

AARSPA Executive Board Meeting

Thursday, January 11, 2024

MRSPA Odenton - 10:00 AM

Attending: Tillie Barckley, Rick Wiles, Robert Kanach, Mille Gardner, Gail Matthews, Deb Ahalt, Dixie Stack, Tony Anzalone, Sharyn Doyle, Leslie Schell, Marge Smith, Susan Baugher, Charles Gable, and Zetta Hart

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Co-Presidents Tony Anzalone and Sharyn Doyle, followed by the pledge to the flag led by Rick Wiles. President Anzalone introduced our guests for the beginning of this meeting. Louis Nesbitt, from the AACPS Business & Community Development Department, and a photographer. Park Elementary School nominated AARSPA for an award from the Business and Community Department of AACPS. Mr. Nesbitt presented the award for our group, a plaque, as well as a certificate for Phyllis Cherry who chairs the Community Service Committee. Park Elementary was thankful for all of our support throughout the years.

Recording Secretary

The minutes from our October 11, 2023, meeting was referenced and two corrections will need to be made. Robert Kanach made a proposal to accept the corrected minutes and was seconded by Leslie Schell. The group voted unanimously to accept the minutes as corrected. They will be sent for publication on our website.

Treasurer's Report

Robert Kanach gave the report The Free School checking account balance is \$7,316.34. The Gunson Fund balance as of November 30 is \$68,547.14. We have currently collected dues from 1,396 paying members since July 1, 2023. At this point in time last year, we had 75 more members. This year's budget is based on 1,575 paying members. We are currently 179 members short of that total. We will need to adjust our budget figures for next year and it was suggested that we base the budget on 1,525 paying members. This should not create a problem, as we rarely utilize the entire budget. The budget needs to be approved by the Board of Directors and then approved by the membership at our May 7th at our annual business meeting.

Corresponding Secretary

Brenda Gibson sent her report to the presidents and recording secretary. Letters of correspondence thanking local dignitaries, community members, and individuals for their participation in the 300th celebration of the Free School on Thursday, October 26, 2023 were sent to the following individuals:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Dr. Mark Bedell, Superintendent AACPS | 11. Dr. Tim Tooten, WBAL TV 11 |
| 2. Joan Conrad, AASPS | 12. Jerome Chester, WBAL TV 11 |
| 3. Bon Mosier, AACPS | 13. Tim Tunison, WBAL TV 11 |
| 4. Maneka Monk, AACPS | 14. Jamie Dinwiddle, Allied Party Rentals |
| 5. Steuart Pittman, County Executive | 15. Robert Silkworth, AACPS Board |
| 6. Courtney Buiniskis, Community Engagement Office,
Executive Officer | 16. Katie Dentler, Linthicum Walks |
| 7. Master Sargent Gethers, Meade High School | 17. Dianne Feeney, Hancock's Resolution |
| 8. Lydia Gonzalez, Meade High School | 18. Debbie Wood, Chesapeake Children's Museum |
| 9. Stuart Schmidt, State Delegate | 19. Cindy Borchard, Chesapeake Children's Museum |
| 10. Pete Smith, County Council | 20. Luvly Gaub, Chesapeake Children's Museum |

Other letters of congratulations were sent to the following individuals:

*Principal Kimberly Winterbottom, NASP (National Association of Secondary Principals) 2023

*Ms. Mary Kaye Connerton, Annapolis High School, Maryland State Teacher of the Year 2023 (Maryland State Department of Education)

Current letters to be sent:

*Principal Heather Garris, Tracy's Landing, George Arlotto Leadership Award, AACPS Principal of Year

*Kelso Reyes, 6th grade student at Bates Middle, designed student mission patch as part of SSEP—Student Spaceflights Experiment Program—patch recently went on space flight

Committee Reports

AARSPA Voices in Melody

Rick Wiles shared that they may have a new director in place soon. They received \$250 donation from previous concerts.

Community Service/Consumer Education

Phyllis Cherry thanked Sharyn Doyle for putting information in her President's Report of the Informer about the Community Service activities. The committee has received six mini-grant applications. They will select two from this group.

Ms. Cherry recommended that we view the webinar on MRSPA regarding scams. This will be put in the next Informer with the website and phone number for reporting.

Educator/Employee of the Month Committee

Tony Anzalone reported that the committee has selections until March. They are looking for a reading teacher to get this award to honor Read Across America.

Free School Museum/Maintenance Committee

Robert Kanach reported that the local community had requested the use of the school for a meeting. The date was selected, but not enough participants came. It was rescheduled with more success. John Hammond has volunteered to clean the facility in March/April. The HVAC is working well, the plaque is still on the building and they are readying for Maryland Day celebrations.

Historian and Editor of the Informer Committee

Carla Duls will start writing our history for the year. Dates for inclusion in the next Informer newsletters are as follows: January is due by 12-29-23 and February by 1-22-24.

Legislative Committee

Sharyn reminded us about the upcoming MRSPA Virtual Legislative Workshop on January 30 from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., please let her know by Friday, January 12th, if anyone is interested.

Membership Committee

Leslie Schell reported that the meet and greet for new retirees went well. The food was good and the attendees were pleased with the presentation. Four new members were recruited at that meeting. They hope to do it again after the list of new retirees is received this month. They used funds from our budget earmarked for the reception that the BOE normally provides, but they are not doing it. It was suggested we do this twice a year. No plans were made for the next event.

It is hoped that an addendum can be created for the Directory to add new members who have joined after the Directory went to the print shop. The Eastern Shore luncheon is scheduled for April 18, 2024 at the Suicide Bridge Restaurant.

Pre-retirement Committee

Susan Baugher reported that she has enjoyed working with Leslie Schell on the membership plans. She hopes that posters can be distributed to schools advertising our group. She plans to meet with the retirement office personnel soon.

Program Committee

Dixie Stack stated everything is under control.

Publicity Committee

No Report

Raffle Committee

No Report

Sunshine/Remembrance Committee

Millie Gardner reported that we now have 61 emeritus members. She is sending out many cards to these members. Lynda Poole is checking to verify any deaths reported. Ms. Gardner also appreciates the help she gets from the membership.

Scholarship Committee

Tillie Barckley thanked us for supporting the scholarship committee. She was excited to report that we received a donation \$10,000 from the estate of one of our members, Evelyn Schramm. It was suggested that this money be transferred to the next budget year. Millie Gardner made the motion to move the money to next year. It was seconded by Dixie Stack. The group approved this budget change. This year the scholarships will be awarded on May 1st, at Maryland Hall. The committee will meet between Feb. 20 and March 12 for our selections.

The committee is planning additional fundraisers for scholarships. Information will be in The Informer

Trips and Travel Committee

Gail Matthews reported that the December trip was a success. The committee has planned four trips for this year. The Blue Angels is the first on May 21, 2024. Information will appear in the February Informer. There will be a trip in August 2024, "Daniel" at the Sight and Sound Theater. Information in the April Informer. The next trip is to the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia. They hope to take a side trip to the Liberty Bell. The last trip for 2024 is "Joy to the World" on December 3 at the American Music Theater.

MRSPA Update

Charles Gable reminded us of the MRSPA raffle tickets that support their mini-grants and scholarships. The Legislative Workshop is January 30, 2024. The state dues will increase to \$50 per year.

Old Business

No Old Business

New Business

It was confirmed that Ray Bibeault and Kate Gilbert will be our next co-president nominations. It was suggested that we include them in future board meetings to familiarize them with our operations. Sharyn Doyle will contact them

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM

Dates to Remember

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tues., Jan. 30, 2024 | MRSPA Legislative Workshop, 10:00 A.M. |
| Thurs., Feb. 8, 2024 | General Membership Meeting/Luncheon, Olive Grove Restaurant,
(Snow Date Feb. 16, 2024) |
| Thurs., March 21, 2024 | Florida Luncheon Meeting, Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen |
| Thurs., April 11, 2024 | Executive Board Meeting, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Board of Education, Parham
Building, room 2 A |
| Thurs., April 18, 2024 | Eastern Shore Luncheon at Suicide Bridge Restaurant |
| Thurs., May 9, 2024 | General Membership Meeting, Three Rivers Restaurant |

Respectfully submitted,
Zetta Hart
Recording Secretary