



MRTA

Missouri Retired Teachers Association & Public School Personnel

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Public Service Announcement

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ANNUAL STATE MEETING & MRTA 2011 DISTINGUISHED RETIREE OF THE YEAR AWARD, SEPTEMBER 13-14, 2011

The Missouri Retired Teachers Association and Public School Personnel (MRTA) will honor its 2011 MRTA Distinguished Retiree at its Annual Meeting to be held Tuesday and Wednesday, September 13 and 14, 2011 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, 415 W. McCarty, Jefferson City, MO. Nominations for this award are accepted from retired educators who are members of MRTA. The Distinguished Retiree is selected from a panel representing several education organizations within the state of Missouri. Regional winners, and ultimately, the Distinguished Retiree are selected based on their MRTA involvement, contributions to public education and the teaching profession, commitment to community through service-oriented activities such as volunteer work and civic activities since retirement, and their professional biography. MRTA, organized in 1960, is an association of retired educators whose purpose is to promote the professional, social, and economic welfare of all retired school employees.

Attendees will honor this year's MRTA 2011 Distinguished Retiree of the Year, William J. Wasson, Springfield, MO, MRTA Springfield (SARTA) Unit. A luncheon, honoring Mr. Wasson and the MRTA Regional Distinguished Retirees of the Year, will begin at 12:00 Noon, September 14, 2011.

Other activities at the MRTA Annual Meeting include a Delegate's Assembly, a fundraising Silent Auction, and General Session. The General Session, with President Jan Powers, Warrensburg, MO, presiding includes presentations from Missouri State Treasurer Clint Zweifel and the MRTA State Committee Chairpersons. The statewide convention will close with the Awards Luncheon. In addition to honoring the MRTA State and Regional Distinguished Retirees, honors will also be presented to the nine MRTA Units of Excellence for 2010. The awards banquet will conclude with Missouri Teacher of the Year 2011, Bob Becker, addressing attendees. The theme for this year's meeting is "50 for the Future" representing 50 more years of MRTA for the future of educator retirees. For reservations call 1-877-366-6782.



Congratulations! William J. Wasson, Springfield, MO - 2011 Distinguished Retiree of the Year.

Winner of the 2011 MRTA Distinguished Retiree of the Year William J. Wasson (Bill) is a member of the Springfield Area Retired Teachers Association (SARTA) of Region 10. Bill has given incalculable service as classroom teacher, coach, superintendent, and Deputy Commissioner for the Missouri State Department of Education. Since his 1986 retirement, Bill has served in leadership positions as Vice President for Business Operations at Drury University where he played an integral part in doubling the size of the campus which included adding several new buildings and remodeling and upgrading several others; and serving as a member and chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Public School Retirement System and Public Education Employees Retirement Systems (PSRS/PEERS). During his tenure and under his leadership on the Board of Trustees with PSRS/PEERS, notable improvements reflected fund asset growth of more than \$14 billion, and increases in the Benefit Formula and funding strength. Bill has served on many committees including Chairman of the National Association of Deputy Commissioners, National Council on Teacher Retirement, State representative to NEA, and he continues to give outstanding work to Local, Regional and State retired teachers.

Bill has been an active member of MRTA since his retirement. He actively advocated moving the original MRTA offices from Columbia to Jefferson City and supported the purchase of a site and the construction of a new building. He served as a member of the Building Committee. Mr. Wasson now serves on the Board of Directors for the Missouri Retired Teachers Foundation and

is recognized as one of its Legacy Donors. Bill is also a member of the Springfield Area Retired Teachers Association and a regular attendee and participant in both the Springfield and Regional Meetings.

Following is a list of the 2011 MRTA Distinguished Retiree Regional Winners.

2011 MRTA REGIONAL DISTINGUISHED RETIREES OF THE YEAR

Gay Dittmore	Andrew County RSEA Region 1 Winner	Savannah MO
Cecil Goeking	Raytown RTSPA Region 2 Winner	Independence MO
Janie Gray	Sullivan County RTA Region 3 Winner	Green City MO
Bonnie M. Kisor	Randolph County RSP Region 4 Winner	Moberly MO
Betty J. Ireland	Carroll County RSP Region 5	Bosworth MO
Pauline Hlavacek	Sac Osage RSEA Region 6	El Dorado Springs MO
Libby B. Sanders	Dent County RTA Region 7	Salem MO
Beulah Ann McCreery	Jefferson County REA Region 8	Arnold MO
Mary Kahre	Dade County RTA Region 9	Lockwood MO
William J. Wasson	Springfield Area RTA Region 10	Springfield MO
John S. Poston	Mineral Area RTA Region 11	Bonne Terre MO
Patricia Ann Baldwin	Stoddard County PSREA Region 12	Dexter MO
Mary E. Reese	St. Charles REE Region 13	St. Charles MO