

HAPPY NEW YEAR! IT IS 2024!!!

We hope your holiday season was joyous, delicious, and full of family. We ended the 2023 AARSPA year with Dr. Mark Bedell, Superintendent, and Mary Kay Connerton, MD Teacher of the Year, our guests at our November meeting. And what a joy Mary Kay is! She is a nominee for the National Teacher of the Year Award. We, at AARSPA, wish her our best.

In Nov, AARSPA became an **HONOREE** (there were 6) in the **2023 Partners in Education Award**, sponsored by *Education Foundation*. We were nominated by Park Elementary School for which we are most grateful.

As the New Year begins, let us offer our **CONGRATULATIONS** to Robert Silkworth and to Corine Frank, for their elections as President and Vice-President, respectively, on the AACBOE. We wish them seasons of success and joy in their new positions. AARSPA will continue to serve at your side, as the need and call arises. We also **THANK** Dr. Joanna Tobin for her past service as President, as well as her continued service as Member.

We too move forward. 1. Agencies are accepting toiletries. Due to COVID, the AARSPA toiletry closet is almost empty. Travel size to full size, for men and women are accepted and requested. Please bring: soap, deodorant, toothpaste, lotion, hair condition, mouth wash, floss, razors, etc. 2. Pet supplies become crucial during the winter. Wash cloths, toys, small blankets. 3. **SCHOOL SUPPLIES** Let's not forget the kids.... Always a need...Title 1 Schools are our priority. (See above **HONOREE**). 4. Bring your donation(s) when you join us at General Meetings/Luncheons. 4. Invite a non-member to lunch.

We also encourage you to be a **Fun Seeker**. Take a trip with Kay and Gail. We all know the benefits. Have an idea for a day trip? Tell Kay.. Tell Gail.. They will listen.

The MD State Legislature begins in January. Our AARSPA/MRSPA Watch Dog Teams will be checking out the actions and keeping us informed. Don't forget the AACBOE at Budget Time. Health Care spending was an item of concern at the Board meeting on Oct 18, 2023. See the meeting on *YouTube*...Agenda Item - 7.01 FY2023 Operating Budget Closeout.

Here is another one for you to move forward... Join one of our committees. Volunteering is one way of getting out of the house. Have an idea to share? Tell Sharyn...Tell Tony...Their email addresses are at the top of the page.

Finally: **FEB 8, 2024 GENERAL MEETING & LUNCHEON**
OLIVE GROVE RESTAURANT
A NEW PLACE SEE REGISTRATION

TAKE CARE

STAY SAFE

