



# MSM Bellringer

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NEWSLETTER OF THE MCCORMICK SCHOOL MUSEUM

MAY/JUN 2025

## Wichita Association of Retired School Personnel (WARSP) Vital – Committed – Involved

The Wichita Association of Retired School Personnel (WARSP) is an important group of former education-related professionals from Wichita and surrounding communities who support the mission of the McCormick School Museum (MSM) through donations of time and money. WARSP is a local unit of the Kansas Association of Retired School Personnel (KARSP), a statewide organization since 1952 with approximately 3700 retired school employees who continue to work in their communities to support public education as a vital force. KARSP is governed by a board of directors with an office located in Topeka. WARSP is the Wichita unit in KARSP District 5 and consists of around eighty retired members who are governed by an elected executive board and meet for a bimonthly luncheon and program in Wichita. Prior to 2002, KARSP was known as the Kansas Retired Teachers Association (KRTA) and WARSP was known as the Wichita Retired Teachers Association (WRTA).

McCormick School Museum was mothballed by the Board of Education in 1997 when the Museum Programs Department was cut from the USD259 budget. It was then that the WARSP membership decided to take on the museum as a community service project. Designated as a 501(c)3 not for profit organization in 2003, MSM maintains both a scholarship fund and a general fund for WARSP donations. Earmarked donations are managed through separate accounts by the all-volunteer museum staff. Deceased members of WARSP who have been active for at least five years are honored with a plaque on the memorial wall in the museum. Members are also honored yearly for volunteer service hours, some of which may be earned through service at MSM. Friends and family of WARSP members may establish memorial scholarship accounts through MSM by contacting the museum staff.

WARSP members directly support MSM through cash donations to designated funds at bimonthly luncheon meetings. Members also support the museum by volunteering time to work on archival projects and events. Members can be found decorating the 1890s building for the Christmas holidays which includes stringing popcorn and wrapping garland around the stair railings. Many members work at fundraising events and activities by bringing food, monitoring the garnish and dessert tables, taking tickets, or cleaning up. Donations of time and funds are graciously accepted and warmly appreciated by museum staff!

Several WARSP members volunteer regularly at MSM. Their work includes such activities as serving on the museum board or Advisory Council, electronically scanning and filing collections of USD259 archival photographs and documents, identifying and sorting collections of

educational slides and lantern slides, organizing the library book and reference collections, accessioning new acquisitions for placement into museum holdings, and much more. Training is provided for each activity and skill level, so the volunteer feels comfortable with the work.

Hours may be determined by the volunteer and museum staff. The museum volunteer is not required to be a member of WARSP or vice versa.

For many years, members of MSM and WARSP have worked successfully as partners to forward the missions of both organizations. It is hoped that this partnership will continue to benefit into the future. If you would like to know more about WARSP and KARSP and to become involved, check out the website at [karsp.org](http://karsp.org) or the Facebook page of "WARSP – Wichita Association of Retired School Personnel." To volunteer at MSM, contact the museum staff for more information. Both organizations welcome

new members at any time and offer opportunities at various levels of commitment. We have a place for you today and we are thankful for your support!



The KARSP Outstanding Unit award was given to WARSP in 2012. Photographer: Cynthia Rhodes

## OUR MISSION

The mission of the McCormick School Museum is to showcase and protect its historical and architectural importance while telling the story of Wichita Public Schools through artifacts and archives.

The mission of the Advisory Council is to guide and assist in long-range planning, marketing, and development of the McCormick School Museum, seeking opportunities for growth and recognition through increased educational opportunities and significant fundraising efforts.

The Newsletter of the McCormick School Museum, Inc. is published six times per year to inform constituents of the Wichita Public Schools and other interested patrons of activities and events taking place at the museum. Contributions help us to produce this publication.

You may send your gift to  
McCormick School Museum, Inc. at:

McCormick School Museum, Inc.  
P.O. Box 12881  
Wichita, Kansas 67277  
[savemccormick.com](http://savemccormick.com)

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