

After School...

The Newsletter of Minneapolis Retired Teachers Inc.

Website
www.mrti.org

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Music to Welcome Our New Retirees



Mark and Lisa Flores played and sang for our enjoyment

Tuesday, September 16, MRTI welcomed our members back for another year of friendship, connection and entertainment. Newly retired MPS staff members were invited to join us for a lunch of hot turkey sandwiches and musical entertainment. **Catherine Burnett, Drid Wilson, Lance Brown, Rhonda Fields, Richard**

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Spotlight On ...

The 1970 Minneapolis Teachers' Strike



It's been 55 years since the Minneapolis Teachers' Strike of 1970. Few of us can remember what it was like to teach in a district where we had no voice in governance, salaries or responsibilities - only demands, expectations and penalties. MRTI member, Corinne Robinson, has put together an excellent memoir of this momentous event with the assistance of Larry Risser, Louise Sundin, Lyndon Carlson and other fellow strikers. In 1970, it was illegal for public employees to strike. Not only that, teachers who went out on strike

were automatically dismissed. If rehired, they lost their tenure, were placed on two years' probation and forfeited any salary increases during that period, with no provision for appeal or consideration of mitigating circumstances.

Despite these challenges, 2,190 Minneapolis teachers went on strike and stayed out for 3 weeks. Among the issues were class sizes, low salaries, working conditions (no Elementary prep time) and the right to collectively bargain with the District as an equal. 40% of Minneapolis teachers were within 5 years of retirement in 1970, but they cared enough about the issues that they risked possible consequences to participate in the strike.

Amply illustrated, clearly explained and filled with the reminiscences of strike

participants, this book will be

available for purchase at a cost of **\$5.00** at the October and November MRTI meetings and the October and December RTC-59 meetings. The book also includes a note with directions for accessing a video developed by John See of the University Labor Center.

On May 27, 2025, RTC-59 celebrated the 55th anniversary with speakers, the video and a song composed in 1970 and performed by Mary Lou Knipe.

Mary Lou Knipe



Lyndon Carlson



Bill of Fare

Oct. 21- Beef stew with cornbread and brownies for dessert

Nov. 18 - Lasagna with garlic bread, dinner salad and carrot cake for dessert

Dec. 16 - Chicken breast w/ gravy, rice and mixed vegetables, chocolate pudding for dessert

Jan.20 - Meatloaf w/mashed potatoes and gravy, corn and assorted cheesecakes for dessert

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 \$25.00 which includes the lunch, tax, tip and the entertainment. 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 Jan Wahl**, **please do not make one with a caller.**

Any questions or concerns, please call Gayle at 612-205-4130.

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** October 13:

1. Check your spam folder
2. Send an email to the above address
3. Call Gayle Marco at 612-205-4130 to reserve a spot at the upcoming luncheon.

A Note From Gayle

In the August President's letter, you were notified that the cost of our monthly luncheons has risen to \$25.00 - which includes the meal, tax, tip and the program.

The Lunch Committee worked very hard with the Eagles' Club to keep the cost increase as low as possible, but if you have done any grocery shopping or eaten out recently, you know how difficult it is to keep costs down.

Although coffee cups and water glasses will remain china and plastic, respectively, as a cost-saving measure, we have exchanged our 'dinnerware' for compostable, recyclable plates and our flatware is now heavy-weight plastic.

We would like your feedback on this change. Feel free to call **Gayle (612-205-4130)** or call or email any member of the Board to tell us what you think.

Your opinion is important!

Fall - Winter Program Schedule



October 21, 2025

Laurel & Hardy

A short history of the comedy duo followed by one of their famous routines.



November 18, 2025
"Corrie ten Boom"

a dramatic presentation
by Pati Kashel



December 16, 2025

Susan Smith,
director of Helping
Paws with Humphrey,
one of Gilbert
Hortman's siblings



MRTI's 100th Anniversary



January 20, 2026

"School-House
Memories"

presented by
Doug Ohman

Help to Protect Our Pensions

Last Spring, the Committee of 13, which both lobbies the Legislature in support of our pensions and helps to provide campaign support for candidates, underwent a significant change. Changing the official name to Minneapolis Educator Pension Advocates, Inc. (MEPA) – Committee of 13, the governing board will now be comprised of 6 active teachers elected by Local 59, 6 retired teachers (3 from MRTI and 3 from RTC-59) and one administrator.

Thanks to their lobbying efforts, last session's pension bill, which included reductions in penalties for those retiring before age 65, passed the legislature. But these improvements are under constant threat by those Legislators who want to see an end to public employee pensions. The need for continuous lobbying efforts in coming legislative sessions and the need for vigorous support of candidates pledged to maintain and improve our Minnesota Public Pension system in the 2026 elections means that your financial support is urgently needed. Representatives of the committee will be calling retired educators for additional support.

Donations in any amount are most welcome. You may donate by check, sending it to the following address: **Committee of Thirteen, P.O. Box 19181, Mpls. MN 55419-0191**

If you prefer to send your donation electronically, go to the Committee of 13 website: www.committeeof13.org and click on the "Donate" button to make your donation.

Thanks for your support!

MRTI Grants at Work

Jason Ziehm, teacher at South High School, used an MRTI grant to partner with the Minnesota Bonsai Society, teaching groups of students the art and culture of bonsai. Each student received this full set, including assorted diameter bonsai training wire, a wire cutter, a pruning shears, a concave branch cutter, and a plastic pot.

Instead of the plastic pots, they partnered with ceramics teacher, David Olsen, who helped each student make their own custom ceramic pot.



This student made her pot in yellow, to reflect her favorite anime character, Pikachu. Dave Weiss, 2nd Vice President of the Bonsai Society and a Special Ed teacher in District 197, became a

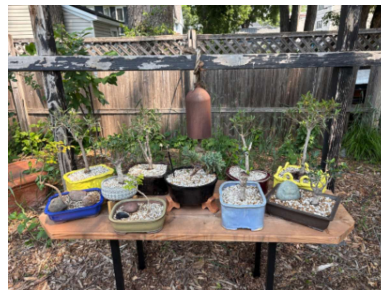
frequent visitor, teaching students the art and science of bonsai.



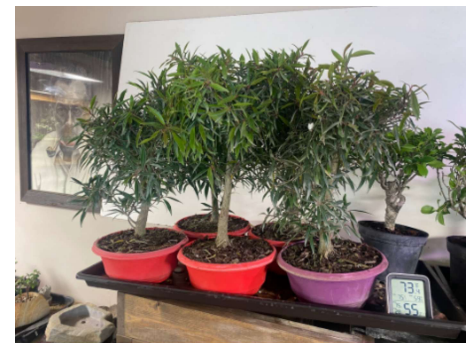
Bonsai under the lights



This student's pot has loop-shaped handles like rainbows

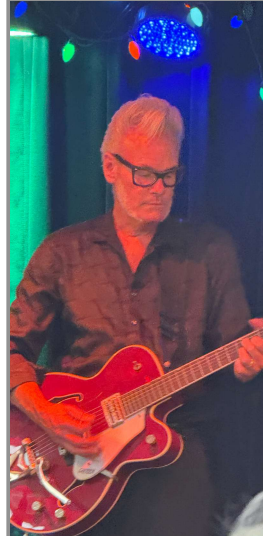


Sophomores' & Juniors' trees in their summer home awaiting return to the classroom



Willow Leaf trees awaiting delivery

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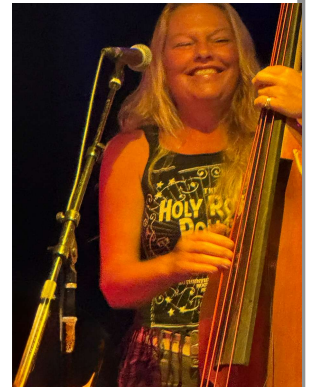
McChesney, Jr. and Jeff Buszta were introduced individually, each giving a short précis of their teaching careers in Minneapolis.

After that, The Floras, Mark and Lisa, entertained us with a rousing program of songs from across the American music spectrum. Songs made famous by Buddy Holly (That'll

be the Day), Johnny Cash (Folsom Prison Blues), Elvis Presley, (Blue Suede Shoes) Patsy Kilne (Walkin' after Midnight) and Roger Miller (King of the Road) had us all humming or singing along.

It was another great start to our school-year meetings

and a happy way to welcome our newly-retired colleagues to the joys of retirement.



Once the weather was nice enough, we unplugged the lights and rolled the entire growing rack outside to absorb the natural sunlight.

Our graduating Seniors and their trees!

Graduating Seniors were gifted their trees and a complete set of bonsai tools.

Congratulations to the following Newly-Retired Minneapolis Public Schools Teachers and ESPs

A

Abdullahi Abdulle
Carol Allery
Lisa Alm-Plaziak
Marlene Anderson

B

Anne Baxter
Roxanne Beasley
Leslie Bell-Pashelak
Lawrence Bogolub
Alexander Boyer
Lance Brown
Catherine Burnett
Jeff Buszta

C

Sue Carlson
Patrick Cole
Robyn Cook
Mary Croft
Patricia Covington

D

Patricia Dejarlais
Don Dilla

F

Daniel Ferris
Todd Feely
Rhonda Fields
Katherine Frisbie

G

Margret Gallagher-Menocal
Melissa Glavas
Paul Griesch
Mira Grossman
Lynn Grundtner

H

Yina Ha
Teresa Haas
Lorrie Halvorson
Mary Hentges
Leah Herzog
Susan Hinze
Gary Hoffert
Holly Hofmann
Valerie Holler

J - K

Kenneth Jadwin
S. Jamison
Sheilagh Johnson
Linda Jones
Suzanne Kehr

L

Elizabeth Larson
Michael Leach
Jacqueline Lux
Sandra Lynch

M

Timothy Marburger
Laura Martin
Richard McChesney, Jr.
Margaret McDonald

N-O

Marjorie Nadler
Patricia Nelson
Joseph Okrakene

P

Joseph Palm
Catherine Passer
Sophia Patterson

Elizabeth Patterson
Crayford Paylay
Catherine Peterson
Karen Peterson
Mary Peterson

Q-R

Frederick Quiggle
Darcell Rainville
Mary Rice
Yolanda Rodriguez-Henao
Teresa Roguski
Jay Roland
Constance Rooney

S

James Sanders
John Sandbo
Karen Savage
Christine Sedesky
Thomas Skelly
Martha Spriggs
Richard Sudo
Maryann Sulik

T

Mary Thury
Jill Troutman

U-V

Stephen Undis
Rosamaria Van Huyen
Sharon Vonachen
Rebecca Voss

W

Jeffrey Wendelberger
La Madrid Wilson
Lizabeth Wilson
Rebecca Wood

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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!

Interested in political activity?

**Retired Teachers Council 59
(RTC 59) 10 AM through lunch**

Oct. 28, Dec. 2

"Gathering, Learning and Action"
meetings will be in- person at the
Local 59 office 67-8th Avenue NE.
Watch for notices in your email

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

MRTI Needs YOU!

MRTI's Board has an opening for an At-Large representative. This is a 2-year position, during which you will learn all about the inner workings of MRTI.

Our Board meetings take place at the Eagles' Club on the morning of regular meetings. If you're interested or would like more information, contact **Becky Grover** (612-408-2284) or rlgrover14@gmail.com

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

Overview		Health Insurance Premium Expenses
<p>The Limited Medical Assistance Fund (LMAF) was established in the 1930s through a bequest of a retired Minneapolis teacher.</p> <p>A trust was established to reimburse certain medical costs of retired Minneapolis teachers, and is administered by the Teachers Retirement Association.</p> <p>To qualify for reimbursement, a retiree must have been a Minneapolis Special School District #1 teacher</p> <p>Reimbursements</p> <p>Eligible retirees may request reimbursement for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allowable medical expenses• Health insurance premiums (when funds permit)	<p>Allowable medical expenses, if these expenses are not covered by Medicare or any other form of insurance, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• inpatient or outpatient procedures performed at hospitals, clinics or surgery centers;• licensed nursing care or prosthetic devices. <p>Expenses that are not eligible include:</p> <p>dental care, nursing home care, medication, therapy, glasses, outpatient services, non-medical items.</p> <p>Reimbursements are reviewed and disbursements made twice a year.</p> <p>How To Apply:</p> <p>Call TRA to request information. If expenses are determined to be eligible, an application will be mailed to you.</p> <p>Complete and return the application to TRA, along with expense receipts.</p>	<p>(when funds permit)</p> <p>To be eligible for health insurance premium reimbursement, a retiree must meet all of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. <p>Reimbursements are reviewed and disbursements made twice a year.</p> <p>Contact us at:</p> <p>Teachers Retirement Association 60 Empire Drive, Suite 400 St. Paul, MN 55103-4000</p> <p>651.296.2409 or 800.657.3669 651.297.5999 (FAX)</p>

MRTI Newsletter October, 2025
Chris Poppe, editor

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

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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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