

The Bridge to a Dream DVD is available from MRTA by calling 877-366-6782. The DVD is perfect to show to school employee groups, School Boards, community groups and businesses to promote the value of quality public education, the driving force that's helped make the United States of America the greatest country in the world.

The Missouri Retired Teachers Association & Public School Personnel
Presents
Public Education: The Bridge to a Dream

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Thank a Teacher. Help a Teacher. Be a Teacher. It's a simple phrase, but to the members of the Missouri Retired Teachers Association, it's a way of life. Our members are proud of their contributions to Missouri Education and our country's successful democracy, built on the time proven foundation of a strong PUBLIC education system. And, we're still working to keep it that way for generations to come.

Our fore-fathers understood that providing quality educational opportunities to every child opened the gateway to a brighter future. Perhaps public education pioneer John Dewey said it best: "What the best and wisest parent wants for his own child, that must the community want for all of its children. Any other ideal for our schools is narrow and unlovely; acted upon, it destroys our democracy."

MRTA supports quality public education for all Missouri students, and we are thankful for the hard work and determination of our public school teachers, support staff, administrators, Board members, and parents. It's from the dedication and collective acts of these individuals that our nation's children are nurtured and inspired to ascend great heights for the betterment of mankind.

The MRTA Mission Statement reflects the values of a caring and proactive organization: MRTA, organized in 1960 is the only educational organization in Missouri working exclusively for retired school personnel. MRTA will work actively with government and its entities for beneficial legislation. We shall strive to increase membership until all retirees become members, and always foster good fellowship. We

encourage members to be involved in community affairs and work for worthy educational causes. Our mission is to serve and not be served.

The Missouri Retired Teacher Foundation was created in 2002 by the Executive Board of MRTA. The Foundation is a not-for-profit 501 C 3 entity, which provides scholarships to future teachers and mini-grants to current classroom teachers. Funded by tax-deductible donations, the Foundation provides an important link between our past and future educational leaders.

And the future is always just around the corner for our members. MRTA's Vision Statement helps link the past to the future by providing members with a map for making a positive difference on Missouri public education, while also helping those who have already served Missouri's children. MRTA is a caring, active, and knowledgeable community. Members give of their talents and time to support retired and active public school employees. Members strive to uphold and improve the integrity, value, and mission of our public schools so that all school personnel may live healthy vital lives and be secure economically, socially, and professionally in retirement.

MRTA provides members with many different reasons and benefits to belong. This isn't a "one size fits all" organization. For some it's a way to continue to stay in touch and be involved with public schools. Or, to stay abreast of, and impact legislation on important issues, including retirement benefits, health care, consumer protection issues, and laws affecting our public schools. In fact, MRTA members have played an instrumental role in the enactment of laws which have improved the public school retirement system benefits for all retirees, helping make it one of the top public retirement systems in the nation.

Local, Regional, and State MRTA meetings and activities provide many opportunities to get together with friends, make new acquaintances, to learn and stay informed, as well as to be entertained. Members often hear from education leaders and students, consumer protection advocates, and from government officials.

Membership in MRTA is a bargain. For those currently retired, membership dues are only \$30 a year. For individuals still working full-time in public education, and anyone else wanting to join MRTA to support public education, a non-voting associate membership is only \$15 per year. And, look at all you have access to for less than seven cents a day: A Democratically run grassroots organization with a full-time executive director and support staff working on behalf of retired public school personnel.

MRTA believes all retired public school personnel deserve strong representation and leadership on member issues and concerns with government officials. Therefore, MRTA is a relentless legislative watchdog and proactive organization on important issues to members.

Members have access to attend meetings in one of the over 120 local chapters across the state to discuss current issues, community service, and hear from local leaders. Members are also welcome to attend annual Regional meetings in the 12 MRTA regions, and state meetings which include keynote speakers, luncheons, awards, workshops, and exhibits.

If association meetings aren't your cup of tea, you can still stay in touch through the MRTA newsletter, member website, email, and toll-free phone access to membership services. MRTA also sponsors free regional educational seminars and workshops on issues and concerns of public school retirees.

Additionally, members have access to important insurance, service, and discount programs through the plans arranged by Mark Iglehart and the professionals at Forrest T. Jones and Company. With Value, Trust and Service when you need it most, FTJ's current member Benefits and Discount Plans include:

- Group Dental and Vision Care
- Medicare Supplement and Prescription Plans
- Long Term Care Insurance
- Professional Liability Insurance
- Prepaid Legal and Identity Protection Plans
- Everest Funeral Planning and Concierge Service, and
- Hearing Service and Discounts.

Your time and money savings on one or more of these valuable plans alone can far exceed the cost of your annual dues.

Most importantly, located in Jefferson City, MRTA is well positioned for the future. Through contributions from members and from other supporters of Missouri public education, MRTA is raising funds for a permanent headquarters and “Retired Public Educator and Public School Personnel Hall of Fame” building. The property has been purchased and is just two blocks from the Public School Retirement System office. This new building will serve as the centerpiece of MRTA’s future...as well as a focal point to honor and to serve those who have served Missouri’s children.

Thank a teacher. Help a Teacher. Be a Teacher. MRTA is in motion and making connections for members and for public education. If you’re one of our over 16,000 members, thank you! Ask a friend to join. Consider making a contribution to our Foundation, or talk to a former student who may be interested in supporting MRTA. There is strength in numbers.

If you’re not a member, please consider joining, because... **Together**, we can better safeguard our future, and the future of Missouri public education—the bridge to a dream.

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