

Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel—Berrien County Chapter
Website: www.marsp-bcc.org E-mail: info@marsp-bcc.org

MARSP-BCC Luncheon Meeting

Time, Day, & Date: 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Location: Berrien County RESA, (Regional Education Service Agency), 711 Saint Joseph Avenue, Berrien Springs, Michigan 49103-1583.

Menu: Taco Bar with beef or chicken, lettuce, veggies, sour cream, Mexican rice, fresh fruit; assortment of cookies, brownies and lemon bars; and coffee, decaf-coffee, lemonade, and water

Program: Don Alsbro, "Taking a Trip Down Memory Lane: Lest We Forget Our Heritage"

Collection for the Humane Society: Items needed are listed in the next column.

Reservations: To have sufficient food and to avoid paying for food that is not used, reservations are required. If you are not called by Friday, November 3rd and plan to attend, please call Earlene Whorton at 269-944-1731. You can also make your reservation by sending an email to info@marsp-bcc.org and providing the names of those who will attend the luncheon. Your reservation will be acknowledged by email. The deadline for making or cancelling reservations is noon on Monday, November 6, a week before the November 14 meeting.

Buffet Cost: \$12.00 (Paid at the door.)

MARSP's toll-free number:

888-960-4022

Office Hours:

7:30-11:30 a.m.
12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Message from your MARSP-BCC President

Chapter meeting is November 14 at RESA

WE WILL BE COLLECTING FOR THE HUMANE SOCIETY AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING.

Items needed are:

- Canned kitten/cat food
- Canned puppy/ dog food
- Dry puppy kitten/cat food
- Dry puppy/ dog food
- Cat and dog treats
- Hot dogs (for meds)
- Non-clumping kitty litter
- Bleach
- Laundry soap
- Toilet paper
- Non-pine scented floor cleaner
- Dish soap
- Paper towels
- Hand sanitizer

You should have received the blue covered 2017-2018 chapter directory in the mail. Please go through the directory and find the retired school personnel that you worked with during your years of employment. Check the yearbook to see if any have the symbol **§**. They were members last year and—as of August 31st—had not renewed for 2017-2018. **CALL THEM** and invite them to the November luncheon. There are over 1,200 retired school personnel living in Berrien County. At the end of September, our chapter had 700 members. Let's invite the 500 who are not members to the April 10, 2018, meeting.

Next, think of the ones you worked with who are **not listed** in the yearbook. If you know a MPSEERS retiree who is not a member, you could: (1) give them the membership form printed on page 4, (2) refer them to the MARSP website, or (3) ask them to call the MARSP toll-free number to become a member.

Other Items:

- A comprehensive overview of the changes to BCBS Health Care Plan for 2016-2017 was published in the fall 2017 issue of *VANGUARD*.
- If you are on MIP, October is the month for your pension increase.
- Time changes on November 6 this year.
- In October, you will receive a letter from the Office of Retirement Services with the 2018 insurance rates.

See you at the November 14 MARSP-BCC meeting!

George Pica
MARSP-BCC-President
gpica@yahoo.com

The MARSP Challenge

—BOB KUCERA, MARSP Vice President

We were very effective in keeping a substantial portion of your benefits during this last attack on our retirement. In the last year, we had to defend your retirement benefits against a Legislature intent on closing out the system. We did a great job for our members, and that should be told to every retired person in education. Please remember, the purpose of MARSP is to protect your retirement benefits. We WORK hard to maintain these benefits and pensions.

Now, it is time for each chapter to step up to the plate and take the **MARSP Challenge**. Our theme this year is a take on an old Beatles song: "All you need is One; One is all you need!" Let's strongly encourage every member to go get ONE new member. We challenge you to find one new member before the end of the year. Just one is all we ask.

We are definitely the largest retiree organization, but we are nowhere near our potential. We need you and you need us. Talk to people one-on-one, talk to groups. Tell them about how we make a difference, how we advocate for their insurance. MARSP makes a difference in retirees' lives, and we need your support to keep our mission alive.

One-On-One is a state wide goal. Every member of every chapter is asked to get one member to join MARSP. This can be a spouse, this can be a person who is not retired, yet. This can be a gift membership purchased by you. The goal is for you to get one new member. When you do, please let Linda Hawley or Pat Rizzolo know the name.

Our future depends on membership. Membership is the blood of our organization. Why should you participate? Numbers are needed to achieve our mission: *To protect your pension and preserve your health care!*

You can do this. Communicate with persons you know, including former employees and their spouses. Communicate with persons in the building and district where you were employed. MARSP is an independent, non-partisan organization. We represent ALL school employees. Remember, just one is all we ask. Please accept the challenge, and help make MARSP strong!

2018 Hearing Insurance Benefit

As reported in the fall issue of the *VANGUARD*, among the changes in medical benefits that become effective January 1, 2018, is that MPERS retirees will be using the TruHearing Select Network to access the hearing benefit. All hearing benefits must be accessed through the TruHearing network. **There is no hearing coverage outside of this network.**

Here is how the program works:

1. Call TruHearing at 855-586-5508. You must schedule all appointments through TruHearing.
2. TruHearing will answer your questions and schedule a hearing exam with a local hearing health provider.
3. At your appointment, the provider will conduct a hearing exam and recommend the appropriate hearing aids for you if needed.
4. The hearing aids will be shipped to the provider and you'll return to the office 3–10 days later for your fitting and programming.

Along with personal service and great pricing on hearing aids, TruHearing will give you or your immediate family members who are also eligible for the program:

- A 45-day trial
- 48 free batteries per hearing aid
- Three provider visits for fitting and adjustments
- A three-year manufacturer warranty for repairs and a one-time loss and damage replacement

TruHearing requires that the three follow-up visits must be used within one year after the date of initial purchase.

In Memoriam

Since the November 2016 meeting, the chapter has made contributions to the MARSP Foundation in memory of forty chapter members. These members will be recognized during the November 14, 2017, meeting:

MABEL D SMITH
 NORA J JEFFERSON
 PATRICIA ELIZABETH KELLY
 RODERICK C HALSTAD
 SHIRLEY ANN NIEZGODSKI
 DUANE E BENSON
 EMMA MARIE WHITELOW
 ALLEN JOHN ZIELKE
 MILDRED SLAVIK
 FLORA ALCYONE KOETSIER
 MARGARET WEBER
 DUANE LAWRENCE CHAIN
 DONNA HEYER
 ALICE SWARTZ
 CELIA SPRAGUE
 MARY ELLEN MAMMINA
 VERLON HALL
 VERNON LAWRENCE PEACHEY
 KATHRYN L MACKLIN
 ELIZABETH ANN (BETTY) SHAW
 SHIRLEY A MONTEY
 VIRGINIA BONTRAGER
 ELEANOR MOON KEPHART
 MARION J MANTHE
 SUSAN C FANALY
 SHIRLEY MCCARTHY
 JACK NEWSTED
 MARGARET A BEACH
 HAROLD ELDON PETERS
 JOANN HOLLOWAY
 MARY M GRABER
 MIRIAM L HARRIS
 RONALD ALBERT SCHAFFER
 MARGARET ROSE
 THOMAS SHUBERT
 DONNA E HAHN
 MARY FRANCES HEINEY
 BETTY JANE FISCHER
 CLARA BRANDONISIO
 DORIS SHAW

On The Go... to the Michigan Maritime Museum!

— BUZZ CALVERT

Lazy summer beach days. Warm westerly winds. Perch fishermen bobbing gently in the soft swells of Lake Michigan. This is how many of us think of Michigan's freshwater ocean, and for many of us, these images encapsulate our experiences with this amazing body of water.

But this idyllic scene can alter its personality in moments, creating survival challenges for boaters and shoreline communities. At times like this, brave sailors of the Coast Guard become heroes of the day, leaving the relative safety of harbors to rescue boaters, commercial fishermen, and even freighters that may be in danger from wind and waves.

The heroism of the Great Lakes Coast Guard is not lost or forgotten on shore. At South Haven's **Michigan Maritime Museum**, housed just across the Black River bridge and near the North Beach Pier, a collection of three well restored wooden rescue boats, as well as a pictorial gallery exhibit help visitors to understand the daring of Coast Guard sailors who performed many amazing water rescues, and continue to provide safeguards from bases around Michigan's broad shoreline.

The Maritime Museum is a wonderful community resource for residents of Southwestern Lower Michigan. The Museum campus, which sits on the busy South Haven harbor, is a great way to spend an afternoon. Self-guided tours allow the visitor to walk the Harborwalk, visit an exhibit of

vintage outboard motors, marvel at the tiny Coast Guard rescue craft or participate in a variety of classes and lectures.

Currently featured at the Maritime Museum is the historical exhibit: "Lake Michigan's Call to Duty", which relates our area's maritime response to the United States' plunge into war with Japan after Pearl Harbor. Great Lakes shipping of raw materials vital to the war effort took on great importance, and the Coast Guard became a secure military presence to ensure safe shipping lanes for loaded freighters.

Interestingly, Lake Michigan became a major training site for aircraft carrier pilots after two huge passenger steamers were converted to flattops, enabling literally thousands of new pilots to gain certification in carrier takeoffs and landings. Also, as many Coast Guard personnel were reassigned to seacoast duty, civilians assumed many of their local responsibilities, including water rescues.

Of course, the Maritime Museum offers some unforgettable water experiences, like a leisurely ride on the Lindy Lou, an electric powered river launch that cruises the Black River and harbor. Want to be a tall ship sailor? You might enjoy a sail on Friends Good Will, an accurate recreation of an 1810 sloop that had a significant role in the War of 1812. These, and other boating adventures are available through the Museum, May through October, weather permitting.

Should you go, details and directions are available at www.MichiganMaritimeMuseum.org. Senior citizen admission is seven dollars, adult admission is eight dollars. The grandkids are admitted for five bucks.

Did You Know?

Canola oil comes from rapeseed, not from the canola plant. Rape is a plant in the mustard family. The word *canola* is an acronym for "Canadian oil low acid." The acronym is used because rapeseed oil with erucic acid is used for industrial purposes and can be harmful if consumed and because the word *rape*, derived from the Latin word for turnip, has a negative meaning. Canola oil is made from rape plants bred to have low erucic acid.



Donald E. Knuth, computer scientist, mathematician, professor emeritus at Stanford University, and author of *The Art of Computer Programming* (4 volumes) is also the author of "Potrzebie System of Weights and Measures," *MAD* magazine, issue 33, 1957. (The *potrzebie* equals the thickness of *MAD* issue 26, or 2.263348517438173216473 mm.)

Most carrots labeled and sold as baby carrots are baby-cut carrots, not baby carrots. Mike Yurosek is credited with the creation of baby-cut carrots in the 1980s. Prompted by having carrots rejected by supermarkets because the appearance of the carrots made them less attractive to customers, Yurosek used an industrial green bean cutter to cut the rejected carrots into two-inch pieces and a potato peeler to shape the pieces. Customers appreciated fresh carrots in the form of convenient bite-size pieces and carrot consumption increased. By 2000, a third of the fresh carrots sold in the United States were baby-cut carrots. Yurosek died in 2005 at the age of 82.

Johann David Wyss wrote his fifty-page novel *Swiss Family Robinson* (1812), to instruct children. The novel was not about the Robinson family. Originally published in German and titled *Der Schweizerische Robinson* (*The Swiss Robinson*), the title indicated it was a Swiss novel like the *Robinson Crusoe* novel. Daniel Defoe's novel *Robinson Crusoe* (1719) initiated a genre known as robinsonade, often the depiction of people marooned on an island. William Golding, *Lord of the Flies* (1954) and the Tom Hanks movie *Cast Away* (2000) are more recent examples.

—Compiled by CHARLES LONG

South Haven's Michigan Maritime Museum provides an educational experience that is particularly relevant for Berrien County residents, due to our long shoreline.



MARSP Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

_____ \$35 MARSP annual dues _____ \$9.00 Berrien Chapter annual dues

Detach form, enclose a check to MARSP, and mail to —

MARSP,

PO BOX 23214

LANSING, MI 48909-3214

MARSP-BCC Newsletter
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Saint Joseph, MI 49085-1516

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