

The Executive Director's Message

By Jim Kreider



IT DOESN'T MATTER! THEY ARE ALL CROOKS!

The movie Gettysburg, is about the epic battle between the North and South, and was based on the book The Killer Angels. In the movie there was a scene where before the second day of battle two union officers were discussing why they were fighting this war. At one point they discussed the African American race and what was thought of the race as a whole. The sergeant stated he did not know about the race as a whole but that each man deserved to be judged as a man, one man at a time. He stated that he himself would be judged as he deserved, not as his father deserved, but on his own actions and that anybody who judged by the group was "A PEE WIT!"

Many have the tendency to just judge politicians as a group. "THEY ARE ALL CROOKED! IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW I VOTE!" We must resist this way of thinking and judge each political candidate individually on the issues at hand. We all know that in every group of people there are some bad ones whether we are talking about teenagers, seniors, educators, or politicians. More often than not, the vast majority of any group are good people with good intentions.

It is an election year and we MRTA members must realize that **IT REALLY DOES MATTER WHO YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS ARE!** It matters to your pension income and retirement security as there are many, who are running for office, who do not believe in your pension system and public education. We must educate ourselves on their views, ask hard questions, and vote accordingly. Our responsibility does not stop there. We **MUST** educate the public on the benefits of public education, on how we must attract GOOD teachers through decent pay and decent retirement benefits.

We **MUST** elect people who are sincerely supportive of the American born institution of public education for all. Public Education is NOT broken - just being starved! Let us talk about the 98% of schools and teachers that are committed and doing an outstanding job. AND we must educate the public that educator retirement benefits and PSRS/PEERS are NOT "PONZI" schemes! They are tools to attract and retain experienced educators in the classroom that will be of great benefit to our children. We at MRTA hope that all Americans will have some sort of decent retirement security. We should vote for candidates who feel the same way.

The attacks on our profession and pensions have not let up one little bit. Every day there is a negative headline from someone running for office regarding our pension system and public education. **We have much work to do!** We must have a strong MRTA! We must realize that the only real protection retirees will get is from the retirees themselves.

**The world is run by those who show up!
Please show up and vote!**

Pictured to the left are just a few of the recent newspaper clippings highlighting some negative articles dealing with our retirement system.

