



Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel

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Donald O. Johnson
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Steve Gordon
Past President

Hess Bates
Treasurer

Speedy Bates
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OUR MISSION

*To protect and enhance
pension and health
insurance benefits for
all Michigan's public
school retirees.*

2025 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Agenda

- | | |
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| 1. Call to Order, Welcome, Invocation, Pledge | Area Director |
| 2. 2025 Annual Member Update (Video): | |
| Introduction | Royce Humm
MARSP Executive Director |
| Legislative Advocacy | Chuck Abshagen
Legislative Committee
Co-chair |
| Supporting Future Retirees | Royce Humm |
| Scholarship Fund | Marie Wilkerson
Foundation Chair |
| Member Connections | Royce Humm |
| Member Impact | Sue Jakubiak
MARSP President |
| MPERS Pension & Healthcare:
Common Member Questions | Anthony Estell
ORS Executive Director |
| Closing: Thank You | Royce Humm |
| 3. Election of Area and Assistant Area Director
Odd-Numbered Areas only.
Determined by a majority vote of members present | Chapter President |
| 4. Area Director's Report | Area Director |
| 5. MARSP Year-End Review | Written Handout |
| 6. MARSP Foundation Report | Written Handout |
| 7. Award Presentations | Area Director |
| 8. Adjournment | |





Michigan Association of
Retired School Personnel
Protecting your future

2024 YEAR-END REVIEW

A Message from MARSP's Executive Director

Dear Member,

As we reflect on 2024, I want to express my gratitude for your role in strengthening MARSP's mission to support public school retirees. Thanks to your involvement, we continue to make significant progress in advocacy, education, and member engagement.

I also want to give a special thanks to our state officers and chapter leaders -- members who volunteer their time and talents in retirement to keep us connected, informed, and protected. Their commitment ensures our collective voice remains strong.

Through MARSP, current and future public school retirees have the collective power to face collective challenges. As we kick off this season of membership renewal, I encourage you to share MARSP's mission, resources, and programs with those around you. Let others know why membership is so important. After all, as Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus said, "Aging is everybody's business and everybody's future."

And remember -- when you refer someone to MARSP, you're entered into a monthly drawing for a \$25 VISA gift card, plus a grand prize drawing for a trip for two to the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island!

Together, we will continue to make a meaningful impact for Michigan's public school retirees. Here's to another year of progress and connection!

Sincerely,

Royce C. Humm
MARSP Executive Director

2024 YEAR-END REVIEW

MARSP Program Highlights

Legislative Advocacy

MARSP remained a steadfast advocate for the Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement System (MPERS) in 2024. As retiree healthcare reached full funding, the legislature saw an opportunity to redirect its 2024 contribution. MARSP fought to ensure this shift did not compromise long-term security of the healthcare fund. While the funds were ultimately redirected to school operations, safeguards are in place to maintain full funding and address future obligations. MARSP will continue holding the state accountable and advocating for a fully funded pension system.

Connecting Members

MARSP provides retirees with opportunities to stay informed, engaged, and connected. Our local chapters remained vibrant hubs for advocacy and camaraderie, while MARSP publications, including *VANGUARD* magazine and digital updates, kept members up to date on policy changes, financial planning, and member stories.



The MARSP Travel Program also thrived, bringing retirees together for enriching experiences nationwide and abroad. Whether exploring new destinations or rekindling old friendships, our travelers remind us that retirement is an opportunity to embrace adventure, learning, and connection.

Supporting Future Retirees

Retirement security isn't just about today's retirees—it's also about those preparing for their future. In 2024, MARSP Retirement Planning Services hosted 133 pension seminars, helping 5,788 public school employees understand their benefits. Our DonorsChoose Fund supported 90 classroom projects, benefiting 9,460 students, while our Scholarship Program continued to fund professional development for educators. Investing in future retirees strengthens Michigan's education system and ensures the long-term stability of public school retirement benefits.



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Foundation Chair
Marie L. Wilkerson

Chief Executive Officer
Royce C. Humm

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www.marsp.org/foundation



2024 YEAR-END REVIEW MARSP Foundation Report

The MARSP Foundation is a separate entity from MARSP, formed as a public charity under the IRS Code designation of 501(c)(3). It was established to allow members to make tax-deductible donations to MARSP. The purpose of the Foundation, as outlined in the bylaws, is to provide educational information through forums, seminars, workshops, and newsletters. The Foundation has several committees to oversee its projects and the Board of Directors meets at least once each fiscal year to determine objectives and monitor the progress of the organization.

The **Scholarship Fund** aims to provide five professional development scholarships annually, of up to \$1,000 each, to currently working public school employees. Awards are determined based on professional aspirations, individual needs, and the potential impact on schools and students. Applications are accepted through January 1st - March 31st of each year. The Foundation awarded ELEVEN (11) scholarships totaling \$7,000 in 2024. The Scholarship Fund also sponsors an annual golf outing, with proceeds helping fund the scholarships. In 2024, the Foundation used a mail-based campaign to share the Scholarship Fund's impact, and we were able to maintain our annual revenue with this statewide effort.

Many MARSP members are quick to offer help but hesitate to ask for it themselves. The **Richard and Margaret Smith Fund** provides financial assistance to members to help cover basic living expenses. Chapter presidents may apply for grants of up to \$500 on behalf of individual members to help cover basic living expenses. Chapters are asked to match the funds but are not required to do so. The chapter then provides assistance directly to the member. Funding for the Smith Fund comes directly from the contributions of MARSP members. Applications are accepted year-round and all inquiries and applications are confidential.

The **Endowment Fund** creates a lasting resource to support MARSP's mission. Contributions are carefully invested, with only the interest used to fund the Foundation's initiatives. As of January 31, 2025, the market value of the fund is nearly \$100,000, of which, \$27,000 are unrestricted funds.

The Foundation continues to be an important part of the parent organization, MARSP. If you would like to support the efforts of the MARSP Foundation, please look for the Foundation appeal envelope in your annual membership dues mailing or visit www.marsp.org/foundation to learn more. We hope you'll also join us for the annual golf outing in support of the Foundation Scholarship Fund in August 2025. Check MARSP communication for registration and sponsorship information.





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COMING UP AT MARSP

Membership Reminders

Renew annual memberships by June 30th.

Early Bird Renewal Program: Renew your membership between January 1st - March 31st of each year for the chance to win a \$100 VISA gift card.

It may not seem like much, but renewing your membership early or before June 30th of each year makes a huge difference for our association's small but mighty staff. When you pay your dues early, you help streamline our busiest season, giving the office more time to focus on programs and services that protect your benefits and add value to your retirement.

Referral Program: When you refer a new or returning member, you're automatically entered into the 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.

Four Actions You Can Take to Support MARSP's Advocacy in 2025

1. Renew your membership: Your membership ensures MARSP remains a strong voice for public school retirees.

2. Contribute to the Voluntary Benefit Defense Fund (VDBF): Contributions to VDBF support legal and legislative efforts to protect the benefits of Michigan public school retirees. The funds may be used in activities such as educating legislators on the defined benefit system; health care, prescription drug, vision and dental benefits; research reports and other activities necessary for the protection of school retirement benefits. www.marsp.org/donate

3. Build relationships with your elected officials: Personal outreach through email, letters, phone calls, or in-person meetings helps policymakers understand the importance of retirement security for Michigan's public school employees.

4. Stay up to date: Keep your contact information and communication preferences current through your online member profile or by calling the MARSP office at 1.888.960.4022.

Together, these actions help safeguard the benefits retirees have earned in 2025 and beyond.

Travel Program Destinations

Booking Your Trip: Scan the QR code to book online or call MARSP's travel partner, Collette Travel, at 1-800-581-8942 and refer to the booking number.



America's Cowboy Country

May 15-22, 2025

Booking #1230468

Travel style: History and nature lovers, this one's for you! Experience the beauty, wildlife, and rich heritage of the American West.

Tour highlights: Badlands, Custer State Park, Crazy Horse, Mount Rushmore, Deadwood, Yellowstone, Grand Teton National Park



Canadian Rockies by Train

July 20-28, 2025

Booking #1284044

Travel style: Perfect for those who enjoy the charm of train travel and want to experience majestic landscapes in comfort.

Tour highlights: Vancouver, Alberta, Jasper, Banff, Calgary



Exploring Britain & Ireland

September 6-20, 2025

Booking #1230532

Travel style: If you have a soft spot for old-world charm, this tour is for you. Enjoy a mix of lively cities and quiet countryside.

Tour highlights: Edinburgh, York, London, Bath, Wales, Waterford, Blarney Castle, Killarney, Ring of Kerry, Dublin



Greece Island Hopper

September 24-October 4, 2025

Booking #1230465

Travel style: From iconic island views to legendary ruins, this trip is perfect for those who enjoy archaeological and cultural experiences.

Tour highlights: Athens, the Temple of Zeus, the Olympic Stadium, the Parthenon, Mykonos, Akrotiri, Oia, Santorini



Patagonia: Edge of the World

January 31-February 14, 2026

Booking #1307843

Travel style: This cruise along the dramatic landscapes of Patagonia is made for MARSP's adventure seekers.

Tour highlights: Buenos Aires, Patagonian Estancia, Torres del Paine National Park, Ainsworth Bay, Pia Glacier, Cape Horn