

AARSPA Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, January 9, 2025, 10:00 A.M.
Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Dixie Stack, Phyllis Cherry, Susan Baugher, Kate Gilbert, Ray Bibeault, Rick Wiles, Sharyn Doyle, Debbie Ahalt, Kay Stawas, Millie Gardner, Leslie Schell, Linda Poole, Denise Anderson, Marge Smith, Bob Kanach, Brenda Gibson, Max Muller, Deborah Turner, Karla Duls, Anthony Anzalone, Tillie Barckley, Zetta Hart

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:03 A.M. by Co-President Sharyn Doyle, followed by the pledge to the flag led by Rick Wiles.

Recording Secretary

The October 12, 2024 minutes were approved with a motion from Dixie Stack with a second from Kate Gilbert.

Treasurer's Report

Max Muller gave the report for our current budget based on \$25,756.32 carryover from the Scholarship Fund. PNC bank interest is being worked on to correct the errors in reporting. AARSPA is currently 212 members short in membership which our current budget is based upon. The Free School received \$20 of interest on the Gunson Fund account. A new pump was installed at the facility. It was recommended that we invest the Gunson Fund holdings in a business CD. A motion was made by Phyllis Cherry to continue to explore the options for investment. The motion was seconded by Deb Ahalt. The motion was passed. Our current balance is \$35,438.52.

Corresponding Secretary

Brenda Gibson reported she would send her report by email.

Committee Reports

AARSPA Voices in Melody

Rick Wiles reported that the chorus received \$265 in donations. Currently they have 2 concerts schedule, but expect more in the future.

Community Service/Consumer Education

Phyllis Cherry reported that school supplies have been taken to the receiving schools. Georgetown East was appreciative of the donations. They are creating a store for students to purchase Christmas gifts for their families and they have requested donations of gently used or new items for their students to purchase. The Little Free Library at Deale Elementary is tentatively schedule for January 29, 2025. Miss Utility will be contacted before the installation occurs. We are still searching for a second site that we hope will not take as many restrictions from different groups to be approved. I was suggested maybe a daycare center. [London Towne Academy](#) on Mayo Road or the [Stair Program](#) will be investigated as a possibility.

The Mini-Grants committee will meet to select new candidates for our grant.

Educator/Employee of the Month Committee

Anthony Anzalone shared that the committee met on December 14th for AARSPA. The Employees/Teachers of the Month are named and photographs displayed for all to see. Six nominations were received and will cover the months February, March, April, and May.

Free School Museum/Maintenance Committee

Bob Kanach reported that John Hammond's family agreed to continue cleaning the building. Bob thanked Carla Duls for the pictures in the Informer. Karlie Everett submitted minutes for her committee. (Attached to the minutes.)

Historian and Editor of the Informer Committee

Deadline for February Informer is January 27, 2025. This is to ensure information about the Eastern Shore luncheon and Florida trip are published. Please submit any articles, trips, scholarship winners, and employees of the month by the deadline date. Deadlines for future Informers are: July 21, 2025, September 22, 2025, December 19, 2025, January 16, 2026, and April 10, 2026.

Legislative Committee

Virginia Crespo reported that a morning breakfast meeting with legislators was held on January 8, 2025. The state is experiencing a \$3 billion deficit. They are looking to cut \$2.7 billion. They are considering increased efficiency, tax increases on additional items not currently taxed. They intend to maintain The Blue Print for Schools with a bit of tweaking. The federal drug cost lowering could possibly be spread to Maryland.

Membership Committee

Leslie Schell reported that 12 former members have been reinstated. 156 members are locals only. We currently have 68 emeritus members. The committee is considering posting a survey for information about membership issues.

Pre-retirement Committee

Susan Baugher reported her committee is working on updating the brochure for new retirees. Information sessions for new retirees will be scheduled in mid to late April.

Program Committee

Dixie Stack reported that the Broadneck Church will entertain at our luncheon in February and she needs a check to pay their fee.

Publicity Committee

Deb Ahalt thanked Karlie Everett for her help with Maryland Day events. There was great publicity for the event.

Raffle Committee

No Report

Remembrance/Sunshine Committee

Millie Gardner checked on emeritus members. She sent out 73 holiday cards and 3 were returned. She sent out Panera Bread gift cards as well. Several individuals have replied to Millie during the holiday season.

Scholarship Committee

Tillie Barckley reported that the Ram's Head on Generals Highway will do a fundraiser for us. She will investigate the terms. Bob reported that he delivered the scholarship check for \$20,000.

Trips and Travel Committee

Kay Stawas shared several future trips and some they are investigating. (See attached information)

Old Business

No Old Business

New Business

Tony Anzalone reported that Shirley Hicks was the honoree of the MLK award by Dr. Bedell. Sharyn Doyle shared information about the award for senior volunteers. We will try to again submitting our last nominee. The dinner is on October 16, 2025.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:33 A.M.

Dates to Remember

Mon., Jan. 27, 2025	Deadline for February Informer
Tues., Jan. 28, 2025	MRSPA Legislative Workshop
Th., Feb. 13, 2025	General Membership Meeting and Luncheon-Renditions Golf Course, Davidsonville, MD 9:45 AM registration, meeting at 10:30
Snow Date, 2-20-2025	Renditions Golf Course, Davidsonville, MD 9:45 AM registration, meeting at 10:30 Note: <i>(only if AACPS schools are closed to students on February 13, 2025)</i>
Wed., March 12, 2025	Florida Meeting and Luncheon, LOCATION: TBD
Wed., March 24, 2025	Deadline for the April, 2025 AARSPA Informer
Th., April 10, 2025	Executive Board Meeting, 10:00-12:00, MRSPA at 8379 Piney Orchard Parkway
Fri., April 11, 2025	AARSPA Eastern Shore. Ocean Pines Yacht Club, 12:00 PM-2:00 PM
Tues., May 6, 2025	MRSPA Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon, Turf Valley Resort, 2700 Turf Valley Road, Ellicott City, MD
Th., May 8, 2025	Business Meeting and Luncheon, Two Rivers Restaurant, Lake Shore Plaza off Mountain Road, Registration, 9:45 AM and meeting at 10:30 AM
Th., June 2025	Executive Board Meeting, The Free School, 1298 Lavall Drive, Davidsonville, MD, 10:00 AM- 12:00 PM

Respectfully
Submitted,
Zetta Hart
Recording Secretary

AARSPA Executive Board Meeting – January 9, 2025
Written Report - Annearrundell County Free School Museum

1. Tours and Visits: There haven't been any since September 10, 2024. This is not unusual.

2. Chesapeake Crossroads Heritage Area
 - a. The Education Committee met on October 9, 2024 and December 11, 2024. Among the items discussed were a recap of the Teacher Professional Development Day at BSHS. We participated in the PD event. Also discussed was the 250th celebration. Of particular interest was an AACPS person saying the minimum cost for a bus for a field trip is \$800. Think about it. If there were 40 students on the bus that would make just the bus part of a field trip \$20 per student.
 - b. The Small Organizations Committee met on October 15, 2024 and December 3, 2024. There were long discussions on grants and grant writing which really don't pertain to us. Of particular interest was the common problem of attracting visitors to historic sites but then having enough volunteers to support increased activity.
 - c. The MD Day Committee met November 7, 2024 and January 6, 2025. Most of the meeting time was spent on the historic sites sharing their plans for MD Day. There will be an attempt to schedule some social media training.
 - d. The Wilkening Data was shared. The frequency of visitors has not returned to pre-covid days. Repeat visitors want to see something "new" at sites. Health concerns, especially mobility for seniors, remain although not the same as during the Covid years.

3. Our group (Millie DeSimone, Don Bailey, Bob Kanach, Carolyn Webber, Kathy Hornig, Karlie Everett) met on October 17, 2024.
 - a. We will do a similar event for Maryland Day, March 23, 2025 as we did in 2024 with some updates.
 - b. We will make some changes to our Open House schedule. We will be open on the Second Sunday of April, May, June, July, and August. During these Open Houses we will have special exhibits and activities. For example, on April 13, 2025 we will be a part of the NEA Big Read. We will do poetry readings under our catapla tree. Children participating will receive a book of poetry through the Big Read program.
 - c. We will celebrate the 250th on February 22, 2026 focusing on George Washington.

4. Our next meeting is January 16, 2025 at the FSM from 10:30 am -12:30 pm. All are welcome to join us as we will need several more docents to implement all the ideas and suggestions.

Travel Committee News for Executive Meeting - January 2025

- Our trip on December 3rd, to see Joy to the World at the American Music Theatre in Pennsylvania was wonderful. Our bus driver took a scenic route through some of the towns in Pennsylvania and everyone on the bus thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful views along the way.

- **Our next Trip**

- April 4th (Friday) - **Odyssey Cruise & Cherry Blossoms** - Washington DC
 - Advertised in the January Informer
 - Reservations due by January 22
 - Cruise along Washington's waterfront on the Odyssey
 - Lunch - Meal selection will be made from a menu
 - DJ will provide entertainment
 - Photo stop of the Cherry Trees at the Tidal Basin
 - Cost is \$145

- **We are looking into the following trips**

- September 6th (Saturday) - **The Buddy Holly Story** - Lancaster Pennsylvania
 - Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre with a Buffet lunch
 - The story of the last few years of Buddy Holly's life
 - Will spotlight some of his famous songs such as
 - That'll be the Day
 - Peggy Sue
 - La Bamba
 - Oh Boy – etc.
 - Cost is \$129

- December 4th (Thursday) - **Stone Gables Estate Holiday** - Elizabethtown, PA
 - Christmas buffet dinner
 - Special holiday show
 - Short drive to the National Christmas Center
 - Self-guided tour
 - 18,000 square feet of vintage Christmas decor
 - Replicated store fronts decked out in 1950's Christmas themes
 - Cost is \$170