



I N F O R M E R

Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association
January 2021

Volume 46 Issue 3

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President Rick Wiles

With a smile and a mask, I bring greetings to all Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association (AARSPA) members. We are optimistic that the COVID-19 vaccines will bring a happy New Year to all of our members, and hopefully, we can leave the past behind us and look forward to the future.

Although COVID-19 has impacted us dramatically this past year, AARSPA officers and members continue to work on behalf of our membership to support our vision, mission, and bylaws. On November 12th, we had our luncheon/business meeting at Renditions. The meeting was held with all COVID-19 precautions in place, including masks, temperature checks, face shields, and social distancing. The Secretary and Treasurer reports were given and motions were made to accept and second the reports. We only had 12 members in person at the meeting; however, we conducted some important business. If the committee chair was not present at the meeting, their report from the Executive Board Zoom meeting was included with the agenda. Actual reports were given by the Membership, Free School Museum, Legislation, and Scholarship committees. The new business included the Remembrance Service and the Installation of Officers. The Executive Board meeting will be conducted by ZOOM on

January 14, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The in-person February General Business Meeting and Luncheon has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 executive mandates. Instead, the President will lead a Zoom meeting with Executive Board reports, and the meeting is open to up to 100 members via Zoom. To join the Zoom meeting, remember to install the Zoom application on your device and then sign into the meeting about 15 minutes prior to the start time. Each member joining the meeting will be sent an email with the Meeting ID and Password. A sign-up form is included in this *AARSPA Informer*. I am very hopeful that the May 13th meeting will be held, if possible.

Article IX-Elections-Section 1 of the Bylaws of the Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association, Inc. requires that the term of office of the President shall be two consecutive years. Election and installation of the President shall be held in May every other year. The President will serve one year beyond the two consecutive years as Past President. Since I am finishing my second Presidential term for the Association, it's critical that AARSPA has somebody nominated/inducted to be the President-Elect or Co-President's Elect for 2020-21 and President(s) in 2021. I will



be glad to mentor the new nominee(s) with the duties of President in 2021, as Past President. Any interested individual(s) should contact me as soon as possible.

Many of our members have been sending in donations to the Scholarship Committee to support their efforts. It appears that we will be able to fund three scholarships with the current budget; however, more funds are always needed.

The MRSPA Legislative Workshop will be conducted on January 26, 2021, via Zoom. AARSPA plans to join the meeting.

We have not lost sight of our primary mission to make sure our AACPS retiree health care is not jeopardized, and to work with MRSPA to protect our defined retirement pension. In this ever-changing world, it is my hope that each of you will take an active role in helping to make a difference for our membership and community.

Stay safe and be healthy!



REMEMBRANCE

MEMBER DEATHS

Melvin Booze, Sr.	John E. Kasuda, Jr.
Nancy Clayton	John M. Kearney
Kenneth W. Crosby	Martha A. Lewis
Ann R. Danoff	Donald A. Logan
Irma H. Eastland	Dr. Dorothy Mae Gordon Mace
Linda Flaherty	Regina H. Morin
Mary "Fran" Funk	Mary Harlene Nehring
Sherry R. Hawkins	Joseph P. O'Malley
Pamela S. E. Higgins	Shirley M. Rudolph
Jane M. Iglehart	Paul Rusko
Gloria Johnson	Ann Goodwin Vintes
Otho Johnson	Linda Waldmann

FAMILY MEMBER DEATHS

Linda K. Crosby	Father
Mary Kay Crosby	Husband
Pat A. Emory	Husband
Cathryn A. Kravitz	Husband
Barbara E. Marks	Husband
Mary O'Malley	Husband
Barbara Rusko	Husband

GET WELL

Don Smith



EMERITUS BIRTHDAYS

January	2	Jeanne Hartge	95
	7	John Barbaglio	93
	10	Chuck Russell	100
	11	Mary Rozmarynowski	93
February	9	Martha Clarke	98
March	1	Joanne Corey	92
	5	Lillian Jackson	96
	17	Doris Phibbons	98
	22	Betty Jane Mitchell	91
	31	Edna McClelland	98

ANNIVERSARIES

January	6	Donna & Robin Williman	48
	22	Albert & Suzanne Kairys	49
	29	Sandra & Charles Dewling	54
February	27	Patty & Ed Johnson	23
March	28	Abigail & Bill Jackson	54
	29	Mary & William Schneider	52

Check out the following 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)



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

Anniversaries and Congratulations

Millie Gardner at mgbw16@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 wwdsrogers@verizon.net or 410-647-7585

FROM THE FREE SCHOOL Through the Years

On October 25, 1723 the Colonial Assembly passed the "Act for the Encouragement of Learning and Erecting Schools in the Several Counties" that existed at that time. The Annearrundell County Free School was one of the 12 schools created.

In 1825 a uniform system of primary school education was attempted. However, after repeated amendments by local laws, there was little uniformity in Maryland.

In 1864 the Constitutional Convention of Maryland mandated a uniform statewide educational system of free public education. (Prior to this, tuition was charged so all children could not afford to attend school.) This mandate shifted control of education from local governments to a centralized state system.

In 1872 free public schools were mandated for all children. However, desegregation didn't begin until 1955.

In 1902 school attendance was made compulsory for children between ages 8 and 12. Children over 12 were not required to attend school if they were gainfully employed and could read and write.



The Free School Museum sign has been weathering. A huge "Thank You" to John Hammond for repairing and painting the sign.

NOVEMBER LUNCHEON MEETING

Renditions

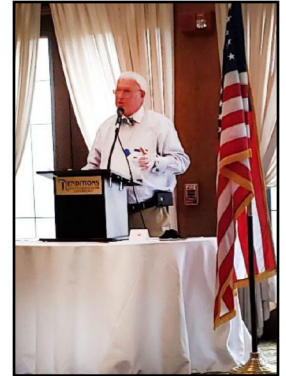
November 12, 2020



Linda Poole and Millie Gardner led the Remembrance Service, honoring members who died during the past year.



Virginia Crespo (Legislative) and Tillie Barckley (Scholarship) gave their committee reports while President Rick Wiles conducted the meeting.



Officers for 2020-2021 were installed by Tillie Barckley: Max Muller (Treasurer), Bob Kanach (Assistant Treasurer), and Rick Wiles (President).



SPOTLIGHT ON AARSPA MEMBERS



Since retiring from the Anne Arundel County Public School System, **Carol Kirby** has served on various committees, both in AARSPA and MRSPA. She found her niche; however, with the Membership Committee. She was instrumental in converting the pencil and paper membership ledgers to spreadsheets created by computer. Working closely with MRSPA, Carol worked tirelessly to keep membership data current. Her efforts in recruiting newly retired AACPS staff members to join the association were extensive. From the database, she created the labels for our newsletter, the *AARSPA Informer* and, from her time working in the Design and Print Department at the Board of Education, Carol was instrumental in having the newsletters mailed out from the mailroom.

Recently, Carol has handed over the chair of the Membership Committee to Leslie Schell and her assistant Marge Smith. We want to thank Carol Kirby for her many years of dedication to AARSPA and the members.



Nina Griffith was the chairman of the Remembrance Committee for more than ten years. She worked tirelessly to keep the records of those members who had died, had emeritus birthdays, and those who were ill or in rehab up-to-date. Dianne Rogers, Millie Gardner and Linda Poole, as well as all AARSPA members, are thankful for her dedicated service to the association.

THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR

“The beginning of every New Year is always the best time to give another chance to your neglected talents!”
— Mehmet Murat ildan

“You are never too old to set another goal, or to dream a new dream.”
— C.S. Lewis

NOTICE

The *AARSPA INFORMER* will not be published in February. The deadline for articles for the April issue is April 1.

2020 Walk to End Alzheimer's



On Sunday, October 18, Team AARSPA from the Heart participated in a very different Walk to End Alzheimer's. Due to COVID restrictions, there was no central walk location; participants were encouraged to gather with friends and family in a place of their choice. Dan and Deb Ahalt, together with Jim, Carla and Peaches Duls met at the Free School while Tillie Barckley and members of her family walked at Anne Arundel Community College. We would like to thank the 31 donors who helped us raise \$2,245. Congratulations to Deb Ahalt who was a Grand Champion, raising over \$1000, and Carla Duls who was a Champion with \$500 in donations.

THANK YOU!!

The AARSPA Virtual Food Drive at the Maryland Food Bank, held during September and October, reached the goal of collecting \$800, \$10 for each of AARSPA's 80 years. Many thanks to all who donated to this worthy cause!



The Little Library Project Update

The two Little Free Libraries, sponsored by AARSPA, have been installed and are operating! We have a steward for the Ferndale location, Linda Wallace, who checks and replenishes the supply of books as needed. We still need a steward for the library located at Park Elementary School. If you are available please contact Zetta Hart (dollyzee@verizon.net). Also if you have, or know someone, with gently used children's books to be donated, please contact Zetta.

Ferndale Early Education Center

Park Elementary School



The Best (and easiest) Community Service Project Ever!

We have all been dreaming about 2021 and the return to "normal", whatever that means. However, we have a long way to go and a winter to get through. Research is finding an alarming increase in people suffering with depression and even suicidal thoughts caused by the lack of human contact. We may not be able to visit or give hugs but we can make phone calls.

You only need to call friends you haven't spoken with in months or years. From my experience, it brings joy to the person making the call as well as the one receiving it. By the end of the call, I promise you will be smiling and feel like you have received a hug. So set a goal to call a certain number of people per week and enjoy renewing old friendships.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Thank you for continuing to ignite young minds with your generous donations as they strive to make a difference for the future.

In Memory of:

Deceased AARSPA Colleagues of 2020

Jay D. Catlin
 Otho Johnson
 John Kasuda
 Bobbye Kudzma
 Dr. Dorothy Mae Mace
 Thomas Neuenschwander
 Robert "Nick" Nichols
 Pat Norris
 Bruce O'Neill
 Earl Jerry Peterson
 Phyllis Richardson
 Paul Rusko
 Gladiola Savage
 Bonnie Schmeltz
 Barbara Schmidt

In Honor of:

Nina Griffith

With your generous support, family and friends, we raised \$225.00 from the Killarney House Pub Fundraiser held on October 14th. Our total includes \$75 from three donations plus the \$150.00
 Sending you a colossal thank you!

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Creating a Covid-19 Travel Kit

While we have been warned that travel is to be avoided, sometimes it is necessary. And when we are "allowed" to travel again there are precautions we can take to increase our safety.

Air Travel

Because most jets are equipped with powerful HEPA air filtration systems and cabin air is replaced every few minutes experts believe air travel is safer than other forms of transportations. Before settling in, disinfect anything you may touch and then sanitize your hands. Try to avoid common areas like those near the bathroom and galley. Of course always wear your mask and sanitize your hands often.

Trains

Currently Amtrak is limiting each car to eight passengers. This allows for plenty of distancing and required masks to be worn at all times. There is no food service.

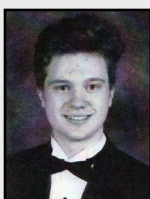
Hotels and Motels

Before unpacking, disinfect high-touch surfaces such as doorknobs, counters, faucets and light switches. Some hotels have suspended daily housekeeping to cut down on in-room transmission. Ask if this is the practice before checking in. With the low occupancy rate many hotels are allowing rooms to remain vacant for a specific number of days before occupying it again. Avoid use of the elevator. If you must use one, only occupy it with members of your own family.



Akilah Curtis

As far as my college experience is concerned, although COVID has made my first semester unconventional, college has been enjoyable. I ended with all A's as I took Honors Colloquium, Honors Topics in College Writing and Sign Language 4. Currently, I am studying for my teacher certification exam. Thank you for the scholarship as it really made a difference.



Evan Hodgson

I chose to stay at home for this semester and managed to stay on top of everything with some of my courses being Macroeconomics, Academic Writing, Statistics and with involvement in the Civil Service Program. Thank you for the scholarship which has helped me along the way. I have

also been tutoring a 7th grader and a 3rd grader in reading, math and Spanish. Signing up for the virtual tutoring with the Latino Student Fund provides me with another opportunity to learn.



Amanda Pscherer

My first semester at the University of Maryland went very smoothly, despite the circumstances we were provided. My home environment enabled me to be much more diligent and organized and I actually made friends through a computer screen. I took English 101, Precalculus, Astronomy 101 as my lab science and Modern Families. Modern Families provided insight on the evolving American family and how aspects of society affect children's home lives. I am so deeply appreciative of the opportunities that the AARSPA Scholarship has granted me.

DATES TO REMEMBER

MEETING DATES

Executive Board Meetings

April 7, 2021 Zoom

June 10, 2021 TBD

General Membership Meetings - 10:30 a.m.

February 11, 2021 Zoom

May 13, 2021 Two Rivers Restaurant
Pasadena

OTHER DATES

January 26, 2021 MRSPA Legislative Workshop
Zoom

March 17, 2021 MRSPA Local Presidents Meeting
Zoom

May 12, 2021 Virtual MRSPA Annual Business
Meeting

February Luncheon and Business Meeting

As a result of the continued problems with the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions on large group gatherings, our General Meeting and Luncheon on Thursday, February 11, 2021 at the Blue Dolphin has been cancelled. Because of the importance of communicating with the membership, we will hold the meeting using Zoom.

The AARSPA executive board has purchased a license to have up to 100 people in attendance for such a meeting. As a matter of fact, by time you receive this publication, the executive board will have met twice via Zoom. ***To participate in the meeting, each person must download the free Zoom app to your device, and then enter the Meeting ID and Password. These two items will be sent out via email prior to the meeting by the AARSPA President, Rick Wiles. You should sign into the meeting about 15 minutes before the 10:00am start time on February 11, 2021.***

If you would like to take part in the general meeting on Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 10:00 am, please complete the form below. **Please send the completed form no later than Monday, February 1, 2021 to:**

Robert Kanach
512 Augusta Drive
Arnold, Maryland 21012

Rick will send an email with the Meeting ID and Password to the first 100 members who send in the completed form.

I would like to participate in the AARSPA general meeting on Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 10:00am.

Please print clearly

Member's Name: _____

Member's Email Address: _____

Member's Phone Number (in case clarification is needed): _____

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Membership is YOU

You pay your **\$15 AARSPA** dues when the renewal arrives – you write a check and mail it. That's done! But is it? Do you know HOW your dues dollars are distributed and used? Let us look at the breakdown:

1. **\$4** of each membership dues goes to the scholarship fund. Each year, AARSPA supports three Anne Arundel County graduating seniors planning to go into the education field with \$4,000 in scholarship money each. These students apply for these funds and a very competent committee reviews the applications before awarding the money.
2. **\$1** of your dues supports the on-going preservation and history of the Anne Arundel Free School. Do you know it is OPEN to you, family, friends, and organizations to tour, view the valuable collections, and learn about the past? You can call to plan a visit.
3. **\$10** remains to do the work of your organization – prints the **AARSPA Informer** newsletter that keeps each member abreast of our activities, supports the legislative committee to inform our legislators of the concerns of retirees (you) as well as educational concerns that affect our school system's future, and keeps important tabs on our health care benefits from the Board of Education. Those benefits are not guaranteed to us, and they can always change.

Thus, you are receiving quite a bit for your dues. This is whether you live in the county, the state, or out-of-state;

AARSPA is working for YOU. So, if you are not a member *join*, and if you are a member, start talking to other retirees or future retirees about AARSPA. The best advertisement for us is YOU!

But wait! Do you know about MRSPA?

That is YOUR state organization. Yep, lots of you have your state dues automatically deducted in July, while others write a check for renewal. So, where does your annual \$45 membership dues go?

1. **Protecting** your state retirement benefits by overseeing the investment funds and working with the state legislature to ensure your benefits for the future, whether you live in-state or out-of-state.
2. **Connecting** to inform you of all the various activities and opportunities available to you through the newsletter, published five times yearly.
3. MRSPA provides (1) support during the legislative session to protect the retirement benefits you receive from Maryland, even if you live out-of-state; (2) a newsletter to keep you informed of the various activities and opportunities, (3) benefit offerings (group discounts and group rates) for MRSPA members, (4) as well as contacting future retirees across the state. This organization supports and works with each local association to bring information to you to enhance your retirement years.

Protecting, Connecting, Making a Difference

Directory Update

Since the middle of September, the committee has met to update our membership database. This has involved many hours of comparing our database to MRSPA's database and then verifying all the information that did not match. The same has been true with those who are local membership only. We are **happy to report** that in early December this *initial* phase was complete. Once we request an updated database from MRSPA and review again, we should have good, accurate information to create a directory. Therefore, we are trying to supply you with some name/address changes in the newsletter. We ask that you be patient and provide the time needed to produce a good product.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Penelope "Penny" Alberti
Ronnie Cantor
Frederick Cech
Kathleen Fisher
Denise Hagerman
Karen Hardesty
Eric Jack

Lynn Markowitz
Kathryn Maxa
Angela Reiser
Candida St. John
Daniel Schaffhauser
Linda Sterago
Constance Urps





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