



The Beacon

Visit our website: www.hcrspa.org

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Harford County, MD

April, 2024

The President's Message

Every year when spring returns it brings such joy and beauty. Being retired we get to enjoy it even more. Remember when elementary classrooms had to post a poem a month? These two poems just might have been ones on chart paper posted for my class.

Spring, Spring

By Paul Laurence Dunbar

A blue-bell springs upon the ledge,
A lark sits singing in the hedge,
Sweet perfumes scent the balmy air,
And life is brimming everywhere.
What lark and breeze and blue-bells sing,
Spring, Spring, Spring

One, Two, Winter's Through

By Annette Wynne

One, two, winter's through
Three, four, springs at the door,
Five, six, April's tricks
Seven, eight, bird and mate,
Nine, ten, the world begins again!

I hope you all have time to enjoy the spring weather. HCRSPA's May 9th luncheon is a great way to celebrate spring with your friends and colleagues. We will be at Mountain Branch Golf Club, a new venue for us. We will also be having a Spring Silent Auction! The December auction was such a success members asked us to do it again. Come and bid on a variety of items donated by the executive board members. All proceeds go to support the scholarship fund.

The recipients of our annual scholarships will be the featured speakers at the luncheon. Their speeches are always inspiring and entertaining. Bring a friend or two, fill a table, you don't have to be a member to come.

Everyone on the executive board is a volunteer and so dedicated to helping support HCRSPA. On May 7th executive board members will be attending the MRSPA annual meeting and luncheon. We are allotted 20 delegates so if you would like to attend, please let me know.

I want to thank all the members who have supported the HCRSPA events this year. We wanted to give members a variety of events and times to fit many different schedules. We will be meeting in June to plan events for next year. Any new ideas for ways to get together are always welcome!

Linda Chamberlin, President



Community Service

We have only two luncheons this year so I'm looking forward to continuing our support of our school nurses at our May luncheon. I know how much they appreciate our support!

By accepting donations this early, I will be able to shop during the tax-free week before school starts in September. If you are unable to attend the luncheon on May 9, 2024, donations may be sent to our treasurer:

Bill Ekey
710 Long Bar Harbor Rd
Abingdon, MD 21009

All donations are greatly appreciated. In addition to clothes, I may be able to include backpacks and basic school supplies.

Thank you in advance for any donation you may be able to give.

*Joan Marcus,
Community Service Coordinator
Jfm811@comcast.net
410-838-5564*

Hall of Fame

The annual Celebration of Excellence in Education event will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at Mountain Christian Church. It is an invitation only event. Terri Wainwright will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at that time.

Fran Francis



SPRING IS KING

Spring season is called the King of seasons because during spring, many cultural events take place, the weather becomes more pleasant, and it indicates a new beginning of life. Originally, spring was known as lent or Lenten season. This means to “make longer or greater in length”. There is no surprise that the season was named after the fact that the days are getting longer.

Spring ushers in many activities that can take place. This is a good time to take a walk, fly a kite, take pictures of nature, plant a garden, go to a baseball game, donate old winter clothes or look for signs of Spring. Make a spring bucket list and see how many you can do.

For seniors, spring is the worst time for hydration. Be sure to drink a lot of water. This will ensure we stay healthy and active as we enter one of the most beautiful times of the year.

HCRSPA **Spring** Calendar

All Executive Board meetings are held at the Fallston Senior Center Beginning at 10:00 am.

April 11, 2024 - Executive Board Meeting

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

May 9, 2024 - Spring Luncheon - 11am - 2pm
Mountain Branch Golf Club
1827 Mountain Rd.
Joppa, MD 21085

May 21, 2024 - HCRSPA Fund Raiser at Jarrettsville Creamery 5-9 PM

June 13, 2024 - Executive Board Meeting



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Linda Chamberlin, President
Jackie Remige, Editor
Wendy Ambler, Design & Layout

For information or to submit an article, call 410-557-7369
or send e-mail to jremige@hotmail.com

MAILING/EMAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

Reminding members to keep their mailing and email address up to date. When we mail or email communications, many of you do not receive the information due to out dated addresses. Thank you!

Your Executive Board

Working for all members

President - Linda Chamberlin

Vice President - Belinda Cole

Treasurer - Bill Ekey

Secretary - Diana Wehage



Committee Chairs

Community Service and Communications - Joan Marcus

Budget - Bill Ekey

Greetings and Remembrances - Pat Carpenter

Hall of Fame - Fran Francis

Legislation - Tim Doolittle

Member Benefits and Pre-Retirement - Peg Goodson

Membership - Beth Burley

Public Relations and Newsletter - Jackie Remige

Scholarships and Social events - Bonnie Dubel

Website - Jim Gyolia



ATTENTION: SWITCH & SAVE INCENTIVE

MRSPA has extended an invitation to cash members to switch to dues deduction for 2024-2025. If they make the change, they are eligible for a one-time \$10 reduction in state dues. They would pay \$35 for state dues for 2024-2025, plus their local dues amount. Members need to complete and return the 2024-2025 Dues Deduction Authorization Form, which is available on the MRSPA website under "Switch and Save" (<https://www.mrspa.org/switch-and-save>). Current Cash dues payers, who have not yet paid their dues, would be eligible for "Switch and Save".

Recruitment Incentive:

MRSPA is offering a \$10 Walmart gift card to ANY member who recruits a *NEW* member who signs up for *DUES DEDUCTION*. All you have to do is get the *NEW* member to complete an application form, signing up for *DUES DEDUCTION*, and then WRITE YOUR NAME on the application before sending it to MRSPA. MRSPA will send you a gift card. You can recruit as many *NEW DUES DEDUCTION* members as you like! Just remember to put your name on each application! We are calling on ALL members to assist us in this recruitment effort.

Thank You!



Like HCRSPA's Facebook page. From your Facebook account, enter "Harford County Retired School Personnel Association" in the search box and click "Like" when the page appears.



We would like to hear from you. If you have any input about the newsletter or have suggestions for future issues, please contact the Editor, Jackie Remige at jremige@hotmail.com. Thank you!



The following HCRSPA members have passed away over the past months.

Mary Ellen Kennedy passed away on March 10, 2024. Ms. Kennedy worked in the Harford County Public School system and retired as the Supervisor of Library Science.

Greetings & Remembrances

**Your Help Is Needed
and Appreciated**

It is the intent of our organization to send appropriate greeting cards to members who are seriously ill, experiencing other hardships, great joys meriting congratulations, or loss. In order to make this possible we need input from you. Please call or send an email to Pat Carpenter if you know of members who are experiencing these situations.

Thanks for your help!
Pat Carpenter, Coordinator
Email: patcarpent@comcast.net
Telephone: 443-764-4790



Communication Tree

When information needs to be shared, we now have 13 callers who are responsible to call the 40 members who do not have E-Mail addresses. **PLEASE** contact me if your phone number/or E-mail address has changed or if you no longer wish to be contacted. Thank you for your help. It is much appreciated!

Joan Marcus
410-838-5564
JFM811@comcast.net

Important Websites:

www.hcrspa.org
www.mrspa.org

Spring Business Meeting and Luncheon

Where: Mountain Branch
1827 Mountain Rd.
Joppa, MD 21085

When: Thursday, May 9, 20

Cost: \$30.00

Welcome & Meeting: 11:00 a.m.

Social Time: 11:30 a.m.

Luncheon: 12:00 Noon

**Induction of
Scholarship Recipients** 1:15 p.m.

Menu

Mountain Branch salad
mixed baby greens
Tenderloin tips of beef in a
Pinot Noir mushroom sauce
Baked Salmon with choice of
sauces
Herb Roasted Red Potatoes
Chef selection of seasonal
vegetable
Warm country Bread Pudding
with fresh Creme Anglaise
Soda, Coffee and Tea



Luncheon Reservation

Number of reservations: _____ (\$30 each) Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Names: _____

Make check payable to HCRSPA and mail payment and reservation form to:

Bill Ekey
710 Long Bar Harbor Road
Abingdon, MD 21009
billekey@gmail.com
410-937-0406

Deadline for reservations: Monday, May 6th

Don't Forget! Donations to the Scholarship Fund and any community service project will be gratefully accepted!





MRSPA New Member Application

Personal Information

Name: First, MI Last

Address (Street or PO Box)

Address

City, State, ZIP

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Email

Date of Birth

Date of Retirement

Retired from *(school system)*

Membership Information

Position at retirement:

- Teacher/Other Certified
- Support Staff
- Administrator/Supervisor
- Other _____

Mailing Preferences:

- Newsletter: Email US Mail
- Billing: Email US Mail
- Benefit Providers: OK Do Not Share

Local Associations & Dues

MRSPA Annual State Dues: \$45.00

\$5.00 - Somerset

\$8.00 - Caroline

\$10.00 - Calvert, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Washington, Wicomico, Worcester

\$12.00 - Harford

\$15.00 - Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Baltimore, Kent, Montgomery, Talbot

\$20.00 - Allegany, Prince George's

Selected Local: _____

Referred By: _____

The MRSPA Membership year is July 1 - June 30.

Payment Methods

Automatic Dues Deduction from MD Pension

I hereby authorize the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System to deduct annual membership dues for the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) and my local retired school personnel association from **one** of my retirement checks each membership year. I will receive a one-time \$10 reduction in my state dues. This authorization will remain in effect until cancelled by written notice to MRSPA.

_____-_____-_____
 SSN: *(Dues Deduction requires your social security number)*

Signature

Date

- I prefer to call 410-551-1517 to give my SSN over the phone *AND* will mail this form with my signature.

Check - Make payable to MRSPA

\$45 State + \$____ Local = \$_____ Total Dues

Credit Card - www.mrspa.org/join-mrspa



HCRSPA
P.O. Box 133
Churchville, MD 21028

Change Service Requested