretary). Betty Coller (vice president) and Don Quashnie (president) were re-elected to the positions that they have previously held.

Our chapter was formed in 1985, 33 years ago, and since that time it has grown from just a handful of members to our current membership of around 1360. During that time, we have had just four chapter presidents. Originally Sam Long held the position and he was followed by Jim Otto. Gordon Draper took over from Jim, and continued as president for 11 years, at which time Gordon asked me to take the position and I have been president for 13 years.

Originally when I accepted the position I had indicated that I would hold office for two years, with the hope that other members would step forth and volunteer to keep a much shorter cycle for leadership of the chapter. On numerous occasions I and members of the chapter board of directors have asked, both at luncheon meetings and in our newsletter, for members to give serious thought to stepping forward to assume leadership of the chapter. To date we have not had much luck.

Earlier this spring, at a chapter board meeting, I told the board that I would run for office of president for just two more years, which would take me to May of 2020 (at which time I will be 83), assuming no one else has come forward before that time. I guess what I am saying to all of you is that I am giving my two-year notice to the chapter that will I be stepping aside.

During the next two years I hope that one or two of our younger members will be willing to assume the leadership rolls to keep our chapter going and continue the objectives of MARSP to protect our pensions and healthcare for the future.

I will be more than happy to mentor whomever steps forward to make an orderly and successful transition. The members of our chapter board can and will be helpful as well.

Ask yourself, if what MARSP does for all retirees is important and if so how can I help.

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Sam Long

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++Free Lunch Winners++
4/12/18
Jackie Smart
Melodie Provencher
Christine Walczyk

5/9/18
Donna Jenvey
Rosa Paulus
Carole Hakola

6/13/18
Gail Ross
Cathy Vaneciek
George Calder

***RIP***

Avery, Douglas
Bloom, Dorothy
Chappell, Wayne ~ LPS
George, Constance
Haewski, Elizabeth
Jennings, Duane ~ LPS
Kachnowski, Daniel
Kinnaird III, Wm. ~ LPS
Kurek, Genevieve
Schulz, Edward
Wallath, Virginia

+++50/50 Winners+++

4/12/18
Grace Morgan $78

5/9/18
Mary Pomaville $100

6/13/18
Joyce Galindo $73.50

Verification of Coverage
You must respond to the request for information regarding other insurance plans that you may have. If you have NOT responded your coverage for health insurance could be cancelled. If you have questions or are not sure that you responded. Call the number on the back of your BCBSM card:
1.800.422.9146

SPRING 2018
ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS

The Alliance for Retired Americans is a nationwide grass roots organization, launched in May 2001, with more than 4.3 million members working together to make their voices heard in the laws, policies, politics and institutions that shape American Life. The organization is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization of retired trade members affiliated with the AFL-CIO and the Change to Win Federation, as well as non-union community-based members. The predecessor organization was known as the National Council of Senior Citizens.

The mission of the organization is to ensure social and economic justice and full civil rights for all citizens so that they may enjoy lives of dignity, personal and family fulfillment and security.

If you contact their website, you can receive a full report of the voting records of the Michigan 115th Congress.

www.reired.americans.org

If you are interested in joining or participating with this group. Membership information is available on the website.

DonorsChoose.org

Connecting the public to public schools.....

This project was started in 2000 by Charles Best, a teacher at a Bronx public high school. He thought about all the money he and his colleagues were spending on books, supplies, and other materials. He sketched out a website where teachers could post classroom project requests, and donors could choose the ones they wanted to support. His colleagues posted the first 11 requests. Then it spread. Today the program is open to every public school in America.

The MARSP Foundation contributed to the project for Teacher appreciation Week. Three projects were in Livonia Public Schools. The title is “Creating Art.” The response, “Thank you so much for contributing our classroom. These materials will really help to enrich our children’s preschool experience. We look forward to sharing all the creative and innovating projects that will come from your generosity. From creating bugs to building skyscrapers, their imagination is now the limit!”

The website has more information!!

SPRING 2018
FOOD FOR THOUGHT...Schools take lead in feeding needy kids and families with pantries stocked with supplies.

This was the headline of an article in the Detroit Free Press earlier this spring. Students in a special class at Franklin High School in Livonia Public Schools prepare boxes of food that will go to needy families in Livonia. The pantry, which started at Emerson Middle School, has since expanded district-wide, meaning it’s open to families across all schools if they have a child enrolled. The students who help operate the pantry all have moderate cognitive disabilities and work in the pantry as part of a job readiness class where they learn valuable employment skills. The pantry started five years ago at Emerson, with 25 families signed up to receive boxes of food and other supplies. Now, with its location at Franklin, it has nearly 100 families districtwide signed up. A nonprofit organization called Livonia Kids and Families was created to be the financial umbrella under which the pantry operates. Donations and contributions have come in from all over the community. The program is supported by Gleaners Community Food Bank, the group that our chapter supports each January.

The box, includes cereal, egg noodles, spaghetti, soup, canned sliced pears in syrup, canned chili, boxes of macaroni and cheese, boxes of mashed potatoes and stuffing. The students also pack bags full of toilet paper, toothpaste, laundry detergent, soap, deodorant and shampoo. Each family gets a large box of food and couple of bags of nonperishables. A great community service!