THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL

**SPRING 2023** 

How Public Act 4
Impacts Your Retirement
Page 4

Winter Wonderland or Tropical Paradise? Introducing TWO New Travel Destinations...

Page 6

Pension Investments Today:
An Interview with Jon Braeutigam

Page 10



**VOLUME 73, ISSUE 2** 



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3 | Reconnecting With Your Interests
- **5** | How Public Act 4 Impacts Your Retirement
- 6 | Winter Wonderland OR Tropical Paradise? Introducing TWO New Travel Destinations
- 8 | Life Lessons and Commitment to MARSP

- 10 | Pension Investments Today: An Interview with Jon Braeutigam
- 17 | A Salute to the Women of MARSP
- 18 | Renewal Made Easy
- **20** | Mackinac Island Referral Drawing Winner

# MARSE VANGUARD

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VANGUARD is the official publication of the Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel. Due to production time, each issue of the VANGUARD is written about six weeks before publication. Therefore some of the information may be updated by the time of delivery.

# LET'S STAY CONNECTED

Keep up with MARSP and fellow MARSP members on social media! By following along, you'll see the latest retirement tips and resources, as well as updates on legislative activities.



www.facebook.com/miMARSP



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## Classifieds

Two-bedroom Townhouse for rent in Village of Oak Creek, AZ, just 7 miles from beautiful Sedona! Monthly rentals only. Several months available in 2023, from May - August.

Call Cathy at 989-553-3401 or email cathyw54@comcast.net for more information.

2 | VANGUARD | www.marsp.org SPRING 2023



# How Satisfied Are You With MPSERS Vision, Hearing, and Dental Coverage?

As advocates for Michigan's public school retirees, the Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel (MARSP) is surveying members

on their experience and satisfaction with vision, hearing, and dental insurance through MPSERS.

With this survey, MARSP aims to collect feedback that we can pass along to the Office of Retirement Service (ORS), the administrator of your insurance. If you haven't already, please use the camera on your smartphone or tablet to scan the QR code and take the survey online.

You can also complete this survey by visiting: <a href="https://www.marsp.org/survey2023">www.marsp.org/survey2023</a>



# RECONNECTING WITH YOUR INTERESTS

These past few years, many of us have become disconnected from the groups, hobbies, and activities that we once enjoyed and prioritized. After time away from something, it can be difficult to start up again. MARSP is a great place to be involved, stay up-to-date, apply skills, socialize, and even explore new interests. So how do we renew our drive to be involved? Well, the very first step is to renew your membership (see page 19). After that, consider these suggestions:

- 1. Make a mental or written list of your interests. Your MARSP-related interests may include attending a chapter meeting, traveling with MARSP, or volunteering with your chapter.
- 2. Ask yourself why each item is on your list. This will help you figure out which interests are most important or time sensitive. You may discover that something doesn't belong there anymore. That's ok! It's all part of the prioritization process.
- 3. Break your "reconnection" down into simple steps. Say you'd like to attend your next chapter meeting. Ask yourself "what do I need in order to make that happen?" Do you know the time, date,

and location of your next meeting? If not, step one is to get in touch with someone from your local chapter. Step two, put it on your calendar.

4. Now that you have steps laid out, put one foot forward. If travel is a high priority interest, contact MARSP about receiving Travel Program information in the format that works best for you (see page 7). If you're already considering a specific MARSP Travel Program trip – Hawaii in January of 2024, for instance – perhaps it's time to start the booking process. (For Hawaii, visit marsp. org/travel or call Collette Travel at 1-800-581-8942 and refer to booking number 1151816).

With my term as MARSP President coming to an end, I've been thinking about how to stay involved. After evaluating my interests and considering my time and priorities, I signed up for a leadership position with my local chapter. It seemed to fit in nicely with my personal goals for this year: growing my pumpkin patch and adding a new greenhouse tunnel for more tomatoes.

I hope you have fun revisiting *your* interests this year – just don't forget to renew with MARSP first!



President's Message
By Steve Gordon,
MARSP President
sgordon9430@charter.net

SPRING 2023 www.marsp.org | VANGUARD | 3

# HOW PUBLIC ACT 4 IMPACTS YOUR RETIREMENT

#### **Legislative Committee Report**

By Chuck Abshagen, Legislative Committee Co-chair

On March 7, 2023, Governor Whitmer signed Public Act 4 (formerly HB 4001), amending the 2011 tax placed on retirement income and expanding the Michigan Working Families Tax Credit. According to the Senate Fiscal Agency, "The bill would amend the Income Tax Act to allow a taxpayer, beginning in the 2023 tax year, to choose between the current limitations on the deductibility of retirement and pension income or the limitations specified in the bill."

As sufficient support did not exist in the

\*Maximum amounts are adjusted annually for inflation and available each January

4

Legislature to allow the bill to take effect immediately, PA 4 will not take effect until 90 days after the Legislature adjourns for the year. While MARSP has long supported eliminating taxation of retiree income immediately, the political reality in Lansing is that PA 4 represented a final product that had the votes to pass.

PA 4 of 2023 will phase out the 2011 changes to taxation of retiree income over the course of four years, beginning with the 2023 tax year (filed in 2024). According to the Office of Retirement Services (ORS), retirees who want to utilize the deductions available in PA 4 should file their 2023 tax return after the law's effective date. If filing

	Income Tax Act of 1967 maximum deduction 2023 tax year		ent state tax changes  Public Act 4 of 2023 maximum deduction				
Birth year			2023 tax year		2024 tax year	2025 tax year	2026 tax year
	Single filers	Joint filers	Single filers	Joint filers		Single and joint filers	Single and joint filers
1945 and before	Tax exempt.	Tax exempt.	No change.	No change.	No change.	No change.	No change.
1946-1952	\$20,000	\$40,000	Up to 25% of 2023 amount of \$61,518 (\$15,379.50).	Up to 25% of 2023 amount of \$123,036 (\$30,759).	Up to 50% of the 2024 amount.*	Up to 75% of the 2025 amount.*	Up to 100% of the maximum amount.*
1953-1958	Not qualified.	Not qualified.	Up to 25% of 2023 amount of \$61,518 (\$15,379.50).	Up to 25% of 2023 amount of \$123,036 (\$30,759).	Up to 50% of the 2024 amount.*	Up to 75% of the 2025 amount.*	Up to 100% of the maximum amount.*
1959-1962	Not qualified.	Not qualified.	No change.	No change.	Up to 50% of the 2024 amount.*	Up to 75% of the 2025 amount.*	Up to 100% of the maximum amount.*
1963-1966	Not qualified.	Not qualified.	No change.	No change.	No change.	Up to 75% of the 2025 amount.*	Up to 100% of the maximum amount.*
1967 and after	Not qualified.	Not qualified.	No change.	No change.	No change.	No change.	Up to 100% of the maximum amount.*

VANGUARD | www.marsp.org SPRING 2023

before the law's effective date, an amended return can be filed after PA 4 of 2023 takes effect.

Those born in 1959 or after do not qualify for PA 4 limits for the 2023 tax year. As the law is phased in, additional retirees become eligible. By 2026, all ORS pensioners are eligible for the full deduction, regardless of age.

PA 4 allows retirees the option to choose between utilizing existing deductions or the new options.

There is no change for those born in or before 1945. You remain fully exempt.

For a joint return, the proposed limitations and restrictions would have to be applied based on the date of birth of the older spouse filing the return.

If a deduction for pension benefits were claimed on a joint return for a tax year in which a spouse died and the surviving spouse had not remarried, the surviving spouse is entitled to claim the deduction in subsequent tax years with the same restrictions and limitations that would have applied based on the date of birth of the older of the two spouses.

Additional questions about tax obligations are best answered by a professional tax preparer or advisor.

# THANK YOU, MARSP COMMUNITY

While PA-4 isn't the immediate repeal we'd hoped for, we're proud of the MARSP community for its persistence in working together towards common goals.

If you're reading this, that means you have an active MARSP membership -- thank you. *Our numbers are our greatest strength*. Thanks also to anyone who has devoted time and energy to contacting legislators over the years. *These relationships set the foundation for MARSP's work in Lansing*.

Even in times of celebration, we know that the struggle to protect our pension and health care benefits is never-ending. So finally, thank you to the Legislative Committee and Ambassadors, who put in the legwork to keep MARSP at the forefront of legislative discussions. These folks gathered

in Lansing shortly after PA-4 was signed to meet with elected officials and share MARSP's ongoing legislative goals face-to-face. The nuanced breadth of knowledge that they bring to these discussions has earned the association a respect in Lansing that transcends party lines.

As you can see, each of us plays a part in getting something like Public Act 4 passed. Let's continue along, working together, to see what we can accomplish next!

















The Legislative Committee is co-chaired by Chuck Abshagen & Georgia Sharp

SPRING 2023 www.marsp.org | VANGUARD | 5



# INTRODUCING TWO NEW MARSP TRAVEL PROGRAM DESTINATIONS...

# NORTHERN LIGHTS OF FINLAND

#### **DECEMBER 2-9, 2023**

8 Days, 11 Meals: 6 Breakfasts, 5 Dinners

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Helsinki, Senate Square, Helsinki Cathedral, Lapland Region, Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort, Finnish Sauna, Meet & Greet with Santa, Reindeer Safari, Northern Lights Searches, Husky Safari, Glass Igloo Accommodation



#### **ITINERARY AT A GLANCE**

Day 1 Overnight Flight

Days 2, 3 Lilla Roberts Hotel, Helsinki

Days 4 - 6 Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort - West Village, Kakslauttanen

Day 7 Lilla Roberts Hotel, Helsinki

On some dates alternate hotels may be used.



**Double:** \$5,799

**Single:** \$6,699

**Triple:** \$5,749

#### **TOUR ACTIVITY LEVEL: 4**

This means you're ready to seize the day, whatever it may bring. You lead an active life at home (walking, biking, and hiking are things you may enjoy) and few thousand steps a day isn't out of the norm. You can handle longer walking tours (more than 90 minutes), traversing dusty or uneven terrain, standing for periods of time, varying altitudes and temperatures, and don't mind being on the go with some early starts, late-night experiences, and full days. Unfortunately, this level is not appropriate for individuals who use wheelchairs or walkers.

Included in Price: Round Trip Air from Detroit Metro Airport, Inter-flights from Helsinki, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges, Hotel Transfers. Not included in price: Cancellation Waiver and Insurance of \$449 per person

6 | VANGUARD | www.marsp.org SPRING 2023

# **HAWAIIAN ADVENTURE**

#### FEBRUARY 8-17, 2024

10 Days, 13 Meals: 9 Breakfasts, 4 Dinners

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Waikiki Beach, Pearl Harbor, Iolani Palace, Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, Kona Highlights, Iao Valley, Lahaina, Polynesian Luau



#### **ITINERARY AT A GLANCE**

Days 1 - 3 Prince Waikiki, Honolulu

Days 4 - 6 Outrigger Kona Resort and Spa, Kona

Days 7 - 9 Sheraton Maui Resort and Spa, Lahaina,

On some dates alternate hotels may be used.



**Double:** \$9,349

**Single:** \$11,149

**Triple:** \$9,249

#### **TOUR ACTIVITY LEVEL: 3**

The overall activity level of this tour is a level 1. This means you're a leisurely traveler. You like to discover the energy of a new place, but typically take it easy. You can handle at least one flight of stairs, board a coach, and walk for 15-30 minutes at a time with little difficulty.

Included in Price: Round Trip Air from Detroit Metro Airport, Inter-flights from Honolulu Intl Airport, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges, Hotel Transfers. Not included in price: Cancellation Waiver and Insurance of \$349 per person

# TELL ME MORE ABOUT THE MARSP TRAVEL PROGRAM

Interested in staying up to date on the MARSP Travel Program? Fill out this form and mail it to MARSP at PO Box 23214 Lansing, MI 48909 or submit a digital form at www.marsp.org/travel.						
NAME	MARSP MEMBER? YES NO					
EMAIL	_ PHONE					
ADDRESS						
CITY	STATE ZIP					
SEND ME INFORMATION BY: EMAIL PR	RINT EMAIL & PRINT V-SP2023					

# LIFE LESSONS AND COMMITMENT TO MARSP

It was 1955 in Strafford, Pennsylvania; I was in the second grade when a new guy arrived in class, a little late for the start of the school year. Mrs. Warner told us to be nice to this kid, and as his desk was right next to mine, I said hello. Next thing I knew, Steve became my best friend. He and I spent a lot of time doing the things that boys did back then. We played cowboys and army with our Roy Rogers cap guns and WWII-style plastic rifles and pistols with army surplus backpacks, canteens and helmet liners (the actual steel helmets were too heavy for us). We spent hours outside being kids having fun and found ourselves learning life lessons at the same time.

Steve's aunt lived with her family a street over and a couple of houses down. Steve thought that this aunt was bossy because she would often tell Steve (and me) that we were spending too much time playing and should be doing something useful, such as, "Maybe helping your mom!" Being basically good kids, we tried to honor her instructions; I can remember working in Steve's yard and sweeping out their garage between assaults made on the forts of imaginary enemies. It really wasn't bad duty, because Steve's mom would often make lunch for us. Grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup...nectar of the gods. What Steve's aunt really accomplished was to plant seeds in our minds, and she was not the only one to do so.

Steve's dad had been a marine during the war and had fought on Iwo Jima (among other places, I assume). I don't remember a lot about him except that he was nice to us and that we respected him. I once spent a night at Steve's house during a major snowstorm. The next morning after breakfast, Steve's dad walked me home through a new subdivision that only had its roads in place.

Some guy sliding along in his late '40s Ford sedan took exception to us negotiating the snow drifts as we walked down the middle of the road. The guy stopped about 50 feet away, got out of his car and started jawing at Steve's dad. That was a big mistake; once a marine, always a marine! Steve's dad said nothing, but very purposefully marched double-time right for the guy...who was smart enough to climb back into his car and take off. That made a big impression on me at a time when I was picking up a lot of similar lessons from my own parents who held themselves and their kids to pretty high standards.

Many who grew up during the 1950s and '60s benefitted from such powerful role models, people who had lived through the miseries of the Great Depression only to be thrown into the horrors of World War II. These folks were deeply influenced by those experiences and were in some ways significantly compromised; my Old Dad for example never completely recovered from the Battle of the Bulge. But the lessons we learned at the knees of our parents (and at the insistence of our friends' aunts) have neither left us nor steered us wrong. Those lessons are now decades in the past, but we see them presented again, as committed and dedicated people today tackle life's challenges with the same effective, can-do attitudes.

No individual group demonstrates this better than MARSP's members and leaders as they bring the values of duty, responsibility and commitment to the pursuit of MARSP's mission. MARSP members clearly understand the privilege it is to have been public educators, and that it is our shared responsibility to protect the retirement benefits that we all worked hard to earn.



The Bottom Line
By Hess Bates, MARSP Treasurer
hessbates@att.net

8 | VANGUARD | www.marsp.org SPRING 2023



#### TIME TO EXPAND YOUR COVERAGE.

As your life changes, consider some of these benefits and discounts from MARSP & AMBA:

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- Final Expenses Whole Life & Guaranteed Acceptance Life Insurance

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MARSP - Michigan Association Retired School Personnel



Mark your calendar! August 15, 2023 at Brookshire Inn & Golf Club

All proceeds go to the MARSP Foundation Scholarship Fund

#### An Interview with Jon Braeutigam, Chief Investment Officer for the State of Michigan

Could you share with us a little bit about your background and how you came to be the Chief **Investment Officer for the State of Michigan?** 

I was born in Michigan. I went to Michigan State. I graduated in supply chain management back in the day, and then got my master's in finance. I ended up at the retirement system here in the Michigan Department of Treasury Bureau of Investments. I started as an analyst, and in 1997, was made head of the real estate division, which invests in commercial real estate across the US through investment managers. I did that for about a decade, and then in 2008, I was named Chief Investment Officer overseeing all the investments.

Of course, it's a team sport. We have about 75 of us, and 46 of those are investment professionals. The rest are dedicated accountants and lawyers and compliance staff.

#### How has inflation impacted the pension and healthcare funds of retirees?

Inflation is tough. From an investment

perspective, inflation hasn't mattered that much in the long term. In the short term, 2022 was a tough year for stocks and bonds. In fact, the worst year for those two combined going back a hundred years. So, that's pretty bad. Of course, we don't invest the pension fund in just stocks and bonds. We own other assets, too, and those have helped offset a lot of the losses. A stock and bond portfolio last vear would have done -18%, but we were down -4.4%

because of other investments that did really well. That compares to other plans that were down -7.3%, so we feel pretty good about our relative performance.

#### Asset Allocation ~ 12/31/22



How are the dollars of the pension and healthcare funds performing compared to funds of similar size?

That's the scorecard, and for us, that's what life is all about. We really like to look for longer term time periods, because that's what



SPRING 2023 | VANGUARD www.marsp.org

YOUR

retirement system. No one year is that important, but over 10 years, that's very important. Our 10 year return number was 9.5%, and that includes last year's bad year. It's an amazing decade.

That 9.5% compares to 7.4% of other public pension funds. So, whether you pick a short term time period or a long term, we're performing in the very top tier compared to other large public funds in the U.S. I credit the staff for picking great investments and our leadership, who helps guide our investment philosophies.

# What strategies do you use to help reduce loss and increase gain?

One word: diversification. We believe it to be the only free lunch around, and it's academically proven so in the investment world. We own stocks and bonds, which are publicly traded. We also have access to a lot of private market investments. Much of the U.S. economy is not in publicly traded stocks anymore. Some companies, like Amazon and



Apple, have gotten huge, but the total number of public companies have actually decreased over a long period of time.

We want to access the whole U.S. economy so we do a lot of private markets investing and that has the added benefit of bringing a lot of diversification to the portfolio that's been greatly beneficial over time.

CHAPTER SHOUTOUT SPRING 2023

# MARSP'S MASON-LAKE CHAPTER DONATES TO LUDINGTON TEACHERS

The Mason-Lake chapter donated Avon products to show appreciation for teachers at Ludington Area Schools. Thank you, Mason-Lake for supporting active school staff!



SPRING 2023 www.marsp.org | VANGUARD | 11

# IN REMEMBRANCE

"... these immortal dead, who live again in minds made better by their presence."

#### Michigan Almont

Linda Schenburn Roberta Warren

#### Alpena

**Beverly Attwell** Joseph Beland Mary Hart Patrick Jacques Loretta Latlip

#### **Bad Axe**

Kathleen Hass

#### **Barbeau**

Shirley McDowell

#### **Battle Creek** Geraldine Mann

**Bay City** Helen Bishop **Delores DeYong** 

#### **Benton Harbor**

Anne Frey Nancy Howe

#### **Bloomfield Hills Robert Lavens**

# **Boyne City**

Joanne Britton Florine Davis

#### **Bridgeport** Martha Ulmer

#### **Brimley** Verna Eagle

Canton

#### Nicholas Vladu

#### **Carson City** Ila Ritter

Cedarville **Nellie Lindberg** 

#### Charlevoix

Maxine Beramann Barbara Bump **Condit Drury** Clark Hull Sally Saunders Isabelle Seidel Gordon VanWieren **Grace Warner** Gail Wiemer

#### **Clinton Twp**

Jacque Laverge Martha Wyborski

#### Coldwater Wilford Loose

#### **Davison** David Wood

Dearborn Anne McWatt

#### **Drummond Island** Charles Krahnke

#### **East Jordan** Martha Annear Bernice Carey Marian Daneff Ralph Kitson Jr

Luezetta Kitson Rennie Sue Pray Wayne Saunders Shirley Shepard Jean Strehl Virginia Vance

#### **Eckerman Dorothy Scott**

#### Escanaba Eva Mohr

# Farwell

#### Tom Dorcey

#### Fennville Charles Hancock

#### **Fibre**

Muriel Chadwick

#### **Flint**

Jean Boyle

#### Flushing Marjorie Haven

Frankenmuth

#### Lucille Kirchhoff

Freeland Elizabeth Proulx

#### Gaylord

**Beverly Korpela** 

#### Goetzville **Edward McGarvey**

**Grand Rapids** Colleen Treece

### Grawn

Kay Saxton

#### **Harper Woods**

Rose Sosnowski

#### Hessel **Annegret Goehring**

### Rosemary Beckman

#### Horton

Luann Pengra

#### Hudsonville Jane Stevenson

Kalamazoo Ellen Faurot Mary Fischer **Betty Mackay** 

#### **Kinross**

Gerald Radecki Rita Radecki

**Shirley Rodgers** 

#### Lansing

Pauline Adams

#### Lapeer

John Braidwood

#### **Lincoln Park**

Michael Gilhool

#### Livonia

**Delphine Goodwin** 

#### **Mackinac Island**

Jacquelyn Bolander Richard Bolander

#### Macomb

Richard Gallop

#### Manistique John Males

#### Marquette Margaret Bogdan

# Grace Dubow

#### Menominee **Ruth Thiex**

#### Metamora **David Blauet**

#### Midland **Ruth Wissmueller**

#### Montrose **Grace Saladine**

#### Munising Roland Johnson

Muskegon

#### Ann Archambault

Negaunee **Ethel Dobson** 

#### **New Baltimore**

Kathleen McCormick

#### Northport Pauline Nielson

Novi **Elvin Graves** 

#### Ontonagon

George Barron

#### Ossineke

Suzanne Lawson

#### **Petoskey**

Margaret Thomson

#### Pickford

Henry Meltvedt Cecil Thompson

#### Plymouth

Doreen Lawton

#### **Portage**

**Darlene Lawton** Marilyn Smith Kay Spade

#### Presque Isle

Teresa Blackman

**Rochester Hills** Richard Gwinn

#### Roscommon

Lowell Cage

#### Ruth

Karen Gentner

#### Saginaw Marjorie Roehm

### **Sault Saine Marie**

Aili Allen Marquetta Bruce James Honkanen Marilyn Robbins Margaret Zenda

#### **Scotts**

**Paul Schutter** 

#### **Shelby Twp**

Irene Gardocki S. Curtis

#### Southfield

Wiliam King

#### **Spring Lake** John Jarvi

#### **St Clair Shores**

#### **Delores Smith**

#### St Ignace **Muriel Woods**

#### St Johns Jerry Pulliam

St Joseph Dennis Bowen Charles Salvano

#### Stevensville

Gladys Peeples-Burks Nancy Schroeder

#### Swartz Creek

Jean Sowa

#### Warren

Virginia Manteuffel

#### Westland

Lorna Pudas

#### Wolverine

Karen Heide

#### Zeeland

**Bonnie Shaw** 

#### Arizona Anthem

David Featheringill

#### **Florida** Auberndale

Terence Graves

#### **Bradenton**

Harley Kirby

#### Winter Haven **Evelyn Snyder**

**Indiana Portage** George Strickland

# Missouri

Independence Haddock Snyder

Virginia Vanpeenen

#### **North Carolina** Lincon

Tennessee Cookeville Nan Stewart

#### Texas The Colony

#### Vernice Nelson **Virginia**

Bassett

#### Alice Bumstead **Washington DC**

#### Ruth Lurn **West Virginia** Elkview John Hughes

Kevin Kelm

SPRING 2023 12 VANGUARD www.marsp.org

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January 1, 2023 - February 28, 2023

Contributions to MARSP include donations to the General Fund.

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**SPRING 2023** VANGUARD I 13

#### MARSP FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTIONS

January 1, 2023 - February 28, 2023

Contributions to the MARSP Foundation include donations to the following funds: Scholarship Fund, General Fund, Richard and Margaret Smith Fund and the MARSP Foundation Endowment Fund.

#### Members

Beth Alberti - Macomb North Dorothy Andrews - Wayne Metro Jacqueline Andrews - Washtenaw Richard Ayling - Grand Traverse Virginia Barker - Wayne NW Adrian Bass - Ingham - Greater Lansing Elizabeth Berman - MARSP John Blythe - Ottawa Julianna Bock - Oakland Suburban Karen Brandenburg - MARSP Marilyn Brinker - Lapeer Carol Brown - Huron Estella Brown - Kent Susanne Brzakowski - MARSP Barbara Burdick - MARSP Annette Card - Saginaw Elaine Carriere - Genesee Kalista Castine - Kent Beverly Ceno - Genesee SE Enid Check - Wayne Metro Cynthia Cockrel - Wayne Detroit Annmarie Deering - Wayne NW Cynthia Denardis - Wayne Metro Doyle Disbrow - Grand Traverse Nikki Elrod - Kalamazoo Sonja Franchett - Macomb East Kathleen Golder - MARSP Donald Goven - Washtenaw Marilee Greene - Bay Area John Hardy - Livingston Laurelynné Harris - Emmet Christy Hilgers - Houghton-Keweenaw Patricia Himes-Fraley - Branch Walkyria Hockey - Óakland North Cheri Holman - Wayne NW Janet Hotchkiss - Livingston Michael Hurley - Wayne Metro Mary Irons - Óttawa Carol Jacobs - Bay Area Carole Jacobs - Livingston Nancy Justin - Kalamazoo Susan Kettle - Kent Susan Kielb - Washtenaw Christine King - Branch Mary Kish - St Clair Karin Klein - Wayne NW Henry Knoch - Delta Luke Koenigsknecht - Clinton-Shiawassee Karen Koski-Roe - Washtenaw John Krienke - Washtenaw Robert Kucera - Kalamazoo Timothy Lentz - Oakland North Paul Lerg - Crawford-Oscoda Mary Letts - Marquette Sam Maisano - Saginaw Judith Masserang - Macomb North William Mcnulty - Van Buren Cheryl Millikin - Crawford-Oscoda Gunder Myran - Mecosta-Canadian

Holly Norman - Leelanau Lester Norton - Ingham - Greater Lansing Geraldine O'Grady - Oakland-Farmington Charline Oden - Ósceola Velma Oliver - Oakland North Richard Overholt - Ogemaw Anne Oxenrider - Branch Richard Perrin - MARSP Clarice Peters - Crawford-Oscoda Suzanne Raven - MARSP Tim Raymer - Kent Marilyn Reid - Genesee SE Tamara Rollins - Livingston Sandra Rosenfeld - Wayne NW Betsy Ruiter - Kent Bruce Rule - Oakland North Melissa Santini - Ontonagon Kim Schmidt - Crawford-Oscoda Susan Schmidt - Grand Traverse Deborah Sherrod - Clare Ronald Shier - Oakland Suburban Douglas Shonk - Oakland Suburban Deborah Sleik - Dickinson John Sloane - Macomb North Holly Smith - Washtenaw Randolph Smith - Kent Catherine Sonneville - Calhoun Donald Spencer - Monroe South Timothy Staal - Ottawa Mary Stapleton - Wayne NW Regina Stein - MARSP Greg Surma - Isabella Valeria Janet Sutherland - Muskegon Robert Sutter - Wayne NW Barbara Thompson - Menominee Thomas Tithof - Saginaw Coni Towersey - Newaygo Paulette Vanderwill - Wayne Detroit Robert Vanderzwaag - Ottawa Arlene Waggoner - Presque Isle Sue Walter - Hillsdale Janice Weiss Dembs - Oakland Suburban David Werner - Alpena Melissa White - Schoolcraft Martha Wright - Livingston Mary Wyett - Wayne Detroit Jolene Yourist - Monroe South Pam Zientowski - Lapeer Teresa Zigman - MARSP Claudia Zimmerman - Kent

In Memory Of, From Members Carol Bookout from Robert Mitchell Joan Chura from Robert Chura Joseph Michael Luttenberger from Elizabeth Luttenberger Katherine Radford from Dawn Davis

**Foundation Endowment Fund** Virginia Barker - Wayne NW Adrian Bass - Ingham Peter Brock - Delta Rita Brust - Genesee West Annette Card - Saginaw Robyn Carlson - MARSP

Donna Clinard - Kalamazoo Doyle Disbrow - Grand Traverse Grég Estelle - Lapeer Sonja Franchett - Macomb East John Hardy - Livingston Laurelynne Harris - Emmet Christy Hilgers - Houghton-Keweenaw Patricia Himes-Fraley - Branch Cheri Holman - Wayne NW Janet Hotchkiss - Livingston Charles Huhta - Wayne NW Michael Hurley - Wayne Metro Nancy Justin - Kalamazoo Susan Kettle - Kent Arlene Kindel - Monroe South Robert Koplan - Washtenaw John Krienke - Washtenaw Mary Letts - Marquette Sam Maisano - Saginaw Janet Mcbeath - Ingham - Greater Lansing Joan Melvin - Kalamazoo Anne Oxenrider - Branch Richard Perrin - MARSP Judy Priest - Kent Marilyn Reid - Genesee SE Susan Roelofs-Haughn - Grand Traverse Mary Ann Rossman - Livingston Bruce Rule - Oakland North Barbara Ruth - Wayne Metro Susan Rutherford - Saginaw Susan Schmidt - Grand Traverse Douglas Shonk - Oakland Suburban April Smith - Wayne Detroit Donald Spencer - Monroe South Donna Stowe - Leelanau Greg Surma - Isabella Barbara Thompson - Menominee Coni Towersey - Newaygo Sue Walter - Hillsdale David Werner - Alpena Brenda Wheatley - St Clair Pamela Woods - Wayne Metro Martha Wright - Livingston

In Memory Of, From Members Bette Walker from Diane Zygmontowicz

In Memory Of, From Chapters Lapeer for David Blauet and John Braidwood



Salem Nahhat - Wayne Detroit

### **VOLUNTARY BENEFIT DEFENSE FUND (VBDF) CONTRIBUTIONS**

January 1, 2023 - February 28, 2023

The MARSP Board of Directors expresses SINCERE thanks to every member and chapter listed here for the contributions between January 1, 2023 to February 28, 2023, to the MARSP Voluntary Benefit Defense Fund (VBDF). The fund will be used to initiate and/or participate in legal battles that may be necessary to protect Michigan school retirees' benefits over the next few years.

To date, the fund has been used to educate legislators regarding defined contribution and graded premium insurance subsidy legislation; to research and investigate defined contribution and other plans in other states; to purchase the software needed to provide an effective grassroots network; to provide written information to legislators; and other activities necessary to the protection of school retiree benefits.

Nancy Justin - Kalamazoo

#### Members

Janet Anderson - Presque Isle Michele Anderson - Wayne Metro Sharon Ashworth - MARSP Carol Asman - Wayne NW Don Ball - Wayne Metro Kay Barcroft - Ionia Virginia Barker - Wayne NW William Barone - MÁRSP Nancy Barrett - Berrien Kristine Bauman - MARSP Elizabeth Berman - MARSP Lucy Bosio - Colorado Chapter Barbara Bott - Ogemaw Karen Brandenburg - MARSP Carol Brown - Huron Estella Brown - Kent Susanne Brzakowski - MARSP Phyllis Buchanan - Wayne Downriver Barbara Burdick - MARSP Enid Check - Wayne Metro Kim Clark - Washtenaw Donna Clinard - Kalamazoo Cynthia Cockrel - Wayne Detroit Hélen Coverdale - Kalamazoo William Curtis - Grand Traverse Jeanine Dean - Leelanau Verland Drake - Muskegon Dan Eagles - Montcalm Marion Early - Washtenaw Nikki Elrod - Kalamazoo Barbara Febey - Crawford-Oscoda Lois Feider - MARSP Joan Ferrell - Genesee SE Douglas Fox - Oakland North Sonja Franchett - Macomb East Janice Frederick - St Clair Rhonda Gaines - Oakland Suburban Virginia Garner - Wayne NW Patricia Gebhardt - MARSP Ladonna Golden - Van Buren Nancy Gould - Presque Isle Donald Goven - Washtenaw Anne Green - MARSP John Hardy - Livingston Ruth Helwig - Isabella Martha Hendrickson - Macomb North Christy Hilgers - Houghton-Keweenaw Judy Hill - Macomb North Chéri Holman - Wayne NW Marilyn Hopping - MARSP Janet Hotchkiss - Livingston Joyce Houck - St Clair Margaret Hunt - Presque Isle Carole Jacobs - Livingston Cara Jones - Ingham - Greater Lansing

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Kim Schmidt - Crawford-Oscoda Marie Schmidt - Presque Isle Susan Schmidt - Grand Traverse Meri Schoof - MARSP Belinda Seal-Sweet - Oakland North Mary Shaw - Genesee West Joyce Shehee - Kalamazoo Déborah Sherrod - Clare Ida Sledge - Van Buren April Smith - Wayne Detroit Holly Smith - Washtenaw Susan Smith - Colorado Chapter Doris Snodgrass - Macomb North James Snodgrass - Macomb North Pamela Sook - Isabella Donald Spencer - Monroe South Regina Stein - MARSP Penny Stoner - MARSP Joanne Thomas - Wayne Metro Barbara Thompson - Menominee Thomas Tithof - Saginaw Coni Towersey - Newaygo Karen VanKoevering - Kent Kathleen Volk - Tuscola Arlene Waggoner - Presque Isle Sue Walter - Hillsdale David Werner - Alpena Melissa White - Schoolcraft Martha Wright - Livingston Jolene Yourist - Monroe South Roger Zick - Clinton-Shiawassee Teresa Zigman - MARSP Claudia Zimmerman - Kent

#### Chapters

Leelanau

In Memory of, from Members
James Crawford for Lois Griffin
John E. Markiewicz for Melody Provencher
Rebecca J. Stroube for Bob Hommer

SPRING 2023 | VANGUARD | 15



# Believe it or not...

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# WOMEN OF MARSP DURING RENEWAL SEASON

Membership Committee Report by Lillian Jones-Th<mark>omas</mark>

It's a new day, a new season, a new beginning.
I'm writing to you from March 2023, where spring is just beginning to make its way across Michigan. For MARSP, spring is a time for membership renewal, recruitment, and retention. The season also happens to kick-off with Women's History Month – a time in which we honor the contributions of women to our history and culture. What a beautiful beginning!

As members, we're all involved and committed to MARSP's vision "to protect and enhance the pension and healthcare benefits for Michigan public school retirees." This legacy and foundation has been upheld by members and leaders like you for over 70 years. Today, it's up to all of us to keep that legacy going for future generations.

While it may not be March by the time you read this, we hope you'll take time to celebrate the women who have taken up the mantle and kept MARSP financially secure and at the forefront of legislative conversations throughout the organization's history. There are many impactful women at the local chapter levels, across Michigan, and outside the state who sacrifice their time and energy to ensure that public school retirees live out their retirement with joy, stability, and dignity. Let us honor these women for their commitment by:

1. Renewing your membership with MARSP

# 2. Sharing the benefits of a MARSP membership and encouraging other retirees to join

Once you've renewed your membership, consider reaching out to a friend and potential member to share something you've enjoyed from MARSP over the years: your local chapter meetings, state webinars, the Travel Program, Retirement Planning Services, DonorsChoose, the Scholarship Program, legislative updates, or the VANGUARD itself!

Follow MARSP on social media and share MARSP's posts. Remember, too, that when you refer a new member, you are entered into a monthly referral drawing for a VISA® gift card AND an annual drawing to win a stay at the Grand Hotel.

Let's take example from the women who led us to where we are today. Here are a few of the women in my life, past and present, that I'm celebrating:

Bonnie Carpenter Marie Wilkerson Catherine "Kit" Spring Cheryl Harvey Vickie Barnes Pamela Trask Speedy Bates Lillian V. Jones-Thomas Susanne Jakubiak Jill M. Simpson Linda K. Kittredge Cynthia G. Paroda Julie Wagner Diane Fleming Lynne A. Kochmanski Jeanene S. Brandt Delicia Lockhart Kelli Cherrette Erin Parker Mandy Hitsman ...and so many more!

There is strength in numbers, and we need our VOICES heard in the legislative chambers in Lansing. Spring, summer, autumn, and winter is a continuum, just as the mission and purpose of MARSP is a continuum. Let us begin again, like springtime, by renewing and getting involved. Be impactful, like the great women of MARSP!





The Membership Committee is co-chaired by Lillian Jones-Thomas & Les Nixon

SPRING 2023 I VANGUARD I 17

# RENEWAL MADE EASY.



STEP 1:

Visit www.marsp.org/renew

STEP 2: Login to your MARSP Account

STEP 3: Click "Mv Profile" and then "Membership"

STEP 4: Click "Renew" and complete checkout process.



STEP 1: Cut out and complete the MARSP Membership Form located on page 19.

STEP 2: Include a check or credit card number for state dues (\$40) + chapter dues. Dues list below.

**STEP 3:** Mail form and payment to:

**MARSP** PO BOX 23214 Lansing, MI 48909

STEP 4: Please allow adequate time for your payment to reflect.



STEP 1: Call MARSP

888-960-4022 Monday - Friday, 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM EST

# 2023-2024 STATE & CHAPTER DUES:

MICHIGAN					
Alger - \$5					
Allegan - \$5					
Alpena - \$5					
Baraga - \$5					
Barry - \$7					
Bay, Northern					
Bay Arenac - \$10					
Bay Area - \$10					
Berrien - \$9					
Branch - \$5					
Calhoun - \$6					
Charlevoix - \$5					

**MARSP - \$40** 

Cheboygan - \$5 Chippewa-Mackinac - \$5 Iron - \$10 Clare - \$5 Clinton/Shiawassee - \$5 Crawford-Oscoda - \$5 Delta - \$5 Dickinson - \$5

Eaton - \$7 Emmet - \$10 Genesee - \$9 Genesee Southeast - \$7 Genesee West - \$9 Gladwin - \$5 Gogebic - \$10 Grand Traverse - \$10 Hillsdale - \$5 Houghton-Keweenaw - \$5 Huron - \$5 Ingham, Greater Lansing - \$0 Ionia - \$10

Isabella - \$10 Kalamazoo - \$10 Kent - \$10 Lapeer - \$8 Leelanau - \$10

Lenawee - \$0 Livingston - \$5 Luce County/ Tahquamenon - \$10 Macomb East - \$8 Macomb North - \$8 Manistee - \$8 Marguette - \$5 Mason-Lake - \$10 Mecosta-Canadian Lakes - \$10 Menominee - \$5 Monroe South - \$5 Montcalm - \$5 Muskegon - \$15 Newaygo - \$7 Oakland North - \$7 Oakland Suburban - \$6 Oakland-Farmington Oceana - \$10

Ogemaw - \$6 Ontonagon - \$5 Osceola - \$5 Otsego - \$10 Ottawa - \$10 Presque Isle - \$10 Roscommon - \$10 Saginaw - \$7 Schoolcraft - \$7 St. Clair - \$8 St. Joseph - \$8 Tuscola - \$5 Van Buren - \$10 Washtenaw - \$10 Wayne Detroit - \$12 Wayne Downriver - \$10 Wayne Metro - \$5 Wayne Northwest - \$8 Wexford-Missaukee - \$7

#### **ARIZONA** NW Valley of Sun - \$8

#### **COLORADO** Colorado Chapter - \$10

**FLORIDA** Tallahassee/ South Georgia - \$1 Tri-County - \$5

#### **TENNESSEE** Tennessee East - \$5

18 VANGUARD **SPRING 2023** www.marsp.org

# MARSP MEMBER RENEWAL FORM



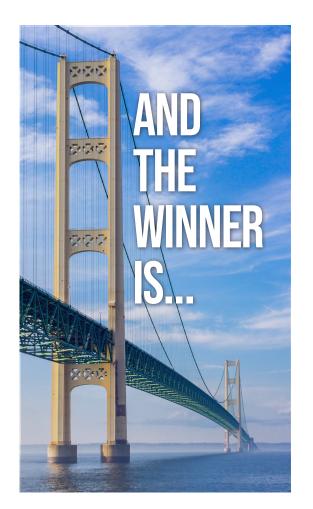
MARSP State Dues - \$40 Referred by:  Chapter Dues Please renew local chapter dues for the following chapter:  Auto Renewal (email required) I authorize MARSP to automatically renew my Stat and Local Chapter (if applicable) Membership the first week of March each year beginning in 2023 using the credit card information provided below.	As the usual beneficiaries of benefits, spouses have a voice too! Help MARSP grow its membership by signing your spouse up as a member.  Please make my spouse a member of MARSP! I am including an additional \$40 for state MARSP membership for my spouse. Please include applicable chapter dues.  Name of Spouse:  Date of Birth:  Email Address: (spouses may not share an email address)			
MAKE A CONTRIBUTION	MARSP Foundation Funds:			
MARSP Funds:	Scholarship Fund to help active school staff with tuition costs to further their education.			
── VBDF (Voluntary Benefit Defense	Foundation General Fund to work toward the Foundation mission.			
Fund) to be used for the legal defense of school retiree benefits.	Richard and Margaret Smith Fund to assist members			
MARSP General Fund to assist the finance committee in meeting	with financial needs  Endowment Fund interest only used for Foundation programs.			
expenses for the current budget year.	In Honor or In Memory of:			
In Honor or In Memory of:	Chapter Name:			
Chapter Name:	Contribution amount:			
Contribution amount:	Make check payable to: MARSP Foundation Inc. Please do not combine with dues payment.			
PAYMENT INFO				
Member Name				
Phone Number	Email Address			
Payment Options: Credit Card Check(s) encl	osed			
Card Number Exp	o. date CVV			
Name as it appears on card Am	ount Date			
Cardholder signature				

Overpayment will be considered a donation.



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# PAM SOCHAKI MACKINAC ISLAND WINNER!

MARSP members who refer a friend, former colleague, or spouse/pension beneficiary are entered into a monthly drawing for a \$25 Visa® gift card, as well as the grand prize drawing of a trip for two to the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island!

MARSP members referred 14 new or former members from January 1, 2023 - March 31, 2023!

The 14 referrals have the following chapter associations: Branch, Calhoun, Genessee Southeast, Kalamazoo, Saginaw, Tuscola, Wayne Detroit, Wayne Northwest

The \$25 Visa® gift card referral winners: Diane Pridgeon for referring Suzanne Fillmore (Branch), Calvin Mott for referring Mary Ann Stange (Saginaw), & Margaret Barda for referring Susan Scalabrino (Calhoun)

Do you know an active or retired public school employee who would benefit from a MARSP membership? Invite them to be a part of our community by sharing this issue of *VANGUARD* and the membership form located on page 19!