

Missouri Middle School Association Conference Report

September 27, 2011

This is a short report on the Missouri Middle School Association Conference at Tan-Tan-A this past weekend. We had a wonderful time, renewing some old acquaintances, and meeting some new faces. The conference was down considerably this year, due, in part they feel, because of moving it from the spring to the fall.

We gave out lots of information, and the pink pens and Emery boards were quite a hit with even the other presenters. I helped two ladies who will be retiring this year or next fill out their forms to become associate members. Neither had their purses, but assured me they will be sending them in. Another gentleman who has just retired and is on the MMSA board said he was joining also. I have his name, so I will drop him a line in a week or so if we do not have his application.

This year the luncheon, silent auction items, and the exhibits were all in Salon A—together, so we got quite a good chance to meet with everyone. I discussed a certain legislator with a group of Cape Girardeau teachers who were very surprised to learn that he was not the staunch support they thought him to be.

The regular teachers just aren't getting the word about what's going on with our retirement. They suggested me notify CTA presidents or other teachers. They fear that some superintendents and school boards might secretly be keeping this information from them because they are happy that teachers would be paying much less into the system. (Their words...not mine.) So, that is something for us to consider—another reason for getting into the schools.

I also got to speak to two region officers who just retired and are relinquishing their posts in October. They wondered why they should join MRTA when they have already joined their association as a lifetime retiree. What a great time I had. I gave them my speech I had just written for Morgan County's new retirees on why they should join MRTA. I gave them a copy of my "Top Ten Reasons to Join MRTA", and I told them there was absolutely no reason why they couldn't join both. I also gave them two applications, so I'm hoping my seeds I planted get watered by someone so that they will join us too.

I also picked up a new member at Morgan County's unit meeting yesterday. Another one filled out the information but didn't get it to me. I was excited to meet with them.

Tomorrow I meet with Larry to relinquish "the suitcase" which is full of information on MRTA. I will tell you again how much I feel this way of getting MRTA out there is a good way to do it. We HAVE to get to that teacher in the trenches right now. It's imperative. It will make our jobs much easier in the future when they do retire and it's time to become one of us.

Best wishes as we grow MRTA!

Georgia White
Region 7 Vice-President