



INFORMER

Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association

Volume 47

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Issue 4

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Co-Presidents Deb Ahalt and Charlie Gable



We hope you were able to spend this Valentine's Day with somebody special! Our winter has been cold and snowy –especially compared to the last few years. So, if you are ready for some warmer weather, think about joining us in sunny Florida for our 26th "Get Together!" Our thanks to Barbara Zelle and Kim Proctor for hosting this event in Sarasota, March 9 and 10.

Dr. George Arlotto, Superintendent of AACPS, joined our Executive Board meeting via Zoom on January 13. He shared that the school system was short 60 teachers at the beginning of the year, and that number has now grown to 90. We asked how, as retired educators, we could help. He suggested that we might assist as mentors and volunteers. He is directing his staff to draft a proposal for our membership.

We are looking forward to the February 10th Luncheon and General Membership Meeting at the Blue Dolphin Restaurant in Gambrills. Guests include Wanda Twigg, Executive Director of MRSPA, and Joe Maddalon, a representative of the Association of Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA). In recognition of Black History Month, Program Chairperson Dixie Stack, has made arrangements for a presentation by Vincent Leggett on Carr's, Sparrow's and Elktonia Beaches, African

American venues which flourished in Annapolis from the 1930's to the 1970's.

Under the leadership of Susan Baugher, the Pre-Retirement Committee is working to create a new brochure to be given to potential retirees. The brochure will contain information about the work and benefits of AARSPA and MRSPA in hopes of building our membership.

Due to generous contributions in memory and in honor of individuals, successful fundraising dinners, and 50/50 raffles at luncheons, AARSPA will be awarding four scholarships this year. The Scholarship Committee will soon be reviewing the applications. Anyone interested in joining this committee should contact Tillie Barckley.

The Membership Committee has proposed that we reach out to our Eastern Shore and Delaware members and is interested in organizing a special event in 2023. Although the event will be open to all AARSPA members, it is being planned with the Eastern Shore folks in mind, and an interest survey is being sent to those living east of the Bay Bridge.

The MRSPA Legislative Workshop was held on January 26. Of the sixty statewide participants, seven were members of AARSPA. Several

(Continued on page 2)



(Presidents continued from page 1)

presentations were made regarding the state budget, our pension system, current legislation being considered, and MRSPA legislative priorities.

Some good news! The pension system is currently funded at 76.9% and the Pension Board has reduced the assumed rate of return from 7.4% to 6.8% effective July 1, 2022. It was emphasized that it is important to maintain our defined benefit pension. Martin Noven, Executive Director of the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System, stated that we are well positioned to hit 80% funding by 2026.

We want to thank all of our officers, chairpersons, and committee members for the time and effort that they give to keep our organization afloat. We are always looking for new ideas and an extra pair of hands to do the work of AARSPA. Please consider getting involved!

Did You Know?

One of the topics we explore with guests to the **Free School Museum** are Rules and Consequences. The "Rules for Students" in 1872 are listed below:

1. Respect your schoolmaster. Obey him and accept his punishments.
2. Do not call your classmates names or fight with them. Love and help each other.
3. Never make noise or disturb your neighbors as they work.
4. Be silent during classes. Do not talk unless absolutely necessary.
5. Do not leave your classroom without permission.
6. No more than one student at a time may go to the washroom.
7. At the end of class, wash your hands and face. Wash your feet if they are bare.
8. Bring firewood into the classroom for the stove whenever the teacher tells you to.
9. Go quietly in and out of the classroom.
10. If the master calls your name after class, straighten the benches and tables. Sweep the room, dust, leaving everything tidy,

REMEMBRANCE

MEMBER DEATHS

John J. Barbagallo
Dorothy L. Coyle
Timothy M. Mennuti
Evelyn P. Reed
Brenda L. Wilson

FAMILY MEMBER DEATHS

Shirley Allen husband
Mary Ann Mennuti husband

EMERITUS BIRTHDAYS

April	10	James Levay (FL)	90
	28	Sidney Miller	94

ANNIVERSARIES

March	26	Anne-Marie & Chuck Dammeyer	50
April	9	Abigail & Bill Jackson	55
	18	Kathy & Denis Schanberger	49

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

Anniversaries and Congratulations

Millie Gardner at
milliegardner65@gmail.com or
443-784-2190

Deaths of AARSPA members and family members

Linda Poole at mlp2118@yahoo.com or
410-570-4020

Illnesses and Accidents, etc.

Dianne Rogers at
wwwdsrogers@verizon.net or
410-647-7585



FROM THE FREE SCHOOL

Maryland Day Participation

The Annearrundell County Free School Museum is participating with other historic sites in the region as Maryland Day celebrations take place on the weekend of March 25, 26, and 27, 2022.

The Free School Museum will be open Sunday, March 27, 2022 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Visitors will be greeted by a schoolmaster and schoolmarm in colonial dress. Visitors will learn about education in Maryland in an authentic 1723 one-room schoolhouse and will interact with the many artifacts and materials on display. Visitors will receive a Certificate of Participation. There is no charge for this event.

To find other sites participating in Maryland Day Weekend Events 2022, please view <https://www.marylandday.org>.



Free School Clean Up

John and Marge Hammond's grandson Tyler completed service hours for his school by cleaning the exterior and interior of the Free School over two different dates. Tyler was joined by his parents Courtney and Bryan Portch and John and Marge to make the building immaculate!





At the November 11 General Membership Meeting, Jane Gill and Autumn Baltimore from the AACPS Curriculum Office accepted books for elementary and middle school new teachers for their classroom libraries.



Dixie Stack read the book dedication in memory of AARSPA Past President Bonnie Schmeltz.

MRSPA Fund Raffle

The MRSPA Community Service and Scholarship Committees provide tremendous support to students and staff in schools across Maryland. In the past, funds for these scholarships and mini-grants were partially obtained through in-person sale of raffle tickets statewide. Last year, we sold raffle tickets via this newsletter and via local newsletters with great success. This year we are again seeking donations to the MRSPA Fund to continue our work. All donations are tax deductible and come with our thanks and appreciation!

To show our appreciation, your name will be entered into a drawing upon receipt of your donation. Donations of \$10 will earn 1 raffle ticket, and donations of \$25 will earn 3 raffle tickets incrementally. MRSPA staff will write your name on the correct number of tickets when we receive your check. The drawing will take place at the May 2022 Annual Business Meeting, whether held in person or virtually. You can win the \$300 cash first prize, a Maryland themed basket valued at \$150 second prize, or one of 5

third place themed baskets valued at \$75: Cooking, Spa, Wine Lover, Movie Night, and Sports Lover. Out-of-state basket winners will receive gift cards in lieu of basket contents.

Entering the drawing is fun and easy!

1. Make your check payable to "The Community Foundation of Frederick County"
2. Write MRSPA Fund Donation on the FOR line.
3. Date and sign your check
4. Mail check and completed form to:

MRSPA
8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A,
Odenton, MD 21113

Due by March 22, 2022

Please, include the form below with your donation. Receipts will be sent via email or US Mail.

MRSPA Fund Donation

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Legislative Update

The new legislative session is now underway, having started on January 12th. There are 220 Senate bills and 200 House bills prefiled with topics including election laws, long term care, Alzheimer's and Dementia services, consumer protection, prescription drugs, guns, tenant rights, energy conservation, etc. Our very own AARSPA member Virginia Crespo, is the state MRSPA Legislative Aide, and she is closely monitoring the bills throughout the session.

Our pension system is doing very well as is our state's economy under our current tax rates. We have top hospitals, biotech research facilities, defense contractors and the federal government in our backyard. As seniors, our first \$30,000 of income from pensions and 401(k) or 403(b) accounts, are excluded from state taxation. Thanks to federal generosity, our legislators will now be guiding our budget surplus. In the past, surpluses have been handled by awarding immediate tax rebates, helping fund education reform, ensuring Maryland's future in this highly technical economy, etc. ...not with cutting taxes that result in long-term deficits, reduction in services which we all enjoy now, and inevitable raising of taxes to back where they were before any permanent \$billion tax cut.

Our state association, MRSPA, advocates for its almost 14,000 members and works to protect defined benefit pensions and a secure retirement for all Marylanders. The priorities for this year include **Pension Protection, Safety, Consumer Protection, Health Care, Technology, Quality of Life, Long Term Care and Education.**

MRSPA recently held their Legislative Workshop virtually and many of our AARSPA members attended. Topics included:

- Maryland Budget Overview by Rebecca Ruff, Operating Budget Manger, Department of Legislative Services
- State Retirement and Pension System Update by Martin Noven, Executive Director, Maryland State Retirement and Pension System
- NRTA Legislative Priorities and Other State Pension Attacks by Adam Goldberg, Senior Legislative Representative, National Retired Teachers Association/AARP
- AARP MD Legislative Priorities by Tammy Bresnahan, Associate state Director Advocacy, AARP
- MRSPA Legislative Priorities and Updates by Virginia Crespo, MRSPA Legislative Aide

For more information on MRSPA priorities and legislative updates, visit the website at <https://www.mrspa.org/legislation> now and throughout the session.

I am also serving as a member of the MRSPA Legislative Committee and am Legislative Chairperson for AARSPA. Please know you are welcome to join our committee and feel free to contact me with any further questions or for any of the workshop slide presentations. I can be reached via email Legislation@aarspa.org or check out our newest directory for additional contact information.

Sharyn Doyle, Legislative Chairperson



LAST CHANCE !! 2022 AARSPA Florida Gathering LAST CHANCE !!

It is our intention to resume the AARSPA in Florida event in Sarasota on March 9 and 10, 2022. Barbara Zelle and Kim Proctor have graciously opened their home for the evening social on Wednesday, March 9 from 4:30 to 7:00 P.M. The general meeting and luncheon will be held at The Point restaurant in nearby Osprey the following Thursday, March 10, beginning at 11:00 A.M. The choice of entrees and prices, including tax and gratuity, are listed below, so please carefully indicate the preference for each guest. Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages will be available at a cash bar. Directions to both sites along with additional lodging information will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation and payment.

Please return the reservation form and payment no later than Wednesday, February 16, 2022.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

The luncheon entrée choices are: 1) On Point Burger with bacon, tomato bacon jam, cheddar, arugula, caramelized onions, tomato and fries or 2) grilled herb chicken breast with beurre blanc, creamy risotto and mixed vegetables, or 3) grilled grouper with caper butter sauce, cedar mashed potatoes and mixed vegetables.

Guest's Name	Burger @ \$19.00	Chicken @ \$27.00	Grouper @\$34.00
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Total amount due: _____

Make checks payable to AARSPA

Even if you are unable to attend the luncheon on March 10, you are welcome to join us at Barbara and Kim's house on March 9. We need to know who will be coming so that we have enough refreshments.

I/We plan to be at the social at Barbara and Kim's house on Wednesday, March 9 from 4:30 to 7:00 P.M. There will be _____ person/persons attending this event.

(Note: You must be COVID vaccinated to attend the event at Barbara and Kim's house.)

***Mail your reservations and payment to:
Bob Kanach
512 Augusta Drive
Arnold, MD 21012***

News You Can Use

(MRSPA *Consumer Connections* - January/February 2022)

From AARP—The Ten Worst Things to Carry In Your Wallet

These items are better stored in a fireproof lock box, or a safe deposit box depending on how often you need to access them:

- Social Security card
- Covid-19 Vaccination Record card (which carries your date of birth and hints at where you live)
- Multiple credit cards and credit card receipts
- Checkbook, or even one blank check
- Work ID card
- Passport or passport card
- List of your passwords
- Gift card not fully redeemed
- Birth certificate
- Library card (it sounds benign, but a thief can check out lots of books and sell them for a buck or two apiece)

“We all think we’re being careful, but it takes one second for a criminal to steal our wallet or purse.” - Amy Notziger, AARP’s Director of Fraud Victim Support

Did you lose your Vaccine Card?

- Check and see if your vaccine provider, be it a retailer pharmacy or health department allows you to access your vaccine records online.
- Call the pharmacy or location where you were vaccinated and request a duplicate record.
- Check your email. If you signed up for your shot online and provided an email address, a vaccine record is automatically sent to that address post-vaccination.
- If you want the actual, physical card issued by the CDC, you may need to contact your state health department, either by phone or email.



Check out these pages:



**Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association
(AARSPA)**

Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA)

National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA)

**Anne Arundel County Public Schools
(AACPS)**

MEETING DATES	DATES TO REMEMBER	OTHER DATES
Executive Board Meetings - 10:00 a.m. April 7, 2022 BOE, Center 2A	March 9-10, 2022 Florida Get-Together Sarasota	
General Membership Meetings - 10:30 a.m. May 12, 2022 Two Rivers Restaurant Steak & Fish House	March 25, 2022 Deadline for April <i>AARSPA Informer</i> May 11, 2022 MRSPA Annual Business Meeting Camelot, Upper Marlboro	
	May 25, 2022 Blue Angels Cruise and Lunch at Yellowfin Annapolis	

AARSPA Scholarship News

Thank you for your Commitment to Excellence in Education which will allow four graduating seniors to continue their educational journey.

In Memory of...

Ford Keith Baumgardner

Dr. Joseph Czarnecki

Viia Erwin

Donald Smith

Bonnie Thompson, Media Specialist

AARSPA Teacher Education Scholarships will be reviewed beginning February 20, 2022. Please encourage graduating seniors who may be interested in pursuing a career in teaching to use this website (www.scholarshipsforscholars.org) for the exact deadline to apply. Exceptional Students Deserve Exceptional Awards!

Maryland. My major focus is on Early Childhood Education which is my life-long dream. I am also minoring in Psychology so I can better understand what makes my future students tick. All of which is possible thanks to your generous scholarship! Some of the courses I have completed during my first fall semester include: Introduction to Physical Science, Intermediate Spanish, Statistics, Cultural Geography, and Honors First Year Seminar. After hours of classwork and studying on my own time, I was able to achieve straight A's which placed me on the Dean's List for the first time. In addition to my education enrichment, I have also made lifelong friends through my athletics on the college golf team, as well as, participating in campus clubs. I have experienced so much during my fall semester that I am more excited to start my next semester at Hood!



Scholarship Awardees Updates

Caroline Pallet - Chesapeake High School



Thanks to the AARSPA Scholarship, I have been able to have a great first semester at **Salisbury University**. In my first semester, I took classes which would further my path into education such as Data and Probability Connections and Fundamental Concepts. Both are math courses designed for future educators. New experiences and new friends have made my first semester memorable.

Cayla Haney - Chesapeake High School

Thank you AARSPA! This past fall, I continued my educational journey at **Hood College** in Frederick,

Kaitlyn Mummert - Severna Park High School



I am currently enrolled at the **University of Delaware**, pursuing a degree in Music Education. This past semester, I took classes in music theory and foundational musical skills, as well as, breadth requirements, including an honors colloquium class as a member of the UD Honors Program. I also participated in a seminar for freshman music education students to discuss and develop their personal teaching philosophies. I'm considering minors in Disability Studies and Race, Culture and Equity in Education in order to further develop myself as a future educator. Thank you so much, AARSPA, for helping me to pursue this path!

Thoughts for February

“There is always in February some one day, at least, when one smells the yet distant, but surely coming, summer.”

— Gertrude Jekyll

“No one’s ever achieved financial fitness with a January resolution that’s abandoned by February.”

— Suze Orman

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome New Members

Annette V. Carroll
 Peggy Fader
 Nancy Hack-Behringer
 Joseph Holzman
 Jon Gregory Morris
 Sharon Shuttleworth

Changes!

Thanks to everyone who has taken the time to make us aware of changes in your contact information. This is vital to keeping our database current. Keep those changes coming!

HATS OFF! To New Retirees!

If you remember these words from the Broadway show “Auntie Mame,” “Open a new window, open a new door,” you will know that on January 1, 2022, **99** Anne Arundel County Public School employees decided to do just that. We congratulated them on their decision to retire and welcomed them with a letter and application to join our ranks. They will now be receiving the AARSPA *Informer* newsletter to encourage their participation.

Directories Still Available

The Fall 2021 directory is still available at our next luncheon in February at the Blue Dolphin Restaurant. Should you wish to receive a directory through the mail, you can contact Leslie Schell at lahschell@verizon.net or membership@aarspa.org. At this time, there are no plans to publish another one until Fall of 2023. We want you to connect with colleagues!

Made a Change? Let Us Know!

Has any of your AARSPA information changed...**address, email, home phone, cell phone?** If so, please complete the form below and submit to Membership Chair **Leslie Schell, 706 Rosewood Road, Severn, Maryland 21144** or lahschell@verizon.net. In the subject line, please indicate “AARSPA Update” and please include your full name.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Please indicate your primary phone number



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 checks to:

Matilda Barckley
 8238 Great Bend Road
 Glen Burnie, MD 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