

# “WEX—MISS” NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 1

WINTER/SPRING 2024



## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAPTER PRESIDENT

*It's a new year and we're still getting our pensions and have health insurance. Thank you, MARSP!*

As you recall, the Michigan Legislature voted to “repeal” the pension tax for many of you. This is occurring over a 4-year period and won’t affect your 2023 taxes but will start in 2024. Before the 2020 elections, almost all the candidates and the governor committed to eliminating the pension tax altogether for retirees, but politics resulted in what was finally approved. My point being, we must stay vigilant and support our organization with our membership. We continue to have a representative on the Retirement Board and our strength is in our numbers.

REMEMBER TO RENEW AND REMIND YOUR FRIENDS TO DO THE SAME.

We will begin meeting again in April, and I hope you will attend our meetings and become involved to help spread the word about our important organization. Your Executive Board appreciates your input and support. Enjoy these next two months of “winter,” and I look forward to seeing you APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2024.

### 2024

April 18, 11:30 am  
Tour Cadillac High School new Bldg

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May 16, 9:30 am  
MARSP Annual & Chapter Mtg w/election of officers

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No Meetings JUNE, JULY, AUGUST

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Sept 19, 9:30 am  
TO BE DETERMINED

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Oct 17, 11:00 am  
Annual Food Drive  
TO BE DETERMINED

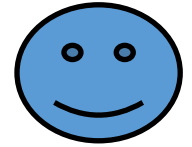
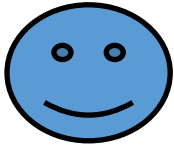
## CALLING ALL MEMBERS!

The quote “Our strength is in our numbers” does not only apply to MARSP advocacy and legislative lobbying efforts for our pensions and health care benefits. It also applies to each of us in our daily lives. Do you know of a member who may need some encouragement, cheer, or support? Please contact Laurie McKay to send a card and well wishes. Together, we truly are stronger. Text: (231) 942-1982: or [laurie.m.mckay@gmail.com](mailto:laurie.m.mckay@gmail.com)



13th STREET CAFE





We had good times together—April, May, September, October

Take a Look . . .

**BUSINESS MANAGEMENT CLASS AT CTC  
CREATED OUR MARSP POSTER THAT IS  
PLACED IN LOCAL SCHOOLS' STAFF  
WORKROOMS TO GET OUR BRAND OUT**

**WEX-MISS CHAPTER WANTS YOU!  
YOU MIGHT NEED US!**

**MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF  
RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL**

**WEX-MISS CHAPTER  
MARSP OBJECTIVES**

**COMMUNITY & STUDENTS & CONNECTIONS**

- \*MARS P Support
- \*DonorsChoose
- \*Member Support
- \*Legislative Updates
- \*Insurance/Pension Information
- \*Non-Profit Organizations Support

For information and how to join  
visit: [marsp.org](http://marsp.org)

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**YOU NEED MARSP - MARSP NEEDS YOU!**

**APRIL**

**THERE**

**MAY**

**INSTALLED OFFICERS**

**VP—FRAN OKOREN**

**TRES—SUZANNE  
TOWERS**



**WCCU  
CREDIT UNION-  
PRESENTED INFORMATION  
ABOUT AVOIDING BEING  
SCAMMED**



**SEPTEMBER**

**LUNCH AND GOLF IN SEPTEMBER  
AT LAKEWOOD ON THE GREEN.  
GOOD FRIENDS, GOOD FOOD, AND  
GOOD GOLF!! IF YOU'RE A GOLFER,  
JOIN US NEXT TIME. (This meeting  
included guests.)**



### OCTOBER 19 MEETING W/ SUPERINTENDENTS

Our October membership meeting was held at the Career Tech Center in Cadillac. Our program focused on current educational needs of local school districts including finances, Covid monies, and the mental state of students and staff. Our panel included Scott Akom, McBain Superintendent, Len Morrow, Manton Superintendent, Dave Cox, Superintendent of Wexford/Missaukee and Manistee ISDs, and Andrea Scheidel, Special Education, Assistant Superintendent.

The Superintendents discussed General Education funding from the state of Michigan. Funding remains positive from the State. Additional funds from Covid relief have been utilized in local districts to support mental health concerns for students. Monies have been used to provide additional staff including counselors and social workers. The problem for local districts remains in the areas of staff recruitment and retention. Some waivers for staff certification have been granted to help with general education. Special Education teacher certification is still the one area that has not been allowed to make accommodations for teacher certification, creating numerous vacancies in areas of Special Education.,

Student test scores are lower than pre-Covid levels. Support interventions have been used to help fill in the gaps. State testing continues to be one area of concern in all facets of education. Teacher evaluation also continues to be tied directly to student classroom performances.

The general consensus from our panel discussions was also focused around retention of educators due to lack of respect and appreciation of all educational staff. Competitive teaching salaries based on where you live in the state continue to plague rural areas in recruitment of staff.

**\*\*\*\*\*A PRE-RETIREMENT INFO MEETING WILL BE HELD MARCH 14, 2024 AT 5:30 PM AT THE WMISD CTC, LAKE SUPERIOR RM, CADILLAC. ATTEND IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO RETIRE SOON!!!!**

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**MARSP-PROTECTING YOUR FUTURE FOR YOUR HEALTH CARE & PENSION BENEFITS!**

**CALL OR TEXT FOR ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS OR NEEDS**

**\*www.marssp.org**

