



# The Beacon

Visit our website: [www.hcrspa.org](http://www.hcrspa.org)

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Harford County, MD

February, 2024

## ***The President's Message***

As we move into the second month of 2024, I want to wish everyone all the best in this new year. Good health, good times with family and friends and new adventures. How are your New Year's resolutions holding up? I read that only about 8% of people stick with their resolutions! Are you one of that 8%? HCRSPA made a resolution to offer new events for our members and we have kept that resolution! We continue to work to offer new ways for you to connect with friends and colleagues. Our fall events were lots of fun. Who doesn't like ice cream, and wine tastings! Our holiday luncheon was a great success at the Fallston Barrell House, nice new menu, great entertainment by the vocal group from Havre de Grace High School, and the silent auction was so much fun that even the servers bid on items! We made over \$300 for our scholarship fund thanks to the great items all donated by the executive board members! If you have any suggestions for new events or fundraisers, please let us know!

Mark your calendar now for a winter happy hour on March 13th at Enotria restaurant in Forest Hill. It will be a great way to reconnect with friends during the winter. The fun starts at 4:30 till 6:30. Just \$15 at the door to support the scholarship fund. Register in advance with [billekey@gmail.com](mailto:billekey@gmail.com). We hope to see you there, call some friends to join you too! Remember people do not need to be a member to attend.

As you know, the Maryland General Assembly is back in session and that means MRSPA has a full-time watchdog/consultant there monitoring the hundreds of bills that are introduced related to education and retiree benefits. This is the most important benefit of your membership. If you want to track a bill or are interested in seeing what bills are introduced, go to the MRSPA web site for the latest updates. I attended a very informative virtual legislative workshop in January with a briefing on what to expect in this legislative session. MRSPA works together with the Maryland AARP chapter monitoring bills. We are so fortunate to have such strong representation in Annapolis looking out for retirees.

As we move through the winter months, I hope you have time to read a good book while having a good cup of tea or coffee, time to enjoy a lunch or dinner with family and friends and time

to plan a garden or a trip in the spring or start a new hobby. That's what retirement is all about, making your own schedule and joys.

***Linda Chamberlin, President***

## **Community Service**

Our community service in December was to support CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). This organization helps children who are in foster care in Harford County.

We were able to donate \$500 to CASA of Harford County in December. Thank you to all who supported this community service! They will use the money to support their volunteers who are working with the foster children that have been assigned to them. They might take them to dinner or an activity of their choosing. This donation will help the volunteer support the children during this time while in foster care. Currently CASA is helping less than 50% of the children in foster care in Harford County. Hopefully more children will be able to be helped with our donation.

***Joan Marcus,  
Community Service Coordinator  
410-838-5564***



## **Important Websites:**

**[www.hcrspa.org](http://www.hcrspa.org)**

**[www.mrspa.org](http://www.mrspa.org)**

**HCRSPA Newsletter**

**Published four times annually**

***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](mailto:jremige@hotmail.com)**



## HOW TO ENJOY THE WINTER SEASON

After the holiday season come the winter months. January and February can be long and cold. What can we do so we can enjoy this time? It is a time to slow down and rest. But if you're looking for things to do let's explore some options. Winter does not mean you have to be cold. Bundle up and try something new.

- Challenge yourself to try something new.
- Make your home cozier.
- Eat and drink well.
- Create some winter traditions.
- Take a day trip to the aquarium, science center, Longwood Gardens or Gaylord National in DC.
- Do a wine tasting at a local winery.
- Do a puzzle, play cards or a board game.
- Take in a museum like the BMA or Walters Art Gallery.
- Take a Winter get-away.
- Take a cooking class.

The options are unlimited for these winter months. Stay home or go out, is up to you. Be safe no matter what. Remember Spring can't be far away!

### Hall of Fame

We will now be accepting new nominations for the Hall of Fame. The requirements and forms can be found on our website, [www.hcrspa.org](http://www.hcrspa.org). Click on the Hall of Fame link at the top of the home page. There you will find links to requirements, the nomination form and previous inductees.

Three inductions will be made each spring.

Fran Francis



## happy hour

### Join HCRSPA for a Happy Hour

**Where:** Enotria Restaurant  
2 Newport Drive  
Forest Hill, MD 21050

**When:** Wednesday, March 13, 2024

**Time:** 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Scholarship Fundraiser Happy Hour. \$15 at the door.  
Register in advance. Registration can be sent to:

[billekey@gmail.com](mailto:billekey@gmail.com)

Text to: 410-9370406



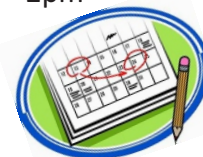
### HCRSPA Calendar

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

**February 8, 2024** - Executive Board Meeting

**April 11, 2024** - Executive Board Meeting

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



**June 13, 2024** - Executive Board Meeting

### 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!



## 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 \$40 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](mailto:jremige@hotmail.com). Thank you!



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

**Nancy Neukam** passed away on October 17, 2023. Mrs. Neukam retired from Harford County Public Schools where she had been the librarian at Youth's Benefit Elementary School.

**Margene Versace** passed away on January 7, 2024. Her love for teaching and learning was an inspiration. Mrs. Versace had many wonderful years working in the Harford County Public Schools.

### 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](mailto:JFM811@comcast.net)

### 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](mailto:patcarpent@comcast.net)  
Telephone: 443-764-4790



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

### 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 - Peg Goodson

- Membership - Beth Burley
- Pre - Retirement - Peg Goodson
- Public Relations and Newsletter - Jackie Remige
- Scholarships and Social events - Bonnie Dubel
- Website - Jim Gyolia





# 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: \$50.00

\$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

\$50 State + \$\_\_\_\_ Local = \$\_\_\_\_\_ Total Dues

**Credit Card** - [www.mrspa.org/join-mrspa](http://www.mrspa.org/join-mrspa)



HCRSPA  
P.O. Box 133  
Churchville, MD 21028

Change Service Requested