

**AARSPA**  
**Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association**  
**Executive Board Meeting**  
**October 10, 2019**  
**12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**  
**Center 2B, BOE**

**Attendance:** Debbie Ahalt, Dixie Stack, Millie Gardner, Tillie Barckley, Karlie Everett, Anthony Anzalone, Carol Kirby, Max Muller, Rick Wiles, Carla Duls, Phyllis Cherry, Zetta Hart, Lucy Travers, Charlie Gable, Robert Kanach, Brenda Gibson, John Salwach, Marge Smith

**Call to Order:** Rick Wiles, President, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Rick Wiles led the pledge to the flag

**Minutes of the July 11, 2019 Executive Board Meeting:** Minutes from this meeting were distributed to the board and corrections were made. A motion to accept the minutes of July 11, 2019, was made by Debbie Ahalt and seconded by Robert Kanach.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Max Muller presented an updated budget reflecting changes made in September, 2019. Copies of the Treasurer's Report were distributed to the board members.

1. Let Max know if the committee expenditures in the budget are not correct.
2. The Free School Fund is in good shape.
3. Membership is approximately 1,800 that include the Emeritus members. We need an additional 166 members to be in great shape.
4. Max distributed a document that explained the amount of funds available for scholarships. By June 30, 2020, the scholarship fund could be \$23,188.50.

**Scholarships:**

Tillie Barckley was asked to continue the discussion of scholarships with her updates. The amount of money in our account for scholarships is more than we have had in the past. Tillie shared that we could have four \$5,000 scholarships or five \$4,000 scholarships. Discussion of the two choices ended with a motion made by Dixie Stack to vote on the choices, Millie Gardner seconded the motion. The vote concluded and it was decided that we would give five \$4,000 scholarships this year. Tillie will let the 21<sup>st</sup> Century scholarship group know our change. The 21st Century Foundation will be printing a new brochure about the scholarships available and that the applications will be in the school in October.

**Voices in Melody:**

Rick Wiles reported that the group has been rehearsing in preparation for the concert season. The first concert is scheduled in November.

**Corresponding Secretary:**

Debbie Gibson shared that she sent thank you notes to our special guests who attended our September luncheon at Two Rivers Restaurant, Mia Harper, Carla Thomas, and John Whoolums, Esq.

**Community Service:**

1. Phyllis Cherry shared that the school supplies donated at the September luncheon were distributed to several schools in the county. She mentioned that Park Elementary is a very needy school and was very appreciative for these supplies.
2. October 20, 2019 is the Alzheimer's Walk in Annapolis. The committee shared that they have raised \$2,000+ so far. Donations are still coming in. There are more walkers this year. Registration for the event begins at 11:00 a.m. and the walk starts at 12:00 p.m. It was suggested that everyone from our group meet in front of the stage. If you intend to park downtown, arrive early or park at Karlie Everett's house and her husband will drive you to the event.
3. Senior Citizen Award nominations for next year will be needed very soon.
4. Little Free Library committee has an article in the current Informer. Zetta Hart would like to get more committee members and will email specific people if they do not volunteer. Zetta will also try to identify "stewards" and then plan locations in their areas. Once this is completed building the libraries will be investigated. The committee hopes that more people will volunteer for the Scholastic Warehouse open house. Phyllis Cherry is coordinating this.
5. The small vials for medical information will be distributed at the next luncheon. It was suggested they be given out as the people register.

**Educator/Employee of the Month:** Anthony Anzalone reported that the committee met and they have received enough nominations to cover until January. A push for more nominees is underway by getting the word out. The committee has spoken to the AACPS Communications Director, Assistant Superintendent, and Board Members sharing the need for more school and other employee groups to participate. They are not getting as many educators being nominated as they are from other employee groups. Anthony shared that applications will be sent to all schools with information for participation.

**Free School:** Bob Kanach and Karlie Everett shared that the MD Historical Society is providing input into the need repairs for the free school. The Historical Society stated that if we could not replace deteriorating wood, but could repair it. If we thought it was beyond repair, we have to send pictures and have them approve the replacement. They do not approve the color choices because we cannot change them. We just have to make sure that the paint we use is the same color as was used previously. Approval

that we receive from them will last for 6 months, which eliminates our opportunity to apply for and receive a grant to help with the expenses. There is a new heat pump and circulator unit in the school and it comes with a one year service contract. There will need to be a discussion about extending that contract during the next fiscal year.

Open House season has ended and the school is gearing up for tours now being scheduled. Local papers run calendar events and the Free School is attempting to get them on that published schedule. March 25, 2020, there is a Historical Society open house event that the Free School wants to be part of. They will make contact with individuals from the group to get the school on the schedule.

**Historian/ Editor of Informer:** Carla Duls provided the dates for the next Informer. There will be three more coming up shortly, January, February, and April. Information for the January news is January 2, 2020. February is January 28<sup>th</sup> deadline. The February issue will contain last minute information on the Florida trip.

Rick Wiles was asked to take photographs of the Senior Citizen Hall of Fame dinner and also during the Florida trip. These will be used in the April Informer. Contact Carla with any information that you want posted in the newsletters.

**Legislative:** Rick Wiles shared the information that Sharyn Doyle had emailed him. There was a handout of the new law regarding Patient's Bill of Rights. The Legislative Committee has two new members (Alberta Baker and Joanne Christofel) who wish to attend the November Workshop. More updates will be coming, as we get closer to the legislative session and the AARSPA Legislative Luncheon in February. The dates cannot be scheduled until December. The AACPS website has updated the AARSPA page. Our website now has the October Informer and the General Meeting Minutes recently approved.

#### **Membership:**

1. Carol Kirby stated that we continue to struggle to get new members which is most likely related to the fact AACPS Human Resources will not provide addresses for new retirees. She is hoping to have some encouraging incentives to begin improving our numbers. It was suggested that our current newsletter should be shared at the pre-retirement meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup>. John Salwach emphasized that anything that is being shared at the meeting must be sent to him now so that he can include them in the folders. Carol said that there were 345 retirees this past year and only about 100 of them have sent in their membership. We were asked to touch base with retirees that we know who have not joined.

**Pre-Retirement:** John Salwach will be filling the folders for the pre-retirement meeting scheduled for Saturday, October 19, 2019, at Annapolis High School. The meeting is 8:30-11:00 a.m. The responding individuals contain fewer teachers than other employees in the school system.

**Program:** Charles Gable and Dixie Stack

1. Entertainment for the November 14<sup>th</sup> General Membership meeting will be the Steel Band from Old Mill High School. AARSPA will provide the buses and a monetary donation to the group.
2. The Assistant Superintendent, Monique Jackson, is scheduled for this luncheon. She is expected to bring updates from the school system.
3. The committee is looking for someone specific to talk about Black History in Anne Arundel County during the February luncheon, which is Black History month.
4. Dixie Stack and Bonnie Schmeltz are organizing a Happy Hour. She has tried several locations: Libations, Park Tavern, and Hellas. The most cost-effective establishment is Hellas. The committee has a \$300 budget and Hellas gave them several culinary options. They are focusing on November 8, 2019, 4-6 p.m. Lucy Travers made a motion that we use Hellas on November 8, 2019, 4-6 p.m. John Salwach seconded it.

**Publicity:** Debbie Ahalt has been busily keeping the Facebook page current with events that should interest our membership. She asked that we invite others we know who are retired to “Like” the page and if we want to share her posts our own page it will be helpful. She is taking photographs at all of the events and will be posting some of them. She will be contacting local news groups to help publicize AARSPA and our activities in the community.

**Raffle:** No updates

**Remembrance and Sunshine:** Millie Gardner reported no updates.

**Trips:** Lucy Travers reminded us about the upcoming Gettysburg trip on October 16, 2019. It is sold out. The next trip scheduled is the Christmas Spectacular dinner theater in Fredericksburg, VA. The Christmas Spectacular trip will not be re-advertised in the next newsletter, because it will come out after the deadline. There are still seats available.

**Old Business:** Discussion occurred regarding the AACPS Human Resources recent declination of an AARSPA member being part of the Health Care team. They want to keep this all “in-house.” They do not want any input. The discussion centered on the importance of us having a say and being able to make our wishes known. It was suggested that a representative of AARSPA schedule a meeting with the Superintendent sharing our concerns on Health Care, H.R. not providing new retiree addresses, and how the Kirwan Commission will impact our group. A representative for this meeting was not identified.

**New Business:**

1. Skip Lee sent an email to Rick Wiles concerning the Annapolis/Anne Arundel Financial Education Coalition a request for assistance from AARSPA. Discussion included that we are not trained in financial affairs, no background,

and our group is non-partisan. Rick tabled this request and will speak with Skip Lee.

2. Charlie Gable suggested that we begin inviting the PTA president and members of the Board of Education to our luncheon meetings. Anthony Anzalone has worked closely with all of the Board members. He was asked to make contact with them regarding our luncheons.

**Dates to Remember:**

1. Alzheimer's Walk is October 20, 2019
2. Killarney House fundraiser is October 21, 2019
3. Maryland Senior Citizen Hall of Fame Luncheon is October 24, 2019
4. MRSPA Legislative Workshop is November 13, 2019
5. General Membership Meeting is November 14, 2019

At 2:00 p.m. John Salwach made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Charlie Gable seconded it.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Zetta Hart  
Recording Secretary*