

**Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association
General Membership Meeting and Luncheon Minutes
CAT-North
November 14, 2024**

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 10:35 AM by Co-President Doyle.

Pledge to the Flag Rick Wiles lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Greetings and Introductions Co-President Doyle welcomed our guests:

- First Time Attendees: Mattie Procaccini, Sean Swanson
- Emeritus Attendees: Ron Ruffo, Jeanne Hawes
- Special Guests: Dr. Mark Bedell, Superintendent; Ms. Elizabeth Heist, Teacher of the Year, Music, Lake Shore Elementary

Welcome

Principal Jason Williams welcomed us to CAT-North. He began his principalship here on July 8, 2024, and loves working with the staff and students. He thanked his staff for the preparations with the students for our luncheon meeting.

Voices in Melody

The chorus sang three patriotic songs for Veterans Day. The group is still accepting new members.

Minutes from the September 12, 2024 Meeting

Minutes posted on website were accepted as published

Business Meeting

Committee Reports Co-President Anzalone now led the meeting

Before committee reports, Co-President Anzalone stated that AARSPA and MRSPA work to support our membership. Virginia Crespo needs our help to maintain the \$2.7 billion budget for Maryland schools. Some of our federal contracts and funds may be cut. Please be involved at the local and state level in school related legislation.

Free School

Karlie Everett gave a brief history of the free school for new members. She reported that the school open house was not busy recently. If you would like to visit, contact Ms. Everett for possible dates. At this time the school is only open the second Sunday, April – August. There are no Saturday open house visits. March 23, 2025 is Maryland Day and the school will be open 1 - 4 PM with activities geared for children. Don Bailey recently located a scrapbook at the Free School with information about George Washington.

Community Service/Consumer Education

Phyllis Cherry reported that pumpkins had been donated to several senior living facilities. The residents enjoyed decorating and displaying them. School supplies donated at the last meeting were distributed to Annapolis Elementary and Georgetown East.

Ms. Cherry stated that long term healthcare information can be found at local libraries. She cautioned us that there are still groups trying to scam people for additional political donations. If you are unfamiliar with the group contacting you, do not give them any of your personal information (email, phone, address...)

Deb Ahalt shared a poster highlighting our community service opportunities. She is also posting information about our group activities on FaceBook. Information about the Alzheimer's Walk was recently completed and posted on FaceBook.

Membership Committee

Leslie Schell emphasized that “numbers” are important for healthcare and retirement benefits. She thanked the members who assisted with the mailing of the last newsletter and reminded us that she will always need help with that task. Ms. Schell reported there are 11 new members, but 38 people were not regained with a MRSPA membership. The committee depends on the current membership to get the information out about the benefits of the organization. Posters were distributed to all work locations for Unit 1-6 employees. If membership applications are required, please contact Leslie Schell.

Guest Speakers

Teacher of the Year, **Elizabeth Heist**, spoke to our group with an emphasis on those of us who have dedicated their lives to children. She stated these are Champions. Ms. Heist shared her experiences as a child in school and emphasized that all children need a champion. Building relationships is key and educators have the ability to build them.

Superintendent **Dr. Mark Bedell** thanked AARSPA and retirees for their support of the school system. His focus is giving hope to students because change happens when educator become champions for students. Dr. Bedell shared portions of his Strategic Plan for 2024-2029. He wants students to “Belong, Grow, Succeed.” There are currently 85,256 students in AACPS. This county is very diverse and all children must feel as though they belong. Dr. Bedell share links to the website if we are interested in helping him with his goals: www.aacps.org/bepresent and www.aacps.org/mentoring

Remembrance Committee

Millie Gardner announced the birthday drawing for the months of October, November and, December.

Scholarship Committee

Tillie Barckley thanked the membership for our continued loyalty by supporting the scholarship program. Ms. Barckley announced that she received \$340 from the fundraiser at Killarney House. Donations from the luncheon totaled \$2,208. Ms. Barckley announced that four \$5,000 scholarships will be provided this year.

Old Business

No Old Business

New Business

No New Business

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:18 P.M.

Dates to Remember	
Tuesday, December 3, 2024	American Music Theatre, "Joy to the World" 9:45 AM – 8:45 PM
Friday, December 23, 2024	Deadline for January AARSPA Informer
Thursday, January 9, 2025	Executive Board Meeting-10:00 AM-12:00 PM-Board of Education Parham Building, Room 2A
Monday, January 27, 2025	Deadline for February 2025 AARPS Informer
Tuesday, January 28, 2025	MRSPA Legislative Workshop
Thursday, February 13, 2025	General Membership Meeting and Luncheon- Renditions Golf Course, Davidsonville, MD. 9:45 AM registration & meeting 10:30 AM
Thursday, February 20, 2025	Snow Date for Renditions General Meeting and Luncheon

Dates to Remember Anne Arundel Retired Personnel Association Voices in Melody Confirmed Concerts	
Wednesday, December 4, 2024	Pascal Center, 12:30 PM
Thursday, December 5, 2024	Our Shepard Lutheran Church, 1:30 PM
Tuesday, December 10, 2024	O'Malley Senior Center, 12:30 PM
Wednesday, December 11, 2024	Annapolis Senior Center, 12:30 PM
Tuesday, December 17, 2024	Elk's Women's Club, 1:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by,
Zetta Hart
Recording Secretary