

Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association

General Membership Meeting November 10, 2011 Center of Applied Technology North

CALL TO ORDER: President Bob Kanach called the meeting to order at 10:15 A.M.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: The Pledge to the Flag was led by Ione Williams.

GREETINGS: Bob welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Dan Schaffhauser, Principal of Cat-North who welcomed everyone to the center. He gave an overview of the school and programs via a 7 minute video. In addition, he shared the importance of having a strong partnership with the business community and informed everyone that one of his business partners provided the financial means for Cat-North to give a keepsake gift to all luncheon participants. He also gave Bob Kanach a check for \$300 that was provided by a business partner and to be used towards the AARSPA scholarship fund.

Introduction of Special Guests: Bob introduced and welcomed MRSPA President Bonnie Brose and MRSPA Executive Director Judith Zahren. They both congratulated everyone for the proactive approach AARSPA has taken to develop a web site and participate in professional activities to strengthen the state and local organizations. They also encouraged everyone to be vigil with regard to legislative activities in Annapolis which might have an impact on retirees' pensions and benefits. Everyone should go to the MRSPA web site and use the tools on the site to send letters and post cards to their elected officials to protect our benefits. They complimented Bob for involving the association in a partnership with Cat-North to involve students in preparing and serving the general membership luncheon.

MINUTES: John Hammond provided copies of the minutes from the September 26, 2011 meeting. The minutes were approved for filing.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Don Smith shared the July, August and September financial reports and asked if there were any questions. Having none, the reports were filed for audit. Don also informed everyone that after a call to Marvin Charles the interest earned on the Gunston Account has increased from approximately \$4 per month to \$25 per month, a significant improvement from the past

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Free School : Max Muller reported that due to traffic issues tours for the summer months will be reduced for the months of June until August. He thanked the docents for their commitment and hard work and indicated he will be reactivating the free school committee to work on inventory and display initiatives to move the organization of the school to resemble more of a museum atmosphere. Max has moved to Havre de Grace and due to the travel asked if someone living close to the free school could take over the responsibility of opening/closing the building for community usage. Bob encouraged everyone to visit the free school.

Travel: No report.

Nominations: Lone Williams reported we still need someone to assume the position of President-Elect. Lone has prepared an information sheet for the position and made the sheet available at each table.

USM/Legislative News: Susie Jablinske distributed the most recent USM issue. She also informed everyone the Legislative Forum will take place on Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at St. Johns College. AARSPA has agreed to purchase up to 10 tickets for the event if there are members interested in attending the event. Virginia Crespo reinforced the importance of keeping an eye on legislative action in Annapolis. Our pensions and benefits are always on the agenda. Mike Busch has shared his opinion not to shift benefit costs to the locals until they have a way to generate ways to pay for the additional costs in their budgets.

MRSPA News: Howard Hall reminded everyone that one of our members, Estelle Johnson is running for office as an MRSPA Vice President. Howard strongly encouraged everyone to support her candidacy.

Florida Luncheon/Newsletter: Betty Ann White shared that this year's luncheon will be held in Naples, Florida on January 26 and 27. There will be a reception at Joanne Hogan's home on January 26th and a buffet luncheon at the Flamingo Club on January 27, 2012. Reservations are now being taken for the luncheon and Betty Ann encouraged everyone to attend. She also asked for help with the newsletter because the person who currently generates the newsletter using software called "Publisher" will be retiring and moving from the area.

Scholarships: Karlie Everett reminded everyone of scholarship donation procedures. She indicated that she is attempting to keep in touch with last year's scholarship recipients and one of the recipients is doing very well and very involved in school activities. She is hoping to hear from the others during the semester break. Today's receipts totaled \$905, which is the largest amount collected at a general membership meeting this year.

Pre-Retirement: Joel Drapalski reported the November 5th Pre-Retirement meeting held at Severna Park High School was very successful. Over 300 people attended and the feedback was very positive.

E-Newsletter: Ken Nichols reported on his investigation of ways to encourage transition from a hard copy newsletter to an E-newsletter. Several options were noted. Bob Kanach will convene a committee to explore the available options.

Birthday Gifts/ First Timer Picture: Members with birthdays in October, November and December were reminded to pick up their gifts from the gift table. Also, first time attendees were reminded to gather for a photograph.

History/Archives: Carla Duls reported that the Historical/Archives booklet for 2005-2010 is hot off the press. She presented the first copies to the presidents in office during the 2005-2010 time frame.

Special Presentation: "Piedmont Trekkers" - Phil Ferrara presented a very informative overview of the club, including pictures of hiking members on various hiking trips and hiking attire and equipment for the properly attired hiker. He encouraged interested persons to contact him.

LUNCHEON - Prepared and served by the Cat-North Culinary Arts students under the direction of their instructor Mr. Bruce Davis and the Baking & Pastry students under the direction of their instructor Mr. Peter Akerboom.

Luncheon "Thank You" - Mr. Davis and Mr. Akerboom brought out all the students and staff involved in preparing and serving the luncheon for a standing ovation from the general membership and a thank you for a job well done.

Entertainment: " South County Showstoppers"

Reminder: AARSPA has a new web site. Log on to [**www.aarspa.org**](http://www.aarspa.org)

Meeting Adjourned at 1:40 PM: Bob thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and thanked Mr. Schaffhauser for his willingness to open the school to AARSPA and host the membership luncheon..

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:

John Hammond, Secretary