

MRTA

E-News



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A NEWSPAPER FOR RETIRED EDUCATION PERSONNEL

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

CALL TO ACTION! Please Act This Week!

By Jim Kreider, MRTA Executive Director

Our legislative priorities are in good shape because of your hard work in the past and because you "SHOWED UP" on MRTA Legislative Day (THE WORLD IS RUN BY THOSE WHO SHOW UP!) in very cold, windy, slick weather. The bills we wanted not to move or to die are standing still while our reforms and priorities are still moving. Below is the legislation we would like to see passed by the House and approved by the Senate as amended.

Right now I would like to ask you to act on three pieces of legislation that are moving through the legislature. Please stay tuned as the end nears and things heat up.

#1 - Please write your State Senator and ask that HB 478 (Fitzwater/Wallingford) be taken up and passed. HB 478 reinstates 2.55 after 31 years. This saves the PSRS/PEERS system money and is a tool to us in attracting and keeping the best quality educators in the classroom.

#2 - Please write your State Representative and ask for a YES vote on HCS SCS SB 172. Legislative Session ends May 15th. Please stay tuned.

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE CREATES OMNIBUS BILL – HCS SCS SB 172

The House Select Committee on Education adopted an HCS version of SCS/SB 172 (Romine) on April 23. The HCS includes provisions from several other bills that have been approved by the committee. The original SB 172 language establishes a career and technical education high school

certificate. MRTA strongly supports both the original bill and the expanded HCS version which includes several other bills supported by MRTA.

The committee added the language from the following bills:

- SB 13 (Munzlinger) to change the membership and appointment process for the Career and Technical Education Advisory Council.
- HCS/HB 377 (Swan) recognizes district efforts to identify students who are at risk of not being ready for college-level work or entry-level career positions and to implement student-created plans of study for high school and post-graduation plans.
- HCS/HB 478 (Fitzwater) to reinstate the recently expired 2.55% retirement benefit factor for PSRS retirees with 31 or more years of creditable service.
- HCS/HB 742 (Bahr) relating to learning standards work groups established by HB 1490 (2014). The bill would provide expense reimbursement for parent and teacher members of the work groups and ensure that members are reimbursed for expenses and teachers are given leave to attend without using personal leave or having a reduction in pay. The bill also extends, for another year, the moratorium on use of assessment scores to reduce district accreditation status or teacher evaluations.

Call to Action

- **YES on HB 478**
- **YES on HCS SCS SB 172**
- **NO on HJR 34**



- HCS/HB 1023 (Swan) to revise state accreditation of school districts by giving local control of assessment and reporting of school quality indicators designed to address community and student needs.
- HCS/HB 1085 (Lair) to apply the existing 550 hour limitation on PSRS retirees working for a school district to teaching work in a district while employed by a third-party such as Kelly Services. The Association supports HB 1085.
- HB 1086 (Lair) to allow a "pop-up" provision for a PSRS retiree who

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CALL TO ACTION! By Jim Kreider, MRTA Executive Director

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retires while married and then later divorces, provided the former spouse waives all rights to the survivor option in the divorce decree. The provision allows the retiree to receive the higher pension amount provided for a retiree who does not select a survivor option.

#3 - Please write your State Senator and ask them to vote NO on HJR 34. A NO vote is a pro-public education vote. I am very concerned about HJR 34 or TABOR – The Taxpayer Bill Of Rights. HJR 34 is now in the Senate.

HJR 34 (Haahr - Springfield) will limit spending for public education. Missouri revenue is already limited by the Hancock Amendment, and revenues in 2013 were already \$3.5 billion under that limit. In fact, relative to personal income, state general revenue is at near record lows. As a result

of low revenues, exacerbated by the most recent economic recession, Missouri has cut many services and is \$600 million short on funding the Foundation Formula. Limits to state spending per the State Constitution is very harmful to funding the Public Schools of Missouri. The Missouri Constitution says funding of an adequate and equal education for all Missouri Children is the number 2 priority after servicing the state debt. That is why education funding is House Bill 2. HJR 34 would not allow the spending necessary. Colorado has lived with TABOR and has repealed it because it was so bad for education. Opposition to TABOR is in the 2015 MRTA Legislative Platform

GREAT JOB MRTA!

Click the following link to find your Legislator's contact information: <http://www.senate.mo.gov/LegisLookup/default.aspx>

What can you do?



We need you to stay involved!

- Keep your membership current.
 - Watch for **Call to Action** emails and respond accordingly.
 - Ask colleagues to join MRTA.
- THERE IS STRENGTH IN NUMBERS!**
- Attend MRTA Legislative Day each year! Feb. 17, 2016.

MRTA Calendar 2015

All meetings are held at the MRTA/MRTF Office Facility unless otherwise noted.

MAY

- 4 - **MRTA Region 8 Meeting**
St. Louis
- 5 - **MRTA Region 11 Meeting**
Park Hills
- 15 - **Last Day of Missouri Legislative Session**

JUNE

- 4 - **MRTA Region 5 Meeting**
Lafayette Co. Unit to Host

JULY

- 7 - **MRTA Regional Vice President Training**
- 8 - **MRTA Budget Committee Meeting**
- 20 - **MRTA Regional Legislative Committee Meeting**
- 21 - **Legislative Committee Meeting** – *New this year - Invitations extended to all MRTA State and Unit Legislative Committee Chairs and the Bus Captains*

AUGUST

- 18 - **Membership Committee Meeting** - *Invitations extended to all MRTA State and Unit Membership Committee Chairs*

SEPTEMBER

- 16-17 - **MRTA Annual Meeting**
Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City

OCTOBER

- 1 - **MRTA Region 12 Meeting**
Cape Girardeau Unit to Host
- 14 - **MRTA Region 3 Meeting**
Memphis
- 16 - **MRTA Region 10 Meeting**
Republic
- 19 - **MRTA Region 1 Meeting**
Hamilton
- 22 - **Informative & Protective Services Committee Meeting**
- 26 - **MRTA Region 4 Meeting**
Mexico
- 27 - **MRTA Region 13 Meeting**
Troy

NOVEMBER

- 4 - **Retirement Education Regional Committee Meeting**
- 10 - **Community Service Regional Committee Meeting**
- 13-23 - **Branson Fun Days** - the "Big Day" will be Nov. 18!

DECEMBER

- 8 - **MRTF Board Meeting**

2016

FEBRUARY

- 17 - **MRTA Legislative Day**

MARCH

- 15-16 - **MRTA Unit President Summit**
Capitol Plaza Hotel

To stay current on MRTA Events check our calendar anytime at:
<http://missouriiretiredteachers.org/events/>

MEMBER x \$ = \$

If every MRTA Member donates a little, it will equal ALOT!

Watch Your Mailbox For Your Gifts From MRTF

Dear MRTA Members:

Let me begin by thanking you for your membership with the Missouri Retired Teachers Association (MRTA). **Today, we are asking you to consider making a tax deductible donation to the Missouri Retired Teachers Foundation.** As President of the Foundation, which is the fundraising and charitable arm of the Association, I wish to share information with you about some of our recent activities and successes. All of these accomplishments have been made possible because of the many generous donations made by you, the members of MRTA.

Last year, the Foundation awarded \$500 classroom grants to 42 teachers across the state of Missouri. This year the Foundation will award 56 classroom grants! Teachers welcome this assistance for many purposes; for example, to purchase books, iPads, reading and math aides, "Baby-Think-It Over" kits, science project aids, and many, many others. All of these classrooms are deserving; however, one we found most heartwarming was a middle school special education teacher who wanted her students to experience and develop life skills in the "real" world. This project was so successful the local television station ran a news clip about it. You may view it at: <http://tinyurl.com/olzeal>

Sincerely,



Walter Cochran
MRTF President



Please consider making a tax deductible donation to the Missouri Retired Teachers Foundation today!
You may donate online at www.MORTF.org!

ANNUAL River Cruise Sale for 2016!

River Cruises: 10% - 15% off with deposit by June 23, 2015.

Additional MRTA Member Discount

\$299 Air for Select 2015 Dates!

Remaining Cabins are limited for 2015 River Cruises but you can get great Air Fare prices if you deposit by May 19, 2015.

Save 10% on Select Escorted 2015 Tours!
Spaces are limited. Deposit by May 5, 2015.

2015 BOOK NOW SAILINGS

SAVE \$1,000 PER COUPLE ON SELECT EUROPE RIVER CRUISES.*

Balkan Discovery

Budapest to Bucharest
June 24, 2015

Blue Danube to the Black Sea

Bucharest to Vienna
July 1, 2015

Blue Danube to the Black Sea

Vienna to Bucharest
October 12, 2015

Burgundy & Provence

Paris to Côte d'Azur
June 7; July 5; August 30, 2015

Burgundy & Provence

Côte d'Azur to Paris
May 4; June 1, 5, 15, 19 & 29; July 17 & 31;
August 14; October 23, 2015

Canals, Vineyards and Paris

Amsterdam to Paris
July 25, 2015

Canals, Vineyards and Paris

Paris to Amsterdam
July 30, 2015

Capitals of Central Europe

Budapest to Prague
June 28, 2015

Capitals of Central Europe

Prague to Budapest
April 29, 2015

Central European Experience

Prague to Paris
November 3, 2015

European Splendor

Amsterdam to Vienna
July 24, 2015

European Splendor

Vienna to Amsterdam
May 3, 2015

Highlights of Germany

Munich to Basel
September 29, 2015

Magnificent Europe

Amsterdam to Budapest
May 19; June 19, 2015

Magnificent Europe

Budapest to Amsterdam
August 25; September 8;
October 21 & 23, 2015

Paris to Normandy's Landing Beaches

Paris to Paris
May 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30; June 2, 6, 13, 20,
23, 27 & 30; July 4, 7 & 11; August 15;
October 6, 10 & 17, 2015

Romantic Rhine

Amsterdam to Basel
May 3; October 24; November 1, 2015

Romantic Rhine

Zürich to Amsterdam
May 14 & 24; October 23 & 31;
December 14, 2015

The Blue Danube Discovery

Budapest to Prague
June 28; July 7 & 12;
October 27 & 28, 2015

The Rhine & Moselle

Amsterdam to Basel
April 28; July 1, 2015

The Rhine & Moselle

Zürich to Amsterdam
August 28, 2015

Tulip Time Cruise

Amsterdam to Amsterdam
April 10, 2015

Tulips of Northern Holland

Amsterdam to Amsterdam
April 23, 2015



AVALON
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* Book a select 2015 Avalon Waterways Europe vacation to receive \$500 off per person on the cruise/land or cruise only price. For A Taste of the Danube the promotion applies only to the land inclusive price. Offer available on select dates of select cruises. Booking must be made, under deposit, and discount applied between March 25 and May 19, 2015 for travel at select times in 2015. Avalon and Royal Suites excluded. Not applicable to custom tours. Discount will apply to individual members of groups adding a name and non-refundable per person deposit WITHIN the promo window. Not applicable on TBA space. Not combinable with any other offer, other than Journeys Club Repeat Traveler benefit. Applies to new 2015 bookings only, and offer will not be applied to pre-existing bookings. Offer reliant on space availability at time of booking and may be withdrawn at any time. Full cancellation penalties will apply. Additional restrictions may apply. PRMW0221

2015 SAIL SOON SAILINGS

SAVE \$2,000 PER COUPLE ON SELECT SAIL SOON SAILINGS.*
OR WAIVE THE SINGLE SUPPLEMENT.**

Austrian Highlights & Bavaria
Munich to Vienna
April 28; May 27, 2015

Balkan Discovery
Budapest to Bucharest
May 8, 2015

Balkan Discovery
Bucharest to Budapest
May 5 & 15, 2015

Blue Danube to the Black Sea
Bucharest to Vienna
April 26 & October 14, 2015

Burgundy & Provence
Paris to Côte d'Azur
April 26; May 24; August 2, 2015

Burgundy & Provence
Côte d'Azur to Paris
May 18; Jun. 15; Jul. 13 & 27; Aug. 10 & 24;
Oct. 19, 2015

Canals, Vineyards and Paris
Amsterdam to Paris
October 23, 2015

Canals, Vineyards and Paris
Paris to Amsterdam
April 23 & October 28, 2015
European Splendor
Vienna to Amsterdam
May 7; October 25, 2015

Highlights of Germany
Munich to Basel
May 29 & July 19, 2015

Magnificent Europe
Amsterdam to Budapest
June 16 & 30; July 3 & 28; August 11 & 14;
December 21, 2015

Magnificent Europe
Budapest to Amsterdam
May 22; June 2, 5, 16 & 19; July 3, 14,
28 & 31; August 28, 2015

Paris to Normandy's Landing Beaches
Paris to Paris
April 21, 28; May 12, 19 & 26; June 9,
23 & 30; July 7, 14, 21, 25 & 28;
August 1, 4, 8, 11, 18, 22 & 25;
September 1 & 8; October 13, 20,
24, 27 & 31, 2015

Romantic Rhine
Zürich to Amsterdam
August 14, 2015

The Rhine & Moselle
Amsterdam to Basel
October 30, 2015

The Rhine & Moselle
Basel to Amsterdam
May 9; October 11, 2015

The Upper Rhine to the City of
Music
Zürich to Vienna
June 16, 2015



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*Book a 2016 Avalon Waterways France river cruise to receive 15% off per person on the cruise/land or cruise only price or book the rest of Europe to receive 10% off. Booking must be made, under deposit and discount applied between April 8 and June 23, 2015 for travel in 2016. Discount based on core vacation, Category E pricing, double occupancy and does not extend to additional nights, extensions, stateroom upgrades, non-published date airport transfers, port charges, optional gratuities and any government-imposed taxes and fees. Discount applies to single supplement. Not applicable to custom tours. Discount will apply to individual members of groups adding a name and non-refundable per person deposit within the promo window. Not applicable on TBA space. Offer reliant on space availability and may be withdrawn at any time. Not combinable with any other offer, other than Journeys Club Repeat Traveler benefit. Applies to new 2016 bookings only, and offer will not be applied to pre-existing bookings. Full cancellation penalties will apply. Additional restrictions may apply; see Travel Terms & Conditions for details.

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