

After School...

The Newsletter of Minneapolis Retired Teachers Inc.

Website
www.mrti.org

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Cont p. 7

Welcome New Retirees!



On Tuesday, September 17, these six women represented their fellow retirees at a festive luncheon given in their honor by the Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Inc. **Janet Felter, Susan Ferrell, Deborah Gregory, Martha Grimes, Dawn Porter and Rebecca Stachowiak** celebrated their many years of service to Minneapolis Public Schools with hot turkey sandwiches and apple crisp while being entertained by the music of the **From the Heart Singers**.

Accompanied by **Martha & Dana Mathewson** on piano and clarinet, Baritone **Tom Witry** and Soprano **Melissa O'Neill** sang a wide variety of songs from the Great American Song Book, including Irving Berlin's plaintive "What'll I do?," "Count Your Blessings (instead of Sheep)" and "Anything You Can do, I Can do Better" from **Annie, Get Your Gun**. Tom demonstrated his

cont. p.5



SPOTLIGHT ON

Elmer Koch



On May 21, 2024, MRTI celebrated the retirement of one of our longest - serving Board members, Elmer Koch. A modest and gentle man, Elmer has devoted his life

to the teachers and students of Minneapolis Public Schools - and retired four times!

Born in Minneapolis, Elmer attended Longfellow, Sanford and South High, where he was Valedictorian of the class of 1954. He received his B. S. in Elementary Education, with a minor in Math in 1958 and an M.S. in Curriculum and Instruction with a minor in Administration in 1965 from the University of Minnesota.

His career in Minneapolis began in 1958, teaching 5th grade at Calhoun Elementary. That summer, he won the first of two National Science Foundation grants, allowing him to attend an Elementary Mathematics Institute at Rutgers University. That Fall, he moved to Kenny and in 1960, he returned to Calhoun where he stayed until 1963. In 1965, Elmer received his second National Science Foundation grant, allowing him to attend an Elementary Math Institute at Columbia University.

In 1956, Twin Cities Area Educational Television Station, KTCA-TV Channel 2,

came into being. It went on the air in September 1957 with a variety of local programming intended for students. From 1961-1964, Elmer was released from the classroom once a week to do a live television show, ***Classroom for Kids***, focused on math concepts. These shows, with their rudimentary graphics and largely ad-libbed dialog were saved on kinescopes which have since deteriorated too much to be viewable.

In 1963, Elmer left the classroom to become a Helping Teacher for grade 5. From 1964 -1988, Elmer served in a variety of posts: Elementary Math Resource teacher; Principal of Webster and Adams schools; Math K-6 Consultant; K-12 Curriculum Director for East Area and then Citywide Director. Principal at Cooper from 1984 - 1988, Elmer retired from MPS to become the Director of General Studies at Torah Academy from 1988 -1991.

In 1991, Elmer became the Executive Director of the Minnesota Elementary Principals' Association (MESPA), a post he held until retiring from it in 2002. From 2003-2006, Elmer became an Adjunct Instructor in Elementary Math Methods for Mankato State University at Normandale College.



Elmer and Jackie celebrate her 85th birthday

Bill of Fare

October 15- Beef stew with cornbread and brownies for dessert

November 19- Lasagna with garlic bread, a dinner salad and carrot cake

December 17 - Chicken Kiev with rice, mixed vegetables and chocolate pudding

January 21 - Chili with frito scoop chips, cole slaw and marble cake

The dining room opens at 11:30
A vegetarian option is available; include the request when making your reservation. No other options are possible.

The lunch price is \$22.00, which includes the lunch, tax, tip and the program. We happily accept cash or checks.

Phone callers record both names and phone numbers for reservations, which will be checked off at the ticket table. Should you need to cancel your reservation, call **Gayle Marko** by the Sunday prior to the meeting or be billed for your non-attendance.

If you have NOT been called by Monday, a week before the luncheon, and you wish to attend, please call Gayle Marko to make a reservation.

If you make your reservations by email with JanWahl, please do not make one with a caller.

Any questions or concerns, please call Gayle at 952-920-1395.

Did You Know...

MRTI contributes to many programs that support Minneapolis children? Your dues support annual contributions to:

- The Assistance League
- Mary's Place
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Minneapolis
- Jeremiah Program
- Harriet Tubman Center
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Twin Cities
- People Serving People
- Minneapolis Recreation Development

This month's MRTI Luncheon email reservations will come to you from the following address:

Janwahl @comcast.net

If you requested an email contact for lunch but did not receive one, please do the following BEFORE Oct 8:

1. Check your spam folder
2. Send an email to the above address
3. Call Gayle Marco at 952-920-1395 to reserve a spot at the upcoming luncheon.

Interested in political activity?

**Retired Teachers Council 59
(RTC 59)**

"Gathering, Learning and Action "

October 22, December 3


+Meetings will be at the Local 59 office

67 8th Avenue NE. 10 AM

January 28, 2025 will be a Zoom meeting

Watch for notices in your email

Fall & Winter Program Schedule

 October 15, 2024

Richfield Silver Notes
A Senior choir from Richfield



November 19, 2024
Mike Wohnoutka

Award-winning Minnesota author and
illustrator of many children's books



December 17, 2024
Todd Anderson
"Holiday Crooner"
featuring best - loved

Christmas songs both past and present



January 21, 2025
Doug Ohman
"Name that Town"

Journey through the rich history of
various locations and cities with fun
and interesting stories relating to
the town names.

Elmer, cont.

Elmer's partner throughout his amazing career has been his wife, Jackie, whom he married in 1961. In 1962, they moved to Bloomington. With some additions and modifications, they continue to live in the same house 62 years later! Together, Elmer and Jackie raised two sons, Ken and Scott, who have produced three grand-daughters and two great-grandsons, all of whom live in the metro area.

In 2002, Elmer joined Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Inc. (MRTI). Until his (4th) retirement this past June, he served as a Board member, Program Committee Chair and Advisor to the Board. as well as representing MRTI on the Achieve! Minneapolis Board.



President-Elect Janet Kujak presented Elmer with a Certificate of Appreciation for all his efforts on behalf of MRTI.

Active retirees, Elmer and Jackie have enjoyed golf, attending theatrical productions and traveling pretty much all over the world. (Read about their trip to China in Oct. '21 and Jan '22 After School). In addition to MRTI, Elmer has served on the Board of the South High Foundation, the Minnesota Retired Principals Association and the MESPA Ambassador to the World Education Forum.

cont. p 5

Welcome cont.

vocal versatility with songs like “*On a Wonderful Day Like Today*,” from the Broadway hit **The Roar of the Greasepaint, the Smell of the Crowd** and “*At Last*” - the wedding dance favorite written by Mack Gordon and Harry Warren and popularized by Etta James. Melissa’s lilting soprano blended



accompanying Tom and Melissa on the piano, Martha Mathewson does most of the arrangements for the quartet while her husband, Dana, plays the clarinet and three saxophones, demonstrating their virtuosity on a rousing Duke Ellington number, “*Take the A Train*.”

With great music, good food and a beautiful day, our celebration of our newly retired colleagues was a great success.



beautifully with Tom on “*Another Opening, Another Show*,” from **Kiss Me, Kate!** by Cole Porter.

In addition to

Elmer, cont.

Elmer continues to be a smiling presence at our monthly luncheons. Stop by his table to let him know how much we all appreciate his dedication to MRTI!



Happy Holidays from the Koch Family!

Congratulations to these new MPS Retirees

A - B

Daniel Aamot
Kathryn Anderson
Griffith Brown

C

Jane Campbell
Mary Carlson
Anita Chavez
Donna Clemenson
Julie Anne Conrad

D - E

Jennifer Delveaux
Lynn Dolny
Kimberley Dorsett
Ann Elward

F

Janel Felter
Anna Farrell
Susan Ferrell
Kari Field
Toby-Ellen Finley
Cheryl Flugaur-Leavitt
Brenda Frisvold
Christine Fury

G

Melissa Glavas
Paul Griesch
Deborah Gregory
Martha Grimes
David Gross

H

Julie Hagen
Georgetta Hawkins
Lorrie Halvorson
Della Hard
David Hedenstrom
Susan Hinze
Lisa Howe
Julie Hirtubise

J

Joseph Janssen
Sheilagh Johnson
Pamela Juve

K

Debra Krawetz
Joni Kueng

L

Elizabeth Larson
Elizabeth Larson
Joseph Lazur

M - N - O

Brent Mastel
Carla Nerison
Sarah Olson

P

Mary Peterson
Andrew Pritchard
Dawn Porter

R

Julie Railsback
Michael Ries
Karen Robinson
Teresa Rumppe

S

James Sanders
Sally Shelton
Carol Soto
Rebecca Stachowiak
Eve Stein
Richard Sudo

T

Dana Thielen
Tamra Thelen
Margaret Thompson

V - W

Jerry Van Cleave
Anita Webster
Denise Wells
Linda Wiard-Bauer
Linda Wilterdink
Donald Winnes

Y - Z

Laura Yost
G Jean Zimmerman

There's Still Time to Contribute

The Scholarship / Grant funds accept contributions all year long. To date 140 generous MRTI members have contributed a total of over \$7400.00.

The money provides scholarships for active teachers and paraprofessionals who are seeking licensure or certification and provides grant money for field trips, classroom enhancements and program needs of active teachers.

Please send your contributions to :

Sylvia Farrells,

5208 W. 111th Street, Bloomington, MN 55437



cont. from page 1

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763-545-7500
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Visit the MRTI Website

One of the services for MRTI
members is our website:

www.mrti.org

Check it out for information on our
luncheon programs, the grant and
scholarship programs, Committee
of 13 updates, lists of Board
Members, Limited Medical
Assistance Fund, lists of deceased
members and more.

Use this resource...it's for you!

Holland & Belgium in Springtime 2026

It's time to experience something fun, different, and affordable. Join me for my 30th international group trip departing MSP on April 7, 2026, to Holland & Belgium for a 12-day river cruise. Space is limited.

Call or email For more information: Maria (MJ) Savaiano 651-257-1944 (a land line) or travels@frontier.com



OPTIONAL EXTENSION S - all with FREE Single Supplements
Bruges, Belgium - 3 nights pre-trip from \$895
Amsterdam, the Netherlands - 3 nights post-trip from \$94
Berlin, Germany - 3 nights post-trip from \$895

Funds are available for medical reimbursement.
Give TRA a call to request an application

651-296-2409

Limited Medical Assistance Fund (LMAF)

(administered by the Teachers Retirement Association) Health Insurance

Overview Medical Expenses Premium Expenses

The Limited Medical Assistance Fund (LMAF) was established in the 1930s through a bequest of a retired Minneapolis teacher.

A trust was established to reimburse certain medical costs of retired Minneapolis teachers, and is administered by the Teachers Retirement Association.

To qualify for reimbursement, a retiree must have been a Minneapolis Special School District #1 teacher

Reimbursements
Eligible retirees may request reimbursement for:

- Allowable medical expenses
- Health insurance premiums (when funds permit)

Allowable medical expenses, if these expenses are not covered by Medicare or any other form of insurance, include:

- inpatient or outpatient procedures performed at hospitals, clinics or surgery centers; and
- licensed nursing care or prosthetic devices.

Expenses that are not eligible include: dental care, nursing home care, medication, therapy, glasses, outpatient services, non-medical items. Reimbursements are reviewed and disbursements made twice a year.

How To Apply:

Call TRA to request information. If expenses are determined to be eligible, an application will be mailed to you. Complete and return the application to TRA, along with expense receipts.



(when funds permit)
To be eligible for health insurance premium reimbursement, a retiree must meet all of the following criteria:

- be age 65 or older;
- have retired after May 1, 1974, but before July 1, 1999; and
- not be eligible for free Medicare Part A coverage.

Reimbursements are reviewed and disbursements made twice a year.

Contact us at:
Teachers Retirement Association
60 Empire Drive, Suite 400
St. Paul, MN 55103-4000

651.296.2409 or 800.657.3669
651.297.5999 (FAX)

MRTI Newsletter October, 2024
Chris Poppe, editor

Articles, opinion essays and
comments are welcome and
should be directed to:

Chris Poppe

3851 Queen Ave. N
Minneapolis, MN 55412
chpop001@gmail.com

Our 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

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