

# SARTA NEWS

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 1

TO SERVE, NOT TO BE SERVED

January 2021

## SARTA MEETINGS

The Springfield Area Retired Teachers Association (SARTA) meets on the Second Monday of the month at the South Street Christian Church in the fellowship hall.

Refreshments and Fellowship begin at 9:30 AM. followed by the Program at 10:00 AM. A business meeting follows the program.

The June and December meetings begin at 11:30 AM.

### Dates to Remember

**Monday, Jan. 11, 2021**  
**SARTA ZOOM Mtg**  
**10:00**

**Monday, Feb. 8, 2021**  
**SARTA Zoom meeting**  
**10:00**

**Monday, Mar. 8, 2021**  
**SARTA Zoom meeting**  
**10:00**

**The next meetings will be announced as we plan for what is happening with our country.**

## SARTA Changes Scholarship Program

SARTA made a decision a year ago to change its scholarship program from honoring a high school senior from each of our five high schools with a \$500 scholarship, to offering a college education major, preparing to enter her or his third or fourth year as a junior or senior, a \$2,400 scholarship.

Currently, the Community Foundation of the Ozarks handles our scholarship funds which total over \$62,000. Had it not been for the forethought of one of our retired teachers, our scholarship program would not have grown as it has. Dorothy Acton left her estate with directions to help students wanting to become teachers. SARTA has been the recipient of an annual distribution from her endowed funds, which has made it possible for us to offer this new scholarship.

The Community Foundation administers our scholarship program. In February, CFO advertises our scholarship to Evangel, Drury, and Missouri State University students who must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Students then apply on line, submit a transcript, demonstrate financial need, as well as a description of their participation in community service. Another part of the application process is an essay. A team of CFO volunteers evaluate each essay and choose the winner for SARTA, just as they do for the other varieties of scholarships handled by CFO.

The first college recipient of the SARTA academic scholarship was a young lady from Bolivar, Cailey Blain. There were 26 scholarship applicants who completed the entire process for our college scholarship. Winners begin the application process in February and the scholarship winner is announced in April.

We are so proud of the foresight of Dorothy Acton and the generous SARTA Members who have added to the scholarship fund over the years. What a Wonderful legacy to be shared by our future teachers!

### ARE YOUR DUES CURRENT?

**Please keep your dues current. At \$15.00 you are getting a bargain! Membership is vital to every organization, but especially for the Springfield Area Retired Teachers Association (SARTA) and the Missouri Retired Teachers Association (MRTA). We are the only organizations working only for retirees and their benefits. MRTA dues are \$35 a year and can be sent to the state office at 3030 Dupont Circle, Jefferson City, MO 65109. SARTA dues are \$15 and can be sent to Carol Chappell 4524 S. Zane Ct. Springfield, 65804**



## 2021 MRTA Legislative Platform\*

“MRTA is independent, non-partisan and does not endorse political candidates.”

### **RETIREMENT SYSTEM LEGISLATION AND POLICY**

1. MRTA will use all available means to restore the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) which the PSRS/PEERS Board of Trustees has reduced twice in the past ten years. MRTA supports the restoration of the COLA to pre-2011 levels for PSRS/PEERS of MO retirees.
2. MRTA will advocate for a PSRS/PEERS COLA policy or law that will be like Social Security, where the cumulative CPI-U on the last day of the fiscal year is the COLA.
3. MRTA will advocate for and recommend to the Board of Trustees of the PSTS/PEERS of Missouri, the PSRS of the City of St. Louis, and the PSRS of Kansas City, Missouri a nationwide search for a new Executive Director, if and when one is needed.
4. In order to preserve and protect the strong financial integrity and transparency of PSRS/PEERS of Missouri, MRTA will advocate for a comprehensive audit of PSRS/PEERS from the State Auditor's Office.

### **State Legislative Issues of Interest to MRTA**

MRTA will work to protect/maintain the Missouri public pension retirement plans as defined benefit plan rather than defined contribution plans.

5. MRTA will support the current independent governance and decisions of the Boards of Trustees of the following public education retirement systems: PSRS/PEERS Retirement System, PSRS of Kansas City, MO and PSRS of the City of St. Louis.
  6. MRTA will work to protect/maintain access to healthcare coverage for public school retirees through the school system from which they retired as is mandated by Missouri Law requiring the same premium cost and the same coverage as the active public school employees.
  7. MRTA will support “equal and adequate” public funding through full funding of the foundation formula for all public schools as mandated by the Missouri Constitution.
  8. MRTA supports state revenue enhancements such as the “Wayfair” internet sales tax as has been enacted in 45 other states, in order to help adequately fund public education in Missouri.
  1. MRTA will oppose any legislation that would reduce school funding such as Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR) or further revenue reductions that jeopardize public school funding.
  2. MRTA will oppose vouchers, education tax credits, educational scholarships, or any other use of tax dollars for nonpublic schools.
  3. MRTA will oppose the statewide expansion of charter schools.
  4. MRTA will support requiring certified teachers or retirees who are members of PSRS for teaching in virtual classrooms.
  5. MRTA supports accountability for existing charter schools equal to that of public schools.
  6. MRTA will support legislation to increase minimum salaries for teachers and the funding of those increases.
  7. MRTA will oppose state mandated consolidation of public schools that meet state standards.
- MRTA will work to protect/maintain the Missouri state income tax exemptions for public education retirees that MRTA was instrumental in obtaining in 2007 (HB444)

### **Federal Legislative Issues of Interest to MRTA**

1. MRTA will support legislation to repeal/modify the WEP (Windfall Elimination Provision) and GPO (Governmental Pension Offset) provisions of Social Security.
2. MRTA will oppose mandatory Social Security for new educator members of PSRS of Missouri.
3. MRTA will oppose privatization of Social Security.
4. MRTA will oppose vouchers, education tax credits, education scholarships, and use of tax dollars for nonpublic schools.
5. MRTA will oppose the expansion of charter schools.
6. MRTA supports accountability for existing charter schools equal to that of public schools.
7. MRTA supports affordable healthcare to promote financial security for all.
8. MRTA supports affordable prescription drugs to promote financial security for all.
9. MRTA supports efforts that would decrease student loan debt to encourage the recruitment and retention of teachers.

• This is a rough draft and please ignore the numbers as it would not let me change them.

**FROM OUR PRESIDENT***by Jacque White*

Greetings!

What comes to mind when you hear the word “teacher” or “school personnel”? Perhaps you think of a person who cares for others, provides ways for students to grow into people who achieve that which they may have thought impossible. Maybe you found ways to challenge your students to not only learn subject matter, but to grow as persons who embrace friendships, experience new ideals, to be part of a team, to share responsibilities – to engage in the learning environment.

Sometimes, when we retire, we want to do things that we never had time to do when we were working. We enjoy new kinds of experiences, learn something new, read more books, join clubs, and become more involved in the greater community, sharing our talents with others – that’s SARTA. We need your talents, your opinions, your willingness to share in the work of our organization – to invite both old and new retirees to join our group, to have fun and feel good about the joy of sharing.

Our meetings provide us with opportunities to visit, to participate, to challenge, to learn something new, to be challenged, to become involved with people who know we have something to offer to the group, to share our own gifts.

This past year has been very different. Our last meeting was in March, 2020. This year begins with Zoom meetings. We will keep them short, hoping each of you will find time, and a way, to participate. If you have a computer, we hope you will join us. Ask a friend if you can  
Continued in column 3

**From Our Past President****Nadine Horner**

The year 2020 is in the record books and we are embarking on a new adventure in 2021. Who would have ever thought that the entire world would experience a year such as we have just gone through. No one knows what the new year holds for us but let’s hang in there for the ride!

In spite of not being able to have SARTA meetings since March, we have been able to carry on all necessary Unit business electronically. You approved the annual budget and you elected the officers for the next two years. Because of your willingness to participate, we have earned the Unit of Excellence Award for 2020.

Your 2021-2022 Unit Officers were installed at a Zoom meeting on December 14. You chose wisely when you elected this group of officers and SARTA is in good hands for the next two years.

I have appreciated the privilege of serving as your president for the past two years. You are an amazing group of people with which to work. I have never asked for help but what you have come through over and above expectations. I have missed meeting with you for most of this year and I am looking forward to when we can meet in person again.

I wish for each of you a happy and blessed 2021. Keep up the good work!

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



Continued from Our President share the with them. We want you to participate with us, to get a feel for what a Zoom meeting is like, and how to be informed. All you need to do is click on the link sent to you separately a few minutes before 10 a.m., on Monday, January 11. You can tune in to find out what the next few months will look like. We are hoping that by April, we will return to our regular meetings. Jim Kreider, our state Executive Director, will be speaking to us during the April meeting. It is important that our retired school staff-**you**- know what is happening at the state level.

Write our meeting date on your calendar. We are looking forward to having you with us on Zoom at 10 a. m. on Monday, January 11.

“See” you then.

A note was received that we need to celebrate Dortheta Stracke’s birthday on January 24 by showering her with birthday cards. Her address is: 1545 E. Erie, Apt. 303, Springfield, MO 65804. Dortheta will be a young 97 years old.

**Membership**

Have you paid your dues? MRTA is \$35 and SARTA is \$15. Your dues help with the work to protect your pension. Share with a friend.

**RETIRED TEACHERS  
ASSOCIATION**

8076 W Farm Rd 144 Springfield, MO 65802  
www.springfieldarearetiredteachers.weebly.com

**SARTA**

***"To Serve, Not to Be Served"***

Meetings are currently not in-person. Zoom at 10:00 am

SARTA Meetings are on the Second Monday  
At the South Street Christian Church.

Refreshments and Fellowship at 9:30 AM.  
The Program is at 10:00 AM, followed by a Business Meeting.

How Current are Your Dues?

**2021 Dues are now Due**

**TO FIND OUT IF YOUR DUES ARE PAID FOR THE YEAR, Call  
Carol Chappell at 766-6851. Please keep your dues current.**

Please let us know if you move so we can keep your address updated. If you  
change e-mail address please let Debbie Wilson, or Carol Chappell know  
the new information.

CLIP out this membership application to use to pay your dues or give it to a  
friend and encourage them to join.

**Elected Officers**

**President:** Jacque White  
2735 E Woodford St 65804 350-1415  
Whitecj62@outlook.com  
**Vice-President** Sharon Jones  
[sjones@blueeye.K12.mo.us](mailto:sjones@blueeye.K12.mo.us) 527-0430  
**Secretary:** Marilyn Ferguson  
[Mkferguson63@gmail.com](mailto:Mkferguson63@gmail.com) 830-2853  
**Treasurer:** Carol Chappell  
[caroltchappell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:caroltchappell@sbcglobal.net) 766-6851

**Assist. Treasurer** Stella Sharp  
[stellasharp@yahoo.com](mailto:stellasharp@yahoo.com) 323-2023

**Past President:** Nadine Horner  
[wnhorner40@gmail.com](mailto:wnhorner40@gmail.com) 546-0370

**Committee Chairs**

**Calling:**  
Cindy Bylander 496-4042  
**Chaplin:**  
Anne Gardner 831-3120  
**Community Service:**  
Carolyn Henderson 869-1189  
**Corresponding Secretary/ Sunshine:**  
Mary Hodge 861-8498  
**Health Care/ Informative & Protective  
Services/Insurance**  
Stella Sharp 323-2023  
**Historian:** Carolyn Smith 399-0534  
**MRTA Liaison/Legislative:**  
Sue Groves 732-2192  
**Membership/Publicity:**  
Debbie Wilson 882-9603  
**Program:**  
Sharon Jones 527-0430  
**Retirement Education:**  
Sara Shelley 881-0765  
**Scholarship:**  
Carol Chappell 766-6851  
**Social:**  
Dana Young 889-1308

**Springfield Area Retired Teachers Association  
Membership Application**

\*Name \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
\*mo \*Day Year

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ \*Year retired \_\_\_\_\_

\*Last School \_\_\_\_\_

\*Grade level, area or position \_\_\_\_\_

\*Number of years in Education \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_  
Only the \* items will be shared with membership, all other information is used for  
the calling committee, SARTA mailings, and state reports.  
Dues: \$15.00 a year. Send to Carol Chappell 4524 S. Zane Ct. Spfd 65804