

# MRTA E-News



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JUNE 2016

## A NEWSPAPER FOR RETIRED EDUCATION PERSONNEL

3030 DUPONT CIRCLE, JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65109 - 1-877-366-MRTA (6782)

### Special Interests at Work RYH4K is not worth the Risk!



Some might wonder why a number of education groups oppose the Missouri constitutional tobacco tax initiative that purports to fund early childhood education.

The Missouri Retired Teachers Association and Public School Personnel Board of Directors, representing over 25,000 retired educators across the state, recently voted unanimously to oppose the scheme proposed by the group known as "Raise Your Hand for Kids" (RYH4K).

The Missouri Association of Rural Education and the Missouri National Education Association have joined us in opposing the initiative.

Medical research, public health and patient groups have also publicly announced opposition, including: American Cancer Society, Cancer Action Network, American Heart Association, American Lung Association in Missouri, BioSTL, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, Concerned Women for America, Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, Missouri Family Network, MOBIO, Missouri Cures, Stowers Institute for Medical Research, Tobacco-Free Missouri, Washington University in St. Louis and We Deserve Better. These groups have their own concerns, ranging from the parent company of R.J. Reynolds tobacco company being RYH4K's primary funder to the potential impact on medical research in our state.

If voters read the entire proposal, they will see that it specifically states, "Distributions of funds under this amendment shall not be limited or prohibited by the provisions of Article IX, Section 8." That sentence will circumvent what many call the Blaine Amendment, the provision in our state's constitution that prohibits public funding for private and religious schools.

This sets a dangerous and concerning precedent in Missouri and is the driving reason why educator groups oppose the initiative.

MRTA has always and consistently opposed tax dollars for religious and private schools. We believe this is akin to vouchers. One can call vouchers a lot of different things and use catchy names, but tax dollars to religious and private schools is taking scarce tax dollars from public education, no matter what name you give it.

RYH4K attempts to dismiss our concerns by saying public money is already going to private schools and programs, such as Head Start. These programs use federal dollars, not state dollars. RYH4K fails to make that distinction.

The extremely flawed RYH4K initiative also creates a nonelected commission to manage and fund the Early Childhood Program with very little accountability. This creates a dangerous precedent for Missouri. Nonelected commissioners are not accountable to the voters and taxpayers of Missouri and may seek to promote their own private agendas. MRTA strongly feels the funding of public education is the duty of the elected legislature. This measure circumvents the accountability through the legislative process.

Our members also find it concerning that St. Louis billionaire Rex Sinquefield's lobby firm, Gate Way Group, is in charge of seeing that RYH4K is passed. Mr. Sinquefield is the number one enemy of public education and education retirees.

RYH4K doesn't want voters to read the measure. I encourage voters to do so. Thankfully, MRTA and all of the other groups that stand opposed did due diligence and closely examined its specific language.

## Missouri Retired Teacher Invited to White House



Deb Wilson, of Springfield is a retired teacher, an MRTA member, as well as the chairwoman and founder of Ozarks SySTEAMic Coalition, or O-STEAM. O-STEAM is a group which promotes science, technology, engineering, the arts and math throughout the entire Ozarks region. Deb was invited to the White House as Missouri's representative to the kick-off event for the National Week of Making, June 17-23, 2016.

A "maker" is a person who makes things like artwork and inventions, or repurposes items to serve new and different purposes. President Obama released a statement about why the event was organized, "We celebrate the tinkerers and dreamers whose talent and drive have brought new ideas to life and we recommit to cultivating the next generation of problem solvers."

Congratulations to Deb and thank you for your hard work and dedication to the students of Missouri!

### Do you like helping people and problem solving? If so, then join CLAIM!

Missouri CLAIM is looking for volunteer counselors to help Missourians on Medicare and their families.

As a volunteer, you will learn about Medicare, meet new people and work four to six hours a month with a team to support you. This could be your opportunity to give back to your friends, family and community! Missouri CLAIM is a free publicly funded counseling service for people on Medicare.



To join the CLAIM team, visit missouricclaim.org or call 1-800-390-3330 to find out about the next training.



Miller county celebrated retired educators day by touring the Missouri State Penitentiary in Jefferson City.



Christian county hosted their annual picnic on June 20th.

### Don't Forget Deadline June 30th...

MRTA Distinguished Retiree Nominations are due June 30th.

MRTF Grant Applications are due June 30th.

June 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



## Missouri Retired Teachers Association and Public School Personnel

# WHO WE ARE

By MRTA Executive Director Jim Kreider

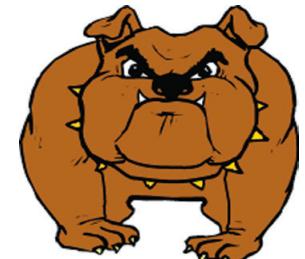
### Who we are...

1. MRTA is a 501(c)(4) not-for-profit corporation with a statewide mission to serve **ALL** education retirees whether MRTA members or not.
2. MRTA was organized in 1960 and is an association of certified and noncertified education retirees numbering over 25,000 members. MRTA has been and remains a major player in establishing Missouri's educational pension system as one of the nation's best.
3. MRTA is comprised of all classes of education employees from superintendents to principals, to support staff, to MNEA, MSTA, AFT of Missouri; as well as all other education employees. This provides MRTA with statewide influence with either political party.

### What we do...

1. MRTA's number one priority is promoting and preserving your education pension program and benefits.
2. MRTA protects and advocates for educator pension benefits.
3. MRTA actively works with government for beneficial legislation and educates legislators on retiree issues.
4. MRTA educates public education employees - Active and Retired - on their pension system and pension benefits.
5. MRTA provides a wide range of member benefits - everything from classroom liability insurance to travel discounts.

**MRTA is your  
pension watchdog!**



### What we do not do...

1. MRTA is nonpartisan and does not endorse candidates.
2. MRTA is not affiliated with any other education association. We are independent.
3. MRTA is not in competition with any other association. We are open to all.

### Missouri Retired Teachers Association and Public School Personnel Membership Form

<input type="checkbox"/> Annual MRTA Membership.....	\$35	<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Membership.....	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> New Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Retired Teachers/Administrators	<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Membership.....	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal of Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Retired Support Staff	(Anyone who is not currently drawing a public school retirement benefit.)	

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Street, City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

School District Retired From \_\_\_\_\_ Local MRTA Unit (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: **MRTA**  
3030 DuPont Circle  
Jefferson City, MO 65109

Pay by Credit/Debit Card:  Visa     MasterCard     Discover

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

You may join MRTA  
securely online at  
[www.mrta.org](http://www.mrta.org)  
or call the office at  
1-877-366-6782

Please ask someone to join TODAY!

# Work with people who know you best.

## The Missouri Retired Teachers Association & Forrest T. Jones & Company

All MRTA Board-approved discounts and benefits are available to MRTA members only!

The MRTA Team Advisors at Forrest T. Jones & Company

MRTA benefits enhance the value of your membership!

### Professional Liability Insurance

The MRTA Professional Liability Plan provides coverage against a variety of legal actions that could arise from your duties as a part-time educator—at an affordable group rate of only \$17.25 per year for MRTA members for \$1 million coverage.

### Dental & Vision Insurance

**Dental Plan.** Enrollment in the affordable MRTA Group Dental Plan enables you to receive benefits for periodic exams, X-rays, cleanings, fillings, crowns, bridges and denture repair. Now with an expanded network of providers!

#### EyeMed Vision Care

MRTA's vision plan provides members with benefits for exams and glasses or contact lenses. You also receive discounts on lens options and laser vision correction—all with the convenience of more than 35,000 independent providers nationwide and LensCrafters, the nation's leading eye care retailer.

**Open enrollment is limited to September only!**

### Medicare & Long-Term Care Insurance

**Medicare Supplements, Medigap, Medicare Advantage, & Medicare Part D Prescription Plans.** If you are approaching 65 or are over 65, this is a very important subject, one that can be confusing without the proper information from a trusted source. FTJ's agents can help with a variety of excellent plans, including Part D Prescription Plans.

**Long Term Care Insurance Evaluation Service.** With an emphasis on in-home care options, our independent agents offer free educational information and provide proposals from multiple carriers to help members find a long-term care insurance plan that fits their needs. Member discounts on select plans.

### Auto, Home & Life Insurance

**Liberty Mutual Auto & Home Insurance.** Quality auto and homeowners plans are available through Liberty Mutual with an exclusive group discount for MRTA members. You can learn more about this program by visiting [www.libertymutual.com/lm/mrta](http://www.libertymutual.com/lm/mrta) or calling (800) 835-0894. In Missouri, call Clare Hill at (888) 443-7536, ext. 55674.

**MRTA Mighty Mite® Final Expense Insurance Plan.** Give your family a gift that will last a lifetime. This flexible, **guaranteed-issue** whole life plan sponsored by MRTA lets you choose between four coverage amounts. The plan accumulates cash value to help provide financial security and needed protection for your loved ones. (Limitations apply for death from natural causes during the first two years of coverage.)

### Travel, Legal & I.D. Protection Plans

**International Travel Medical Plans & Trip Protection.** International travel can be an exciting adventure, but it can also bring many unpredictable situations if you should need medical care while you're abroad. That's why we've put together an array of flexible travel medical plans for MRTA members. Both domestic and international trip protection plans are available.

**Legal Shield.™** Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in America. Legal Shield™, Inc., is a pioneer of the pre-paid legal concept in North America. MRTA Members receive a monthly discount. With Legal Shield™ you're backed by experienced professionals from a division of the world's leading risk consulting company, Kroll Background America. The \$10 enrollment fee is waived for MRTA members.

### Deals & Discounts

**Hearing Benefit Plan.** Hearing loss develops slowly and often goes unnoticed for years. With the benefit plan from Hear In America, MRTA members receive a free annual hearing screening through reputable providers. If hearing correction is needed, hearing aids from top manufacturers are available at discounted prices. To register for free Hear In America hearing plan benefits, call (800) 286-6149.

### Home Health Care Indemnity Policy

An affordable solution that gives you the flexibility in utilizing the type of care that's right for you... **in the comfort of your own home.** These benefits are paid in addition to Medicare and other insurance. Optional benefits include: Annual Physical Exam, Vision, Hearing, Ambulance and In-Hospital Private Duty Nurse. For more information, call (800) 821-7303 ext. 1644.



**For more information, visit: [www.ftj.com/mrta](http://www.ftj.com/mrta) or [www.MRTA.org](http://www.MRTA.org) or email: [info@ftj.com](mailto:info@ftj.com)**