



INFORMER

Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association
April 2026

Volume 51 Issue 5

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Co-Presidents Kate Gilbert and Ray Bibeault

*Spring Greetings
to Our Members*



We hope this newsletter finds you well as we welcome the arrival of spring. Since our previous update, our organization has hosted two noteworthy gatherings.

The first took place at Renditions Golf Club, providing an excellent opportunity for members to connect and enjoy another amazing lunch. In addition, we had an outstanding speaker who presented valuable information on Wills and Trusts, and we commemorated Black History Month with an educational presentation on Rosenwald Schools, enriching the gathering with eye-opening insights into the history of the education of black students in Anne Arundel County and throughout the country.

We recently held our second event in Florida. While fewer people attended than we had hoped, everyone enjoyed themselves, thanks in large part to Debbie and Bryan Groff for their warm hospitality during happy hour at their beautiful home. These Florida gatherings give retirees living there a chance to catch up with AARSPA colleagues from the north who come down for a brief winter escape.

Did you know that AACPS is currently reviewing proposals for healthcare providers for its employees and retirees? This process aims to ensure quality coverage and competitive options for all eligible members. We're pleased to announce that our organization now has a role in discussions about healthcare providers. This marks an important step in ensuring your voice is heard during the selection process, thanks to the efforts of your co-presidents who advocated for our inclusion with AACPS. We appreciate Susan Baugher's willingness to represent us on this select committee and value her contribution of skills and expertise throughout the process.

We invite you to consider joining our executive board to help continue the meaningful work our organization accomplishes on behalf of our members. At this time, we are seeking committee chairs for both the Free School Museum and Travel committees. These roles are vital for strengthening our outreach to the membership and the broader community. If you are interested or

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(Co-Presidents, page 1)

would like to learn more, please reach out to Ray Bibeault at raybebo@verizon.net or Kate Gilbert at cgilbert218@verizon.net.

Finally, we are excited about three key events on our spring calendar. The first took place on April 10th at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club. This luncheon is part of our efforts to connect more with our members and offer food, fun, and fellowship to our retirees on the Eastern Shore. About 50 members attended this Ocean City event.

The annual Maryland Retired School Personnel Association meeting will convene on May 5th. This occasion provides our parent organization and all local affiliates the opportunity to share updates on progress achieved throughout the year and to engage in critical, collaborative decision-making that will shape the direction of both state and local associations.

The third event will be our year-end annual business meeting (ABM) and luncheon at Two Rivers Steak and Fish House in Pasadena on May 14th. This gathering honors AARSPA members who have passed away this year and celebrates their lives and contributions. Additionally, we will welcome several of our student scholarship recipients for the current year. This is always an exciting time to meet them and hear about their future aspirations. Another highlight of the program will be a performance by our choir, Voices in Melody. We cordially invite you to attend this important event.

We sincerely thank everyone who supported us during our first year as co-presidents. Your openness to our ideas motivated us to work hard for you. We are grateful to be part of such a dedicated team and look forward to welcoming more members at upcoming events. Wishing you all a joyful and successful spring.

DATES TO REMEMBER

MEETING DATES

Executive Board Meetings -10:00 a.m.

June 11, 2026 Free School



General Membership Meetings - 10:30 a.m.

May 14, 2026 Two Rivers Steak and Fish House
Pasadena (Memorial Service)

OTHER DATES

April 10, 2026 AARSPA on the Eastern Shore
Ocean Pines Yacht Club

April 30, 2026 AARSPA Info Session
Severna Park Library

May 5, 2026 MRSPA Annual Business Meeting
Turf Valley Resort

May 6, 2026 AARSPA Info Session
Parham Building

May 18, 2026 AARSPA Info Session
Linthicum Library

June 16, 2026 Scholarship Fundraiser
Killarney House Pub
Davidsonville

July 20, 2026 Deadline for August *Informer*

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

Your generous donations will encourage our scholars to become sculptors, molding the minds and hearts of the next generation.

Richard Berzinski
Jay Catlin
Kenneth Catlin
W. E. Craig (Heavenly Birthday)
Elaine LaBar
Lauralee Whitmore

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

KILLARNEY HOUSE PUB

JUNE 16, 2026

11:00 A.M. - 10:00 P.M.

SPECIAL FUNDRAISING MENU price is \$30 per person plus tax and gratuity. (Does not include drink) We will receive \$10 for each meal ordered.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.

(Carryout and web ordering are also available for this menu.)

REMEMBRANCE

MEMBER DEATHS

Joyce A. Christie
Joan B. Duckett
Peggy B. Griswold
Ruth J. Gulley
Rosalyn "Lynn" Killigrew
Mary L. Sayre
Lauralee F. Whitmore

Many of the following member deaths are not recent. However, we just learned of them from an annual state report.

Jeffrey I. Amdur	Carolyn M. Jackson
James T. Bogle	Chrysanthy Kootsikak
Naomi H. Carlucci	Janice C. Lake
Yvonne E. Cotton	Michael G. Patton
Robert W. Cox	Lorraine M. Perry
Mary A. Grande	Deborah S. Poteet
Dawn M. Hartley	Doris L. Shaneor
Laura L. Henry	Barbara Snyder
William T. Hubbard	Edwin H. Taylor
John S. Insley	Nancy Sutphin Thomson

FAMILY MEMBER DEATHS

Angela Reisler mother

EMERITUS BIRTHDAYS

April

10 James Levay	94
23 Mary Delores Handy	95
30 Lore Singerman	94

May

6 Mary Tereshinski	99
10 Olivia Thompson	101
11 Josephine Reeves	101
21 Alice V, Gills	94
24 Helen Cook	99
29 Jeanne Hawes	96

June

5 Delores Cager	92
8 Charles Garvin	94
8 Patricia McKinster	92
12 Dennis Shuck	91
13 Lois Porter	95
13 Iris Minarik	92
17 June Ruffo	91

GET WELL/THINKING OF YOU

Bonnie Booth	Bonnie Strohmer
Andy Borland	Debbie Stottlemeyer
Nancy Hahn	

ANNIVERSARIES

April

11 Barbara Zelle & Kim Proctor	17
18 Denis & Kathy Schanberger	53

May

7 Joan & Rich DeTuccio	49
7 Tony & Carolyn Anzalone	60
8 Amy & David Summey	50
11 Linda & Lee Watkins	52
11 Lorraine & Dave Foster	52
16 Susan Bowen & Ray Rankin	43
19 Valerie Wesner & Don Counts	43
23 Karen & Dave Lanham	56
26 Sharon & Ed Stratton	47
29 Barry & Shirley Sheehe	55

June

8 Elaine & Bob DiAiso	63
13 Mary & Larry Lynch	56
15 Mary Ann & Tom Rohr	52
20 Dixie & Bill Stack	56
20 Patricia & Louis Aprigliano	55
20 Pat & Bill McQuade	56
20 Christelle & Abrian Wiseman	56
22 Brenda & Rick Terry	63
22 Jeanne & Dick Hawes	73
23 Burma & Lawrence Hill	64
24 Earnestine & Joseph Butler	54
25 Connie & Charlie Smith	60
26 Jim & Carolyn Levay	72
26 Sophie & Bill Sharkey	55
30 Amie & Mark Coover	41
30 Sue & Den Skinner	53

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 wdsrogers@verizon.net or 410-647-7585



AARSPA IN FLORIDA



March 10 and 11, 2026



(L to R) Paul Trego, Sue Centurelli, Diane Myers, Lisa Leary, Tom Leary, Ray Bibeault, Kim Bibeault, Kate Gilbert, and Bob Kanach



(L to R) Ron Derflinger, Arlene Derflinger, Janis Horn, Henry Horn, Terry Henkelman, and Nancy Henkelman, Debbie Groff, Bryan Groff



Bryan and Debbie Groff, hosts



Ron and Arlene Derflinger



Jason Dykstra, Ray Bibeault, and Bob Kanach



Henry Horn and Terry Henkelman



Kate Gilbert, Kim Bibeault and Eleni Dykstra

The "AARSPA in Florida" event took place this year in Kissimmee, hosted at Debbie and Brian Groff's home on March 10, 2026. The following day, the group enjoyed lunch at High Tide Harry's in Orlando. Everyone had a great time!



Janis Horn and Nancy Henkelman

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Thank You!

At the last luncheon, some of you volunteered to “switch” from receiving the *Informer* by mail to receiving it via email. Your decision is a wise one – you will get the newsletter more quickly, and you will help the organization save money and manpower.

Are you aware of the journey your printed newsletter takes to reach you by mail? Let's start the journey:

- Once compiled, it is sent to a professional printer.
- The printing company handles the printing, stapling, and folding of the newsletter. They also box the newsletters.
- Someone picks up the boxes of newsletters.
- Volunteers are contacted by email to meet at the board to assemble the newsletters for mailing.

- Over 850 address labels are printed.
- Volunteers handle each newsletter twice — first to place the labels, and second to attach the mailing wafers (small circles used to seal the newsletter — three per newsletter).
- Once completed, the Board of Education generously mails all the newsletters from the mailroom at a bulk rate.

Each *Informer* incurs a printing cost, a mailing cost, a label purchase cost, and a mailing wafers cost. These costs increase with the five mailings we do each year! Perhaps you can now better understand why we ask you to consider receiving the *Informer* by email. We realize not all members of AARSPA can get the newsletter this way, but most of us can!



MRSPA MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL

Once again, the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) is offering a \$10 state dues special for new and former members between March 1 and May 31, 2026, for the current 2025-2026 membership and fiscal year. Local association dues rates will be \$0 during the special. This promotion aims to encourage new and former members to sign up for dues deduction during the period from March to May, allowing them to pay NO state dues with the \$10 reduction incentive for dues deduction members only.

New or former members who sign up during this period and choose to pay by credit card or check will still owe \$10 in state dues and \$0 in local dues. Checks should be made payable to MRSPA for the state dues amount. Locals will receive their reports from MRSPA following the usual process. These new and reinstated members will be billed for their 2026-2027 dues at the full rate in July. This approach helps align all dues payments with the correct fiscal and membership year while promoting member recruitment.

A **NEW special promotion membership application form** with the **special** \$10 state dues is now available on the MRSPA website.

AARSPA Retirement Gatherings

In May, your membership and pre-retirement committees plan to host a series of “meet and greet” events with soon-to-be retirees to introduce them to AARSPA and MRSPA. These informational sessions will be held at three locations across the county. As we work to raise awareness among all school staff, tell your colleagues who are approaching retirement that these sessions are coming. The dates and locations are listed in the “Dates to Remember” article on page 2. Each session will run from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.



*Anne Arrundell
County Free School
Museum*



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, February 22, 2026
1:00 – 4:00 pm

Come meet and converse with George Washington. Enjoy themed artwork produced by students at Davidsonville Elementary

Sunday, March 22, 2026
1:00 – 4:00 pm

Maryland Day Celebration
Taste Johnnycake made with butter, experience farm activities, write with walnut ink, and more

Sunday, April 12, 2026
1:00 – 4:00 pm

The Big Read Day
Come read and listen to some poetry about nature

Sunday, May 10, 2026
1:00 – 4:00 pm

Mother's Day
Come and make a Mother's Day card

Sunday, June 14, 2026
1:00 – 4:00 pm

Enjoy story time

Sunday, July 12, 2026
1:00 – 4:00 pm

Explore and learn all about the Free School Museum

Sunday, August 9, 2026
1:00 – 4:00 pm

Explore and learn all about the Free School Museum

1298 Lavall Drive, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035

George Washington Visits the Free School

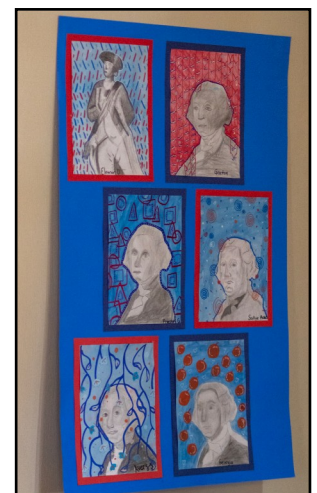
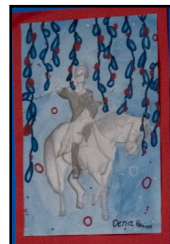
The Annearrundell Free School Museum celebrated **America 250** on February 22, 2026. On George Washington's 294th birthday, we honored him with a celebration. A poster-sized scrapbook about George Washington, created by a sixth-grade class in 1975, was found at the school and inspired us to celebrate George and our country's birthdays. Fifth-grade students from Davidsonville Elementary School made portraits of Washington that were displayed. Many of the artists attended the event. There were plenty of photos of George and his family, books about George, and our founding documents on display. Attendees also had the chance to color part of our America 250 wall mural.



Don Bailey



General George Washington



MARYLAND DAY AT THE FREE SCHOOL



MD Maryland Day Celebration 2026



Photo Credit - Annearrundell County Free School Museum

SCAM • PLAY • CHECK-IT
EXPLORE THE 250 TRAIL
VISITANNAPOLIS.ORG

BeRevolutionary

EDUCATE

Annearrundell County Free School Museum

Established by the revolutionary Free School Act of 1723, the Annearrundell County Free School is the oldest remaining one-room schoolhouse in Maryland. Students like one notable pupil, Johns Hopkins, whose name has become synonymous with learning, excellence and innovation, were taught practical subjects like reading, writing, and arithmetic. 300 years later, visitors of all ages learn about education in the 18th century and gain appreciation for the power and opportunities knowledge holds today.

How will you Be Revolutionary?

- Visit -
ANNAPOLIS & ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Maryland
State of America

MD
TWO
FIFTY

Chesapeake
Crossroads

MARYLAND
250

This project has been financed in part with funds from the Maryland 250 Commission, an instrumentality of the State of Maryland. Project concepts or opinions do not necessarily reflect the views of policies of the State or Maryland 250 Commission. Additional funding has been provided by the Chesapeake Crossroads Heritage Area.



Our members are always very generous with donations to all the causes AARSPA supports. Now we need your help in a different manner.

As you saw in the last *Informer*, Louise DeJesu was our most recent inductee into the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. This organization honors Maryland's outstanding volunteer senior citizens. It's not surprising that at least forty AARSPA members have received this honor. I'm sure you know a member who also deserves it, someone who volunteers with various community organizations. Just let us know who they are, and we will handle the rest.

As you may know, we have placed Little Libraries at several elementary schools within the county. We believe we have installed one at every elementary school that wants one. Now, we would like to reach out to the larger child care centers in the county. The problem is that we, on the community service committee, don't know where they are and have been unsuccessful in our efforts to find out. If you are familiar with any, please let us know. We will contact them to see if they are interested.

We have been contacted by the Annapolis Maritime Museum and Park, seeking volunteers for their various programs. The opportunities are diverse and span every skill level and interest. There are chances to lead educational programs, maintain gardens, catalog and digitize items in their collection, restore historic boats, or maybe you want to join the sailing crew of the Wilma Lee. Learn more by visiting their website at maritime.org.

Remember, research shows that people who volunteer are happier and live longer!

What Would You Do?

Given the current economic reality, we all understand that difficult choices must be made. More families face decisions such as buying new shoes for a child, fueling the car, purchasing groceries for the household, or providing toiletries for an aging parent in an assisted living facility. What would you do?

While families face tough choices, the various facilities are also affected. Given the residents' limited incomes, raising the monthly fee will mean some of the most vulnerable will have to be moved, but to where? The reality is that many assisted living facilities are closing across Anne Arundel County.

You have been a major supporter of the most vulnerable assisted living facilities in your county, and we deeply appreciate it. Let's do the same this year. The toiletries, boxes of tissues, and hand sanitizer are always needed. Of course, large print puzzle books, games, and puzzles with 500 or fewer pieces are wonderful.

Additionally, items for bingo prizes are needed (I think they play a lot of Bingo!). This may include snack foods like packs of cookies or crackers. However, other prizes might be household items you no longer want. Some suggested items include scarves, inexpensive jewelry, or small figurines, to name a few.

We don't know the contribution a person has made to our society, but we can make sure they don't feel forgotten.

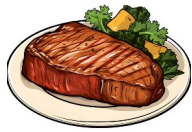


Carla Duls, AARSPA; Christine Acri, principal; and honoree Kyle Lynch

Congratulations to AARSPA's Mini Grant winners for 2026! Kyle Lynch of Deale Elementary School and Suzanne Zelenz-Dale of George Cromwell Elementary captured the honors this year!



Ray Bibeault, AARSPA; Suzanne Zelenz-Dale, honoree; and Missy Morgan, principal



AARSPA Business Meeting & Luncheon

Two Rivers Steak and Fish House

Thursday, May 14, 2026



Our annual business meeting and luncheon will be held on Thursday, May 14, 2026, at the Two Rivers Steak and Fish House, 4105 Mountain Road, Pasadena, Maryland. Registration will begin at 9:45 a.m. with the meeting starting at 10:30 a.m. The reservation form and payment **must be received by Wednesday, April 29, 2026**. After this date, we will no longer be able to issue refunds.

Please remember to bring a donation for the Anne Arundel County nursing homes and/or supplies for the Anne Arundel County Animal Shelter. The Community Service Committee will deliver the collected items after the meeting.

Our entrée choices are:

- Chicken Chesapeake – fresh chicken breast stuffed with spinach, prosciutto, and lump crab, served with a Dijon cream sauce
- 6-ounce center-cut sirloin steak grilled to medium temperature
- Grilled vegetable stack
- Two-layer sheet cake sliced and served

Each entrée comes with green beans and rice, a garden salad with ranch or bleu cheese dressing, and a freshly baked roll.

The cost per person is **\$47.50**. Please make your check payable to **AARSPA**. Mail the reservation form and payment **to arrive no later than April 29, 2026**, to:

Bob Kanach, 512 Augusta Drive, Arnold, MD 21012



.....CUT HERE



Contact

Person: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email address: _____

Name	Chicken Chesapeake	Sirloin Steak	Veggie Stack	
_____	_____	_____	_____	x \$47.50 = _____
_____	_____	_____	_____	x \$47.50 = _____
_____	_____	_____	_____	x \$47.50 = _____
_____	_____	_____	_____	x \$47.50 = _____

_____ Please check here if this is your first AARSPA luncheon.

_____ Please check here if you are an Emeritus member (age 90 or greater). Your meal is free!



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:
 Education Foundation of AACPS

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