

Final Approved: AARSPA General Membership Meeting
Thursday, February 11, 2021
ZOOM Meeting

Attending: Millie Gardner, Bob Kanach, Rick Wiles, Charles Gable, Dixie Stack, Deb Ahalt, Marge Smith, Sharyn Doyle, George Denny, Brenda Gibson, John Salwach, Carlean Clark, Lillie Caldwell, Linda Boyd, Anthony Anzalone, Patricia Caldwell, Robert Jervis, Valerie Cooper, Sandra Edmonds, Matilda Barckley, Arleathe Hackett, Myrtle Link, Zetta Hart

Rick Wiles called the meeting to order at 10:24 am followed by the pledge to the flag. The minutes from the November, 2020 and January 14, 2021 meetings were shared with the participants and each were approved. November minutes, Dixie Stack made the motion to accept the minutes and John Salwach seconded it. January minutes Charles Gable made the motion to accept and Millie Gardner seconded it.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report from January 14, 2021 was reviewed and a motion was made by Sharyn Doyle to accept the report. Linda Boyd seconded the motion. Bob Kanach gave the Treasurer's Report for February, 2021. He explained the revisions that were made to the report related to the scholarship funds. As of January 31, 2021, there is \$1,305.50 in the treasury to carry over for next year's scholarships. The new activity reflects activity since our last Board meeting and the income and expenses are actually those that occurred in January. So, we have added 3 new members, received \$275 in scholarship donations made to the 21st. Century Education Foundation, and interest on our checking account of 49 cents. The only new expense since our January report is the \$532.12 for the printing of the last newsletter.

MRSPA Greetings

George Denny, MRSPA President, joined our meeting. He stated that he appreciated the work our organization is doing for the membership and community. He mentioned how well done the Free School sign repair was that John Hammond completed.

AARSPA Voices in Melody

Rick Wiles reported that the chorus has not met but are considering a ZOOM rehearsal or social event. The committee will be updated as decisions are made for the chorus.

Community Service/Consumer Education Committee

Phyllis Cherry was not in attendance. Zetta Hart reported on the progress of AARSPA's Little Free Library project. Both libraries have stewards checking on the libraries for books and repairs. The Ferndale Little Library lost the door during a wind storm. The custodian repaired the door and reinstalled it. Bob Kanach put a latch on the door to keep it closed. Plans for another library are still being considered. Charles Gable stated he had books for the libraries and would like to place them in one of the two. Rick Wiles reminded the group of his commitment to partnering with the Boys Scouts on this project.

Educator/Employee of the Month Committee

Anthony Anzalone emailed his report. On Jan 6, The Anne Arundel County Board of Education presented Certificates of Appreciation to Educator of the Month, Nelson Alvarez, and Employee of the Month, Sherry Dudley. On Feb 3, Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Educator of the Month, Dr. Michele Walker and Employee of the Month, Jamal Turner. Each also will receive an engraved brass school bell. Due to Covid 19, recognitions will temporarily end in May. As Board President Ellis stated in her January remarks, "It is pleasure to have these recognitions back". In March, in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday, we celebrate "Read Across America". To accomplish this, the AARSPA Educator/Employee Selection has chosen a Reading Teacher as March Educator of the Month to honor the program, and highlight the dedicated work that reading teachers do in the AACPS. We ask that you watch the Board meeting/presentation on MARCH 3rd, at 6 pm, to meet the March Educator of the Month and also the Employee of the Month.

Historian and Editor of the Informer Committee

Another request was made to encourage members to convert their Informer subscription to email rather than USPS. April 1, 2021 is the next deadline for news in The Informer.

Free School Museum Committee

Karlie Everett emailed her report and Rick Wiles shared the information.

1. The spring cleaning of the Free School Museum will be done by a group of three (Karlie, Bob, and Rick) in light of the need for continuing social distancing. Hopefully, by 2022 we will be able to gather all our members who usually participate in the spring cleaning and perhaps even some new folks. We always appreciate the support of our members who assist with the operation of this historic site. We also enjoy the camaraderie that occurs during the spring cleaning. Who would have thought cleaning can be fun?
2. We are participating in the Maryland Day Weekend activities (March 19-21) by posting a virtual tour of the Free School Museum to the AARSPA Facebook page. Debbie Ahalt has diligently worked on this task of posting the virtual tour. The tour is conducted by Howard Hall, Betty Ann White, Estelle Johnson, and Max Muller. Just go to the AARSPA Facebook page and click on the photo of Howard Hall to view this video.
3. At the next Executive Board Meeting there will be a discussion about the reopening of the Free School Museum following Guidelines and Requirements which consider safety of our guests and docents during a pandemic. At this moment, it would seem, if we reopened, we could only reopen by appointment, for two guests per appointment, with considerations given to several safety matters, for example, wearing masks, social distancing, and not touching displays and artifacts to name just a few.
4. Bob Kanach is checking on the Free School regularly for needs and repairs.

Membership Committee

Leslie Schell did not attend the meeting. Marge Smith reported that not much has occurred since the last meeting. The committee continues to review the rosters for accuracy. The attorney for MRSPA stated that we are not allowed to share contact information without prior permission from the individuals.

Legislative Committee

Sharyn Doyle updated AARSPA concerning the current events in the legislature. The Legislative Workshop sponsored by MRSPA, held on January 26, 2021, was successful. Some of the concerns discussed were our pension, healthcare, and consumer protections. Our pensions are currently 72% funded. Legislators are doing the best they can with the priorities. George Denny, MRSPA President, stated that our healthcare and pension funds need to be protected. Rick requested that the slide with the breakdown of the counties and their retirees would be good to share on our website.

Program Committee

Dixie Stack shared that if we have a face-to-face meeting in May, the new Teacher of the Year will be invited to be a guest speaker. The committee is discussing the possibility for the "Back to School Breakfast" and happy hours in the fall.

Publicity Committee

Debbie Ahalt requested that if we have news or events that would be of interest to the membership, please let her know. She will post pictures and activities on FaceBook. This is an easy way to get information out to people.

Scholarship Committee/Raffle

Tillie Barckley stated that AARSPA inspires young people to continue their educations. The \$12,000 was delivered to the Scholarships for Scholars to fund three \$4,000 scholarships this year. There are fifteen applicants for these scholarships. A fundraiser in the spring will be held at Brian Boru Irish Restaurant in Severna Park on June 23, 2021, from 3-8 p.m.

Sunshine/Remembrance Committee

Millie Gardner was happy to announce that we have a new Emeritus Member, Lauralee Whitmore. Millie requested that if you are planning to make a donation in the memory of someone, to send it to the Scholarship Committee. Millie wants to support their efforts. Linda Poole has been sending out cards to families when she knows of the passing of a family member. Linda appreciates that we give her the information so cards can be sent out timely.

Trips and Travel Committee

On hold during COVID-19. Gunther Bus Company still owes us a refund.

New Business

- Bob Jervis thanked AARSPA and MRSPA for the information that he received at the meeting today and in The Informer.
- Sandra Edmonds shared that the Raffle will begin again as soon as we are safe to meet in person.
- Valerie Mills would like to join the chorus.
- Arleathea Hackett stated that she enjoyed participating in the meeting.
- Linda Boyd was happy to attend her first AARSPA meeting.
- President Wiles reminded the group that his term of office ends in June. There continues to be a vacancy for President-Elect. Dixie Stack is collecting names and contacting possible candidates. It can be a shared position as we had previously. Dixie has been directly contacting individuals to recruit them.

John Salwach made a motion at 11:35 am to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Arleathea Hackett.

Dates to Remember

Date	Location and Time
Wed., Mar. 17, 2021	MRSPA Local Presidents' Zoom Meeting
Tu, Mar 23, 2021	Budget Meeting at 10:00 a.m.
Wed., Apr. 7, 2021	Executive Board Zoom Meeting
Th., April 15, 2021	The Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame Awards Luncheon at Michael's Eighth Avenue, Glen Burnie, MD (Completed Electronically)
Wed., May 12, 2021	MRSPA Annual Zoom Business Meeting
Th., May 13, 2021	Business Meeting and Luncheon - Two Rivers Restaurant @ Lake Shore Plaza off Mountain Road: registration, 9:45am and meeting at 10:30am
Th., June 10, 2021	Executive Board Meeting – The Free School, 1298 Lavall Drive, Davidsonville, MD, or Zoom @ 10:00am to 12:00pm
Th., July 8, 2021	Executive Board Meeting – AACPS Board of Education in Center 2A or Zoom @ 10:00am – 12:00pm

Respectfully Submitted by
Zetta Hart
Recording Secretary