



Macomb North Chapter



Michigan Association of
Retired School Personnel
Protecting your future

Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel

NEWSLETTER – FALL 2024

There's nothing like Michigan weather! Despite the calendar saying August a few weeks ago, the temperatures felt like September, but as school begins, it's back to the 80's and high humidity. Ah, Michigan!

The Macomb North Chapter of MARSP will begin meeting again very soon. As you may recall, Ken's Kitchen, where we've been meeting for the last 2 years, had a fire in May and will be closed for the rest of 2024.

Members suggested several other restaurants that might work for us. In August, members who had attended a meeting in 2024 received an email with information about the 4 restaurants that were willing to host us:

Golden Corral, the Aspen, Ike's, and Green Lantern (Fraser). They were asked to share their opinion on the options. The Aspen received the most votes.

The manager at the Aspen is happy that we are returning and willing to accommodate us. We will meet in the front dining room. Instead of the set menu, we will order from the regular lunch menu and have separate checks. Yippee!

The Aspen needs to know how many to plan for, so reservations are required by Friday, September 6, 2024. To reserve your place, you need to contact our treasurer, **Darlene Kosakowski**. You can email her at

jdki49@gmail.com or call her at **586-292-8418**. Please put September MARSP meeting in the subject line of the email and tell Darlene your name(s) in the body of the email. If you call Darlene, please leave a voicemail with your name(s) and phone number. Also please spell your first and last name. EMAILS ARE PREFERRED.

In September our program will be Dave Tarrant, director of MORE, the Macomb Organization for Retiree Enrichment. He will be sharing information about the classes and events available this fall. We will also be reviewing and adopting the Chapter budget for 2024-2025.

Mike Schichtel is contacting speakers for our October and November meetings.

December will be something special! We will again be joining the Macomb East Chapter on Wednesday, December 4th at Infinity Hall, 16650 E. 14 Mile Road, Fraser. At their December meeting, they are entertained by the Fraser High School Choir.

At the December meeting we will collect supplies to support the MISD Homeless Education Project. More information will be available at the October and November meeting and will be included in the reminder emails for those meetings. Call Cathy or Mike if you don't have access to email, but plan to attend these meetings.

Your Leadership team is looking forward to seeing you at the Aspen on September 10th!

~Cathy & Mike

2024 CHAPTER SERVICE AWARD

MARSP has award programs available to local chapters to celebrate accomplishments. Our Past President, Jim Snodgrass, began our Chapter's involvement with these programs.

MARSP has established one CHAPTER SERVICE AWARD for each chapter for the purpose of recognizing local and/or state services of members of that chapter during their retirement from public school work. This year we honored Cheryl Stafford.

In 2017 Mary Satawa, our Membership Chairperson, had to step down due to health challenges. We had no volunteers to take on these responsibilities. The Chapter Co-Presidents decided to ask Cheryl Stafford to be our Membership Chair. She had served for several years on the Scholarship committee and her perspective on the

applicants was appreciated. Along with keeping track of our membership numbers and welcoming new members, Cheryl also prepares the files for our Chapter Directory every fall. It's a time-consuming task and we appreciate Cheryl's attention to detail as she works with the publisher to make sure the directory is accurate. Cheryl, thank you for all you do on behalf of the Macomb North Chapter of MARSP!

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

Greetings, Macomb North MARSP Chapter Members! I hope that you have enjoyed a healthy and reasonably contented summer season, and that you're ready for autumn to arrive. "Who is ever ready for THAT?" you may be asking, but the season will change, ready or not, so...we may as well get the flannel sheets and shirts organized, and figure out the winter tire situation early rather than late, y'know??

Just to refresh your memories, our scholarship committee awarded just one \$500 scholarship in June, with our decision being announced at the meeting held at The Voyageur in St. Clair.

Our 2024 scholarship recipient is Emma Hanson, who is Sue Harris's granddaughter. Emma attended Eisenhower High School in Utica, and she graduated in 2021. Emma began college-level work at Macomb Community College, earning a 3.7 GPA and Dean's List honor. She transferred to Pensacola State College in Florida, continuing her scholastic efforts in General Studies and earning an Associates' degree last spring. Now Emma is working in PSC's Nursing program, with the goal of graduating in 2025. In her "free" time, Emma Hanson works at McDonald's, studies piano, and is respected for her strong work ethic, which, along with striving for academic excellence, as always, has resulted in a 3.5 GPA. We are very happy to have awarded Emma a \$500 scholarship!

You may be asking why we only awarded one scholarship this time. Well, it seems that, this year, we only received one scholarship application. Fortunately, that "app" was from an excellent student, a young woman whose paperwork was all there, and whose recommendations and transcripts, three of the criteria which we always consider, gave evidence of a person deserving of any help which we could give. Of course, we had questions about why only one set of forms had shown-up in my mailbox.

As a result of discussions committee members and leaders have had, we are going to institute some changes in the number of awards, the amount of the awards, and whether to use technology to, for example, send applications via the Internet. These thoughts were shared with members of Chapter Leadership, and it was at the meeting on August 15 that the following proposals were decided upon:

- 1) award three scholarships only;
- 2) raise the amount of each scholarship to \$1000; and
- 3) send scholarship forms to applicants via e-mail.

These proposals will be acted upon at our September meeting, so if you would like to have a chance to join the discussion about them, as well as get the opportunity to vote on them, please attend the meeting on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at the Aspen Restaurant on Hall Road, just west of Heydenreich Road.

See you there!

Meanwhile, if you have any relatives (child, stepchild, grandchild, step-grandchild, niece, nephew, grand-niece, or grand-nephew) who might be interested in applying for a hopefully more generous scholarship for 2025, applications will be available before the aforementioned autumn season gets too much older and colder. More news to follow!!

Laura Barbour

Scholarship Committee Chair

[248-853-5465//denilaur@sbcglobal.net](mailto:denilaur@sbcglobal.net)

DONORS CHOOSE

This spring the Macomb North Chapter again participated in Donors Choose. We donate to Donors Choose in honor of our deceased members. Thanks to your Chapter membership dues:

The young learners in Mrs. G's class at Schofield Early Childhood Center in Warren will have the opportunity to develop empathy, responsibility, and social skills through pretend play with the dolls from the Snuggle Squad Support.

Mrs. Brown's students at West Utica Elementary School in Shelby Township will continue to fall in love with reading thanks to the books you have brought to her classroom for this school year!

At Cheyenne Elementary School in Macomb Ms. VanderHagen's students have Flexible Seating that Encourages Student Growth & Achievement and Supports Student Learning.

Ms. Eagle's students at the Croswell Early Learning Center in Romeo are also using Flexible Seating because it helps Large Groups Feel Less Overwhelming.

Mrs. Greco's pre-school students at Holden Elementary School in Sterling Heights are experiencing A Sweet Ending.

If you are looking for a way to support classroom teachers, check out their website,

<https://www.donorschoose.org>. You can also donate through MARSP as described in the 2024 summer edition of the Vanguard.

You may want to encourage former colleagues to use the site if they need help getting funds to provide opportunities for their students.

CHAPTER GOVERNANCE

Questions? Comments? Thoughts?

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SPECIAL NOTE: With all the telemarketers, scam artists, spoofers, etc., many of us don't answer the phone if we don't recognize the phone number. If you're calling anyone from the Leadership team, please leave a message and we'll get back to you.



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MEMBERSHIP

If you haven't renewed your MARSP membership for 2024-25, now's the time. If you don't renew this will be your last newsletter since we get email and mailing addresses from the MARSP database. Remember, our MARSP representatives have more influence with legislators if our membership continues to grow. There are many vital issues in process and we could lose our clout if our membership drops. You can renew your dues 1) on line at MARSP.org, 2) by mailing a \$48 check to MARSP, PO Box 23214, Lansing, MI 48909-3214, or 3) contact **Cheryl Stafford** at **(586) 876-4589** or chestahome@gmail.com. **Dues are \$40.00 a year for MARSP and \$8.00 a year for Macomb North Chapter.** If you receive MARSP emails and publications, but not Macomb North ones, you may have forgotten to include the \$8 chapter dues to your check. After age 85 you become an honorary member of our chapter; and your MARSP dues are reduced to \$15.00 per year.

We encourage you to share your email address with MARSP when you renew your membership. To print and mail our newsletter costs over \$2 per copy. The email version costs us nothing, gets to your inbox sooner, and comes in color. If we have your email address, you will receive reminders about meetings and other announcements that are only sent via email.

Richard and Margaret Smith Fund

If you need a bit of financial help, our **Smith Fund** monies are available. Examples of what the funds may be used for are: medical expenses, taxes, mortgage payments, house repairs, utility bills, food or medicine, clothing costs, MARSP dues, etc. Also, if your finances have been impacted by the pandemic, the **Smith Fund** can help. Please notify either of our Co-Presidents if you are facing financial difficulties or know of another member who is in need. Mike Schichtel, (586) 463-0450, or Cathy McWatt, (586) 243-7218.