



I N F O R M E R

Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association

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Spring has finally arrived in Maryland! We are seeing the flowers starting to bloom, the trees getting their leaves, and warmer weather forecasts. Although spring is in the air, today we face an unprecedented set of challenges as the coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to impact our way of life. At this time, our focus is the health and safety of our members and their families.

The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) and AARSPA calendars have been dramatically altered from the guidance of our local, state and federal government officials to comply with the recommendations provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In accordance with this expert advice, the president and executive committee will be required to conduct business differently and cancel some events to protect the health and well-being of our members and officers. With our schools, restaurants, and many businesses closed, most of our Budget and Executive Board Meetings will be conducted electronically. We will use Constant Contact for emergency cancellations, so it is important to have our membership using email. For those members that don't use email, all members should share current news by phone with each other.

The Pre-Retirement Seminar has been postponed, the Voices in Melody Chorus concert season has been cancelled, and our restaurants scholarship fund raisers are postponed. The May Business, Membership, Memorial Service and Luncheon Meeting is postponed until further notice. We will need to reschedule this meeting to comply with our by-laws. The Blue Angels cruise might be cancelled or modified to just a cruise should the graduation or air show be cancelled. Those members who signed up for the trip will be notified directly.

The MRSPA Annual Business Meeting will be held electronically, not in person. The details of the electronic/phone meeting and everything related to it will be sent as soon as the office has it worked out. The MRSPA staff is currently working from home at this time.

It was decided in the best interest of our members to cancel the AARSPA Florida events scheduled for March 18-19, 2020. We want to thank Arlene and Ron Derflinger for offering to open their house to us for the evening social and for assisting us in making arrangements with the Eagle Creek Golf Club. All parties have been reimbursed for advance payments for the luncheon and social.

AARSPA was involved with the MRSPA Lobby Day and our legislative luncheon. As the legislature has come to a close, we wish to express our gratitude



to Sharyn Doyle and Virginia Crespo for their diligence in tracking legislation that could impact our finances or health care in retirement. Special thanks also to the legislative committee members who wrote letters or provided testimony on important legislation.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and flexibility as we tread unforeseen waters. Be safe, keep exercising, and stay healthy!



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)

REMEMBRANCE

MEMBER DEATHS

Helen Baugh
 Eunice Emge
 Betty Feusahrens
 Joyce Gibson
 Marvin Heptinstall
 Robert Nichols
 Phyllis Richardson
 Allen Stemple

EMERITUS BIRTHDAYS

April
 10 Anna Pasculle 97
May
 1 Evelyn Reed 96
 6 Mary Tereshinski 93
 10 Olivia Thompson 95
 11 Josephine Reeves 95
 15 Marge Rasheff 94
 24 Helen Cook 93
 29 Jeanne Hawes 90
June
 7 Emma Fortman 91
 13 Gloria Johnson 91
 15 Margaret Cutchins 96
 26 Thelma Sparks 99

FAMILY MEMBER DEATHS

Eileen Marion Husband

ANNIVERSARIES

April
 19 Abigail & Bill Jackson 53
May
 7 Carolyn & Tony Anzalone 54
 11 Linda & Lee Watkins 46
 11 Lorraine & David Foster 46
 22 Dale & Ron Smith 49
 23 Karen & Dave Lanham 50
June
 8 Patricia & George Caldwell 57
 13 Evangeline & Clifford Prince 50
 18 Mary Kay & Ken Crosby 65
 20 Dixie & Bill Stack 50
 21 Annette & Don Smith 54
 21 Shirley & Vernon Thomas 48
 22 Jeanne & Dick Hawes 67
 22 Faith & Paul Bagley 63
 23 Burma & Lawrence Hill 57
 24 Earnestine & Joseph Butler 48
 26 Carolyn & Jim Levay 67
 26 Sophie & Bill Sharkey 49
 30 Amy & Mark Coover 34



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

Nina Griffith at bear1134@aol.com or 443 304-2266

Illnesses and Accidents, etc.

Linda Poole at mlp2118@yahoo.com or 410-570-4020

FREE SCHOOL NEWS

Recycling and Farm-To-Table

In the 21st Century, two terms we hear a lot are "recycling" and "farm-to-table." Consider these two terms were also relevant to people during the 1700's and 1800's when the Annearrundell County Free School was established.

At the Free School Museum we have a collection of lunch pails some of which were originally molasses tins or tobacco tins. Not all our students could afford shiny new lunch pails. They had to recycle and use tins and containers that were originally for another purpose.

In the lunch pail students might find some homemade bread with lard or a cold potato and maybe an apple, never an orange. Why never an orange? Not only were there few trade routes to the south where oranges grow, but travel was slow, and there was not climate controlled storage. Students had to eat what was grown locally on their farms or nearby farms.

So while today we are choosing to employ the sustainable strategies of recycling and farm-to-table, schoolmasters, school marms, and students at the Annearrundell County Free School had no choice. It was how they lived!



Free School Museum Open House Season

Because of the novel coronavirus guidelines it was decided to postpone the spring cleaning of the Free School Museum. Furthermore, we are cancelling the Open House events scheduled for April 11 and April 12, 2020. Arranging for the spring cleaning of the schoolhouse and the other Open Houses will be decided when additional information and guidelines are made available.



NEWS YOU CAN USE

If you are interested in helping medical researcher find cures for some of the most common ailments for seniors and earn money for doing so, the following research programs may interest you.

The University of Maryland

1. Conducting research to better understand falls and prevent falls

- Participants must be at least 65 and in good health.
- If interested, call (410) 605-7170 (mention code HIPS).
- There is compensation for your time.

2. Conducting research on neuropathy resulting in poor balance and falls

- Research involves individuals with diabetes or pre-diabetes to determine the benefits of a drug designed to improve neuropathy.
- Contact (410) 328-6583 or INMED@som.umaryland.edu or visit their website: www.umm.edu/neuraopathy/clinical trials.

Johns Hopkins

1. Conducting research on Knee Osteoarthritis

- Participants must be at least 45 years of age and have osteoarthritis in their knee
- The study involves 5 visits to the Bayview Hospital where sensory testing and blood is drawn.
- All examinations, parking, and test are provided at no cost.
- Transportation to all study visits provided free of cost.
- Compensation is up to \$1475.00.
- For more information, contact Jim Stone at (410) 550-7906 or Kneepain@jhu.edu.

2. Investigating the effectiveness of a drug designed to slow memory loss

- To be eligible, you must have mild memory changes and be between 55 and 85 years old
- The research involves up to 10 visits over 18 months; tests of memory, thinking and behavior; PET and MRI scans of the brain; and taking either the investigative drug or a placebo.
- Compensation is up to \$700.00
- For more information, contact (410) 502-4797 or HOPE4MCI@jhu.edu.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

During this past legislative session, our Legislative Committee, in conjunction with MRSPA's Legislative Committee, had been busy tracking legislation that could impact your finances or health care in retirement. We also organized and held our Legislative Luncheon on February 19th in the Anne Arundel Delegation Room in the House of Representatives. 11 of our AARSPA members joined more than 35 of our Legislators and/or their Aides and discussed important legislative issues such as the security of our pension funding and the impact of the Kirwan funding on our local school district and in turn on our health benefits.

Here is a url where you can review all of the passed legislation <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Legislation/Report?id=passedByBoth> for more information. We are happy to report our current pension system has remained unchanged during this year's session. The Coronavirus State of Emergency as declared by Governor Larry Hogan, will have no effect on the payment of monthly pension benefits. The payment of benefits and the processing of new retirement applications will proceed without interruption.



The Scholastic Warehouse Book Sale is usually planned for the end of June. We hope you will be considering earning books by volunteering. As you may know, the books we earn are given to new teachers to help establish their first classroom library.

As a volunteer, you will help sort, box books, help customers locate material and do other assigned tasks. You won't be lifting anything heavy but may be standing or walking for most of your shift. However, some tasks simply require you to sit at a table and sign in shoppers. Shifts are 4 hours and you may sign up for one or more. At the end of your shift, you will be given a voucher to be redeemed for books.

If interested in volunteering, start checking the Scholastic website at the beginning of June. Hopefully, more information will be posted. (www.scholastic.com/bookfairs)

Or you may contact me at pacherry@comcast.net. I try to sign up a group of AARSPA volunteers to work together.

AARSPA SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Thank you for your generous donations as they are an investment in knowledge which pays the best interest.

In Memory of:

Amy DiDio Barber

Jay D. Catlin

Patricia G. Ericson

Rachel Finan

Joyce Gibson

Dr. Harry C. Hendrickson

Marvin Heptinstall

Jean Hopkins

Blondell Mason

Beverly Reynolds

In Honor of:

Ken Nichols

Gertrude McFalls

Business Meeting at Renditions

As a result of the meeting restrictions currently in place by Governor Hogan and in an abundance of caution, the business meeting and luncheon scheduled for Thursday, May 14, 2020 has been cancelled and hopefully will be rescheduled once the restrictions are lifted and it is safe to gather as a group.

Blue Angels Cruise

As of this moment, the Blue Angels Cruise and luncheon is still scheduled. If anything changes, we will contact those members who have signed up for the event directly via email or phone using the information from the reservation forms sent to us.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

In May you will receive your annual renewal membership letter for fiscal year 2020-2021, which runs July 1 through June 30. Consider the benefits you receive for your membership. At this time you may also make changes to your membership, such as upgrading to include MRSPA and your preference to how you receive the newsletter, *Informer*.

As the world, country, state, and county face this new challenge in our lives, many sought comfort in staying connected with family and friends through emails. If you are a member who receives the *AARSPA Informer* through the mail, please consider moving to email communication. If you do not do email or have difficulties opening the link, you may wish to consider having a family member receive it via their email and print it out for you. You will receive the newsletter quicker and assist the organization with not having to pay for postage. Helping to "Go Green" means your dollars support the various activities within AARSPA.

WELCOME

Cindy Clift

Sharon H. Hansen

Judy H. Jenkins

Patricia Anne McCloskey

Nancy Wagner



February 13, 2020 Luncheon



Susan Baugher and Marie Diamond

First time attendee
Mary Huey



Lucy Travers, Trips
Committee Chair

Gloria Hutchins



Sandra Edmonds
Raffle Committee Co-chair



Ann Marie Downey,
MRSPA President

2020 Legislative Luncheon



Mike Rogers (District 32) AARSPA President
Rick Wiles, and Past President Dixie Stack

February Donations Delivered



Sandra Blondell, Principal
of Park Elementary School,
accepts AARSPA's
donations of socks and
undergarments from Deb
Ahalt.



Volunteer at Anne
Arundel County Animal
Care and Control receives
donations.



MRSPA Legislative Aide, Virginia Crespo, Louise
DeJesu, and State Senator Pamela Biedle, (District
32)



Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association
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Annapolis, MD 21401



Scholarship Fund Donation

*Scholarships are of the utmost importance to ensure the contributions 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, Maryland 21061

Name and address of the honoree.

*We will inform the honoree(s) and/or 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
barckley@comcast.net
410-768-3408

The 21st Century Foundation, Inc., is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit, charitable organization, donations to which are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. A copy of the foundation's current financial statement is available upon request by contacting the 21st Century Education Foundation at 2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (telephone: 420-222-5370). Document and information submitted to the state of Maryland under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State for the cost of copying and postage.