

After School...

The Newsletter of Minneapolis Retired Teachers Inc.

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www.mrti.org

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Welcome New Retirees!



Twenty-four newly retired Minneapolis Public Schools teachers, part of a class of 110, were honored by MRTI at a festive luncheon on Tuesday, September 20. Special guests Superintendent, **Ed Graff**, School Board member, **Kim Ellison**, **Jeff Altringer** and **Tim Maurer** from TRA (Teachers Retirement Association) and **Dan Soloman**, representing **Senator Al Franken**, joined in congratulating and celebrating our new retirees.



Monroe Crossing, an internationally-acclaimed local Blue Grass band provided a high quality of musicianship and showmanship to entertain the 150 luncheon guests (a new attendance record). Named for Bill Monroe, the father of Blue Grass music, **Monroe Crossing** has appeared twice at Carnegie Hall in New York City and recently

BREAKING NEWS!

There is an expectation that supplemental health insurance costs beyond Medicare will have some significant changes that will raise premiums, increase copays, and negatively impact general coverage. Don't be left in the dark as you consider options for your insurance coverage.

Once again MRTI will partner with Minnesota Medicare Consultants to bring a seminar to members about these changes and other issues related to senior health care. Leslee Gold of MMC will again share the pertinent information she has researched and explain its impact and what you need to be aware of as you make health insurance choices to supplement Medicare.

You are invited to this informational meeting, which includes a light lunch, on Tuesday, November 1, 2016, 12:30-2:30 pm at the Minneapolis Jewish Community Center (JCC), 4330 Cedar Lake Road, St. Louis Park.

The JCC is offering the refreshments, and since there is limited space, you will need to make a reservation to attend. For security reasons, the JCC needs full names of all attendees. Reservations must be received by Tuesday, October 25, with the following information: NAME, PHONE, EMAIL (if you have one) to:

Gayle Marko
3030 Lynn Ave. So., #14
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
952-920-1395

OR Elmer Koch
9218 10 Ave. So.
Bloomington, MN 55420
952-888-7321
EandJKoch@comcast.net

Did You Know...

MRTI contributes to many programs that support Minneapolis children? Your dues support annual contributions to:

- Achieve! Minneapolis
- The Assistance League
- Mary's Place
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Minneapolis
- Jeremiah Program
- Harriet Tubman Center
- Groveland Food Shelf
- St. Joseph's Home for Children
- People Serving People
- Minneapolis Recreation Development

Bill of Fare

October - Vegetarian lasagna
November - Beef Stroganoff
December - Stuffed chicken breast
January - Soup and sandwich

As always, a vegetarian option is available; just let your caller know or contact Gayle Marko. No other options are possible.

Phone callers record both names and phone numbers for reservations which will be checked off at the ticket table. No-shows will be billed for the cost of the luncheon.

If you have NOT been called by Monday, a week before the luncheon, and you wish to attend, please call Gayle Marko to make a reservation: 952-920-1395.

Want more political involvement?

**Retired Teachers Council 59 (RTC 59)
Soup, Salad & Substance Luncheons**

**October 25, December 6, 2016
February 28, March 28, April 25, May 23, 2017**

11:45 am

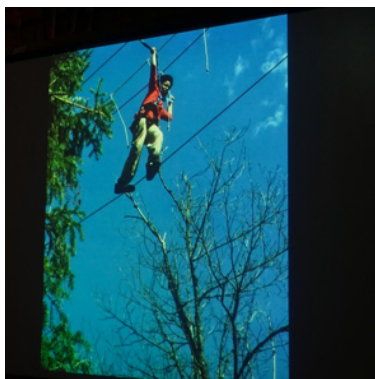
MFT Local 59 Office, 67 8th Avenue NE, Mpls

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Andersen Students Love Wolf Ridge

MRTI offers more than programs of entertainment, education and sociability. Through its investments and member bequests, MRTI contributes to nine educationally related charitable programs. In addition, for the past three years, MRTI has made direct contributions to classroom teachers for materials and programs, offering support not available through the district. These grants have been enthusiastically received by active teachers as they support a broad variety of needs from books to math games, science materials to software, cultural programs and more. Obviously, funds are limited and applications are restricted to a maximum of \$750.00. Seventeen grants have been approved for the present school year totaling just over \$6,000.00.

Illustrating both the reach and the constraints of MRTI's classroom grants is our support of Andersen Elementary School's program to send its 5th graders to Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center on Lake Superior. This program is the highlight for many of Andersen's students, as they bond with each other, traveling in packed buses for the 220 mile ride. They get close to nature in the study of streams and build confidence on the ropes course and rock climbing. Students return years later to tell their teachers how important that trip was



*Stepping into the future with
Wolf Ridge confidence*

Lunch Committee News

There have been changes in the Eagles Club kitchen: Angela has left, replaced by Eric, who will be cooking, and Linda, who will help set up and serve.

Gayle Marko, Dave Rolek and Elmer Koch met with two Eagles Club Board members, Sue and Debbie, to discuss menus and serving logistics for this year. The Committee is happy to report that the cost for lunch will remain \$15.00, which covers the cost of lunch, tax and tip.

However, two changes were necessary:

#1 No veggies or dips will be available before lunch - it's a cost factor.

#2 Coffee service will start at 11:15 - again, a cost factor. Before 11:15, coffee and other beverages are available for purchase in the bar.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT RULES - No one is allowed in the kitchen, except employees !

for them. For the past two years, MRTI has contributed to Andersen's Wolf Ridge program. But, in order to respond to as many teacher



*Fifth graders gather for a slide show
about their trip to Wolf Ridge*

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Meeting President Jimmy Carter in Plains, Georgia

by Corrine Robinson

When Jimmy Carter announced that he had brain cancer, I mentioned to my daughter that I had always wanted to go to Plains, GA, to attend President Carter's Sunday School class; he had taught it before his Presidency and resumed it afterwards. I bemoaned that I had waited until folks began lining up at 3:30 AM to get into Maranatha Baptist Church; some were even camping out overnight.

My daughter insisted, "Mom, if you want to do this, let's make it happen." She took the first weekend in December (2015) off from work and took my grandson out of school for a couple of days; we speculated that, since a fair amount of time had gone by and people would be starting to get ready for the holidays, we could count on the lines being somewhat shorter.

After flying into Atlanta, we ate at the legendary Mary Mac's Tea Room, an institution of Southern comfort food since the 40's. On Saturday we visited Martin Luther King's childhood home, Ebenezer Baptist Church, and the King Center; all of these fascinating and

inspiring. On the way to Plains, we visited Ft. Benning, where my uncle, who was killed in the Battle of the Bulge, had taken his basic training. There we visited a fine military museum concentrating on the WWII era.



Jimmy Carter's Family Home

The Plains Hotel has only 7 rooms, each room decorated in the style of a decade of President Carter's life. The



Maranatha Baptist Church

7 rooms had been reserved for months ahead so we stayed at a lovely, historic hotel

in nearby Americus, Georgia.

We were in line at the church by 6:30 for the 10:00 am Sunday School Class. Doors opened at 7:30 and we were checked through by the Secret Service.

Once assembled, visitors were introduced to strict guidelines by Jan, who had been Amy Carter's fourth grade teacher before the Carters left

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2016 -2017 Program Schedule



October - "Seasonal Ojibwe Life"
Artifacts, history and stories of Ojibwa life, presented by Meredith Tuma-Hansen, re-enactor, historian.



November - "Meet Bel the Weather Gal"

Belinda Jensen, describes her career with KARE 11 and her new undertaking as an author.



December - Brava! Women's Chorus, directed by MPS retiree, Dawn Allen, performs their special Christmas music program.



January - Sally Sudo will speak about "The Japanese Experience in World War II".



February - "Erin and Jay Swingin' on Broadway"

Erin Schwab and Jay Fuchs entertain with musical selections from the Great White Way.



March - Dunquin Irish Trio of Four - Traditional and popular Irish music, lively jigs and reels.



April - Gary Johnson, of the Better Business Bureau will speak



May - A student performance group from Minneapolis Public Schools - TBA

June - Our annual field trip - TBA

Wolf Ridge, *cont.*

requests as possible with limited resources, the grant committee restricts support to two years for the same request. Our support for the Andersen Wolf Ridge program has reached its limit.

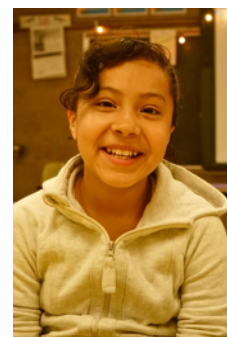
However, this limit is an invitation for MRTI members to respond individually to a program that has been vetted by our grant committee.

Andersen is a school with a diverse student body, serving many from families with limited means. It does not benefit from a foundation, as do some schools in more prosperous areas of the city.

*Tax deductible contributions can be made by writing a check to Achieve Minneapolis, 111 Third Ave. S., Suite 5, Minneapolis, MN 55401. If you choose to contribute, be sure to indicate on the check memo line: **For Andersen Wolf Ridge program.***



Two happy Wolf Ridge 2016 campers



- Larry Risser

If you have moved within the past year, you should probably contact TRA (info@MinnesotaTRA.org or 800.657.3669) to give them your new address and insure that you get your MRTI membership materials in a timely manner.

Celebrating New Retirees *cont.*



New retirees introduce themselves
The band members introduced themselves and played the banjo classic “Foggy Mountain Breakdown,” all delivered with high energy instrumentation by guitar, banjo, bass, mandolin, fiddle, slide-guitar and voice. It was a delightful way for Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Inc. to kick off the 2016-2017 school year and a great way to welcome our new retirees.



Superintendent Ed Graff thanks MPS teachers for their service.



A capacity crowd of MRTI members and guests delight in the music of Monroe Crossing.

A complete list of new retirees is on page 7.

was honored to be the first Minnesota Blue Grass band to ever perform in South Korea. Band members Derek Johnson, Lisa Fuglie, Matt Thompson, Mark Anderson and David Robinson’s musical selections included “Tennessee Waltz,” “Orange Blossom Special,” “Hobos in the Roundhouse,” “Chattanooga,” “Bullet Train,” “Into the Fire” and the



“Minnesota Gothic”



- photos courtesy of Larry Risser

Congratulations 2015- 2016 Retirees!

Doloris Bahl-Moore
Diane Barnett
Sandra Barry
Danise Beal
Barbara Becher
Michael Bedard
Barbara Bolin
Bernadette Bowden
Diane Bradley-Lewis
Lynn Branham
Lisa Brown
Jane Burnett
Gwen Bush
Andrea Chazin
Maureen Cleary
Colleen Culhane
Steven Date
Sandra Davis
Diane Dee-Tourdot
Joan Demeter
Michael Dennis
Irene Donahoe
Vicki Eberhardt
Bridget Emery
Barbara Englund
David Englund
Teresa Enriquez
Janice Evans
Patricia Fasching
Thomas Feri
Christopher Fisher
Darcy Grandel
Richard Granquist
Barbara Greenhalgh
Barbara Grodahl
Laurie Haraldson
Phylis Hayes

Choua Her-Thao
Daniel Hertz
Mary Hill
Nancy Hovland
Carole Howard
Linda Huntzicker
Karen Jorstad
Agnes Kilpatrick
Jeanne Kirsch
Katherine Knight
Nancy Kristensen
Judy Lander
Kathleen Lara
Patricia Larson
Susan Levahn
Debra Lohse
Barbyra Longley
Mary Macaulay
Joann Makovec
Mary Malone
Carol Markham-
Cousins
Colleen Martel
Monica Marx
Terry McDanel
Janel McGreevy
Jean Mendenhall
Susanne Meredith
Zoe Meyer
Rita Miller
Alice Motarjemi
Eva Neubeck
Lynn Nordgren
Colleen O'Keefe
Thomas Odendahl
Kathleen Oliver

Penny Paulson
Karen Peterson
Janis Pettit
Susan Phillips
Banlang Phommasouvanh
Jennifer Potvien
Paulette Prentice
David Rathbun
Kathleen Robison
Carol Rosier
Shirly Rowland-Suneson
Penny Sandberg
Charlotte Scherer
Becky Schultz
Sally Scott
Walter Scott
Amelia Sellers
Christina Sheran
Fayette Shore
Roberta Simes
Donna Sisler
Deborah Smith
Victoria Speidel
Diana Sullivan
Wilmer Telleria
Jesse Thomas
Ann Thomes
Anthony Trelles
Mary Tryhus
Michael Van Patten
Mary Vinella
Diane Voss
Janice Wahl
Julia Walter
Teresa Wilson
Robert Windorski
Tao Zhang

Meeting President Carter, cont.

for Washington, DC.

She was an absolutely-no-nonsense facilitator, probably tougher than the Secret Service would have been if they had given the introduction (but then she HAD been a fourth grade teacher).



Corrine's Family with President & Mrs. Carter no remaining evidence of the brain cancer. It was quite a moment.

Since it was the first Sunday in Advent, President Carter's lesson was on the Magnificat—and a beautiful lesson it was.

After the church service, each family group could join with the Carters for a picture. Mrs. Carter sent us off with "Ya'all come back and see us."

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When President Carter came out, he seemed a little embarrassed by how tough he suspected Jan had been with us.

Before starting the lesson he announced that tests given that week had shown

MRTI Pension Report By Ed Andersen, Legislative Chair

The 2016 Legislative Committee on Pensions and Retirement (LCPR) considered the Teacher Retirement Association (TRA) board proposal which would have reduced TRA's 2% COLA to 1% for five years and then to 1.75% in subsequent years. The proposal also called for an increase in TRA employer contribution rates from 7.5% to 8.5% accompanied by increased state aid through the school aid formula to offset those increased costs, estimated at \$43 million annually.

Republican Speaker of the House, Kurt Daudt, stating that the state surplus money could not be spent on education and teachers, blocked this shared sacrifice bill. The governor vetoed the bill that passed, which would have reduced the retiree COLA to 1% for one year only, but with no increased contribution from the State of Minnesota.

The TRA website contains a "History of TRA". I referenced this History of TRA to detail all the extra contributions made by the State of Minnesota to TRA to cover unfunded liabilities. Most of these extra payments never were sent to Minneapolis, St Paul and Duluth who had to levy local property taxes to cover unfunded liabilities in their pensions. A few quotes from the History are given below:

- "1959 The state began making additional TRA employer contributions of 1.5% for Coordinated members"
- "1969 The state increased the TRA employer additional contribution rate to 2% for all members"
- "1973 The TRA employer additional contribution rate was increased from 2% to 2.5%"
- "1979 The TRA employer additional contribution rate was increased from 2.5% to 3.05%"
- "1984 The TRA employer additional contribution rate was increased from 3.05% to 4.48%"
- "1990 The TRA employer additional contribution rate was reduced from 4.48% to 3.64%"
- "1997 The TRA pension fund reached full funding".
- "2006 The Minneapolis Teachers Retirement Fund Association (MTRFA) merged with TRA on June 30, 2006".

The point of this history lesson is that the State of Minnesota has a long history of providing extra funds to TRA to cover funding deficiencies. Our pensions are controlled by the Legislature and we must all get out and vote for candidates that will keep our pension system fiscally sound and keep up with inflation.

cont. from page 1

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Fall Yard Clean-Up Help

Starting mid-October (depending upon the weather), the HOME Program (Household & Outside Maintenance for Elderly) will provide free fall leaf raking and yard cleanup services to Hennepin County senior citizens aged 60+.

For more information please visit www.seniorcommunity.org or call [952-541-1019](tel:952-541-1019). Seniors outside of Hennepin County should contact the Senior Linkage Line at [1-800-333-2433](tel:1-800-333-2433) for information about services in their area.

If you'd like to volunteer your time to help other seniors, the HOME program also offers those opportunities. Contact the program's Volunteer Coordinator at scsvolunteer@seniorcommunity.org or call [952-767-7894](tel:952-767-7894) for more information.

After School Classifieds



Volunteer Opportunity at American Indian OIC:

Help Adults Earn Their GED!

We need experienced teachers like you to serve as tutors in our GED program. You get to set your own schedule, and you can choose to tutor students in language arts, math, science, social studies, technology, life skills, and/or career exploration. All tutors are required to complete 12 hours of training through the Minnesota Literacy Council, but there are some exceptions based on your licensure and previous experience. More information is available here:

<http://bit.ly/TeachersTutor>

American Indian OIC empowers adults to overcome poverty and unemployment through access to post-secondary education and employment with opportunities for professional and financial growth. We focus on meeting the needs of the Native community in Minneapolis, but our services are open to anyone. About half of our students are American Indian, and about 95% are people of color. We are conveniently located at 1845 East Franklin Avenue, right at the Franklin Avenue Blue Line station.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Elizabeth Bennett at elizabethb@aioic.org or 612-341-3358 x143. Thank you very much!



Independent Living Technology Conference

Friday, October 14th, 2016
1:00—5:00 PM

Minnetonka Community Center
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Keynote

John Louiselle
Co-Founder of NextDoor Housing

Conference Highlights

- Keynote address, exhibitors, and breakout sessions that will highlight a variety of assistive technology for seniors and their caregivers
- A "Granny Pod" Available to tour provided by NextDoor Housing
- Panel Discussion regarding the recently passed "Granny Pod" law with NextDoor Housing Co-Founder John Louiselle, Minneapolis Attorney Time Keane, Senator John Hoffman and more!

To learn more and to purchase tickets, visit www.SeniorCommunity.org/events
Space is limited, so make sure to reserve your spot for this event today!

Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Inc.
P.O. Box 24034
Minneapolis, MN 55414-0034

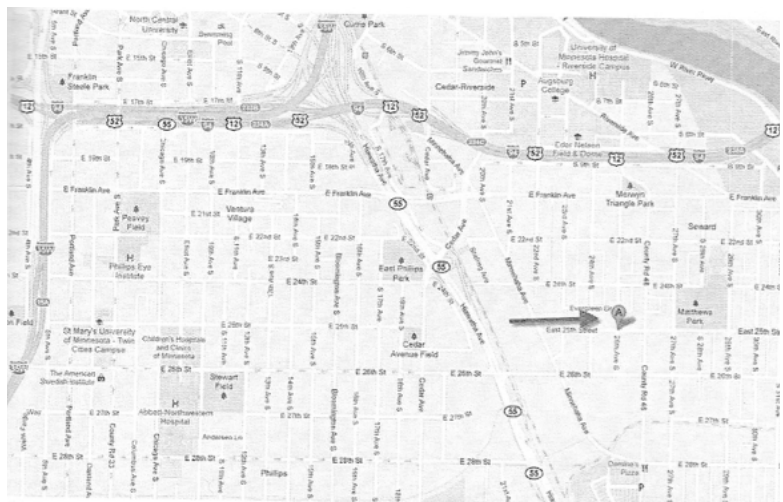
MRTI Newsletter October 2016
Chris Poppe, editor

Articles, opinion essays and
comments are welcome and
should be directed to:

Chris Poppe
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Minneapolis, MN 55412
chpop001@gmail.com

Our meeting location

Eagles Club #34/ American Legion
(On the corner of E. 25th St. & 25th Ave. S)
2507 E. 25th Street



Plenty of free parking!