



INFORMER

ANNE ARUNDEL RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2013

Volume 38 Issue 4

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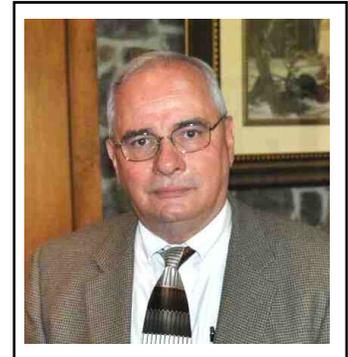
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www.aarspa.org

At the most recent Executive Board meeting, Dr. Maxwell and members of his executive staff were in attendance. Dr. Maxwell thanked our membership for all that we do in support of the school system and for our lifetime commitment to the children and citizens of our county. He elaborated on the challenges that the school system is facing including the budget, maintenance of effort funding, and the impact of the National Health Insurance laws. There are some serious concerns involving the matching funds from the county in order to receive State capital funding for construction, and he and his staff shared efforts being made to reach out to the business community to support the school system. It was shared that 30% of the students currently attending AACPS schools qualify for assistance through the Free and Reduced Meals Program and that the number continues to increase. He stated that the upcoming budget does not include any changes to the retirees' benefit funding, but that as the guideline for the National Health Insurance laws are clarified, there may

be implications in 2014. He closed with an invitation for us to re-establish an on-going dialogue throughout the year.

It is going to be very important that you keep abreast of the pension legislation being presented in the Maryland legislature this year. There is an emphasis to switch from the corridor funding to actuarial funding of the pension, and we join MRSPA is supporting this legislation. If you go to our website, or the MRSPA website, you will find links to the action taking place in both the State House and Senate. It is very important that you share your thoughts with your legislators, and the easiest way to do that is through email. In the past I have never been very politically active but have become increasingly so since I have come to realize that they do read and respond to our emails, letters and calls. It has amazed me how little some of our legislators know about our pension, health care benefits, and other matters that impact retired educators.



I am pleased to inform the membership that just before the holidays, and through your generosity, AARSPA was able to deliver to the Judy Center at Hilltop Elementary \$215 along with clothing and books for the pre-schoolers in that program. Thank you for your support of this community service effort.

I am looking forward to traveling down to Naples, Florida to join our members in the Sunshine State at the 22nd Florida Get-Together on February 21 and 22. I want to thank Joanne Hogan and her folks for making the arrangements. Joanne will open her house for what has proven to be a fun time of sharing experiences and laughter and I look forward to the luncheon at the Forest Glen Country Club. I hope to see many of you in Naples for this event.

CONSUMER EDUCATION

Items to Take to the Emergency Room

First, take along some identification and your insurance card. It is important for the hospital to properly identify you.



You should have a list of important phone numbers, including your work number, family contacts (next of kin) and your neighbors. Having a personal preloaded cell phone will save time and effort.

You should have a listing of all doctors, with their accurate name and address. The hospital may want to send any records they develop of your stay to your doctors.

Have a list of all medications with dosages you are taking. The hospital may need to give you different drugs and it is important that they do not conflict with what you are already taking.

Bring along a credit card to pay the copayment and deductible, and a little cash and coins for vending machines. Don't bring along too much that you would be overly concerned if lost.

NEWS FROM THE TRIP COMMITTEE

The Trip Committee met over bowls of crab soup and set up the following trips for you to consider. A tour is scheduled for March 28, 2013, around the Tidal Basin to view the cherry blossoms followed by a cruise on the Potomac River while enjoying lunch from the ship's menu. Cost of this special trip is \$95.00. The signup sheet for this trip is included elsewhere in this issue.

Our second trip is a September Crab Feast Cruise aboard the Dorothy-Megan, a Choptank Riverboat Company paddlewheel boat out of Hurlock. Our bus will depart from the Severna Park United Methodist Church at 8:45 a.m. and return about 3:45 p.m. A specific date has not yet been selected. The Dorothy-Megan is a working replica of an authentic paddlewheel riverboat. The crab feast will include CRABS, CRABS, CRABS, crab soup, and fried chicken, clam strips, corn-on-the cob, coleslaw, dessert, iced tea, soda and draft beer. Cost will be \$80.00 per person. Imagine a relaxing tour along the Choptank River. The return trip home will include a stop at an Eastern Shore produce stand. Yummmmm.

Hopefully, our December trip will be to see *White Christmas* at the Hippodrome in Baltimore. Dates and details to be determined at a later date when seating information is available.

Any further suggestions will gladly be considered by the Trip Committee. Committee members are Lou Kamm, chairman, Bob Kanach, Lucy Travers, Arleatha Hackett and Jeanne Hawes.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are still in need of members willing to step-up and assume leadership roles. If you think you would be interested in one of the positions listed below or would like more information, please contact Bob Kanach or Ione Williams.

RECORDING SECRETARY

ASSISTANT RECORDING
SECRETARY



Have you always thought you might want to visit the Free School? Are you curious about its history? Are you interested in how AARSPA maintains the building? Are you interested in the tours and school marm lessons offered by our members? If you've answered "yes" to any of these questions, please come to the Free School (1298 Lavall Drive, Davidsonville) at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 20, 2013. These and many other questions will be answered.

A NEW LOOK AT THE FREE SCHOOL!



Lavall resident and Eagle Scout Barrett Cosgrove researched, designed and constructed a walkway from the road to the front door of the Free School.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



The Maryland General Assembly began the 2013 session on January 9th. For the first time since the recession began we are not in crisis mode. The economic outlook in Maryland is slowly, but steadily, improving.

Our primary focus this year is to secure the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System (MSRPS) by returning to actuarial funding. The "corridor method" was instituted ten years ago as a way to reduce the amount that the state had to put into the budget for our pensions. Actuarial funding is an accepted accounting practice where the amount is based on statistical calculation of the true or actual cost. Corridor funding is a made up term that legislators have been using to identify the method described in the legislation passed in 2002.

The Joint Pensions Committee has introduced legislation (SB474/HB496 State Retirement and Pension System – Funding Method and Amortization of Unfunded Liabilities or Surpluses) to phase out the corridor method over a ten year period and return to actuarial funding. **Now is the time. Please contact your legislators to ask them to support these bills.** For more information on these bills or how to contact your legislator, go to www.mrspa.org.

The annual AARSPA Legislative Luncheon will be Wednesday, March 6, 2013, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Lowe House Office Building Room 170. All of our legislators have been invited. Please encourage your representatives to attend this luncheon. We need every opportunity to encourage them to support this important pension legislation.



FLORIDA GET-TOGETHER 2013

It's not too late to register for the 22nd Florida Get-Together to be held February 21-22, 2013, in Naples. There will be a party at Joanne Hogan's house on Thursday with a luncheon at the Forest Glen Country Club on Friday. The cost for the luncheon is \$25.00. Make checks payable to Joanne Hogan and send to: **Mrs. Joanne Hogan, 5157 Lochwood Court, Naples, FL 34112.**

REGISTRATION FORM

Name of person(s) attending: _____

Your name: _____

Your address: _____

Your phone: _____

Amount enclosed (\$25.00) per person _____

_____ Chicken Saltimbocca _____ Stuffed Tilipia

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!



Marie and Joe Diamond



Don and Annette Smith



Dot Gammon and Charles Toth

(Not pictured: Charles Gable, Bob and Mary Jo Kanach, Penny Pennington, Carol Kirby, and Carla Duls)



Twelve AARSPA volunteers set a record in December preparing the latest edition of the ***Informer*** for mailing. Two thousand copies were processed in just one hour! If you would like to join this happy little group to affix mailing labels and stickers on ***Informer*** copies, call Carol Kirby at (410) 798-0748.

Informer Deadline - April 1, 2013

Send news and articles of interest to AARSPA members to ***Informer*** Editor Carla Duls at kid3dle@aol.com.



REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE

Member Deaths

Sylvia Garrison
Annabelle Lambert (92)
Martha O'Dell
Loraine Shaw
Irene Richardson
Deborah Rosewell
Omega B. Watkins (94)

Emeritus Birthdays

Edna Dempsey	3/19
George (Bob) Doenges	4/9
Milie Gardner	3/21
Mary Graham	3/24
Kester Greene, Sr.	3/31
Katherine Harkness	3/28
Mary Klaas	5/1
Robert Pauli	3/31
Jeanne McGinnis**	2/1
Gladys Sinicrope	5/3
Dee B. Verotic**	1/31

Family Deaths

Marie Hogue - sister

Get Well/Thinking of You

Bill Rogers
Millie Herold

** *New Emeritus*

Other Educators' Deaths

David Walker



If you have information concerning AARSPA members, please contact the following people.

Anniversaries and Congratulations - Millie Zipay at mz2teach@aol.com / 410-760-2684

Deaths of AARSPA members and family members - Nina Griffith at bear1134@aol.com / 443-304-2266

Illnesses and accidents, etc. - Dianne Rogers at wwdsrogers@verizon.net / 410-647-7585

A Word from the Program Committee . . .



It has been a tradition that we end most of our AARSPA luncheons with some form of entertainment. In fact, we book the places where we have our luncheons until 2 p.m. to accommodate this. Members of the committee recognize that some of the entertainers have been better than others. We are making a concerted effort to find entertainment that we think will be appealing to you. In some cases we have actually gone out to hear these folks perform for other groups before contracting them for our luncheons. The members of our committee believe that it is very disheartening to the entertainer when large numbers of the audience leave while they are performing for us. We contract our entertainers for blocks of forty-five minutes to one hour beginning at 12:45 p.m. We are encouraging our membership to try to make arrangements to stay until the end of the program. If you are not interested in the entertainment or if you have another obligation please consider leaving before the entertainer begins. If you need to leave during the program, please leave quietly and discreetly. We thank you in advance for your consideration.

For our meeting on March 14th at Michael's Eighth Avenue, we have invited Cpl. Jimmy Miller, Anne Arundel County Police, to speak during the business portion of our meeting on "Safety for Seniors". We have also arranged for Nancy Abramson, a singer (she performs with backtracks), as our entertainer following lunch. We hope that you will find our speaker to be informative and our entertainer enjoyable.

Please feel free to make any suggestions for future speakers and entertainers to any member of our committee. Members of the committee include: Tony Anzalone, Carl Stewart, Lone Williams, Anne West Clark and Charles Gable.

IMPORTANT DATES

Executive Board Meetings - 10:00 a.m.

April 11, 2013 - Center 2
June 13, 2013 - Free School
July 11, 2013 - Center 3

General Membership Meetings - 10:30 a.m.

March 14, 2013, Michael's Eighth Avenue at
May 9, 2013, Renditions Golf Course

Other Dates

March 6 - AARSPA Legislative Luncheon
March 13 - MRSPA President's Meeting, MRSPA Office, Odenton
March 19 - USM Legislative Forum , St. John's College, Annapolis
March 20 - Free School Docent and "School Marm" Meeting, Free School at 10:00 a.m.
April 13 - Pre-Retirement Seminar, SPHS at 8:00 a.m.
May 14 - MRSPA Annual Business Meeting, Doubletree Hotel, Annapolis



Cherry Blossom & Odyssey Cruise

Tickets for the Cherry Blossom and Odyssey Cruise in Washington, DC on March 28, 2013, are now available on a first-come, first-served basis. We have fifty seats for this bus and boat tour of the cherry blossoms. The complete package includes bus transportation to and from Severna Park, a drive around the Tidal Basin to view the cherry trees, an Odyssey Cruise tour and an off the menu luncheon including appetizers and dessert, as well as all taxes and tips including the driver. The bus will pick up at the Severna Park United Methodist Church at 731 Benfield Road and will leave the left rear parking lot promptly at 8:45 a.m. and return at 3:45 p.m. (Please note that the dress is casual but shorts and jeans are not permitted.) If you are interested in this trip, please complete the form below and mail it along with payment to Bob Kanach at the address indicated no later than March 11, 2013. Tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Mail the form below and check to:

Bob Kanach
512 Augusta Drive
Arnold, MD 21012

**"Cherry Blossom & Odyssey Cruise"
At the Tidal Basin in Washington, DC**

Deadline for tickets is March 11, 2013.

Please reserve _____ ticket(s) for this event. The cost per ticket is \$95.00. Make your checks payable to the Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association and mail to Bob Kanach at the address above.

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

e-mail address: _____

Names of persons in your group if ordering for more than yourself:



VOICES IN MELODY



SCHOLARSHIP NEWS



The Men's Chorus entertains with "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch".



Thank you to our members for all their thoughtful and generous donations to the Scholarship Fund. At the January Executive Board Meeting, the Board Members reviewed the AARSPA budget for 2012-2013 and decided there would be enough revenue to support three Scholarships this year. This decision was based on the numerous donations to the Scholarship Fund made so far this year.

During the past few months donations have been made in memory of JoAnn and Charlie Schaeffer, Betty Ann White, Howard Hall, Bud Bruni, Bill Norman, and J.R. Gross.

UPDATE ON 2012 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

My first semester went really well. I took Physics, Calculus, English and a freshman seminar called "Arguing as an Art of Peace". I am really enjoying being at Lehigh. Aside from my classes I have also seen several performances and speakers on campus. I am tutoring at the local middle school and the local library and having a blast.

Holiday Performance at the South County Senior Center on December 12, 2012.



The combined chorus with accompanist Joyce Nellenback and Director Tom Neuenschwander

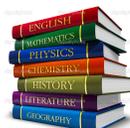


Bailey Falk



Thank you again so much for selecting me for the AARSPA scholarship.

My first semester of college went very well! I decided to combine my two passions and am currently a theatre major, but will go on to get my masters in elementary education after these four years. My classes were all very interesting, some even life-changing, and I met so many amazing people, many of which I have become good friends with. I live on campus, but I am close to home and so I visit often. My schedule worked out to have no classes on Fridays, so I am still able to volunteer a few hours each week at my elementary school, and plan to volunteer many more over the winter break.



Rebecca Mount



WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS



- Jerry Christian
- Oliver Hansen
- Alvin Pindell
- Patricia Pinder
- George Rehorn
- Linda Watts
- Cecile R. Weyman-Whiteford

Keeping your membership active insures you are "staying in touch." There IS strength in numbers!!



SCHOOL DAYS



Screech! I cringed as my chalk scratched across the blackboard. In perfect Palmer I wrote "John is hungry," an example of a predicate adjective for my lesson on sentence complements. As I slowly turned around to face my 9th grade charges, I spied a young man near the back of the room enthusiastically waving his hand.

"Miss Harrison, you spelled "hungry" wrong."

Glancing quickly at the board, I saw no error.

"No, John. It's spelled correctly," I managed to squeak.

Then much to my surprise, a hand was raised on the other side of the room - a hand attached to the arm of my cooperating teacher, Mrs. Cooper.

"Miss Harrison, John is correct. H-U-N-G-A-R-Y is the country."

With my face red hot and glowing, I picked up an eraser and chalk to correct my mistake.

In retrospect, I'm glad that this incident took place on the first day of my student teaching experience, for it taught me a valuable lesson - the importance of not taking myself too seriously in the classroom and of being able to admit when I am wrong, even laugh at myself.

This event prepared me for the countless times I tripped over the overhead cord and flew across the room, all the upside down/backwards transparencies I placed on the overhead, the day I wore one blue shoe and one black shoe to school, filmstrips and movies that broke during viewing, and so many other laughable faux pas over the years.

- from Carla Duls



Submit **your** "School Days" recollection to the **Informer** by sending it to Editor Carla Duls at kid3dle@aol.com.



March Luncheon & General Membership Meeting

On **March 14**, we will have our luncheon at Michael's Eighth Avenue, 7220 Grayburn Drive, Glen Burnie, Maryland 21061

Registration-----9:45 - 10:30
Business-----10:30 - 12:00
Lunch-----12:00 - 12:45
Entertainment--12:45 - 1:30

No Refunds after February 25, 2013

PLEASE NO WALK-INS

Luncheon and General Membership Meeting

LUNCHEON RESERVATION - DEADLINE - February 25, 2013

Name of person(s) attending: _____

Phone: _____ Number reservations _____

Cost = \$25 Amount Enclosed: _____

Entrée: _____ Chicken Marsala
Baked potato with sour cream and butter
OR
_____ Tender beef tips over noodles

All meals served with fresh garden salad with either ranch or zinfandel vinaigrette dressing, Italian mixed medley of vegetables, dinner rolls with butter, coffee and tea, and sheet cake.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AARSPA AND MAIL TO:
Ms. Pat Ericson, 8223 Grainfield Road, Severn, Maryland 21144

____ Please check here if this is your first AARSPA luncheon.
____ Please check here if you are an Emeritus Member (age 90 or over)



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 _____ 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/CB 1395/28a (Rev. 10/12)*



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