

AARSPA Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, April 9, 2026- 10:00 A.M.
MRSPA Conference Room

Attendees: Debbie Ahalt, Denise Andersen, Tony Anzalone, Tillie Barckley, Ray Bibeault, Susan Baugher, Carla Duls, Kate Gilbert, Bob Kanach, Linda Poole, Leslie Schell, Marge Smith, Sharon Stratton, Deborah Turner, and Rick Wiles

Absent: Virginia Crespo, Millie Gardner, Brenda Gibson, Sharyn Doyle, Kay Stawas and Dixie Stack,

Call to Order & Pledge to the Flag

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by Co-chair Ray Bibeault, followed by the pledge to the flag.

Treasurer's Report – Denise Andersen/Bob Kanach

Budget Overview

The organization's budget relies primarily on membership numbers. This year, membership declined, which had a direct impact on the overall budget. Both Denise Andersen and Bob Kanach expressed optimism that the budget for 2027 will improve, due to the transition of the newsletter to a digital format. They anticipate that moving to digital newsletters will help reduce expenses and potentially support budget recovery in the coming year. The goal is to decrease the cost of mailing. Discussion took place.

Newsletter - Ideas from several members to help reduce expenses by decreasing the number of newsletters sent either by email or traditional postal mail.

- Kate Gilbert suggested that we go from three newsletters by one newsletter.
- Suggestion from Marg Smith to eliminate the February newsletter but make sure travel information is included in a newsletter before the deadline to sign up.
- Carla Duls stated that the January newsletter is usually bigger due to the trip information.
- Bob Kanach stated that over 900 newsletters are sent out and some members receive both electronic newsletters and traditional postal mail. He also stated that it costs \$822 for postal mailings per year versus \$523 for electronic mailings per year.
- Leslie Schell noted that newsletters are currently being sent to non-members. She proposed sending a newsletter informing recipients that the publication is a benefit of AARSPA membership. She will request that non-members renew their membership if they wish to continue receiving the newsletter and clarify that distribution will cease should they choose not to renew.
- Kate Gilbert requested that we keep the membership campaign going in order to increase membership.

Budget Requests:

- Phyllis Cherry requested increasing the Community Service Committee budget from \$800 to \$1,000. She explained that this would support two \$500.00 mini grants, an amount equal to those awarded by MRSPA. The grants will be selected from the Anne Arundel County teachers who applied but were not selected by MRSPA. Phyllis Cherry suggested the additional \$200 be taken from the money allocated to the Maryland Senior Hall of Fame. We currently do not have any members nominated for the Maryland Senior Hall of Fame, but they will continue to provide a monetary donation to the organization,
- Tillie Barckley requested \$5,000 for 2027 to fund three scholarships, citing decreased donations as the rationale for the increase.
- Rick Wiles noted that the zoom account remains active and questioned its necessity. Bob Kanach confirmed funds are available on the Technology budget line. Ray Bibeault recommended updating the account name to the Current President, while Kate Gilbert

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advised keeping the account as a backup for virtual meetings. Debbie Ahalt volunteered to serve as the contact person when Zoom is needed.

Budget Approval

Denise Andersen stated that the changes will be made in time for the upcoming general membership meeting and luncheon. Phyllis Cherry made a motion to approve the 2027 budget, including the adjusted items. Carla Duls seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Minutes - Deborah Turner

Minutes from October 9, 2026, were approved with a motion from Bob Kanach with a second from Leslie Schell. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Voices in Melody – Rick Wiles

Rick Wiles reported that donations from Senior Centers have decreased.

Concert dates in May:

May 6th 1:00 pm South County Senior Center

May 12th 12:30 pm Pascal Senior Center

May 13th 12:15 pm O'Malley Senior Center

May 14 10:30 am AARSPS Luncheon (Two Rivers Steak & Fish House)

Consumer Education & Consumer Education - Phyllis Cherry

- Two Mini Grants were awarded to a teacher at Deale Elementary School and a teacher at George Cromwell Elementary School. Debbie Ahalt remarked on how well they received their grants and took pictures of the awardees.
- Senior Hall of Fame – Tony Anzalone reported that the selection will be made on April 12th, with recommendations to be confirmed at the May meeting. He emphasized the importance of recognizing outstanding members.
- Tony Anzalone shared that his dentist donated over 200 dental items to AARSPA. Additionally, he delivered toiletries—including contributions from both AARSPA and his dentist—to local food pantries, supporting families in need.

Educator/Employee of the Month - Tony Anzalone

Tony Anzalone reported that the awards were very well received by the staff, who expressed appreciation and enthusiasm for the recognition. October 2026 will be the next honoree presentation.

Free School - Bob Kanach

- Maryland Day - 46 attendees. Corn was planted and bread was made.
- May Day - 65 attendees
- Bob Kanach reported that the paint is peeling on the building and is looking into getting the painting task completed.
- Attic has been cleaned out.
- The Free School calendar of events was handed out to members. The next event, The Big Read Day, takes place on April 12, 2026.

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Historian/Newsletter- Carla Duls

- Reminder: The deadline for the August newsletter is July 20th
- Leslie Schell reported that there are 1466 retirees in the database. 266 of the local members are only AARSPA members. There are 66 emeritus members as of April 8, 2026. 819 members receiving the newsletter belong to both AARSPA and MRSPA. 595 members are receiving electronic newsletters. There are approximately 51 members with no address. She will research further.
- **Newsletter next steps:** Send 2026 retirees the newsletter as a way to encourage membership. Additional newsletters will be sent once they become members. Leslie Schell has revamped the newsletter sent to new retirees.

Membership Committee - Leslie Shell & Marg Smith

- Sharon Stratton asked if it would be beneficial for the Executive Committee to reach out to membership by phone to promote membership and let them know that the newsletter will continue upon renewal of membership. Leslie explained that calls from the executive committee have been made before and that the response was not good. Susan Baugher reminded the committee that unrecognized phone numbers are usually not answered. As a result, they will not be making phone calls.
- Ray Bibeault proposed creating membership cards that would offer a discount to members. However, concerns were raised about the costs and manpower required to produce, print, and mail these cards. Phyllis Cherry suggested reaching out to local businesses to see if they would be willing to donate or provide a 15% discount. Tony displayed his business card, designed by Carla Duls, which had been created and distributed to members. He mentioned that he added his name to the card and presents it to businesses when soliciting donations. No further discussion on cards.

Pre-Retirement Committee - Susan Baugher

- New Caremark cards are coming
 - The co-pay can be confusing. If you have concerns, reach out to the Retirement Office for guidance.
- The retirement Poster has been updated and sent out to schools. Future updates will take place every two years.
- Pre-retirement presentations will take place from 3:30-5 pm
 - April 30th - Severna Park Library
 - May 6th - Board of Education
 - May 18th - Linthicum Library

Raffle Committee - Cindy Smith

Raffles will be available at the Ocean City Luncheon.

Remembrance/Sunshine Committee - Linda Poole

The committee is working on the Memorial Service for the May meeting.

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Scholarship Committee - Tillie Barckley

This report was based on the Power of One. Tillie congratulated the committee on making a difference through encouragement and support of providing scholarships to aspiring educators.

- 17 applications from Spalding, Severn Run, Glen Burnie, Meade, Crofton, and Arundel High Schools. The selection committee consisted of Sharyn Doyle, Tony Anzalone, Dr. Les, and Tillie Barckley. Tillie thanked the committee for their experience and knowledge in reading between the lines of essays which made a difference in the selection process.
- The selected recipients will receive \$6000.00 each.
 - Isabelle Sussman - Indian Creek High School. Goal to become a math teacher for bilingual students and English Language learners.
 - Haley Ferrell - Old Mill High School. Goal to become an elementary teacher. She is the author of “Cory the Cap - Managing Emotions One Spill at a Time.
 - Allyson Jones - Severna Park High School - Goal to work with Special Needs children in early childhood.
 - Cecelia Burke - Annapolis High School - Goal to become a teacher in Secondary Education.
 - Kylie Rohr - Southern High School - Goal to become a teacher ins Secondary Education.
- Scholarship Awards Ceremony: Wednesday, April 29th at St. John’s College.
 - Scholarship recipients and parents are invited to the May meeting.
- June 16, 2026 is the next scholarship fundraiser at Killarney House.
- There was a brief discussion on participating in the Chesapeake Baysox Fundraiser. After ideas and questions, the committee decided not to move forward with this fundraiser as it does not appear to be profitable for our organization.

Trips and Travel Committee - Kate Gilbert and Ray Bibeault

A new committee chair is needed, and the co-presidents are looking for a new chair.

Old Business

85 for 85 Campaign Progress - Kate/Ray/Leslie Shell

No new members during this campaign.

Online Luncheon Registration - Ray Bibeault

Ray Bibeault demonstrated how to make an online registration for upcoming luncheons. Committee members were able to register online for the May luncheon/meeting, and payment must be made online through Zelle or by sending a check by April 29th. This demonstration allowed the committee members to evaluate the online registration process that will hopefully take place in the fall of 2026. Information about payment will be included. Members will still have the option to use the paper version and mail a check.

Website Changes - Ray Bibeault

- Ray Bibeault showed the committee what the new website looks like.
- Amber McClananhan is working on the website with the previous web designer.
- It is not live yet as updates are still being made. Very user friendly.
- Ray is concerned with having only one person working on the website and would like more than one person able to make changes.

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- The old website will be moved to the new layout soon.
- Wix will continue to be utilized.
- Google calendar will be used.

AARSPA in Florida 2026 - Bob Kanach

- 19 members in attendance
- Bob Kanach was thanked for organizing a wonderful trip.

New Business

Committee Reports at May meeting

Tillie Barkley, Phyllis Cherry, and Denise Andersen asked to be included in the May meeting agenda.

Establish Agenda for May Meeting

- There will not be any speakers at the luncheon.
- Kate Gilbert reported that the Teacher of the Year has not yet been identified. The Teacher of the Year will be included as part of the November meeting.
- Voices in Melody will be our entertainment during the luncheon.
 - Three selections before lunch
 - Two selections during the memorial service.
 - Scholarship recipients will be scheduled after lunch
 - Nominations for Co-Presidents for 2026-2027 term.

Ocean Pines Luncheon - 2026 - Bob Kanach

- 54 members in attendance.
- Directories and member sign up were provided by Leslie Shell.

Business Meetings & Luncheons 2026-27 - Bob Kanach

- Severna Park Elks has been booked
- Looking for venues that have a cheaper menu selection.
- Suggestion made to move the luncheon to breakfast or brunch which would be less expensive.
- Next suggestion - to keep the Elks reservation and also do a lunch or brunch
- Ideas will also be mentioned at the May general meeting & luncheon

AARSPA in Florida 2027 - Executive Board

The committee is waiting for the baseball schedule to be released in September. Kate Gilbert had been in contact with the Orioles and is gathering information.

Informer Issues 2026-27 - Executive Board

- Monday, July 20, 2026 is the deadline for August 2026 issue.
- Refer to the handout for more information.

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MRSPA Presidents' Meeting Info - Kate Gilbert/Ray Bibeault

Kate and Ray explained that there is a proposed Committee reorganization, new Budget, proposed bylaw amendments, and new strategic plan which will be presented at the upcoming MRSPA business meeting. AARPSA will have 19 delegates at the business meeting in addition to several of our members who have MRSPA leadership positions.

Adjournment

- The co-presidents thanked everyone for attending today's meeting and for those staying to help with the newsletter mailing.
- The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Deborah Turner

Deborah Turner
AARPA Recording Secretary

Next BOD meeting: Thursday, June 11, 2026 Executive Board Meeting – 10:00 – 12:00PM –
MRSPA at 8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Odenton MD 21113