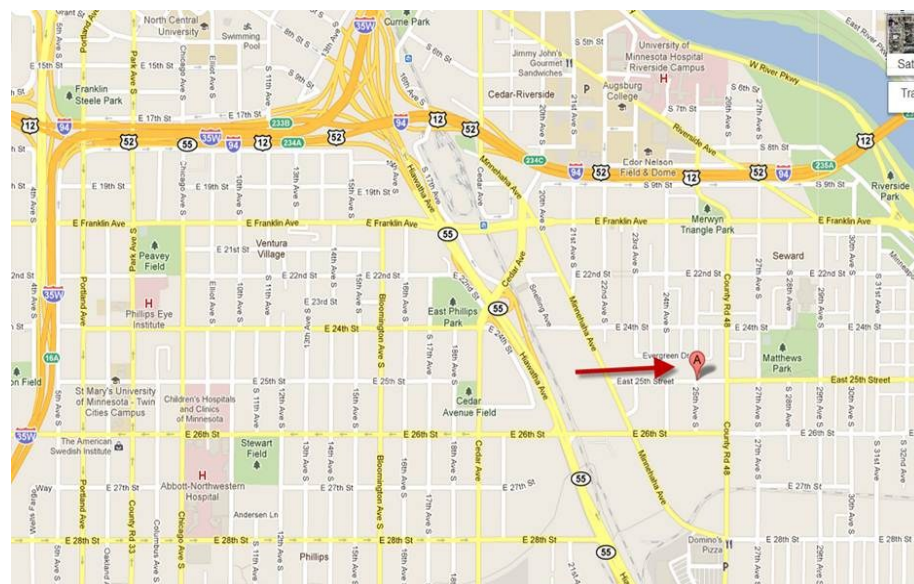


MRTI Newsletter February 2012
Becky Grover, Editor

Articles, points of view, and comments are welcome and should be directed to: Becky Grover
5904 Oliver Ave. So.
Mpls., MN 55419
rlgrover14@gmail.com

Our New Meeting Location
Eagles Club #34 / American Legion
(On the corner of E 25th St. & 25th Ave. S.)
2507 E 25th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55406



Plenty of free parking!

Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Inc.
P.O. Box 24034
Minneapolis, MN 55424-0034

MRTI News

Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Inc.

February 2012

Founded in 1926

Vol. 63 No. 1

Eagles Welcome MRTI To New Meeting Location

Over 100 members came together on January 10 for our first meeting at our new location. Staff there worked really hard to make everything work for us – and it did. The food was good and hot, portions were generous, and we were all served at our tables. It felt warm and welcoming.

Peter Lang entertained and educated us with his songs and stories. He plays a mean 12-string, and makes it all look so easy!

An added bonus was door prizes, generously provided by TruStone Financial. Thirteen lucky winners /attendees received a fleece lap robe, insulated lunch bag, or carry-all tote bag (all with the TruStone logo, of course). Thank you to TruStone.

Spring Programs



March 20: U of M Raptor Center

You won't want to miss this. The University of Minnesota Raptor Center is bringing their wild, winged creatures for us to see up close and personal.



April 17: B is for Battle Cry

In April come prepared to experience a very personal presentation about the Civil War. Local teacher and historian Pat Bauer, whose artist husband David Geister did all the artwork, shares the story of her book, B is for Battle Cry. Professional musicians Don and Sherry Ladig accompany with period music.



May 15: "Flower Power"

Back to the 60's and More -- featuring Steve Kremer, local guitarist, vocalist, and storyteller.



June 12: 'Cruzin' and Lunch on Lake Minnetonka

Cost: \$42 – includes Lunch (Bus fee paid by MRTI) Denny Lander, contact person (612.926.8478) will begin taking reservations at April 17 meeting.

Important Notes

* MRTI

P.O. Box 24034
Minneapolis, MN 55424-0034

* **Report** address changes and email addresses to membership chair Denny Lander, 612.926.8478 or dlander222@comcast.net.

* **Cheer and Service Committee:** If you know someone who is ill or just needs a kind word or a member who has died, contact Doris Arnold, 952.431.7471 to have a card sent. Mary Karen Dorniden, 952.941.8833, mkdorniden@msn.com will send birthday cards to our honoree members.

* **Food Shelf:** Donate at our monthly meetings. Just a \$1.00 donation buys \$9.00 of food!

* **We Need You!** Contact a Board member or any committee chair if you want to take an active role in MRTI.

* **Do You Have an Interesting Story?** Do you know a fascinating retired teacher? Did you just take a trip of a lifetime or read a great book? Contact Becky Grover to contribute an article to the Newsletter. 612.920.6357 or rlgrover14@gmail.com

* **A Little Extra:** Every year there are members who send in their membership dues with a "little extra" as a gift to the organization. Then, too, there are Honorary members who continue to send dues even though they have become non-dues-paying members. These donations are appreciated, and the money is used to defray the costs of scholarships.

* **Gifts or Legacies** given to the MRTI are welcomed and appreciated. You may use these gifts to honor departed friends or relatives. Direct contributions to treasurer Bob Ryder, MRTI. P.O. Box 24034, Minneapolis, MN 55424-0034.

* **Committee of 13 Website:** Get updates on the Committee of 13: www.committeeof13.com.

www.mrti.org

Be sure to visit the new website for MRTI.

Contact Denny Lander if you have any suggestions to help make the site more informative.

Board of Directors

Officers

	Jan. 31 to Dec. 31 (2 years)	
Joanne Lambrecht	President	2012-2013
Dave Rolek	VP/ President Elect	2012-2013
Greg McDaniels	Recording Secretary	2012-2013
Christine Poppe	Asst. Rec. Secretary	2012-2013
Elmer Koch	Corresp. Secretary	2011-2013
Gayle Marko	Asst. Corr. Secretary	2012-2013

Directors

	Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 (3 years)	
Rebecca Grover	Past President	2012-2013
Margaret Tuma		2012-2014
Barbara Kuenne		2010-2012
Josephine Bunton		2011-2013

Ed Andersen	Legislative Chair	Board Appointment
Denny Lander	Membership Chair	Board Appointment
Larry Risser	Investment Chair	Board Appointment
Becky Grover	Newsletter Editor	Board Appointment

Lunch Reservations Going Well

Our phone callers record the names on the reservations, not just numbers. Those reservations will be held at the ticket table and names will be checked off. No-shows will be billed for the cost of the luncheon.

Meatless Choice: When you are called for a reservation, you must request this choice.

If you have **NOT** been called by the Wednesday before the Tuesday lunch and want to attend, you may call **Gayle Marko, 952.920.1395**, to make a reservation.

The Board reports that this policy has helped us provide accurate numbers to the caterers.

Newest Board Member Shares Her Passion for Roses

I started growing roses in 1978, after my family and I moved into our Minneapolis home. Our 50x100 foot city lot had one small strip of garden across the front of the house, entirely taken up by two enormous, overgrown arborvitae. All the rest was grass.

That first Spring, the arborvitae were cut down and hauled away. (A neighbor actually came over to thank us for getting rid of them!) I ordered nine rose bushes from Jackson & Perkins' catalog and my first rose bed was created along the South side of the house. I can still remember those first roses: Medallion, Seashell, Arlene Francis, First Prize, Tropicana, Honor, Europeana, Friendship, Chrysler Imperial - all tender Hybrid Teas. They were so beautiful! In the fall, I carefully covered each one with a Styrofoam rose cone from Frank's Nursery and by spring, every one of them was dead.

Undeterred, I replaced them all. But this time, I sought advice from experts at the Home & Garden Show, who taught me about the "Minnesota Tip" method for keeping tender roses alive through our winters. It was a lot of work to dig all those trenches and bury those bushes every fall, but they lived, so it was worth it. For years, I was fanatical about getting my roses buried by October 15 and digging them up on April 15.

About 9 years ago, I was at the Home & Garden show (again). Stopping by the Twin Cities Rose Club (TCRC) booth, I mentioned proudly that I had 9 rosebushes. Offered a membership (and a free miniature rose bush), I decided to join. My first TCRC meeting was a revelation: Here was a roomful of otherwise normal people who not only shared my love of roses and gardening, they were dedicated to learning about the science of growing roses and sharing and promoting their hobby with others!

Since then, my garden beds have multiplied and the front lawn has shrunk. The family-sized vegetable garden in the back yard has become part patio, part rose garden. I have become a Consulting Rosarian (meaning that I'm accredited to give free help to other rose-growers) and I have about 105 bushes now: Hybrid teas & Floribundas (still my favorites), Grandifloras, Miniatures, Shrub roses, Climbers, tree roses and, beginning last year, Old Garden Roses.

My interest in roses has brought travel opportunities and friendships with people across the world. As a member of the American Rose Society (our national organization), I have helped to put on a national convention here in St. Paul and traveled to LA to attend last fall's ARS convention. Next October, I will be attending the World Federation of Roses Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Except for one huge Hybrid Tea that I still bury, the Minnesota Tip Method is a thing of the past, replaced by a newer, easier method of winter protection. (I'm certainly not going to dig 105 trenches every Fall!) A little fertilizer and regular watering using a drip system and my roses reward me with beauty, color and fragrance beyond description. If that weren't enough, my rose "Gold Medal" won Queen of the Show at last June's TCRC rose show. (My first Queen!) If you should be in my neighborhood anytime during the Spring or Summer, feel free to drop by - I'm almost always out in the garden!

Chris Poppe



Newsletter Advertising

MRTI is providing an opportunity to advertise products or services in the newsletter.

Who May Advertise? MRTI members, their family members, and charities which MRTI supports.

Content cannot be of a political, religious or illegal nature.

Rates for black and white, camera-ready copy for one-time placement:

Page Size	Member	Non-member
1/8	\$15	\$20
1/4	\$25	\$35
1/2	\$40	\$55

Copy needs to be submitted for committee approval and space availability to David Rolek at dmrda@aol.com. FFI call him at 952.894.4925.

We are also anticipating the opportunity to accept ads in the future for the annual membership directory. Watch for further information.

mostly prairie



paintings by Gregory McDaniels

E-mail: gregorylm@usfamily.net
 Phone: (651) 695-9563
 Address: 1938 Sheridan Ave., St. Paul, MN. 55116

Twin Cities Rose Club Annual Sale



Spring is Coming! Why not add a few rose bushes to your garden? Roses are easy to grow and reward you with beauty and fragrance all summer long and for years to come. TCRC has great roses in every color, size and growth habit you can imagine, at better prices and greater variety than you'll find in the nurseries.

We'll even give you advice on the best ways to grow them in our climate!

Bare root Hybrid Teas, Grandifloras, Floribundas - \$17.00 each. Potted shrub roses - \$17.00 each.

Potted miniature rose bushes - \$9.50 each.

A variety of yard and garden products, ranging from Liquid Fence rabbit and deer repellants to Bob's Mix, an organic slow-release fertilizer-soil amender which is mixed exclusively for our club and is great for use throughout your garden.

Order roses and products in advance, using the order forms you can download from the TCRC website.

Chris Poppe will also bring order forms to MRTI meetings.

To download forms: Google Twin Cities Rose Club. On the TCRC home page, click on "Meetings and Events" in the left hand column, then click on "Fundraiser Product Pickup." On the Fundraiser page, click on "Rose order forms" or "Bob's Mix order form."

You can print out the order forms and mail them in or bring the sheets to the sale and choose your roses and products at that time.

Please note: Bob's mix & cocoa bean mulch must be ordered in advance. Quantities of all other items are limited and subject to prior sale.

Pick-up dates: **Saturday, April 14 from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm, and Saturday, April 21 from 9:00 am until 11:00 am**

Pick up location: 5400 Nathan Lane, Plymouth, MN

TCRC will not be responsible for rose bushes that are not picked up on the dates listed above. If you have any questions, call **Stephen Hennessy** (612-801-9780) or e-mail: scouthe2@gmail.com, or **Chris Poppe** (612.588.8722) or email: chpop001@gmail.com.

Member News

Remembering



Chuck Dorniden, past president (2006-2007),
Investment Committee Chair

Members: Roger Googins, Chris Behm, Pat Lindgren,
Gloria McKeen, Clareen Nyquist, Richard Oliver, Mary Spake
Peter Nekola Past Board Member: Doug Davis

New Appointments

Larry Risser is the new Investment Chairperson,
and welcomes Mel Pibal to the committee.

Membership Renewed – not in 2012 Yearbook

Lorraine H (Geri) Cannon
2730 W Lake St #407
Minneapolis MN 55416
612.374.2823

New E-Mail Address

Paul Dillenberger
paul.dillenberger@comcast.net

Loren B Meinke
nerolb@charter.net

Suzanne E Grammens
suzanne.grammens@comcast.net

Change of Address

Marion K Olson
12600 Marion Ln East Apt 321
Minnetonka, MN 55305
952.935.8248

Margaret L Seath
2301 10th St NW
Austin, MN 55912
507.433.2024 ronpegs@yahoo.com

Keep the Book Exchange Active Share a Good Read

- Bring books (and magazines which are not "time sensitive") to display on the table provided.
- Before, during and after lunch, browse through the items displayed and select any you want.
- At the end of the luncheon, **You are responsible for removing the books and magazines you brought.**
- You do not need to bring a book/magazine in order to take one (or more).

How to Get Involved

- **Help** keep lunch numbers accurate / call for a reservation or cancellation.
- **Call** AchieveMpls or your neighborhood school to volunteer.
- **Write** a review of the last great book you read or trip you took.
- **Contact** a committee chair to volunteer.
- **Bring** food / money to support the food shelf.
- **Write** a letter to ??? urging action.
- **Provide** a ride for a fellow member.
- **Find** those books / magazines cluttering your house and bring them for others.



*Music for weddings, receptions, dinners,
religious observances, etc.*

Deborah Carlson (612) 374-3992
Cheryl Paschke paschke4@aol.com



Free Credit Report: Get a FREE credit report from the government-authorized site www.annualcreditreport.com

Thank You Scholarship Contributors

There are 143 contributors, giving a total of \$6195,

Allen Anderson	Clement Engen	Javan Larson	Jay Ritterson
Karen Anderson	Karen Erickson	Carol Lauder	Rosalind Robbins
Doris Arnold	Mary Jo Erickson	Harriet Lerdal	Sara Roberson
Anne Bartel	Lee/Mary Ann Fabel	Jo Livgard	Cynthia Rogers
Aroti Bayman	James/Sylvia Farrells	Marlene Locascio	David Rolek
Nancy Bell	Emma Foss	Dan Loewenson	Sharon Rucker
Marcia Birney	Nancy Fowler	Ruth Lofgren	Kathleen Runchey
Linda Bjorklund	Carol Freeman	Britt Lundgren	Maira Runganadhan
Mary Jo Boardman	Richard Friedrichsen	Marjory Maier	Donald Ryberg
Louise Botko	Roslyn Gantt-Simmons	Arthur Maillet	Robert Ryder
Elizabeth Bragg	Mary Ann Gilbertson	Marie Maland	James Salwasser
Delora Brewer	Marion Gillquist	Gayle Marko	Marlys Sanford
William Brody	Bruce Graff	Maureen Mashek	Karen Scheib
Phyllis Brooks	Carole Gupton	Kathy May	Margaret Seath
Eleanor Zanna Brown	Leona Hansen	Eunice Milbrath	Judith Shapiro
Susan Bunnell	Richard Hanson	Norman/Pat Moen	Margaret Shryer
Kathleen Cahill	Mary Hewitt	Robert Monson	Beverly Shupe
Janelle Camp	Mabel Hokanson	Nancy Morin	Helen Smith
Alphonsa Cannon	Psyche Hoye	Karen Nelson	Donald Sovell
Darryl Carter	Bette Jacobs	Marybeth Nelson	Louise Sundin
Don Cieminski	James Jacobsen	Rodney Nelson	Alan Sweet
Dorothy Colvin	Suzanne Jebe	Cecelia Newton	Genevieve Taylor
Karen Coppicus	Lauren Johnson	Jack Oman	Joan Threet
Richard Cornwell	Jerry Jones	Joyce Ovick Fuhrman	Margery Torgerson
Barbara Covart	Stella Jones	Mary Peterson	Margaret Tuma
Cheryl Creecy-Awobamise	Dorothy Joy	Roberta Peterson	Gary Vettleson
Jacquelyn Cronin	Marilyn Karasov	Joan Petroff	David Vos
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Anne Desmond	Cynthia Kelly	Christine Poppe	Florence Wertz
Charles/Mary Karen Dorniden	Elmer Koch	Carolyn Radke	Jo Anne Wilson
Rita Drone	Elizabeth Koenig	Lynne Raphael	Sheila Woodbeck
Claire Dryke	Barbara Kuenne	Margaret Reed	Doris Zachary
Lewis Duckett	Kathryne Kuhns	Corinne Retzlaff	Deb Zwickey
Michele Dunn	Susan Larsen	Barbara Risken	

Limited Medical Assistance Fund

Access the Limited Medical Assistance Fund to help cover medical costs according to the guidelines:

- Reimbursement is **not** for co-pays, prescriptions or office visits.
- The reimbursement is up to a "reasonable amount" of costs remaining after an insurance payment for hospital care, out-patient surgery, treatments, etc.
- You are eligible no matter your age and/or Medicare status, with proper documentation.
- To receive application forms call TRA at 651.296.2409.
- Distribution of funds is made throughout the year, with no particular deadline.

At the End of the Year, if more money is available from the trust than was needed for the health care reimbursement explained above, then the balance will be distributed for health care insurance premiums. This eligibility is more strict than the process for medical expenses:

- A retiree must be 65 or older,
- Must have retired from a Minneapolis school after May 1, 1974 and before January 1, 2000 **and**
- Must not be eligible for free Medicare Part A.

Point of View

A Perspective: Presidential Politics by Darryl Carter

On January 20th, 1961, JFK sent forth word, that "the Torch has passed to a new generation." Thus, of course, must it ever be, if the Republic is to survive.

Jefferson, chief architect of the Declaration of Independence, admonished us that "the price of Liberty is eternal vigilance."

Eternal. No rest for the wicked. "And the righteous don't need it," we Social Studies teachers used to assure one another, as we basked in the recollection that the origins of public schools were anchored in the need for a literate and informed Electorate.

It is time once again, I think, for the literate and informed portions of our Electorate to demonstrate their vigilance so as to assure once again, that the Torch will still be available, for other generations.

While Minnesota shows signs of a rebirth of freedom, via a growing use of Ranked Choice Voting, aka Instant Run-off Voting, our national Presidential selection system is clearly sick. Indeed, there is no national system, but 50 separate State systems, each with its own rules and restrictions, and all of it overlaid with the preposterous arrogance of national political party committees presuming to dictate policies and timelines to State governments. Bizarre beyond belief (and nearly beyond describing).

Some States have caucuses (get out of your house and go to a meeting). Some States have primaries (go to your precinct polling station and vote). Some States require party registration, some not. The DNC has long apportioned Delegates proportionally to candidates' share of caucus attendees and/or primary votes. The GOP has had winner-take-all, is switching to proportional for the early batch of States.

States have been competing to be first, causing candidates to campaign earlier and earlier, so we now have the circus of nearly permanent campaigning. If Britain's government were to resign today, six weeks from now, the entire nation would have an election. Six weeks. It is true, that Great Britain is the size of Wyoming (though differently shaped). Nevertheless. Six weeks.

We can do better. Vox Populi, vox Dei, would be a good place to start. The voice of the People is the Voice of God. And a pox on parties and partisanship, as George Washington once said. Well, that's not a precise quote, but it is fair to say that those words capture the essence of his sentiment.

Here's my proposed reform:

On January 2nd of each Presidential election year, the Governor of each State (50) and Territory (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Marianas, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands) and the Mayor of our Federal City each SHALL nominate ONE Citizen, resident in his/her jurisdiction, for President.

On the first Saturday in April, the ballot of 56 Nominees goes before the voters of AK, HI and the Pacific Territories, who collectively determine which 28 get "voted off the island."

On the first Saturday in May, the 28 Survivors appear on a ballot which goes before the voters of the Mountain Time Zone, who collectively determine which 14 are privileged to advance.

On the first Saturday in June (are you beginning to perceive a pattern here?), the 14 appear on a ballot before the voters of CA, OR, WA and Nevada (those "NE" States can confuse people). Voila! We are now down to 7.

First Saturday in July: Central Time Zone votes, and 4 candidates still stand.

First Saturday in August: Eastern Time Zone. TWO remain.
First Saturday in October: General Election.

The proposed progression is population-based, from smallest population "market" to largest. Though consecutive census counts have inexorably moved America's population center both south and west, if one looks at the percentage changes WITHIN any given Time Zone, they are minimal.

Please notice the absence of any reference to, or place for, political party prominence. The candidates are the candidates. Who survives, survives. No guaranteed slot for any party at any stage.

Though this proposal does not get us down to Britain's 6 weeks, it does get the nation off a two-year campaign, and moves the focus from all the nation all the time, to sequential focusing on sequential regions.

The regional sequencing of the contests permits the candidates to focus on one region at a time, as opposed to the current "system" which has them flying from one end of the nation to another, repeatedly. Focusing, should enable those with less deep pockets to more ably compete.