



INFORMER

Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association

February 2024

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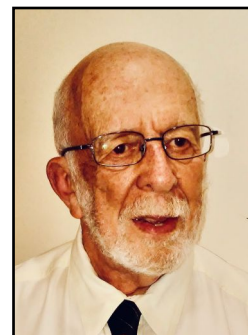
AARSPA - Riva Road

For Information
(410) 222-5000
www.aarspa.org



Co-Presidents
Sharyn Doyle
and
Anthony Anzalone

GOOD GRIEF! IT'S FEBRUARY!



This month usually has only 28 days. Except this year, 2024, is a Leap Year, which means February 2024 will have 29 days. We wondered if any of our members have a Leap Year Day Birthday. If you are such a member, or if you know of a non-member retiree who has a February 29 birthday and will be attending our February 8 luncheon/meeting, please let us know.

February is the time to wish our loved ones a Happy Valentine's Day on February 14. (Tony wishes his wife a HVD and a HBD, both on February 14!) It's not just our loved ones; it is a time we remember anyone who has influenced our lives and helped shape us to who we are now. It is also the month to honor those who led this country as President. Let us take time to remember them on February 19.

If you are planning to go to Florida with us in March, or to the Eastern Shore "Meet and Greet" in April, **NOW** is time to send in your reservations. Don't forget to also check our trip info...Blue Angels anyone? MD Day is coming up and the Free School has special plans to help celebrate. Our calendar is on the website, and we take pride in keeping it current.

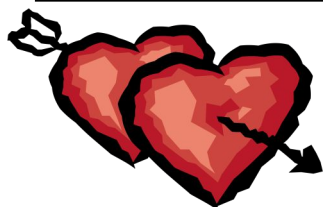
The Maryland Legislature is now in Session. Virginia Crespo and Sharyn Doyle are our "Watchdogs". Stay abreast of the latest developments by checking the MRSPA website for legislative updates. Budgets are always a concern for the state legislature and our local school system. The Anne Arundel County Board of Education will be holding Public Hearings on its

budget. Their calendar is available on AACPS.ORG.

At the January 11 AARSPA Board Meeting, Louis Nesbitt, AACPS Business & Development Specialist, presented two (2) recognitions furthering our November 14, 2023, *Honoree* certification. First, AARSPA received an official plaque attesting to our contributions to Park Elementary School. Most notably, a Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Phyllis Cherry for her service and dedication as Community Service Chair. Congratulations to Phyllis! Special thanks to Sandra Blondell, Park Elementary School's Principal, for the nomination. Following the presentations, a lively discussion with Mr. Nesbitt took place in which members highlighted other services that AARSPA performs. Photos are included in this issue.

We also had another **WOW** moment on January 11. Tillie Barckley announced that the Estate of Emma M. Schramm had bequeathed \$10,000 to the AARSPA Scholarship Program. Following discussion, the AARSPA Board voted that the \$10,000 will be used for the 2025 Scholarship Year. Scholarship donations are accepted throughout the year. "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest" by Benjamin Franklin.

Finally, some heart filled words: *Be Kind; Send a "Thinking of You" card to someone; Be Gentle and Volunteer and SMILE YOU AND AARPSA.....A WINNING COMBO!*



REMEMBRANCE

MEMBER DEATHS

Lillian C. Jackson

Mary Lou Rozmarynowski

FAMILY MEMBERS

Laura Stransky husband



GET WELL/THINKING OF YOU

Richard Brezinski

If you have information concerning AARSPA members, please contact the following people:

Anniversaries and Congratulations

Millie Gardner at milliegardner65@gmail.com or 443-784-2190

Deaths of AARSPA members and family members

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

Illnesses and Accidents, etc.

Dianne Rogers at wwdsrogers@verizon.net or 410-647-7585

Silent Auction

There will be a silent auction at the Two Rivers Luncheon in May. All proceeds will be turned over to Matilda Barckley for the Anne Arundel County Scholarship Fund. Five professionally framed photos of the Blue Angels will start at 30 dollars each. To up the bid, simply add your name on the line below the preceding bidder and write your higher bid next to your name. After the luncheon, each picture will be presented to the highest bidder with the proceeds added to our teacher scholarship fund.



AARSPA members are amazing in our support of local organizations in need, our schools, food bank, animal control, the homeless and support for those living in

nursing homes. Personally, I know the satisfaction I feel when I am purchasing items to donate at each luncheon, even though I will never meet the people benefiting from my purchases.

However, I have started a new way of serving others. Each week I call someone with whom I have not spoken with in awhile. All are senior citizens, and many live alone. Research consistently has found that social isolation contributes to major health issues as well as a factor impacting the development of dementia. Of course social isolation is even greater in the winter.

I encourage you to call someone with whom you haven't spoken with in months or years. I am sure both you and your friend will be smiling at the end of the conversation. I just got off the phone with a friend from high school, and I will continue smiling as I leave the house to shovel the snow.

-Phyllis Cherry

Community Service Committee Chair



General Membership
Meeting and
Luncheon
November 9, 2023



Food, supplies, and monetary donations collected for the Anne Arundel County Animal Care and Control and Anne Arundel County Food Bank

NEW SCAM ALERT !

Beware of EVITES, apparently from a friend. An AARSPA member recently received a lovely card with instructions to "open here". Thinking it was unusual, she called the person who had supposedly sent it. They had not. If the email had been opened it, it would most likely have released malware on to her computer. It is better to be safe than sorry!

MEETING DATES

Executive Board Meetings -10:00 a.m.

April 11, 2024 Center 2A, BOE

**General Membership Meetings - 10:30 a.m.**

February 8, 2024 Olive Grove Restaurant, Linthicum Heights

May 9, 2024 Two Rivers Restaurant, Pasadena

DATES TO REMEMBER

OTHER DATES

March 20-21, 2024 Florida Get Together, St.Cloud FL

April 18, 2024 Eastern Shore Luncheon, Suicide Bridge Restaurant, Hurlock

May 7, 2024 MRSPA Annual Business Meeting, Turf Valley, Ellicott City

May 21, 2024 Blue Angels Cruise and Dinner at Red Hot & Blue, Annapolis

MRSPA Foundation Raffle

The MRSPA Community Service and Scholarship Committees provide tremendous support to students and staff in our schools across Maryland. Therefore, we are seeking **donations** to the *MRSPA Foundation* so that we can continue our work. Again, this year, raffle tickets will be purchased solely through the MRSPA newsletter using the form below and through local association newsletters using the same form. All donations are tax deductible and come with our thanks and appreciation!

Your name will be entered into a drawing upon receipt of your donation based on this criterion: Donations of \$10 will earn 1 raffle ticket while donations of \$25 will earn 3 raffle tickets incrementally. MRSPA staff will write your name on the correct number of tickets when we receive your check. The drawing will take place at the May 2024 Annual Business Meeting whether held in person or virtually. You can win the \$300 cash first prize, a Maryland themed basket valued at \$175 second prize, or one of 5 third place themed baskets valued at \$125: Cooking, Game Night, Wine Lover, Book Worm, and Sports Lover. Out of state winners will receive gift cards in lieu of basket contents.

Entering the drawing is fun and easy!

1. Make your **check payable to MRSPA Foundation**
2. Write **MRSPA Foundation Raffle** on the FOR line
3. Date and **sign** your check
4. **Mail** check and completed form to MRSPA at 8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A, Odenton, MD 21113 **before March 22, 2024**

Will you send a donation today?**Receipts will be sent via US Mail.****MRSPA Foundation**

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

Email Address: _____

Scholarship Update !

From your generous donations, our 2024 scholars will be able to realize that they will not only become a teacher but a sculptor, molding the minds and hearts of the next generations. Your support means the world! Thank you!

Committee: Sharyn Doyle, Anthony Anzalone, Dr. Leslie Mobray, Tillie Barckley

In Memory of...

Rhonda Edwards

Janet Gender

Emma M. Schramm III



Mark Your Calendar!

Please **save the date** for our scholarship fund dining experience at:

Brian Boru Pub

489 Ritchie Hwy, Severna Park 21146
410-975-2678

Wednesday, June 19, 2024 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

\$30.00 per person, \$10 of which goes to the
Scholarship Fund

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**



News You Can Use

Scams and Identity Theft

Much has been written warning us of the scams and the steps we should take to prevent being a victim. These steps include frequently changing our passwords, especially on any accounts involving financial institutions. This includes banks, credit cards and investment funds. For even greater security, we are encouraged to have two step authentication on those accounts.

According to law enforcement, everyone's passwords have been compromised at some time, and the risk gets greater each year with senior citizens losing the greatest amount of money. Just among senior citizens, the amount of money lost to scams and identity theft was up over 49% between 2022 and 2023. In this time period, over 800,000 cases were reported with losses of over ten billion dollars.

Discovering one has been a target of a scam or identity theft can be devastating to one's financial and emotional well being. However, there are steps one can take to improve the chance of getting the money back.

1. Contact your bank immediately. Sometimes they are able to stop a transaction and will block the account from further withdrawals .

2. Contact the government Internet Crime Complaint Center. When reported within 72 hours they are often able to prevent the transaction from being completed. (<https://www.ic3.gov>) This website also has additional information about protecting one from scams.

3. Contact the local police. A police report may be helpful as documentation for insurance purposes and taxes.



MRSPA recently presented a webinar with FBI Agent Keith Custer on scams and identity theft. This webinar is available for viewing by going to the MRPSA website.

AARSPA in Florida Gathering – 2024

A special thank you goes out to Arlene and Ron Derflinger who graciously offered their home and hospitality for our annual AARSPA in Florida event. Come join us at their house in St. Cloud, Florida for the evening social on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 from 4:30 – 7:00 p.m. The general meeting and luncheon will be held at the Cheddars Scratch Kitchen Restaurant in Kissimmee, Florida on Thursday, March

21, 2024 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The choice of entrées and prices, including tax and gratuity, are listed below and there will be a cash bar available. Soft drinks are included with the meal cost. Directions to both sites, along with additional lodging information, will be sent to you electronically upon receipt of your reservation and payment.

Please return the reservation form and payment no later than March 13, 2024.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

The luncheon entrée choices are: Grilled chicken alfredo with garlic bread, 6 oz. top sirloin steak with baked potato and broccoli, or grilled white fish over rice with broccoli and carrots. Dessert will be a slice of creamy cheesecake topped with strawberry puree. Soft drinks are also included. The cost per meal is \$32.00.

Guest's Name	Grilled Chicken	Sirloin Steak	White Fish
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Number of meals ordered _____ x \$32.00 = _____

Make checks payable to AARSPA and send the reservation form and payment to:

**Bob Kanach
512 Augusta Drive
Arnold, MD 21012**

Even if you are not able to attend the luncheon, you are welcome to join us at Arlene and Ron's house on Wednesday, March 20, 2024. We need to know who will be coming so that we have enough refreshments.

_____ I/We plan to be at the social at the Derflinger's house from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. There will be _____ person/people attending this event.

_____ I/We will not be able to attend the social .

**LAST
CHANCE !**

OUT AND ABOUT WITH AARSPA

Congratulations to our own **Joyce Nellenback** for being inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. Joyce is the accompanist for AARSPA's Voices in Melody. **Wanda Trimnell, Donna Moore, and Judy Engelmeyer** helped Joyce celebrate.



Guests at the November luncheon meeting held at Renditions included AACPS Superintendent **Dr. Mark Bedell** and **Mary Kay Connerton**, AACPS and Maryland State Teacher of the Year. Patriotic songs were performed by **Voices in Melody** in honor of Veterans Day.



Louis Nesbitt, AACPS Business & Development Specialist, presented awards to AARSPA Co-Presidents **Tony Anzalone** and **Sharyn Doyle**, and Community Service Chair **Phyllis Cherry** at the Board Meeting held on January 11 in the MRSPA Board Room.



The Membership Committee and many of the Executive Board members recently hosted a "New Retirees Breakfast" at the Elks Lodge in Severna Park.



Blue Angels Practice Cruise & Dinner at Red Hot & Blue

May 21, 2024

Wait List Created after Max Group Size of 50 Tickets Sold

Come join AARSPA in the United States Naval Academy Commencement Week on board the *Harbor Queen* for a special Blue Angels practice cruise. The cruise will take you out on the Annapolis harbor for the best seats in town! There is no better way to see these elite Navy pilots perform. In the event of inclement weather, and the Blue Angels performance is cancelled, the *Harbor Queen* will still provide a narrated sightseeing cruise and there will be a partial refund.

After the cruise, enjoy a meal at the Red Hot & Blue Restaurant.

- Appetizer
- **Caesar Salad**
- Entrée Choice
- **BBQ Sandwich** (pulled pork with 1 side)
- **Delta Catfish** (2 fillets with 2 sides)
- **Two Timer Platter** (pulled pork & pulled chicken w/2 sides)
- **Smokehouse Salad** (pulled chicken & beef brisket over mixed greens with roasted corn and additional toppings)
- Dessert
- **Banana Pudding**
- Drinks
- **Sodas, Lemonade, Iced Tea, Coffee, Water**

Itinerary:

- 11:30 a.m. Depart the Severna Park United Methodist Church, Benfield Road, Severna Park
- 12:30 p.m. Arrive Annapolis, MD at Watermark Cruise Susan Campbell Park Dock
- 1:00 p.m. Board *Harbor Queen*
- 1:15 p.m. Depart for Blue Angels Practice Cruise
- 3:15 p.m. Arrive back at Watermark Cruise Dock
- 3:30 p.m. Leave Annapolis
- 3:45 p.m. Arrive at Red Hot & Blue Restaurant - Annapolis
- 4:00 p.m. Meal
- 5:30 p.m. Depart Red Hot & Blue Restaurant
- 6:30 p.m. Arrive at Severna Park United Methodist on Benfield



All this for \$165 per person. Includes transportation, taxes, and tips, including the driver.

Blue Angels Practice Cruise & Dinner at Red Hot & Blue
Reservations must be received by Monday, March 4, 2024

Send this reservation form and **check made out to AARSPA** to:
 Bob Kanach, 512 Augusta Drive, Arnold MD 21012

Contact Person: _____

Cell Phone # (for emergencies): _____

Address: _____

Email address (for receipt): _____

NOTE: TICKETS LIMITED TO ONE MEMBER AND ONE GUEST

Number of reservations _____ X \$165 per person = _____

Please list you and your guest, if any, and meal choice.

Name	BBQ	Two Timer Platter	Catfish	Smokehouse Salad
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Constant Contact List

As your membership team works to keep the roster updated, so does Bob Kanach work diligently to ensure that members receive the newsletter and other reminders by email. Constant Contact provides this service to us for a fee and also enables us to know who is and is not opening their email. Some of our members open their *Informer* on a regular basis while others are not so regular, thus missing valuable information about our association. To ensure all members are being kept informed, we then switch them to postal delivery. In turn, this adds to our printing and mailing costs. By receiving the *Informer* by email, you receive the information ahead of those receiving postal delivery. This poses an advantage for signing up for the luncheons and especially for our local trips! Think about opening your *Informer* when it comes and signing up for it if you are presently getting it by mail.

MRSPA Dues Increase

After many years of keeping the state dues at \$45, the dues for 2024-2025 will increase by **\$5 to \$50 annually**. As with all things recently, the costs to MRSPA have risen for everything. At the present time, AARSPA does not anticipate increasing their \$15 dues membership. There is value in being a member of both associations. **Keep your membership active!**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Anthony Pinder

Betsy Miller

Bridget Hammaker

Carol Ann McCurdy

Deborah Cooke

Ellen Oakes

Lisa McDowell



From the Free School Museum

Did you make a New Years Resolution to get involved in a new activity in 2024? Are you tired of winter and being indoors? Have you already cleaned out that closet or read that book you got for Christmas? The Annearrundell County Free School Museum could be your answer to these questions.

We certainly could use some more docents. Serving as a docent means opening the building and greeting guests from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. on a Saturday or Sunday in April, May, June, July, or August. Docents receive two documents. One document lists what to do while opening the building, and the other document lists important historical facts. We will meet with you and answer any further questions you have. Please consider donating some time in 2024 to this amazing historical gem!

Save the Date



On Sunday, March 24, 2024 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., the Annearrundell County Free School Museum will be highlighting a "Colonial Education" as part of the Maryland Day for All 2024 celebration. Colonial lessons will be taught. A schoolmaster will demonstrate how he supplemented his income by farming on the school property. A schoolmarm will demonstrate the preparation of johnnycakes and will provide a sampling. Other educational activities and colonial toys will be included as well. Come meet colonial characters and learn their stories.



AARSPA on the Eastern
Shore
Suicide Bridge Restaurant
6304 Suicide Bridge Road
Hurlock, MD 21643-4689
410-943-4689



With the success of our luncheon last year in Cambridge, we will be holding another luncheon on the Eastern Shore. With help from Chris Stockett, we will gather at the Suicide Bridge Restaurant near Hurlock, MD beginning at 12:00 noon on Thursday, April 18, 2024. Again, we are hoping that AARSPA members who live on the Eastern Shore and Delaware will join us for this event. The luncheon entrée choices are crab cake or beef burgundy and includes a vegetable, red parsley potatoes, a dessert, and non-alcoholic

beverages. A cash bar will also be available. The cost of the meal will be \$43.40 which includes tax and gratuity. **All reservations must be received no later than April 4, 2024.**

If you know of a retired employee of the Anne Arundel County Public Schools System who is not a member but might be interested in joining us, please invite her/him to join you at the event. Maybe we can convince them to become a member!

Send the reservation form below along with the payment to:

Bob Kanach, 512 Augusta Drive, Arnold, MD 21012

Again, the deadline must be received no later than **April 4, 2024.**



Contact Person: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Name	Crab Cake	Beef Burgundy
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Number of meals ordered _____ x \$43.40 = _____

_____ Please check here if you are an emeritus member, that is 90 years or older. You do not have to pay for your meal!



Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association
2644 Riva Road
Annapolis, MD 21401



Scholarship Fund Donation

Scholarships are of the utmost importance to ensure the contribution 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:
Education Foundation of AACPS

Mail checks to:

Matilda Barckley
8238 Great Bend Road
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

Name and Address of the honoree:

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