



INFORMER

ANNE ARUNDEL RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2012

Volume 37 Issue 3

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If you recall, in the last edition of the *Informer* I asked for feedback from you as to whether we should continue the annual Florida luncheon in January or change it to an every other year event. Although the feedback was limited, the results were very conclusive. The vast majority of those who responded indicated that the event should take place every other year. Although my better judgment is the opposite, and I feel that it is vitally important that we keep good dialogue with so many members down in Florida, I think that we might be able to achieve this via the internet. Therefore, I will propose to the Executive Board that we change the Florida meeting to every other year.

We are inching closer to selecting the online service through which we will be able to send out the newsletter electronically to those members who so desire. It was interesting to note that several of the people who responded to the Florida question asked when we were going to start sending the *Informer* electronically. Hopefully by time you are reading this newsletter, we will have made the final decision. To that end, elsewhere in this newsletter you will find additional

information about what we need from you. We have about 600 email addresses from earlier solicitations, but some of you may have changed your email address since and others have yet to give us their email addresses. To be safe, please send us your email address as directed in the later article. I want to assure those folks who do not have internet that we will still mail your *Informer* via US mail.

One thing that I have observed since becoming your president is that we have a small but dedicated group of people who keep this organization up and running. Many of these dedicated members have been fulfilling these duties faithfully for a number of years. However, some are ready to pass the baton on to others so that they can spend time addressing other interests. Many of the tasks that they do can, and probably should be handled by two or three folks sharing the responsibilities. Current chairs are more than willing to work with those who are interested in taking on some responsibilities of the organization so that it can continue to flourish and grow. Please, seriously give some thought to sharing



your expertise and energies with this organization by contacting any of the Executive Board members. You can readily do this by going to our website at www.aarspa.org and click on the "Contact Us" button on the left.

I hope that you will be able to join us at our next general membership meeting and luncheon at Renditions Golf Course in Davidsonville on May 17, 2012. At this meeting we will be recognizing those members who have passed away and introducing the three recipients of the AARSPA scholarships. Hopefully by then, we will have a slate of officers for you to vote in for the next term. If you are interested in serving as an officer, please contact me at president@aarspa.org or call me at 410-757-7393. You may also contact any of the Executive Board members as well.

CONSUMER UPDATE

Robocalls

Some good news for those persons who don't have caller ID and keep answering those annoying calls known as Robocalls. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is expected to provide additional protections against unwanted auto-dialed or prerecorded calls to home phones. Under the new rules, a telemarketer will have to get written consent before calling a home phone even if the consumer has done business with the company. Telemarketers will have to provide an automated means of opting out of future calls during each robocall. While this may help some, it will not keep your phone completely free of calls you really don't want.

And You Thought You Had a Fortune

Collecting is fun but all collectibles are not going to make you wealthy:

- Hummel Figurines once sold for hundreds of dollars, but those who appreciated them are downsizing or dying off dumping Hummels back on the market by the thousands. Most now sell for \$75 in shops and the prices are likely to continue to go down. Good news for anyone with a Hummel taller than 12 inches or any made before 1949.
- Franklin Mint collectibles are usually purchased when the company is advertising. Danbury Mint and Royal Copenhagen's

products are also facing the fact that their coins, plates, medals, etc., are really almost worthless.

- Longaberger Baskets were a hot collectible in the 1990's. The resale market soon collapsed and today you will be lucky to get \$20 for most of them.
- Mattel issued many different Limited-edition Barbie dolls; however, Barbies dating from 1959 through the 1960's can still be a good value.
- Thomas Kinkade paintings and prints were produced in such large quantities that they have very little value today.
- The value of autographed sports memorabilia has declined sharply because there are so many forgeries. Only with proof of authenticity from an authentication company such as PSA/DNA does it retain value; but this could make it too expensive for the average collector to purchase.
- Vintage lunch boxes were a major collectible in the 1990's; but unless they have a picture of something such as Superman or Star Trek characters, they are worth very little.
- Cookie jars became a collecting category after Andy Warhol's cookie jar was auctioned off following his death. After a while, people realized that Warhol's cookie jars were valuable only because he owned them.
- China sets are declining rapidly in value. They aren't loved anymore.
- Collectible plates can usually be purchased for \$5 or less today but only if they are dated before 1980 or so.

Did You Know?

Cheese is best served at room temperature. It is a good idea to remove your cheese from the refrigerator one hour before serving.

Amalgam tooth fillings, which contain 50% mercury, may raise the risk level of contracting Alzheimer's disease.

Be Careful Traveling

More travelers are getting sick. Over 3000 cases of potentially infectious diseases in airline and cruise-ship passengers were reported to federal health officials last year. This is more than twice the number reported the previous year. While most of those reported were due to the "swine flu" episode, reported diseases included tuberculosis, whooping cough, measles, mumps and typhoid fever. If you plan to travel, be sure your vaccinations are up to date. You may want to get medical advice before any trip, especially if you are traveling outside the country.

DATES TO REMEMBER



Executive Board Meetings

June 14, 2012 - Free School
July 12, 2012 - Center 3

Next Informer Deadline

August 15, 2012

General Membership and Luncheon Meeting

May 17, 2012 - Renditions Golf Course, Davidsonville, MD, 9:45 a.m. registration; meeting begins at 10:30 a.m.

ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON - FEBRUARY 15, 2012



Suzie Jablinski meets with Pam Beidle, District 32.



Lone Williams and Carol Petrosky confer with Tony McConkey, District 33A.



Ted Sophocles, District 32, and Lucy Travers discuss legislative issues.



Don Dryer Jr., District 33 stops by the luncheon.



Herb McMillan and Senator John Astle, District 20, attend the luncheon.



Carol Petrosky shares views with Senator Ed Reilly, District 33.



Jeanne Hawes discusses issues with Mary Ann Love, District 32.



Jim and Lone Williams, Ron Ruffo and Carol Petrosky meet with Cathy Vitale, District 33A.



Lucy Travers confers with Steve Schuh, District 31.



LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Be careful what you wish for....

The cost of pensions was not shifted to the counties. But no other revenue enhancements passed either. As the gavel was pounded and Sine Die was announced, the 2012 Legislative Session came to an end. The constitutionally required budget was passed without important pieces such as a revenue bill. The result is a devastating "Doomsday" default budget. The cost of teacher pensions will not be shifted to the counties. Other revenue generating measures will not happen. Deep cuts will be across the board, including state aid for education and other critical state programs and services.

Conference committees reached agreement on budget bills that would have made record investments in education, school construction, job creation, and other vital programs and services.

It is expected that the Governor will call a special session of the Legislature to take care of unfinished business. This includes a plan to share the cost of teacher pensions with the counties. The agreement was to do this at a rate of 50% FY13, 65% FY14, 85% FY15, and 100% FY16.

The special session must also deal with the revenue package, including changes in income tax for higher income earners. And, most likely, the gaming issue will come up again. This is what derailed the final passage of the budget. Supporters are seeking a sixth casino site at the National Harbor in Prince George's County and the addition of table games at all casinos. The Senate version of the gaming bill included a reduction in the amount of gaming dollars going to the Education Trust Fund from 48% to 33%.

One positive piece of legislation that passed was Senate Bill 848 which makes many changes to fix the broken Maintenance of Effort legislation in an effort to hold local jurisdictions to the required education funding.

We must continue to advocate. We must send strong messages to Governor O'Malley, Senate President Miller, Speaker of the House Busch, and all of our legislators to reconvene in special session and settle this unfinished business.

ONLY IN EDUCATION

From Paul Bagley:



“In 1959, I had a 7th grade class in the barracks at Fort Meade. They were about to vote for a president. A sergeant’s son said of a popular girl; ‘Oh, you don’t have to vote for her, it’s anonymous.’ ”

Is that what we are doing this election year?

Send items to: Betty Ann White
P.O. Box 6573
Annapolis, MD 21401-0573
or email bettypurple@verizon.net .

HELP NEEDED!

AP Exam Proctors Needed at Annapolis High School

Annapolis High School will be administering the exams to their Advanced Placement (AP) students on various days/times beginning May 7, 2012 and running through May 18, 2012. The exams will be administered various mornings and/or afternoons and may require from 1 to 7 proctors depending upon the size of the test groups. An orientation training is required before the testing sessions and needs to be completed a week prior to the testing period. Proctors will be compensated \$25.00 per hour and proctors may work more than one testing session over the entire testing period. Proctors must still be in the AACPS system and have current finger prints on file.

If you are interested in serving as an AP Test proctor or if you have any questions, please contact Ms. Virginia Fernandez-Martinez at: vfernandezmartinez@aacps.org or at 410-266-5240.



At the September luncheon, we heard that there were many members willing to serve AARSPA. However at the April meeting of the Board there was much discussion about the fact that the nominating committee can not find persons to run for office for the coming year. AARSPA needs you to come forward and offer your service to the association. Don't wait for others to speak up. There is room for anyone willing to give a little time to keep the association viable.

Get Well/Thinking of You

Thelma Auman
Judy Engelmeyer
Kay Harkness
Joyce Nellenback
Ken Nichols
Bill Rogers



Members' Deaths

Edmund Lekowski
Mary Wellham
Margaret Flamer
Ronnie Kasmir
Irene Hebron
George Marcin
Dorothy Chalfant
Paul Snyder
Thomas Florestano
Barbara Zucco
Frank Baker
Rachel Brown

Family Death

Ed Stofko - Life Partner
Esther White - Sister, Sister-in-law
Janet DeVore - Father, Mother
Walter Flamer - Wife
Dianne Myers - Husband
Jayne Astle - Father-in-law
Marva Gaither - Brother
June DeShields - Brother
Andrea Guzauski - Mother
Pat Caldwell- Sister
Emma Hebron - Mother-in-law
Nellie Butler - Sister-in-law
Lillie Caldwell - Sister-in-law
Cynthia Caldwell - Sister-in-law
Preston Hebron - Aunt
Mary Faulkner - Aunt-in-law
Mary Dunlap - Mother

Other Deaths

Sarah (Lucille) Cook
Viola Hill

Please save this list to notify us of member events.

Death Notices: Nina Griffith Phone: (443) 304-2266
email: Bea1134@aol.com

Get Well/Thinking of You/Anniversaries: Dianne Rogers
Phone: (410) 647-7585 / email: wwdsrogers@verizon.net

Birthdays: Millie Zipay Phone: (410) 760-2684
email: mz2teach@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP



Welcome New Members

John Aylor
 Charles Day
 Donaileen Dondera
 Brenda Duvall
 Linda Flaherty
 Lorraine Foster
 Gwen Grubb
 Jane Jackson
 Dalia Martinez
 Patricia Ryan
 Christina Savich

A cordial welcome to our newest members. Please contact the Membership Committee for corrected addresses and to update your phone/address information at AARSPA Membership Committee, 121 River Road, Edgewater, MD, 21037 or email membership@aarspa.org. Help defray postage: let us know if we can email a directory to you.

Membership Dues



Please make every effort to respond to the February dues request letter. There are still over thirty unpaid local members. At 45 cents postage per second reminder letter, the dollars soon add up to a tidy sum.

AARSPA AND MODERN TECHNOLOGY



We are still planning to use the internet in the future to mail our newsletters to those members wanting to use this medium. The savings in postage and printing is extreme if we can utilize the internet - an estimated \$10,000 a year for

five newsletters. We do have a problem with this venture - we need your email addresses. Currently, 550 addresses have been received. Our membership totals over 1900; so you can see the problem.

While everyone may not want an emailed newsletter, there are many who would welcome the convenience. Both of these issues will be addressed and those wanting the "mailman delivered" document will receive

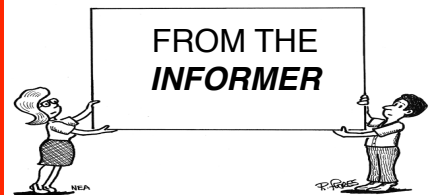
it. AARSPA will work through the details to your satisfaction. In the meantime, please provide your email addresses so that we can proceed with this endeavor while maintaining the security of your information.

Contact us at
Newsletter@AARSPA.org

THANK YOU, JILL!

You receive your *Informer* and hopefully read it - but are you aware that for many years Jill VanderHook, an employee of the Board of Education at Riva Road, has volunteered her time to the graphic production of the newsletter from information supplied by our members. The newsletters have been colorful, imaginative and arranged in a way for us to read with ease. Now the time has come for Jill to step down from the production of the *Informer*. We will really miss her and the exceptional skills, dedication

and kindness she has given to AARSPA over the years. We express our gratitude and best wishes.



Recently, we sought the talents of the students at the Center of Applied Technology North (CATN) to graphically produce the newsletter. While the newsletter composition was good, our production and distribution time schedules were not compatible. Therefore, we are seeking other avenues in this regard.

FREE SCHOOL OPEN FOR SUNDAY VISITORS



The Free School is opening for Sunday visitors on May 6th from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. This schedule will be in effect through the month of July. The reason for this change is to avoid the heavy traffic congestion when the Renaissance Festival is open during August and September.

Sundays. Call Howard Hall if you can serve as a docent at the school. Information about the school will be provided. He will be at the school on May 6th and will have information available. If you have served as a docent in past years, welcome back.

Our Association is very proud of this 1724 school and its rich history of early schooling in the county.



Volunteers are needed for 12 This school is now a Living History Museum, unique and interesting.



Luncheon and General Membership Meeting

May Luncheon & General Membership Meeting

Renditions Golf Course, 1380 West Central Avenue, Davidsonville, MD

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Registration 9:45 -10:30am

Business Meeting 10:30 – 12:00pm

Luncheon 12:00 – 12:45pm

Ceremonies 12:45 – 1:30pm

MAY LUNCHEON RESERVATION DEADLINE – MAY 5, 2012

PLEASE NO WALK-INS

No refund after May 5, 2012

Name of person(s) attending _____

Phone _____ No. of reservations _____ Cost \$25 – Amt. enclosed: _____

Entrée:

___ Cornbread stuffed chicken breast ___ Crab cake ___ Vegetarian plate

Each entrée is served with a mixed green luncheon salad, oven roasted potatoes, a seasonal vegetable, and sheet cake for dessert. Coffee, iced water, and sweet tea will will be served with the meal.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AARSPA AND MAIL TO:

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

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

March 22 Luncheon at Michael's in Glen Burnie



Dr. John Martin from the Anne Arundel Medical Center spoke to the group about the Dare to C.A.R.E. Program which provides free cardiovascular screening to establish cardiac risk.

First Timer Brenda Bond enjoys her first AARSPA luncheon.



President Bob Kanach with Dr. Martin and Elaine Gairy from the Dare to C.A.R.E. Program at AAMC.

President Kanach with Paul J. Ballard, Assistant Attorney General, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, who spoke about the MOLST Program. (Maryland Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment)



President Kanach congratulates AARSPA members running for positions with MRSPA: Sandra Edmonds seeks to be named to the Nominating Committee while AARTA Past President Estelle Owens Johnson is running for Vice-President.



Millie Zipay, Tillie Barckley, and Lillie Jackson get together before the luncheon.





Scholarship Fund Donation

Scholarships are of the utmost importance to ensure the contribution of quality teachers entering the education profession.

I wish to make a donation to the scholarship fund.

Donation Amount is: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

for:

____ birthday ____ an anniversary

____ other (please indicate) _____

Please make checks payable to:

Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association
or / for

Tax Deductible Donations, make checks payable to:
21st Century Education Foundation, Inc.

Mail all checks to:

Karlie Everett
725 Warren Drive
Annapolis, Maryland 21403

Name and address of the honoree.

We will inform the honoree(s) and/or the family of the deceased that a gift has been made to the scholarship fund.

Send notice of my donation to:

Name _____

Address _____

Donor's Name _____

Address _____

For questions, please contact:

Karlie Everett • karlieeverett@verizon.net • 410-268-8656

The 21st Century Foundation, Inc., is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit, charitable organization, donations to which are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. A copy of the foundation's current financial statement is available upon request by contacting the 21st Century Education Foundation at 2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (telephone: 410-222-5370). Document and information submitted to the state of Maryland under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State for the cost of copying and postage. *DPS/CH 1395/28a (Rev. 1/11)*



Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association
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