



MRTA

Missouri Retired Teachers Association & Public School Personnel

October 6, 2009

Dear MRTA Legislative Leaders, Unit Presidents, and MRTA Board of Directors:

We are scheduling our annual MRTA Legislative Days for 2010. Visiting with our legislators has proven to be very productive in the past. In 2007, MRTA was instrumental in getting legislation passed allowing PSRS/PEERS benefits to be exempt from Missouri income taxes. The new law requires a six year phase-in allowing a 50% exemption on retirement income for tax year 2009. There are income limitations. Check with your tax advisor. Also, MRTA was successful in obtaining tax exemptions of 100% of out-of-pocket medical expenses.

Attached is our 2010 Legislative Platform for your review. As you know, our retirement system has felt the affects of the stock market crash and has received negative press statewide. The focus is now on us. Our legislative efforts may be defensive in 2010, but important as we protect the best retirement for educators in the nation. In addition, we must continue to monitor public school funding and teacher salaries. Tax credits/vouchers will also be an issue this year in the legislature. With this in mind, there is more of a need now, than ever, to maintain contact with our legislators.

MRTA LEGISLATIVE DAYS - Like we have so effectively done in the past, we will meet with our legislators while they are in session in February to discuss issues important to MRTA.

A. We have scheduled the following dates and regions for this event: (If you, or those in your region, are unable to attend on your scheduled day, please feel free to come on the other day, but be sure to let us know.)

- 1) **Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 10:00 a.m. for MRTA Regions 1, 2, 3, 8, 13, and 14**
- 2) **Wednesday, February 10, 2010, 10:00 a.m. for MRTA Regions 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, and 12**

B. We will meet at 10:00 a.m. in a **House Hearing Room (Room Number to be announced at a later date)** in the Capitol Basement to hand out supplies and instructions.

(OVER PLEASE)

www.morta.org

3030 DuPont Circle, Jefferson City, MO 65109
1-877-366-MRTA/Fax: 573-634-4273

MRTA Legislative Leaders, Unit Presidents, and MRTA Board of Directors
Subject: 2010 Legislative Days
October 6, 2009
Page 2

- C. At 1:00 p.m. each day, after meeting with our legislators, we will meet at the MRTA office where lunch will be served. The MRTA office is located just off Truman Blvd. and Highway 179, 3030 DuPont Circle, Jefferson City.
- D. Parking is always a problem around the Capitol Building. The parking garage is one block east of the Capitol Building on Madison Avenue and is probably the best place to park.
- E. **MRTA will pay**
 - **MRTA will subsidize the rental of a bus with regions from Kansas City, St. Louis and Springfield carrying 30 or more people up to \$300.**
 - **27.5 cents per mile for those who bring two (2) or more per car with them to Jefferson City.**
 - **MRTA will reimburse for paid gas receipt for one attendee in automobile.**

Round up your fellow retired educators and MRTA members and make a day of it at the Capitol in Jefferson City.

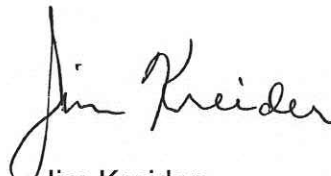
- F. **RSVP - In order to help us plan for adequate handouts and for lunch, please RSVP to the MRTA Office no later than the close of business, February 5, 2010.**

Please get this information out in your units and region and make every effort to attend. With your dedication and commitment, it is our hope to increase the attendance of MRTA Legislative Days. There is **“STRENGTH IN NUMBERS.”** It is important to get involved as **“the world is run by those who show up.”** Please do not hesitate to call or write if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Ron Schlimme
Legislative Committee Chairperson
schlimme@juno.com



Jim Kreider
Executive Director
jimkreider@morta.org