

METC Conference  
February 9, 2016

Nancy Craig and I attended the METC conference on February 9 and 10 to man a booth for MRTA. This is our second year to attend this conference for MRTA. METC conference is a technology conference for not only the state of Missouri, but attendees were also there from Kansas, Illinois and a few from Iowa. Nancy went on Monday to set up our table which was a blessing since we had snow on Tues and instead of a 30 minute drive to the conference in St. Charles, it took us 2 hours.

We had not only teachers of technology but administrators in technology for school districts. Our BIG selling point was the \$500 grants given in the spring. We started with 50 grants and ended up giving out at least 135 copies of the grant. I am sure we will see many of the teachers from this area in the readings of the grant. Attending the workshops on robots etc. only fueled them for wanting a way to supplement their funds for their classrooms in order to keep up to date. Our first question was "Are you a Mo. teacher?" "Are you close to retirement or do you know someone at your school that is thinking of retirement?"

Our booth probably had the most business of all of the booths around us. We were an ambassador for PSRS and gave out many of their brochures. We had a leaflet of our St. Louis Retirement workshop to give them if interested. We used our MRTA benefit brochure for travel and the number if they were from another area and wanting a retirement workshop. In essence, we were busy "getting the name of MRTA" out to the conference attendees along with over a box of pink pens.

Nancy and I feel this is a really worthwhile conference to attend and make people aware of the biggest teacher retirement group in Missouri. We had several who were still teaching but their husbands had retired and were members or they took the brochure home for them to sign up. Several were ready for retirement in the next 2 years so hopefully will be joining us soon. Overall, just the "thanks" we received for watching legislators and the opportunity of giving grants was overwhelming. We are appreciated!!

Linda Taber  
Region 8 Retirement Education Committee.