



INFORMER

Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association

February 2015

Volume 40 Issue 4

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President Charles Gable

As I sit down to compose this article, it looks like we have dodged another winter storm. Our hearts go out to our friends in New England who keep getting the brunt of this winter weather. It is just the beginning of February, so there is still plenty of time for us to receive a punch from "old man winter." Hopefully, our luck will not run out!

I would like to start out with some good news! As you know, Governor Hogan is now in office, and the State Legislature is now in session. Despite a deficit of \$750 million, the budget proposed by Governor Hogan includes the full actuarial funding of the Pension/Retirement Trust Fund as well as the \$150 million "catch-up" amount promised by the Legislature last year. On the downside, the proposed budget calls for significant cuts to educational funding to local boards of education. This is of concern partially due to our health care benefits. I have heard that Anne Arundel county schools could lose as much as \$15 million in

state aid under the proposed cuts. It is important that AARSPA work closely with the AACPS Benefits Office, Superintendent, and Board of Education to ensure that our health care benefits are not jeopardized.

We need to keep a close eye on what unfolds in Annapolis as they toy with this budget between now and mid-April. Currently, the teacher portion of the Maryland State Retirement Agency is nearly 70% funded. Be sure to check the "Legislative Update" on the MRSPA website to stay informed about legislation important to us. Contact information for our legislators is available on this website as well. MRSPA encourages each of us to contact our Legislators by e-mail messages, phone calls, letters, and attendance at hearings. The new Legislature includes 68 first-time members, five of them representing districts in Anne Arundel County. We need to educate our new delegates as to our stands on the issues that they will be voting on.



On January 28, 2015, eight AARSPA members attended the United Seniors of Maryland Legislative Forum in Annapolis. We had the opportunity to hear from Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford, Speaker of the House Michael Busch, President of the Senate Mike Miller, Comptroller of the State of Maryland Peter Franchot, and Secretary of the Department of Aging Rona Kramer. Much of the discussion at this Forum dealt with health care concerns for seniors. It was pointed out that there are now more senior citizens than school-aged children in the state of Maryland. There was a lot of information shared on aging in place, self-supporting "Villages", and services for older adults.

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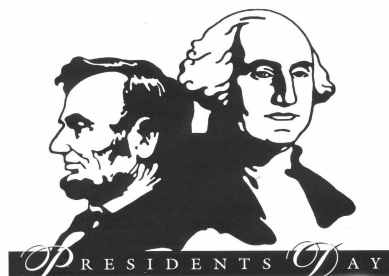
Presentations were followed by caucuses with members of our county delegation to the Legislature. Virginia Crespo, our Legislative Chairperson as well as Legislative Chairperson for USM, led the caucus for Anne Arundel County. Five delegates from Anne Arundel County (Ted Sophocleus, Tony McConkey, Mark Chang, Seth Howard and Sid Saab) stopped by to introduce themselves and to talk with us. They all encouraged us to contact them about issues that are important to us.

Enclosed in this newsletter is a second copy of the registration form for our 24th Annual "Florida Get-Together". This event will take place March 11-12, 2015, in the Naples/Marco Island area in the "Sunshine State". Our hostesses include Joan Stipetic, Joanne Hogan, and Jeanne Jones. A reception is planned for 4:00 p.m. at the home at Joanne Hogan in Naples on Wednesday, March 11th. The luncheon will be held at the Island Country Club on Marco Island at 11:30 a.m. on March 12th. The price of the luncheon is \$35.00 which includes tax and gratuity. A cash bar will be available. Bob Kanach, who is handling the reservations, reports that he has already received more than twenty responses. Please plan to join us in Florida! What a great excuse to escape the cold and wintry weather of Maryland. For those of you who reside in Florida, it's a great excuse to see a different part of your state and to hang out with old acquaintances and make new friends! This will be the third "Florida Get-Together" that I have attended. I have had a great time at all of them, and you will too! **See you in Naples/Marco Island on March 11-12!**

We are looking for some people to become more actively involved in our organization. Some of the current leaders have taken on multiple leadership roles, serving as officers, committee chairpersons, and committee members. We will need a new Treasurer and a new Assistant Recording Secretary to be installed at our May meeting. We also need someone to chair the Pre-Retirement Committee, starting this fall. Surely with nearly 2,000 members, there are some folks who could help us out by taking on some of these responsibilities. Every committee could use some new ideas and another pair of hands to help. Please let us know if you would be interested in getting more involved in AARSPA. We are a great organization, and we need your help to keep it that way. **WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!**

I would like to ask that you keep our President-elect, Barry Fader, in your thoughts and prayers. As of this writing, Barry is in Johns Hopkins where he is undergoing testing and observation. Join me in wishing Barry a full and speedy recovery.

I want to also thank the members of AARSPA who expressed their sympathy to me and my family as a result of my mother passing away on January 21, 2015. Your visits to the funeral home and the many beautiful cards that I received were comforting and deeply appreciated.

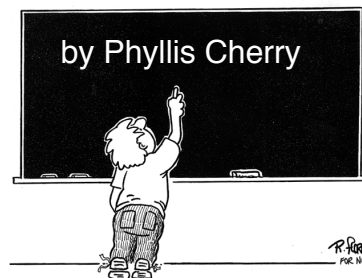


SCHOOL DAYS



It was during my first year of teaching that I got a note to report to Principal Ron Ruffo's office at the end of the day. I spent the rest of the day trying to determine which parent was unhappy with their child's project grade. However, upon entering Mr. Ruffo's office, I was surprised to learn it wasn't a parent who had complained, but a member of the cleaning crew.

Mr. Ruffo informed me that a custodian had come to him complaining that I allowed my students to clean the erasers by leaning out the window and beating them on the side of the building. Mr. Ruffo looked very surprised when I told him that was not true. He did manage to cover his laughter with a cough when I added "I do it myself." He suggested I find another way to clean the erasers, so I started taking them outside and beating them on the sidewalk.



The *Informer* staff invites you to share YOUR "School Days" memory. Send your recollection to the Editor at kid3dle@aol.com.



In the AARSPA Spotlight

Two members of our Association recently joined 38 other Gopher alumni on the Glen Burnie High School Wall of Fame. Our AARSPA celebs are Charles Day and Lou Kamm.



Not only did Charles Day graduate from GBHS in 1968, he went on to enjoy a 40-year teaching career there as well. Charles taught French, English and reading and served for 27 years as World Languages department chair. Among the many awards he received during his career in education is the

Educator for the Month for Anne Arundel County Public Schools in 1987. A recent retiree, Charles is active in his church and community.

Lou Kamm graduated from GBHS in 1962. He began his career in education teaching fourth and sixth grades at Glendale Elementary School. He was promoted to Principal in 1972, a position he held for nearly 20 years. Lou received several awards for his service to AACPS. As a retiree, he has been involved in many charitable and civic activities, including serving as chair of the AARSPA Trips Committee.



CONGRATULATIONS!

REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE

MEMBER DEATHS

Beverly Caliguire
 Harriet Dryden
 Virginia Hayes
 Eileen Oickle
 Marcie Pollone
 Jill Power
 Elaine B. Zimmerman

FAMILY DEATHS

Dorothy Bond - son
 Martha Collison - son
 Charles Gable - mother
 Kathy Lauritzen - mother
 Sam Salamy - sister and
 father-in-law
 Patricia Shipley - sister-in-law
 Wayne Shipley - sister
 Millie Zipay - aunt

GET WELL THINKING OF YOU

Ted Brown
 Joseph Diamond
 Joel Drapalski
 Barry Fader
 George Rehorn
 Charlotte Stewart
 Joan Stipetic
 Ed Stofko
 Millie Zipay



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

Anniversaries and Congratulations

Millie Zipay at mz2teach@aol.com/ 410 401-0712

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

IMPORTANT DATES

Executive Board Meetings - 10:00 a.m.

April 14, 2015 - Center #3

June 11, 2015 - Anne Arundel Free School

July 9, 2015 - Center #3

General Membership Meeting - 10:30 a.m.

May 14, 2015 - Renditions Golf Course, Davidsonville



OTHER DATES

March 4, 2015 - AARSPA Legislative Luncheon
March 11-12, 2015 - Florida Get-Together, Naples & Marco Island

March 28, 2015 - Free School Cleaning

April 6, 2015 - **AARSPA Informer** deadline

May 12, 2015 - MRSPA Annual Business Meeting, Turf Valley

May 19, 2015 - Hotel du Pont Luncheon and Longwood Gardens

September 16, 2015 - Dorothy-Megan Crab Feast Cruise



2015 FLORIDA GET-TOGETHER



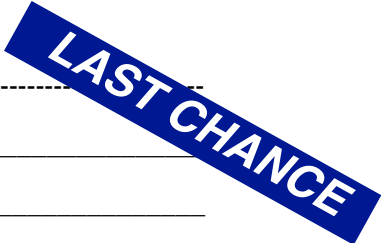
The annual "Florida Get-Together" will take place in Naples, Florida, on March 11 and 12, 2015. Make your plans early, leave winter behind, and join our members down south in sunny Florida!

On Wednesday, March 11th, there will be an informal gathering at the home of Joanne Hogan at 4:00 p.m. This will be a wonderful opportunity to renew old friendships and create new friends. The luncheon is planned for Thursday, March 12th at the Island Country Club on Marco Island.

Directions, lodging information, and information on points of interest in the area will be forwarded to you upon receipt of your reservation.

Reservations must be received no later than FEBRUARY 25, 2015.

Please make your check payable to AARSPA.



-----Cut-----

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

The lunch on March 12th will consist of a mini caprese salad with aged balsamic and extra virgin olive oil, bread and butter, stuffed organic chicken breast with fresh vegetable and boursin cheese with a light beurre blanc sauce and fresh herbs orzo timbale and asparagus, a mini fresh fruit tart with crème Anglaise, soda, iced tea and coffee. A cash bar will also be available. Each entrée will cost \$35.00.


Each Guest's Name

_____	@ \$35.00
_____	@ \$35.00
_____	@ \$35.00

Total amount due: \$ _____ (Make checks payable to AARSPA.)

All reservations are due by February 25, 2015. Send check and this reservation to:

Please check if this is your first AARSPA luncheon.
 Please check if you are an Emeritus Member (90 or greater)


Bob Kanach
 512 Augusta Drive
 Arnold, MD 21012





Have you made a New Year's Resolution to get out and do more? Are you looking for places to volunteer some of your time? Below is a partial list of volunteer activities in which our AARSPA members are currently involved. If you are interested in volunteering at any of these places and need more information, please contact Phyllis Cherry (410-672-5433 or pacherry@comcast.net) or Karlie Everett (410-268-8656 or karlieeverett@verizon.net).

- Lighthouse Shelter
- United Seniors of Maryland
- USO and Honor Flights
- Partners in Care
- Success in Style
- Londontowne Public House
- AA County Ethics Committee
- AA County Conflict Resolution Center
- AA County Sports Hall of Fame
- Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
- National Aquarium
- Center Stage and Hippodrome Theatre
- Thomas Point Lighthouse

Our members also volunteer at schools, churches, hospitals, nursing homes and hospice care, community associations, senior centers, and local libraries.

HELP WANTED

The archaeological lab at Historic London Town and Gardens (839 Londontown Road, Edgewater, MD 21037) is looking for volunteers. The hours are Mondays between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and Tuesdays through Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. through the winter. The hours will slightly change once the spring field season starts. Volunteers can become as involved in the archaeological process as they wish. Tasks include basic processing cleaning, labeling, cataloging, and data entry. Volunteers can come and go as they please. There are no time minimums. Once the weather warms up, there will be field work opportunities. Call 410-222-1316 for more information.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The 2014 retirees will receive this newsletter plus one in April. Your name will be removed from our list in June; unless you join. Stay in touch, help protect your retirement lifestyle, AARSPA works for your benefit. We need your support!

To receive a copy of the 2015 Member Directory, please contact AARSPA Membership Committee, 2644 Riva Rd., Annapolis, MD 21401 **OR** Membership@AARSPA.org. **OR** Carol Kirby, 410.798.0748. The email version is very easy to use and can save the AARSPA many postage dollars. Please consider the email version.

New Members 1/1/15 - 2/4/15

Clinton Gosnell

Teresa Moir

FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE



The Maryland General Assembly has reconvened. Beware! Most importantly, be AWARE. As you know, we have a new Governor and many new legislators. It is important that we do our best to get to know these new legislators and be sure that they know us!

Our primary concern for so many years has been the preservation and improvement of our pension system. For the second year in a row, we have earned over 14% on our investment returns, well above the yearly goal of 7.7%. We are now funded at 68%, a 3% improvement over last year.

Our best opportunity to meet with our legislators, as AARSPA, will be on March 4, 2015 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Room 180 of the House Office Building where we will provide a nice lunch for the Anne Arundel legislators to encourage them to stop and visit with us. The more members who join us, the more effective we are. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at v18gardner@aol.com. Thank you for your support.

Virginia Crespo
Legislative Chair



SAVE THE DATE !

The Trips Committee is making plans for a **Dorothy-Megan Crab Feast Cruise** on **September 16, 2015**. Watch for additional information in the next **AARSPA Informer!**

Longwood Gardens & Buffet Luncheon at Hotel Du Pont

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

The first stop on this latest AARSPA adventure will be at the Hotel Du Pont, modeled after the great hotels of Europe, in downtown Wilmington, Delaware’s legal and financial district! Participants will enjoy a delicious buffet luncheon served amidst the hotel’s elegant furnishings and signature artwork! Next, we will depart for Longwood Gardens, one of the premier botanical gardens in the United States. Longwood Gardens consists of over 1,077 acres of gardens, woodlands, and meadows in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, in the Brandywine Creek Valley. With flowering trees, spring annuals such as pot marigolds and snapdragons, native azaleas, columbines, Virginia bluebells, and foam-flowers bursting into bloom, spring blooms create a symphony of color like no other season. For those who may have difficulty walking the grounds, carts are available at the site for a cost of \$25.00 on a first come, first serve basis. However, there is no guarantee that carts will be available by the time we arrive.

All this is available to you for \$100.00 per person. This fee includes transportation, buffet luncheon, Longwood Gardens, all taxes and tips, including the driver and tour escort. **Make checks payable to AARSPA.** As with other trips that cross state lines, seating must be assigned. So, be sure to let us know with whom you want to sit on the bus. The deadline to make your reservation is Friday, April 10, 2015. No refunds can be made after this date.



Itinerary

- 8:45 a.m. Promptly leave the left rear parking lot of the Severna Park United Methodist Church on Benfield Road
- 10:45 a.m. Arrive Wilmington, DE at the Hotel Du Pont
- 11:00 a.m. Buffet luncheon
- 12:30 p.m. Depart Wilmington, DE
- 1:00 p.m. Arrive at Kennett Square, PA and Longwood Gardens (NOTE: Self-guided tour of Longwood Gardens)
- 4:00 p. m. Depart Longwood Gardens
- 5:45 p.m. Arrive back at the Severna Park United Methodist Church on Benfield Road



Longwood Gardens and Buffet Luncheon at Hotel Du Pont
Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Deadline to make your reservation is Friday, April 10, 2015. No refunds after this date!

Please reserve _____ seat(s) for me for this trip. **The cost is \$100.00 per person.** Make your check payable to **AARSPA** and mail both the payment and this reservation form to: **Bob Kanach, 512 Augusta Drive, Arnold, MD 21012.**

Primary Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail _____

Please list any additional names in your party. Indicate the person you are sitting with, if any.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Have you been a victim of identity theft or a scam? If not, you probably know someone who has had fraudulent charges on their credit card, been taken in by a con artist, or had their identity stolen. According to the consumer protection branch of AARP, every two seconds someone's identity is stolen. Listed below are some of the most common scams currently occurring in Maryland, as well as easy ways to make it more difficult for con artists to victimize us. At the end are some useful websites.

Phone Calls:

Someone identifying themselves as representing a local bank, church, business or medical facility calls you at home. They provide you with just enough information to convince you they are legitimate. This information may have been gotten from your trash, your office, or from social media websites. It may also have been taken from your mailbox. Now it will be used to steal your identity.

After convincing you they are credible, they ask for additional information. They may even provide some inaccurate information such as your Social Security number and ask you to verify it. When you correct their information, you have provided them with enough information to apply for credit cards in your name.

Stolen Passwords:

Millions of user names and passwords for Facebook, Twitter, Google, banks, stores, medical facilities, among others, are compromised and sold to scammers each month. These are then used to make purchases and clean out bank accounts. How secure are your passwords?

Consider the following ways to make your passwords harder to crack:

Avoid words that are in dictionaries. There are programs that can crack passwords by going through a database of known words. One trick is to think of a sentence and use just the first letter of each word.

Avoid your name, company name, hometown, zip code, and birthdays. These can easily be found in easily accessible sources of information.

Change passwords frequently. It's possible your account information is already circulating. If you have a regular schedule for changing passwords for major accounts, you reduce the amount of time that someone can do harm with that information.

Use combinations of letters and numbers, upper and lower case, and symbols. Try to vary it as much as you can. "MyPaSsWoRd 32" is better than "mypassword32."

To reduce your vulnerability to identity theft:

Do not carry your Social Security card in your wallet or print it on a check.

When paying bills by check, place the envelope in a blue mailbox instead of the box at your house.

Shed or tear up credit card receipts, bank statements, and credit card offers.

Check credit card statements and bills for unauthorized charges.

Obtain a copy of your credit report each year. Maryland residents are entitled to one free copy of their report from each of the three major credit-reporting agencies each year. (Equifax: 800-685-1111; Experian: 888-397-3742; and Trans Union: 800-888-4213)

Resources:

AARP Fraud Watch Network
(www.AARP.org/fraudwatchnetwork)

Consumer Protection Division, MD
Attorney General's Office
(www.oag.state.md.us/consumer)
(888-743-0023)





Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association
 2644 Riva Road
 Annapolis, MD 21401

 **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:
 Matilda Barckley
 8238 Great Bend Road
 Glen Burnie, Maryland 21061

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:
 Matilda Barckley • barckleya@comcast.net • 410-768-3408

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. 7/13)*