

# THE BEACON

June 2024

KARSP—Guiding The Way

Volume XLVIII Issue 4



## On The Side Dates And Data

### June 4

*Scholarship Presentation*

Sharon Pendola

Menu

Eggplant Parmesan

Cheddar Ale Chicken

Herbed Rice

Honey Glazed Carrots

Garden Salad With Creamy

Italian Poppyseed Dressing

Rolls & Better

*Look For September's  
Information In The  
September Beacon  
Delivered In Mid-August!*

## Forever Friends

Manuel Brenes, President

My dear friends and colleagues, greetings from Guatemala. I did not leave Michigan to try to avoid the wintry weather. I traveled to Guatemala because I had to take care of a property in need of maintenance before I put it up for sale. However, while I was walking along the beach, I was thinking about you and how important the organization and your friendship are for me. I decided to carve the name of KARSP in the sand and send a message to all of you.

Being away and while listening to the rhythmic waves landing along the sandy beach, I reflected on life and the blessings of special friends.



Someone who makes you laugh until you

cannot stop. Someone who makes you believe that there really is good in the world. Someone who convinces you that there really is an unlocked door just waiting for you to open it. This is forever friendship. When you are down and the world seems dark and empty, your forever friend lifts you up in spirit and makes the dark and empty world suddenly seem bright and full. Your forever friend gets you through the challenging times, the sad times, and the confused times. If you turn and walk away, your forever friend follows. If you lose your way, your forever friend guides you and cheers you on. Your forever friend holds your hand and tells you that everything is going to be okay.

I exhort you to continue inviting friends to join KARSP. Every month, I have enjoyed the opportunity to see our members attending our luncheons. It gives me the opportunity to walk around the tables greeting and teasing you with my silliness. Please continue helping the organization by making personal contacts to increase our membership. If you know other retirees, we encourage you to invite them to join our ranks.

As my tenure as president comes to an end, I continue to look forward to seeing you at our monthly luncheons.

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### Anticipation For June 4th

Sharon Pendola, Scholarship Chairperson

I am filled with anticipation for our June 4th “scholarship luncheon.” How about you? Anticipation fills me with the emotions of: excitement, fear, anxiety, hope, and trust. Surely, our recipients and their parents will be feeling the same way.

I feel excited for all of us to meet our ten recipients, their parents, and guests. I feel proud that each student will receive a \$2,000 scholarship, the most we have ever given. Our recipients come from six different high schools and will be attending six different colleges, five of them being in Michigan. Their areas of interest include: education, criminal justice, engineering, musical theatre, health education, biology, performing arts and data scientist. I am excited that they will receive validation from us for all their hard work and effort by getting our scholarship.

Meanwhile, I am anxious for all the contacts, confirmations, and details to fall into place between now and our luncheon program. Last year, several of our recipients were unable to attend because of prior commitments and that troubled me greatly. It is something I cannot control, but I wish I could. This year I hope every one of our recipients can come and know how important they are to us and for their parents to witness a packed luncheon room of KARSP members who have contributed toward their future plans and dreams. I want them to hear our applause after they nervously speak to our group and know that we are proud of them and their families. We are a community of supporters and that’s important for anyone, no matter the age.

So, I need your help. I need you to mark June 4th on your calendars to attend our anticipated “scholarship luncheon.” I need the room to be full of your support. I need you to embrace our scholarship recipients and their parents, by calming their fears and anxieties with your warmth and kindness.

I have hope that all will go well and trust that whatever happens, we will laugh, applaud, and cherish what we have done for ten deserving high school seniors and their families. Thank you for being instrumental in KARSP scholarships! See you on June 4th!

### Membership Musings

Kris Kirkpatrick and Linda Hawley, Co-Membership Chairs

#### New Members

Please welcome these new members. David Adams, Kathy Hurley, Robert Rank, Marylan Hightree, Nancy Spicketts, and Dianne Thrasher

#### Ten June Retiree’s Free Membership Opportunity

Do you know an upcoming June 2024 retiree from a Public School in Kalamazoo County? Please refer their name and contact information to either Kris Kirkpatrick at [kristinkirkpatrick@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kristinkirkpatrick@sbcglobal.net) or Linda Hawley at [linda.l.hawley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:linda.l.hawley@sbcglobal.net). The first ten names of new retirees we receive will be given a free year’s MARSP/KARSP membership.

Thank you for helping new retirees know about our organization and increasing our membership.

#### Membership Renewal

Your current annual MARSP/KARSP membership is active through June 30, 2023.

**Thank you to those who have already renewed.** If



you have not yet renewed, you may pay your \$40 MARSP dues and \$10 KARSP dues by sending a check made out to MARSP for \$50 mailed it to MARSP P.O 23214 Lansing, MI 49809. You can also pay by credit card by calling MARSP at 1-888-960-4022. You may also renew online at [marsp.org](http://marsp.org). Have you thought of using autopay for your annual dues? It is available by contacting MARSP.

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## If you Think You Can-You Can

Nam Palm

Good afternoon, last spring the Program Committee put surveys on each table with the hope of having members offer ideas for future programs. At my table, one of the ideas was to have a program on Black History in February. It was suggested by Linda that I could talk about growing up in the segregated South, or I could talk about how I got to Michigan. It is, now all included and titled, 'If You Think You Can.' So today I will talk about growing up, moving up, and some of the things I've been a part of.



I was born in a small rural town called Danbury, North Carolina. I attended a two-room schoolhouse for first and second grades; we were picked up by our soon to be bus driver in a covered pick-up truck. When I was in third grade, all two-room schools were closed and we went to a newly constructed school in Stuart, Virginia, called Patrick Central. Previously, students attending churches and two-room schools education stopped in eighth grade, unless they had family or friends in Martinsville, Virginia, or North Carolina that they could live with to complete their high school education. Patrick Central changed that. Most of the students were bussed in. The bus rides were very long, and we passed many schools on our way to Patrick Central. I, along with many other young students, wondered why our bus driver passed so many schools.

My mom passed when I was six years old and my dad remarried when I was eight. If you are familiar with the story of Cinderella, you can imagine my life as a young child. She would keep me out of school just because she felt like it. I missed two to three days a week. Langston Hughes said it best, "Life for me isn't been no crystal stair." When I was in seventh grade, I went to live with relatives in North Carolina, and we walked to school. When school started and I had been every day

for two weeks, I asked my aunt, "When do I need to stay out?" And she said, "Stay out for what?" I told her how my step-mother randomly made me miss school and she assured me that that wouldn't happen here. In that moment, I was so relieved that I could be a child going to school, learning, and doing my best to succeed. I did not miss another day of school. My dream was to go to college and become a teacher.

Growing up in the segregated South had its challenges, but my outlook was to always take a positive view. A popular Saturday pastime was to go to the movies. I went twice; blacks had to sit in the balcony. I didn't like sitting in the packed balcony looking down at all those empty seats. I would not and could not support that unfair system. I chose to not go to the movies anymore.

It was the early sixties and peaceful changes were coming. I kept up with the news. After graduating in 1963 as Salutatorian of my class, I received a Four-year Scholarship Loan from the state of North Carolina. (It was a scholarship if you taught in North Carolina and a loan if you did not.) It was a dream I had from the time I was in fourth grade to graduate and go to college.

I went to Winston-Salem State University, a Historically Black College twenty-six miles from A&T in Greensboro, North Carolina, the home of the first major sit-ins. In 1964, I sat at a lunch counter in Winston-Salem to test the system. A black lady passing through the store saw me sitting there and said, "Honey, is you supposed to be sitting here?" And I said, "They are supposed to serve us." She joined me and we were served.

I had tuition money but I needed spending money, so I looked at Want Ads in the local paper and noticed numerous ads for "Mother's Helper." I surmised that I could do that and applied and was hired. These jobs were in New York. I had never been to New York. It was a leap of faith. I had a great-aunt in New York, but I didn't know if she was anywhere near where I would be. I let her know that I was coming, and she was quite worried about her little niece coming to the big city.

I traveled by Greyhound bus and was confident in my choice until I arrived at Grand Central Station. It was a new challenge for me. As I walked across Grand Central Station to the train station, I thought you've come this far by faith and you can't turn back now. I got on the

train and was on my way to Rye, New York, to meet a family I did not know. When I got off the train around 7:30 p.m., they had sent a taxi for me and the taxi driver was calling my name when I stepped off the train. I met the family, talked for a while, and went to sleep. This family had three children and they, also, had a maid. My job was to take care of the baby and help the mother. Before I got there, the two older children had chickenpox. During my second week there, the family went sailing on the coastal waters near their sprawling home. I was home with the baby. The baby cried endlessly; no matter what I tried; the baby would not stop crying. I called my aunt for advice; she asked if the baby was wet, did you feed the baby and the answer was yes to all. Finally, I had to call the mother. She was furious that I had called. I said, "It's your baby." I didn't understand her attitude. The doctor came and the baby was diagnosed with chickenpox I was there for two weeks and this "Mother's Helper" job was over.

My aunt was so upset that I had only been in New York for two weeks and already lost my job. I told her not to worry, that I would find another job. During the following week, I checked the Want Ads in Mt. Vernon, and I saw an ad for a Mother's Helper in New Rochelle, New York. I called and scheduled an interview, and while we talked, the baby crawled up to me. The mom said, "You are hired; you are the first person I interviewed that the baby came up to." I was thrilled and to prove that she was serious she gave me an advance because they were moving to Mamaroneck, NY just miles from Rye and it was exactly like it was supposed to be. I loved it. My next New York job was in Mt. Vernon at an Answering Service. My other summer jobs were in Fairfax, Virginia, at a dry cleaner. I was the first black person to work in the front, bagging and tagging.

I was in summer school in 1967 to finish up my class work, and our school was swarming with recruiters from many states. It was the last week for the recruiters. I decided maybe I should try to get a job. I talked to recruiters from many states and when I talked to the recruiter from Michigan, he said they were interested in hiring me, and he called the superintendent while I was sitting there. I was thinking to myself, "I have a job." He assured me that I did not need to talk to another recruiter, that they wanted me in Michigan. I was excited but decided, just in case, I

should talk to another recruiter. I went next door and talked to a recruiter from Maryland. The next morning, the Superintendent from South Haven Public Schools called to say they were looking forward to having me come there, and I promised I would be there. In the afternoon, I received a telegram from Suitland, MD, offering me a job as a middle school art teacher (art is my minor.) Maryland would have been closer to home, but because I believe that if you make a promise, you keep it, I chose Michigan.

When I arrived in Michigan, passing signs like Watervliet (water what?) Coloma, Covert the word country came to mind. When the driver stopped and said South Haven!, I went up to ask the driver, "Where is the bus station?" He motioned and said, "Back there." I got off the bus and went to a card store. I was shocked; even Reidsville had a bus and train station.

It was a quiet Sunday when I arrived in South Haven. I had a phone number to call and the High School Principal came to meet me, we went to lunch, and he told me that one other black female teacher was already there. She was from Kentucky. A newly hired black male teacher that graduated with me said, "We are in the country." He had been in South Haven for two days. Six other Black teachers and I integrated the teaching staff of South Haven Public in 1967.

I was the only lower elementary teacher. I taught first grade. In South Haven, students were assigned to classrooms at the end of the year. My room number was 24 at Lincoln Elementary, across the parking lot of the LC Mohr High School. On the first day of school, some parents went to the office to ask, "Where was the teacher?" And the principal said "She's in the room." One parent said, "There's a little girl in the room, but no teacher." The principal said, "That's the teacher." I had a great start in South Haven. I was there for two years. We lived at Compton's Cottages right on the lake.

In 1969 I arrived in Kalamazoo and was assigned to Northglade. I was at Northglade for thirty-one years. I served as building representative and the AV coordinator. I was the teacher in the first KCEA TV commercial in 1988. I was the secretary for KEA. I was a KPS recruiter, MEA, NEA Delegate, Bargaining Team member, MEA Communication chair, and a NEA Retired delegate. I am now a NEA Retired alternate delegate. I

am, also, the recipient of the prestigious Leroy Bartoo and Sisyphus awards given by the KEA. In 2010 I retired after teaching for forty-three years. It has been a pleasure being an active member of KARSP.

A person's history is unique. The schools that I attended in Virginia and North Carolina, except one, have been torn down and turned into parking lots. Many people don't know that they even existed. However, we get together to remember the past and embrace the future. In June, a school reunion of classmates who attended Patrick Central was held in Mt. Airy, North Carolina. (Mayberry, from the TV show, *Andy Griffin*.) It was a beautiful get together. Each day you live, history happens. You don't have to be famous to have history. I am proud to participate in celebrating this day, February 6, 2024, doing my part to represent Black History. Thank you

*Editor's Note: When Nan presented this at the February meeting, several members expressed that it should be shared with the entire membership, not just those who attended the luncheons. Nan, graciously, shared her notes for this article.*

## Blue Cross Health Insurance Updates

Sandy Beiter, RN, BSN, Insurance Co-Chair

### Correction Regarding Optum Comprehensive Formulary

I was misinformed by Blue Cross regarding the Comprehensive Formulary. You need to call Optum RX and ask **them** to mail you the Formulary. Their phone number is on the back of your prescription card.

### Infusions/Injections

When infusions or injections have to be given by medical staff in the hospital (outpatient status), they are covered under your medical insurance, **not** your OPTUM RX benefit.

### Administration of Prescription Medications When Admitted Under "Outpatient Status"

If you are admitted to the hospital under outpatient status for surgery or another medical problem, make sure that you bring all of your prescription bottles (that have labels regarding dispensation) from home. Ask that the hospital pharmacist put the hospital label on

the bottles so that your home medications can be given by the nurse during your stay. If you do not do this, you will pay out of pocket for the medications given from the hospital pharmacy. They will not be covered under your Optum RX benefit.



### CDC Shortens Recommended COVID Isolation Period (Bronson 4/3/24 Newsletter)

New guidance issued by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that Americans who test positive for COVID-19 no longer need to routinely stay home for five days. Instead, the CDC recommends "returning to normal activities when, for at least 24 hours, symptoms are improving overall, and, if a fever was present, it has to be gone."

This is the first time the agency has loosened its COVID isolation guidelines since 2021. The thinking behind it is to come more in line with advisories for other common respiratory infections.

### Vision Care Services

Your medical plan covers exams to diagnose and treat medical conditions of the eye in case of disease or injury (i.e. diabetes). (Your coinsurance is 10% of the approved amount. The annual deductible applies. The coinsurance and deductible apply to the annual out-of-pocket maximum.). Your **BC/BSM PLAN** covers one pair of eyeglasses with standard frames (or one set of contact lenses) after cataract surgery that implants an intraocular lens.

### Eye Med

The Eye Med plan covers **routine** eyeglasses and contacts. Where ever you get eyeglasses, make sure that they are in the Eye Med Network. Here is their web site [www.eyemed.com/MPSERS\\_](http://www.eyemed.com/MPSERS_)

For insurance questions, call the number on the back of your card, call Erin at MARSP at 517-337-1757 or feel free to call me at 269-341-0424 or [p.j.beiter@comcast.net](mailto:p.j.beiter@comcast.net)

## Priority Health: Your Guide To No-Cost Preventive Care

Cheryl Butler, Priority Health Insurance Co-chair

Preventive care plays a big role in staying healthy. Priority Health offers a comprehensive range of preventive services to keep you healthy and thriving, including:

- Immunizations – such as shingles
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Regular check-ups, vaccinations, and screenings are essential components to good health. Prioritizing preventive care can help detect health issues early when they're most treatable. The best part? Priority Health pays 100% of the cost for services listed in the Preventive Health Care Guidelines when the service is completed by an in-network doctor and is done for preventive purposes.

To review the Preventive Health Care Guidelines and for more information, please visit:  
<https://priorityhealth.com/preventive>



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## In Remembrance Of Our Members

Barbara Rockey, Friendship Chairperson

The KARSP members wish to send our condolences to the families and friends of those who have passed. We appreciate the years of service given to our communities through their dedication and efforts in our schools.

In sympathy to the family and friends of: Francis L. Reidy, David Ballingall, Karon Yeager, and Lois Neidet.

I would like to thank those who have kept in touch to let me know about a member. It may be about a member celebrating a special day, needing a card of encouragement or the passing of a member. (particularly if the obituary is not posted in the Gazette).

Contact information: Barbara Rockey (269)373-1711 *home phone* or my E-mail address is: [barbararockey@aol.com](mailto:barbararockey@aol.com).



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## Smith/Rupp Fund

Pat McKinney, Smith/Rupp Chair

It has been a difficult several years. Fixed incomes don't cover as much as they did. We have found ourselves in situations we would never have anticipated when we retired. If you are in financial trouble, KARSP and MARSP have a program that may help you.

The KARSP Smith/Rupp Funds are established monies to provide limited financial resources for KARSP members who are in financial need of the basics of life. These include help with providing food, paying medical bills and prescriptions, hospital bills, utility bills, or telephone bills. Assistance in paying dues is, also, available.

All members, in any capacity: bus drivers, office staff, custodial and maintenance workers, classroom aides, lunchroom workers, principals, and teachers are eligible for assistance.

To be effective, we must count on our membership to inform us concerning their own or another's needs. All information will be kept strictly confidential. Please contact Pat McKinney at 269-876-9660 or patm7101@gmail.com.

## KARSP Travel

Barb Knickerbocker, Travel Chair

KARSP partners with two travel programs, the MARSP program and the Portage Zhang Senior Center program.

The MARSP program is described in detail on the MARSP website, <https://www.marsp.org/travel/>. Trips that remain for this year include:

### Canadian Rockies by Train

July 28 — August 05, 2024 • 9 Days • 13 Meals

Discover the natural beauty of the Canadian Rockies!

Highlights include: British Columbia, Vancouver, VIA Rail, Alberta, Jasper, Maligne Lake, Athabasca Glacier, Choice on Tour: Ice Explorer Glacier Tour or Columbia Icefield Skywalk, Lake Louise, Banff, Calgary.

### Colorado Rockies

September 13 — September 21, 2024 • 9 Days • 12 Meals

The Rocky Mountains are your traveling companions as you explore the towering peaks and rolling meadows of Colorado.

Highlights include: Denver, Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado National Monument, Grand Junction, Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, Museum of the Mountain West, Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, Mesa Verde National Park (UNESCO), Pikes Peak Cog Railway, Garden of the Gods.

### Iceland's Magical Northern Lights

November 01 — November 07, 2024 • 7 Days • 11 Meals

Highlights include: Reykjavík, Northern Lights Cruise, Search for the Northern Lights, Golden Circle, Thingvellir National Park, Gullfoss, Lava Exhibition Center, Vik, Seljalandsfoss, Skógar Museum, Skógafoss, Skaftafell National Park, Jökulsárlón Glacial Lagoon, Sólheimajökull Glacier, Blue Lagoon.

### Christmas on the Danube

December 07 — December 15, 2024 • 9 Days • 19 Meals

Highlights include: Würzburg, Rothenburg, Nuremberg, 6-Night Danube River Cruise, Regensburg, Passau, Wachau Valley, Glühwein Party, Vienna, Hofburg Palace, Vienna Opera House, Christmas Markets.

The Portage Zhang Senior Center program can be explored at <https://www.portagemi.gov/711/Travel>. A list of trips is available at the luncheons as well. The trips are single day trips to multiple day trips.



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## Legislative Update

Ken Larson

### Budget Drafts as of April 30

Appropriations sub-committees are scheduled to wrap up their work by May 3. The following are appropriation bills specific to school aid funding, including the reallocation of **Other Post-Employment Benefits** (our health insurance) funds: House Appropriations sub-committee **HB 5503**, and Senate Appropriations sub-committee **SB Bill 751**. Negotiations will be the focus heading into May and June.

Check the **Advocacy** tab on MARSP website for information as these bills progress.

### Amplify Your Voice Scripts

**KARSP members** used the *Amplify Your Voice* script to contact their representatives. I received a response from 2 of the three contacts I made. I attended a coffee given by **Representative Rogers** on April 19 and asked if she had received letters from **KARSP** members stating our opposition to the reallocation of \$670 million dollars from the OPEB funds to school aid funding. She said, **“YES!”**

**Representative Morse** responded with a detailed email stating her responsibilities on this matter.

**Senator McCann** has not responded.

### April 30 Conversation with Michigan Association of Retired Personnel Leadership

The following points were made by Royce C. Humm, MARSP Executive Director.

We are **not** going to win the battle to stop the reallocation of OPEB funds. The Democrats have made the case that OPEB is presently funded at nearly 100% and funding will continue to increase to 127%, then 146% and eventually 170% funded. Their position is that additional funds should be used to support the goal of universal Pre-K education and special education needs.

Republicans have cast this issue as a “raid on the teachers’ pension fund.” Their position is that “the law as originally written has been skirted.” ORS has



testified that OPEB is nearly 100% funded for the 2024-2025 budget.

The **pension fund** will be fully funded by 2038 or sooner.

**MARSP members must continue to advocate for keeping the OPEB funded at 100% or greater going forward. Securing the *funding floor*, the necessary payment to keep OPEB 100% funded, is probably the bigger prize looking at the long run.**

Objecting to the reallocation of OPEB funds to universal Pre-K and special education needs would make retired school personnel look greedy.

### Only Three More Years

Year one of Public Act 4 to repeal the pension tax is in the books. Hopefully, with the guidance from ORS, your filing experience was not **too taxing**. Only three more years to go until all four phases are complete.



**House Special Election**

The April 16 special election is complete. Democrats won both vacated seats. They again hold a 56-54 majority in the Michigan House of Representatives. The 2024 election cycle is in full swing. Where do your candidates stand on future funding of our pension and health programs? You need to make sure you know before the November election.

**Contribute to the Voluntary Benefit Defense Fund (VBDF)**

“VBDF is used to initiate and/or participate in legal battles that may be necessary to protect Michigan school retirees’ benefits over the next few years. To date, the fund has been used to educate legislators regarding defined contribution and graded premium insurance subsidy legislation; to research and investigate defined contribution and other plans in other states; to purchase the software needed to provide an effective grassroots network; to provide written information to legislators; and other activities necessary to the protection of school retiree benefits. Contribution forms can be found on the MARSP website under the Voluntary Defense Fund tab.”

**“If we don’t vote, we are ignoring history and giving away the future.” Pat Mitchell**

**Want To Attend A KARSP Luncheon?**

Sally Roach, President Elect and Philip Stohrer, Editor

Want to start attending a luncheon meeting for the first time or, perhaps, for the first time in a long time? Reservations, while not strictly required, are strongly encouraged to ensure that adequate seating and food is prepared.

To make a reservation for your first luncheon, please call our reservations chair, Lorraine Jancarz, at 269-806-6839. After your first meeting, you will be assigned to an email or telephone calling list so you always have the next meetings details.

The luncheon meetings are held the first Tuesday of September, October, November, December, February, March, April, May, and June. The meetings begin at 11:30 a.m. and end about 1:30 p.m. We do ask, however, that you arrive before 11:15 a.m. to make sure that you have time to purchase your meal ticket and find a seat.

The luncheons are held at:  
The Fountains Banquet Center  
555 S. Riverview Drive  
Parchment, Michigan

Each meeting begins with a meal with a protein, a starch, a vegetable, rolls and butter, and a desert. A vegetarian option is always available as well as accommodations for personal dietary needs. The menu is always posted in the *Dates And Data* section on the cover of *The Beacon*. The cost of the meal is \$23.

Following the meal is a presentation by a community or school group. See the September *Beacon* for the list of next fall’s programs. After the presentation, the KARSP board members report on legislative updates, insurance information, and other news. Ending the meeting is Fun Time, a raffle with prizes both serious and fun.

Plan on joining us!



  
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### KARSP Presents At The Portage Zhang Senior Center “Bits Of Business Expo”

On April 26, 2024, KARSP participated in the “Bits Of Business Expo.” A variety of visitors stopped by, some former teachers, others, former students who reminisced about favorite teachers in their past.



Literature was distributed describing the goals of KARSP and encouraging former school personnel to join. Additionally, over fifty apples were distributed, an apple from the teacher!

### Table Decorations Recognition

Hattie Ford, Decorations Chair

Each month, we enjoy a delightful setting for our KARSP luncheon at The Fountains, thanks to the efforts of generous volunteers who give of their time, effort, and creativity to have lovely table decorations on each of our tables.

*Thank You!*

During our 2023 -2024 year there were eighteen different members who provided this service for us. In addition to making our tables so attractive, the items are usually offered as door prizes, adding to our fun time. So, to those eighteen people, we offer our sincere and heartfelt gratitude.

### Memorial List 2024

Barb Rockey, Friendship Chair

The KARSP membership wishes to send our condolences to the families and friends of those members who have passed during the last year. We appreciate the years of service given to our communities through their dedication and efforts in our schools.

*Delores Donohue Andrews*

*Carol Bailey*

*Gretchen Baker*

*David Ballingall*

*Patricia Benson*

*Robert Blackman*

*Barbara Frisbie*

*Patricia Jane Hamilton*

*Virginia Jacobwitz*

*Douglas Lemmen*

*Anna MacMiller*

*Janice Major*

*Lois Neidet*

*Francis L. Reidy*

*James Ridders*

*Patricia Rizzolo*

*Robert Woodrow*

*Karon Yeager*



**For Information, Whom Do I Call?  
What Website Do I Visit?**

For Telephone Numbers See Your Printed Beacon Or The KARSP Directory

**KARSP**

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 Past President Manuel Brenes  
 Secretary Ann Wuerthele  
 Treasurer Janet Wright  
 Community Service Jill Bastianse  
 Community Service Sherry Kiracofe  
 Decorations Hattie Ford  
 Friendship/Memorials Barb Rockey  
 Fun Time Julie Devers  
 Holiday Remembrance Helen Lemmer  
 Hospitality/Greeters Nancy Rogers  
 Hospitality/Greeters Sue Split  
 Insurance Chair Sandy Beiter-BCBS  
 Insurance Chair Cheryl Butler-Priority  
 Legislation Ken Larson  
 Luncheon Tickets Donna Clinard  
 MARSP Area 22 Bob Kucera  
 Membership Linda Hawley  
 Membership Kris Kirkpatrick  
 Nametags Cindy Semark  
 Nominations Nan Palm  
 Program Chair Manuel Brenes  
 Publicity Pearl DeVries  
 Reservations Lorraine Jancarz  
 Scholarships Sharon Pendola  
 Smith/Rupp Fund Pat McKinney  
 Teacher Grants Gwyn Evans  
*The Beacon*, Philip Stohrer, Editor  
 Travel Chair Barb Knickerbocker  
 Website Kim Robertson  
 KARSP Website <https://karsp.net>

**MARSP**

7:30-11:30 a.m. - 12:00-4:00 p.m.  
 517-337-1757  
 888-960-4022 (toll-free)  
 Mailing address: PO Box 23214  
 Lansing, MI 48909  
 Location: 1001 Centennial Drive  
 Lansing, MI 48917  
 Email: [staff@marsp.org](mailto:staff@marsp.org)  
 MARSP Website <https://www.marsp.org>

**Social Security Administration**

800-772-1213  
 Website <https://www.ssa.gov>

**Medicare**

800-633-4227  
 Website <https://www.medicare.gov>

**MPSERS/Office of Retirement Services**

8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
 517-284-4400 or 800-381-5111  
 Fax: 517-322.1116  
 Mailing address: PO Box 30171, Lansing, MI 48909  
 Location: Stevens T. Mason Building, 530 W Allegan St.  
 Lansing, MI 48933  
 Website <https://www.michigan.gov/orsschools>  
 miAccount: <https://www.michigan.gov/orismiaccount>

**Health Insurance Plan Contact Information**

Blue Cross/Blue Shield (PPO in MI)  
 800-422-9146  
 Website <https://bcbsm.com/mpsers>  
 PPO Providers – Outside MI 800-810-2583  
 Anti-Fraud Hotline 800-482-3787  
 Nurse Hotline (24/7) 800-775-2583  
 Grievance and Appeals Department 866-309-1719

Blue Care Network HMO  
 Medicare: 877-396-2025  
 Non-Medicare: 800-662-6667  
 Website <https://www.bcbsm.com/mpsers>

Priority Health HMO  
 888-389-6648  
 Website <https://priorityhealth.com/mpsers>

**Dental & Vision**

Delta Dental  
 800-345-8756  
 Website <https://deltadentalmi.com/MPSERS>

EyeMed  
 866-248-2028  
 Website <https://www.eyemed.com/mpsers>

**Prescription Plan**

OptumRx (Medicare)  
 855-577-6517  
 Website <https://www.optumrx.com/enroll/MPSERS>  
 OptumRx (Non-Medicare)  
 866-288-5209  
 Website <https://www.optumrx.com/enroll/MPSERS>

**Hearing Care**

TruHearing 855-205-6305  
<https://truhearing.com>



Kalamazoo Association Of  
Retired School Personnel  
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Kalamazoo, MI 49019-9343

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Bob Kucera, Website Liaison

Comments, News, And Advertisements May Be Sent To: [Beacon@KARSP.net](mailto:Beacon@KARSP.net)  
Next Deadline For Material Is July 26, 2024  
Visit Us Online At <http://www.KARSP.net>

***Remember MARSP/KARSP is your **voice** in Lansing. You need not attend luncheons or be particularly active, but your **membership is important** for lobbying for **pension concerns and health benefits.*****