

# Why Should PEERS Retirees Join MRTA?

The official name of our organization is Missouri Retired Teachers Association **and Public School Personnel (MRTA)**. MRTA is the oldest and largest public school retiree association in Missouri with over 27,000 members! At MRTA your retirement is our #1 priority! MRTA works to promote and protect pensions, programs, and benefits of **all school personnel** in retirement. MRTA is comprised of all classes of education employees - superintendents, principals, teachers, and support staff. Many of our members are also members of MNEA, MSTA, AFT of Missouri, we are open to all!



Remember the PSRS and PEERS funds are invested together! MRTA is your pension watchdog! Your PEERS retirement benefit also includes Social Security, this being said MRTA must be your advocate for you in Washington D.C. to make sure your voice is heard on the federal level. Due to the June 14, 2016 policy changes of the PSRS/PEERS Board of Trustees, your Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) is more important to you now than ever. You may not be receiving a PEERS COLA for quite some time! MRTA also boasts many member benefits that can save you hundreds of dollars each year! This is the best \$35 you can spend to help protect your future.

**There is strength in numbers!** We need you to join MRTA today! As a special gift to PEERS retirees, join now as a **NEW** MRTA member for \$35 and your membership will be paid through **December 31, 2020!** That is just \$17.50 per year! To join today please take advantage of the membership application on the reverse.

## **Past MRTA accomplishments that benefit PEERS retirees:**

- **Thanks to MRTA all retired support staff are now exempt from Missouri State income taxes up to \$36,976 per year - HB 444 (2007). Also all out of pocket healthcare premiums are 100% deductible for all education retirees including long term care insurance.**
- MRTA fought a reduction of your Social Security COLA from Chained CPI. (2014)
- MRTA was “the point of the spear” in killing legislation detrimental to education retirees, including the conversion of our defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan, and a proposed state takeover of our retirement funds through a state investment board. (2010)
- MRTA advocated name change of NTRS (Non-Teacher Retirement System) to PEERS (Public Education Employees Retirement System) HB 443. (2005)
- MRTA worked for the 7.1% across-the-board increase for PEERS retirees. (2001)
- MRTA advocated lifetime COLA increase to 80%. (2000)
- MRTA advocated the increased multiplier to 1.51%. (2000)
- MRTA advocated the across-the-board 3.4% increase for PEERS retirees. (2000)
- MRTA advocated the 7.4% across-the-board increase for PEERS retirees. (1999)

# WHO WAS MILO THORNTON!?

By Jim Kreider, MRTA Executive Director

To say the least, my public school experience at Nixa schools was life forming and life changing. My father was killed in a farm accident in 1970; I was 15 years old. I was the oldest of four children. Along with my mother, I had inherited a farm and a family to help see about. The youngest of my siblings was just six years old, my mother had her hands full. I was in charge of the daily farm activities. Just before my father's accident he bought a new Ford truck of which I took possession of driving around - legal or not! At the time I did not feel I really needed to go to school, there was a lot of work to be done on the farm. I WAS TO GO TO SCHOOL according to my teachers and especially my principal, Mr. Rotrok. They insisted I attend school, at one point even coming to the field and giving me a ride to school. MAN, do I owe them as I now have a college degree and have served as Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives. The public school and my teachers never gave up on me.



**SO! Who was Milo Thornton?** Milo (that's what we called him) was the janitor at Nixa High School. Half his face was gone from a war injury and his "office" if you want to call it that, was the furnace boiler room in the half basement of a WPA-built school building. The dungeon we called it. It was pretty spooky. There was a dark stairway down to the boiler room and it was really scary when Milo came walking out of that hole in the earth with his facial injuries and oh yes, a major limp! Needless to say many made fun of him and avoided him. BUT! Milo made it a point to come up to me and ask how I was doing. In hindsight, he knew I had lost my dad and he was showing that he cared and offering the support of a male figure. He even invited me, where no one was allowed, in the dungeon and behold! There was a Coke machine from which he promptly bought me a Coke. I thought I was special. Milo Thornton gave me so much and taught me so much about people. Not to judge on looks, to always reach out to help someone, to pay attention to those who may have a need for a friend, and to be positive no matter what happens!

**Who was Milo Thornton?** He was part of the community of Nixa Schools, he was a janitor, support staff if you will. He was extremely important to me personally but as all of you know, schools cannot run without support staff as part of the education machine. I think it is time to say THANK YOU to our support staff. It is time to invite them to join MRTA as we really do care about them and work hard to protect and enhance their pension benefits. We care about their quality of life during retirement. Maybe each one of us could just purchase an MRTA membership for a retired PEERS (Public Education Employees Retirement System) person as a way of showing our gratitude for their years of service to public education. Yes, we should all do that. I will do it in honor of Milo Thornton, janitor.

As a special gift to our PEERS retirees, join now as a **NEW** MRTA member for \$35 and your membership will be paid through December 31, 2020! That is just \$17.50 per year!

## Join now!

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

Annual MRTA Membership.....\$35      School District Retired From \_\_\_\_\_

Retired Support Staff

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**