

# MARSP-BCC Newsletter

May – June 2025  
Volume 32.2

Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel—Berrien County Chapter  
Website: [www.marsp-bcc.org](http://www.marsp-bcc.org) E-mail: [info@marsp-bcc.org](mailto:info@marsp-bcc.org)

## Membership Meeting Tuesday, May 13, 2025 Lunch at 12:00 PM

Berrien County RESA,  
(Regional Education Service Agency)  
711 Saint Joseph Avenue in Berrien Springs

**Program:** The MARSP annual video will be shown, MARSP handouts will be available, BOB KUCERA--past MARSP president and current Area 22 Director--will provide information on MARSP, SANDY BEITER will report on medical insurance and answer questions, and AMBA Benefits Adviser KIMBERLY GHINDEA will provide information on AMBA.

**Election:** The election of chapter officers for the July 1, 2025—June 30, 2027, term will be conducted for president, first vice president, second vice president, and secretary. The term for BARBARA PEEPLES as treasurer ends June 30, 2026.

The responsibilities of officers are described in the chapter bylaws available on the "Who We Are" page of the chapter website: [www.marsp-bcc.org](http://www.marsp-bcc.org).

**Menu:** Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy on the side, Cole Slaw, Fresh Fruit Tray, Assorted Dinner Rolls with Butter, Assorted Cookies, Iced Tea, Lemonade. If you have special dietary requirements, please make that known when you make your reservation.

**Reservations:** To have sufficient food and to avoid paying for food that is not used, reservations are required. If you are not called by Thursday, May 1st, and plan to attend, please call EARLENE WHORTON at 269-944-1731.

**Luncheon Cost:** \$13.00. (Paid at the door.)

**The deadline for making or cancelling reservations is noon on Monday, May 5th.**

## Membership Meeting Tuesday, June 10, 2025 Lunch at 12:00 PM

Berrien County RESA  
(Regional Education Service Agency)  
711 Saint Joseph Avenue in Berrien Springs

**Program:** "Deer Forest: Wonderland Memories." In its 65 years of operation, millions of people visited Deer Forest in Coloma to pet and feed animals such as deer, llamas, and peacocks. Although the park closed in 2014, the legacy of Deer Forest lives on. Peter Cook, the Executive Director at the North Berrien Historical Museum in Coloma, will provide images to tell the unique history of this beloved West Michigan attraction.

**Scholarship Presentation:** Recipient to be announced.

**Menu:** Chicken Carbonara, Cole Slaw, Fresh Fruit Tray, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy on the side, Assorted Brownies, Iced Tea, Lemonade. If you have special dietary requirements, please make that known when you make your reservation.

**Reservations:** To have sufficient food and to avoid paying for food that is not used, reservations are required. If you are not called by Thursday, May 29th, please call EARLENE WHORTON at 269-944-1731.

**Luncheon Cost:** \$13.00. (Paid at the door.)

**The deadline for making or cancelling reservations is noon on Monday, June 2nd.**

## Message from the Chapter President

*"Be sure you put your feet in the right place,  
then stand firm."* Abraham Lincoln

Saturday, April 5th, was a national "Hands Off" demonstration against all the destructive attacks on our democratic institutions. Locally, I was part of over a thousand demonstrators in St. Joseph from noon to 2:00 pm. I saw many of you taking part in this inspiring show of solidarity.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are fundamental to our democracy. Who better can advocate for current teachers and students than retirees who are not threatened by loss of

employment? The mindless cancellation of the Department of Education is a clear undermining of opportunities for future generations.

I'm excited to greet our new members and returning members after such a long hiatus. Let us come together at our first membership meeting, May 13th, to be inspired by the program of the Annual Meeting—full of important information about our benefits.

Also, I look forward to our collective goal of growing our membership, thereby enhancing our abilities at lobbying for maintaining these earned benefits: social security, the right to vote without obstacles or impediments, etc.

Respectfully,  
HAROLD E. BRAGG, President

## Four MARSP-BCC Community Contributions

**Silver Beach Playground Project:** On October 10, 2023, LARRY WARD presented "Climbing Mount Denali" for our membership meeting. Larry asked that the \$200 presenter honorarium be given as a donation to the Silver Beach County Park Playground Project. As a result, our chapter will be listed on the County Parks webpage and the sign that will be placed in the park.

**DonorsChoose.org:** On November 5, 2024, with GEORGE PICA's guidance, EARLENE WHORTON completed the chapter's donation to DonorsChoose.org.

As approved during the November 4, 2024, board meeting, member contributions provided \$395.06 and the balance was provided from chapter funds. Two projects were funded:

- River Valley Elementary School, Three Oaks (\$436.00)—Reading and Math tools to help students "sound out" words and see math problems
- Brandywine Middle School, Niles (\$319.02)—Victory Garden in the Classroom, creating a classroom garden that simulates the Victory Gardens of WWII

**Region IV Area Agency on Aging:** Approved during the November 4, 2024, board meeting, \$200 was contributed from chapter funds in appreciation for past and future use of their conference room for board meetings.

**Berrien County RESA (Regional Education Service Agency):** Approved during the November 4, board meeting, \$200 was contributed from chapter funds for the use of their rooms for membership meetings.

## Financial Review

On December 10, 2024, EARLENE WHORTON and MARCIA ANSTISS completed the financial review of financial records from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2024, five years.

Earlene and Marcia verified the documentation for income and expenses, checkbook ledger, and year-end account balances with the Honor Credit Union monthly statements.

The financial review does not constitute an audit but provides reasonable—but not absolute—assurance of the integrity of the financial management and the sufficiency of the financial processes and records. The financial review is an essential volunteer effort.

Thank you Earlene. Thank you Marcia.

## Calling Lists

EARLENE WHORTON, chair of the Calling Committee, has updated the twenty-two calling lists for the spring meetings. Calling lists have been mailed to call coordinators and callers.

If you are not called and would like to be added to the calling list for meeting reservations, please contact EARLENE.

PHONE—(269) 944-1731

Email—

elwhorton@hotmail.com

## Membership

On April 12, 2025, our chapter had 104 life members, 113 renewed for 2026, and 304 members whose membership ends June 30th—a total of 521.

If you are one whose membership ends on June 30th, you can renew your membership by calling MARSP, by using the MARSP website, or my completing and mailing the membership form at the bottom of page 3.

If you are attending the May or June luncheon meetings, you can see MARTHA MAKAY to renew your membership.

## Did You Know?



Penicillin was discovered by Scottish scientist Alexander Fleming in 1928 when mold killed bacteria samples that had been left exposed to air; however, it was not until 1939 that Howard Florey and Ernst Chain used penicillin on 150 infected mice. The 75 untreated mice died and 70 of the treated mice survived. It was not until 1941 that it was given to five humans and not until World War II that enough could be produced to use for soldiers.

**Source:** Ezra Klein and Derek Thompson, *Abundance* (New York: Avid Reader Press, 2025), pp. 169-170.

Sunsets and sun rises are times when the sun is at an angle and the rays pass through more atmosphere. Red is seen because the long wave length of red penetrates and the shorter blue wave lengths are scattered.

"Red sky in morning, sailor take warning; red sky at night, sailor's delight" has a scientific explanation. Red sky in the morning indicates moisture-laden atmosphere. Red sky at night indicates good weather because sunlight is passing through dust in the atmosphere trapped by a high pressure.

This weather aphorism was spoken by Jesus in Matthew XVI: 2-3 and used by Shakespeare in *Venus and Adonis*.

**Source:** <https://www.loc.gov/everyday-mysteries/meteorology-climatology/item/is-the-old-adage-red-sky-at-night-sailors-delight-red-sky-in-morning-sailors-warning-true-or-is-it-just-an-old-wives-tale/> [03/24/2025]

British scientists created an incandescent light in 1835; however, it was not until 1879 that Thomas Edison, experimenting with filaments, produced a light bulb using a cotton filament that lasted 14.5 hours. Edison eventually used a bamboo filament that could last 1,200 hours. Bamboo filaments were used for ten years.

**Source:** <https://www.energy.gov/articles/history-light-bulb#> [03/23/2025]

Sudoku history: Sudoku requires putting numbers in a nine-by-nine grid so that numbers 1 to 9 are not repeated in any column or row.

Sudoku began with the creation of Swiss physicist and mathematician Leonhard Euler (1707-1783). A mathematical formula was used to place numbers in a matrix so that rows and columns had the same sum.

Howard Garns from Minneapolis is credited with creation of the modern Sudoku published in 1979 by Dell Pencil Puzzles and Word Games in New York.

In 1984, Nikoli publishers in Japan publish the game "Suuji wa dokushin ni kaguru" (The numbers must remain single). The numbers in the puzzle were placed in a pattern and no more than thirty-two numbers could be given, which added to the appearance and ensured a minimum of difficulty. The name was shortened to Su Doku (number single).

Sometime after 1997, Wayne Gould, a New Zealand judge retired from a court in Hong Kong wrote a computer program for creating the puzzle and rating its difficulty. In 2004, Gould had the puzzle published in *The London Times* and Sudoku went viral.

**Source:** <https://www.sudokuonline.io/tips/history-of-sudoku> [03/25/2025]

## Too Much Stuff?

[Two excerpts from article published in the September 2012 newsletter.]

"Things are in the saddle,  
And ride mankind."

Ralph Waldo Emerson,  
"Ode, Inscribed to William H. Channing"

Some of us have a problem with the accumulation of too much stuff, especially memorabilia and things saved because we want to avoid waste or think the stuff we do not need now may someday have a use. . . . Living with an accumulation of things is not just a problem of physical space. It can also be a psychological and spiritual problem. . . .

Too much stuff has a negative effect on your quality of life. Too much stuff is a burdensome and constant reminder of something waiting to be done and indicates an unresolved dependency on things. You are not your possessions and your possessions should not limit who you are. As Henry David Thoreau said in the second chapter of *Walden*, ". . . a man is rich in proportion to the number of things which he can afford to let alone."

Even cherished memorabilia can accumulate to the point that its retention becomes detrimental. Like other accumulations, memorabilia can clutter the living space and perpetuate a dependence on things. Memorabilia, by its nature, has a strong attraction. It is part of you and you may also consider it part of your legacy, your identity, or something to overcome your mortality.

If you perceive memorabilia as an embodiment of your life and its retention as a means of preserving your life, disposing of memorabilia may require recognizing and accepting your mortality.

Memorabilia intended for your children or grandchildren may justify its retention. But even this may require some attention, for example, identifying people in photographs. Rather than retain this memorabilia, one could give it to the intended recipient now.

Consider—and accept—the possibility that what you value as memorabilia may not be of value to the intended recipient, either now or in the future.

Preserving memorabilia in a digital form can be a solution. Photographs, slides, letters, and other documents can be scanned and saved as digital images. A digital photograph of the object can fulfill the purpose of the object. Retain the image and the memory and have less stuff by disposing of the object. Digital images take practically no space, can be viewed at any time, and—with a bit of planning—can be searched and easily retrieved. Moreover, the digital files can be more easily shared and—using backup copies and different media—can be more easily and more securely preserved.

Recognizing the problem, knowing why you accumulate things, triaging, dealing with the psychological and spiritual issues, and using digital images is not, however, enough. A decision to take action is required. Schedule a time and begin!

— CHARLES H. LONG

## Enjoying Excel

Are you someone who enjoys the use of Excel software?

In 1973, I was in a group of faculty at East Tennessee State University shown software in which numbers could be entered and totaled or used in other mathematical operations.

Twenty years later, I taught the use of Excel to employees at a company in South Haven, though it did not start out that way. Familiar with Lotus 1-2-3, I was scheduled to teach Lotus 1-2-3; however, on the first day of class, I was told that the company used Excel, not Lotus 1-2-3. I gave myself a crash course in Excel, switched to teaching Excel, and have been using it ever since.

Back to the question. If you are someone who enjoys using Excel and would be willing to contribute your knowledge to creating calling lists, newsletter mailing lists, and membership data for the chapter directory, please let me know. The chapter could use your help.

— CHARLES LONG  
email <charles-long1@comcast.net>

### MARSP

Phone: 888-960-4022

#### Office Hours:

7:30-11:30 a.m.

2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

## MARSP Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

MARSP annual dues \$40.00—85 or older \$25.00  
Berrien Chapter annual dues \$9.00—85 or older \$3.00

**Cut out form, enclose a check made out to MARSP, and mail to —**  
**MARSP**  
**PO BOX 23214**  
**LANSING, MI 48909-3214**

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