

A Message from President Bob Kanach,

I had the opportunity to attend the United Seniors of Maryland Legislative Forum a short time ago along with six others from our organization. This was a very interesting experience and one that I highly recommend you consider taking advantage of in the future. We had the opportunity to hear from the leadership of both the Maryland House and Senate as well as from the Treasurer of Maryland. We also had the opportunity to meet directly with some of the representatives and senators who represent Anne Arundel County and to share with them our thoughts and concerns. To say the least, I came away from this experience with the knowledge that this is going to be a very contentious legislative session and one that we need to carefully monitor not only as far as the pension aspect are involved but also numerous other items that could impact us as senior citizens and taxpayers. Be sure to check our AARSPA website, the MAESP website as well as that of the United Seniors of Maryland for up to date information that will impact all of us.

As I have said in my previous message, it is vitally important that our members become actively involved in the operation of our organization. We need folks to step forward to take leadership roles in AARSPA. Specifically, we will need people to run for President, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary. We also need help with the publication of the newsletter I have also had several other folks on the Executive Board who have indicated that it was time for them to dedicate more time to their families and will be stepping down from their positions. None of these positions are too difficult to handle as there are people more than willing to mentor you as you learn the ropes; but we need you to step forward now! Seriously, give some thought to taking a more active leadership role in AARSPA. Feel free to contact me or any of the executive board members if you have any questions. It is time for us to put together a slate of candidates for these positions.

As I write this article, I have just returned from the annual Florida luncheon. It was great to have the opportunity to spend some time with our friends down in Naples, Florida, to share with them what we are working on up here in Maryland, and to learn of all the great experiences they are having in their retirement down there. Although our group was small this year, the conversation was spirited and a great time was had by all. A special thanks goes out to Joanne Hogan for opening her house to the group on Thursday afternoon and to all those who brought refreshments. Ione Williams has included in this newsletter a more detailed report of this year's Florida luncheon. Also, later in this newsletter is a brief survey seeking input from the membership as to future meetings in Florida. Bill Norman has offered his place in Tampa for the next gathering.

I hope to see you at our next luncheon/general membership meeting on March 22, 2012 at Michael's Eighth Avenue. See the reservation form in this newsletter for the details.



Visit AARSPA.ORG. to read the news, email address/telephone updates, request an electronic directory, ask a question or provide member information.

ARE YOU PREPARED ?

One thing that most of us avoid is planning for our death and funeral because we are not looking forward to it occurring. *Simplicity Plan of Maryland* contacted our association to see if it could conduct a seminar entitled "Everything You Need to Know About Funeral and Cemetery Planning" to provide facts and information concerning funeral and burial options to AARSPA members. At this **complimentary** presentation, they would explain the advantages of planning final arrangements in advance and the importance of making sure one's wishes are spelled out specifically. Your questions and concerns can be answered and feedback is welcomed.

Specifically, the 30 to 45 minute seminar would address:

- o Facts and information regarding funeral and cemetery options, financial considerations and personal wishes,
- o Information on the items that must be taken care of at the time of need,
- o Summary of the advantages of planning final arrangements in advance to help ensure one's wishes are known, and
- o Information on the steps necessary to preplan final arrangements.

Simplicity Plan of Maryland has arranged a free, open buffet lunch seminar at Snyder's Willow Grove Restaurant on Thursday, April 12, 2012, beginning at 11:30 am. If you are interested in attending, please contact Kevin Beere at 1-443-280-3083. It is important that you notify Kevin no later than Tuesday, April 3, 2012, so that he can give an accurate count to the restaurant



March Luncheon & General Membership Meeting Thursday, March 22, 2012

Michael's Eighth Avenue, 7220 Grayburn Drive, Glen Burnie, Maryland 21061

Registration: 9:45 – 10:30 am
Luncheon: 12:00 – 12:45 pm

Business Meeting: 10:30 – 12:00pm
Entertainment: 12:45 -1:30pm

MARCH LUNCHEON RESERVATION DEADLINE – March 15, 2012
PLEASE NO WALK-INS No refund after March 15, 2012

Name of person(s) attending _____
Phone _____ No. of reservations _____ Cost: \$25 - Amt. Enclosed _____

Entrée:

_____ Chicken Marsala with _____ Stir fry *or* Pasta Primavera (chef's choice)
_____ Italian Mixed Vegetable Medley

Each entree is served with Fresh Garden Salad w/ Ranch *or* Zinfandel Vinegarett Dressing
Baked Potato with Sour Cream / Butter, Dinner Rolls / Butter,
Coffee and Tea - Sheet Cake for Dessert

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AARSPA AND MAIL TO:

Ms. Pat Ericsen, 8223 Grainfield Road, Severn, Maryland 21144.

_____ Is this your first AARSPA luncheon. _____ Are you an Emeritus Member. (age 90+)

Maryland PTA Needs Help

The Maryland PTA Vice President for Leadership Development is coordinating the state's annual PTA Reflections Program which provides opportunities for students from preschool through grade 12 to express themselves and to receive recognition for their artistic efforts in six areas: dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography, and the visual arts. The 2011-2012 Reflections theme is "Diversity Means..."

Students participate in the Reflections Program by submitting entries to their local school PTA and those entries may progress to the county, state and national contests. Students whose entries are judged to be outstanding at the national level are eligible for prize money and national recognition. Last year's winning entries are currently on display in the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, DC.

Impartial volunteer judges are needed to evaluate the art work received in each of Maryland's six art areas. Are there members within AARSPA who might be willing to judge one or more of the art categories? Retired school personnel are perfect candidates for judges since they have worked with students, often in the specific Reflections art areas, may have had experience as elementary or secondary language arts teachers, art teachers, music teachers, photography teachers, or teachers who have taught a film study class or who worked in the drama field. There may also be retired teachers who have personal talents in musical composition or dance.

Interested members are requested to forward their name and contact information to the Maryland PTA office in Glen Burnie which will work out the details of scheduling and answer volunteers' questions. Volunteers are needed to judge during the period from February 8 – 18th. Judging typically takes an afternoon or so, but it can be spread out over a longer period if needed. Entries are judged on artistic merit/creativity, mastery of the medium, and, most heavily, interpretation of the theme – no special skills are needed and a rubric is provided.

Janice Spiegel, Vice-President for Leadership Development
Maryland PTA, 5 Central Avenue, Glen Burnie, MD 21061
vpleadership@mdpta.org
301-473-7217 (home), 301-524-6631 (cell)



About our Members . . .

New Members 12/19/11 - 2/1/12

Gail E. Butler
Norbert Paga
Patricia A. Smith

Member Deaths 12/19/11 - 2/1/12

Bernice Chenoweth
Mary Wellham

Get Well/ Thinking of You

Kay Harkness

Family Members' Deaths

Joe Butler - Mother
Marty Clayton - father
Lillie Caldwell - brother
Patricia Caldwell - brother-in-law
Lois Lee Porter - husband

General Membership & Luncheon Meetings

March 22, 2012 - Michael's Eighth Avenue,
Glen Burnie, MD; 10:00 a.m.

May 17, 2012 – Renditions Golf Course,
Davidsonville, MD; 10:00 a.m

Executive Board Meetings

April 12, 2012 - Conf. Rm 1

June 14, 2012 - Center 3

July 12, 2012 - Center 3



- : - **FLORIDA LUNCHEON** - : -

Members shook off the chilly temperatures in Maryland and joined AARSPA retirees living in Sunny Florida to attend the 21st Anniversary of the Florida Get-Togethers in Naples on January 26 and 27. Those attending were: Janet Clark, Donna Harding, Joanne Hogan, Jeanne Jones, Bob Kanach, Anne Kifer, John & Linda Kurpjuweit, Bill Norman, Eleanor Pitzer, Stew & Alice Roth, Steve & Mary Sayre, Patti Snyder, Jack White, Jim & Ione Williams.

The hospitality of Jeanne Jones and Joanne Hogan at Joanne's lovely home for Thursday's reception was superb! Since our number was small, we had the opportunity to sit in a big friendship circle, chat with old and new friends and sample a variety of delicious homemade dishes, desserts and beverages - all the while enjoying the scenery of lawn, lake and fruit trees outside. The sunshine and warm temperature of Naples contributed to this happy occasion.

We realized that we were sorely missing one of the devoted co-organizers of the Florida Luncheons, Bob Harrell, who died on May 26, 2011. Bob dedicated much time and energy over the years to the development of these luncheons.

The luncheon at **The Flamingo Club** was a "picture-perfect" location for an anniversary luncheon. The lane leading to the club was lined with tall stately palm trees and beds of beautiful blooming flowers. AARSPA members were happy to be seated at the huge windows to view the beautifully manicured lawns, palm trees, and flower beds. Jeanne gave the welcoming greeting and opening prayer. We were impressed to have a large, homegrown grapefruit from Joanne's grapefruit tree as a table favor. How unique!!

A highlight at all of the luncheons is the 50/50 cash drawing. The winning ticket was Janet Clark; the Scholarship Fund was the recipient of the other half. After lunch and dessert, President Bob Kanach expressed deep appreciation to hosts Jeanne and Joanne for the splendid reception Thursday evening. He then addressed AARSPA happenings.

- Need for more member participation
(AARSPA members approved a two-year term for the Presidency. We do not have a President-Elect)
- The expense of mailing the newsletter (We need member e-mail addresses for electronic distribution).
Note: Right away, members gave their e-mail addresses to Bob for our editors.
- Encouraged all to check the AARSPA and MRSPA websites
- The pension issue is "hot." Contact our legislators via e-mail; they **do** pay attention to those e-mails.
- Stressing a need for members to get involved; John Kurpjuweit suggested AARSPA join "Facebook."

Emcee Jeanne called for a potential host to offer their Florida city for the next luncheon. Bill Norman volunteered Tampa. It was noted that only 18 persons attended this 21st Anniversary luncheon. There was some discussion that the luncheons be held **either every other year or not at all**. It was decided that the issue be brought to the entire AARSPA membership via the newsletter for their input as follows. To help make this decision, we are asking our members, especially those who normally reside in Florida, to indicate which of the options we should implement. We will review the feedback and make a decision as to what action to take.

Please complete the form and mail it to: Robert Kanach, AARSPA President, 2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21401. Or, email your thoughts to Bob at: pres@aarspa.org.

The Florida Luncheon Meeting

I prefer that the Florida meeting be held: _____ Annually _____ Every Other Year