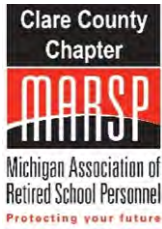


THE TATTLER



THE MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL CLARE COUNTY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

July 12, 2022

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

August marks the month where members are nominated for one of the four officer positions. Once elected (Sept.) and installed (Oct.), those four officers assume their positions on November 1st.

After serving five years as your president, I will not run for this position for the upcoming year.

Your continued support and the Executive Board have helped me achieve a long list of goals I had for our Chapter. We also navigated through COVID and MMC's meeting's requirements.

I believe it's time for a fresh set of eyes on the presidency. There are a few things that are required by the Lansing office. Otherwise, a president can make this position their own. Most members only volunteer for one year. You can do the same.

Feel free to contact me if you have questions, concerns, need help, or are interested.

Liz Smith, President
M.A.R.S.P. Clare County Chapter



A REMINDER

Please bring your clean, outdated, prescription eye glasses to our meetings. A container will be available at the front table. Liz will drop them off in the Lion's Club donation box at Member's First Credit Union. Thank you to Mike Georgia who took last month's donations to a Lion's Club meeting.



RECENT STATE LEGISLATION NEWS

You may have heard that a state budget agreement was made on June 30th. An abundance of money allowed this to happen.

Unfortunately, no tax cuts/relief for retirees were included in this agreement, such as repealing our pension tax. It is reported that these discussions have been pushed back to later this year.

If you haven't contacted House Speaker Jason Wentworth or Senator Rick Outman, please do so. If you have, send another email or letter.

Use the MARSPP website advocacy tool, MESSAGE MY LEGISLATORS, or find their addresses in our current Chapter Directory.

MICHIGAN CHAPTER RECOGNITION FORM

You may be familiar with the Gold seal we have earned and received over the past several years. I want to remind you how this has happened. The purpose of the form is to encourage local chapters to support the programs and goals of MARSP. By doing so, the chapters who are successful carrying out those programs and goals receive a letter from the current MARSP President and either a Gold, Silver, or Bronze seal.



Points are given for the following areas:

- Maintaining Legislative, Health Insurance, and Membership committees.
- Conducting Chapter and Executive Board meetings.
- Providing programs that are listed on our Suggestion slips.
- Publishing Chapter Newsletters.
- Communicating electronically with Chapter members.
- Providing Lansing with the list of our Chapter's officers before Jan. 1st.
- Maintaining a Chapter Website/Face Book page.
- Participating in community service projects such as our Toucan Food donations and recycling outdated prescription eye glasses.
- Providing a scholarship to a local public school district employee.
- Holding pension seminars.

- Attending the Leadership Rally (Gaylord) and/or Legislative Outreach Day (Lansing).
- Contacting local legislators concerning current issues.
- Making contributions to the MARSP Foundation, Bonnie J. Carpenter Educational Center, and the MARSP Voluntary Benefit Defense Fund.

Lastly, the MARSP office adds a final piece by determining the percentage of potential members who are Chapter and State members and whether or not our membership increased over the previous year of Michigan school pension recipients.

PUPPY'S FIRST FETCH

My wolfhound puppy was six months old and 100 pounds when his trainer taught him to fetch in a large veterinary-clinic lobby. The trainer would tell him to get the ball and reward him when he returned with it. He repeated this several times. He then threw the ball twenty feet. It rebounded down a long corridor. The trainer said, "Fetch!" and the puppy ran after it—and returned five minutes later carrying a walker with two tennis balls on its legs.



William Poznanski, Toledo, Ohio, *Reader's Digest*
November 2019



MARSP CLARE COUNTY CHAPTER GOALS AND STRATEGIES

These goals, but not the strategies, have been written in a past TATTLER and mentioned at Membership meetings. They were developed by the Executive Board in July 2019. They are reviewed at monthly Executive Board meetings and are being updated this year. As with many other situations, COVID disrupted the progress we had been making. As always, your input is welcome.

The following three goals have been a focal point since 2019:

GOAL #1: To increase our membership (169) by 5% (177) for 2019-2020 and by 10% (194) by October 2020.

Strategies for Goal #1:

- Each current member reaches out to recruit one new member.
 - Call or make contact with a new/old retiree.
 - Need help to do this. Delegate members to help.
- Invite potential members as guests to a meeting when interesting and pertinent topics are scheduled.
- Create a “Welcome Packet” for new retirees to be mailed/given from our Chapter. As of 2018-2019, the state office sends one, too.
- Send a Membership/renewal/reminder postcard. The Lansing office also contacts members.

GOAL #2: To have MARSP recognized throughout Clare County as an organization that encourages and offers several community programs.

Strategies for Goal #2:

- Scholarship programs for students.
- Honor outstanding employees, teachers, and support staff.
- Fund-raising events.

GOAL #5: Continue to build our MARSP Chapter as a “place to be” on meeting days.

Strategies for Goal #5:

- Good food
- Happy and joyful atmosphere
- Develop friendships
- Out of town trips
- Good information about our retirement years which include pension and health care.
- Be there!!!



MARSP CLARE COUNTY CHAPTER GOALS AND STRATEGIES (Continued)

It was decided to work on the remaining two goals as the others were mastered:

GOAL #3: To establish a closer relationship with all school employees in Clare County.

Strategies for Goal #3:

- Continue to have speakers/programs that highlight students and teachers with unique programs.
- Increase information to future retirees.
- Have support staff members on the Executive Board.
- Solicit ambassadors for each school.
- Provide workshops for all Clare County school employees. ie. Pension Seminar workshops: 101,201,301

GOAL #4: To have a strong communication base with the MARSP State office relative to the most important issues facing all of us.

Strategies for Goal #4:

- Conduct a brief survey of what other Chapters are doing on retirement issues or have our Chapter president talk to other Chapter presidents.
- Have Clare Chapter members attend appropriate MARSP Lansing State meetings, such as Legislative, Membership, etc.
- Read mailed information from the Lansing office like THE VANGUARD, the MARSP website, and email blasts such as the E-VISION Newsletter.
- Keep up with Federal and State legislative and health matters.

?? DID YOU KNOW?? HOME SWEET VACATION HOME



THE IDEA sparked in 2007, when Brian Chesky and Joe Gebbia, realizing that a San Francisco tech conference would make hotel rooms in the area harder to come by, let visitors sleep on air mattresses in their apartment for a fee. They called this humble venture Air Bed and Breakfast, but the company—now known as Airbnb—is worth almost \$100 billion today and has six million listing worldwide.

13 THINGS, Melissa Klurman,
Reader's Digest July/August 2022