

Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association

**General Membership Meeting
November 11, 2010
Snyder's Willow Grove Restaurant**

CALL TO ORDER: President Ione Williams called the meeting to order at 10:30 A.M.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: The Pledge to the Flag was led by Bob Kanach.

GREETINGS: Ione welcomed the members to the general membership meeting. She recognized Veterans Day and its significance and reminded everyone that our association has been in existence for 70 years.

SPECIAL SPEAKERS: Bob Kanach introduced Dr. Kevin Maxwell, Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Maxwell brought greetings from the Board of Education and noted that because of Howard Hall he has visited the Free School. He shared the academic successes of the system and pointed out that we are all facing stressful economic times at the national, state and local level. He felt Gov. O'Malley was a friend to education and hoped the state's funding problems of our pensions and benefits were not transferred to the local level. He addressed some questions from the membership and excused himself to attend another function. Ione gave him an apple and reminded him the apple is a symbol of our association.

Howard Hall introduced Mathew Evans and Debbie Hardie from Scholarships for Scholars. Mr. Evans reviewed the background of the organization and how it was set up by Dr. Anderson. Ms. Hardie noted AARSPA has five members on the board and assists in the selection of the scholarship recipients.

MINUTES: Copies of the minutes from the September meeting were shared with the members present. Ione asked for any corrections/changes. Seeing none, it was moved that the Minutes be accepted as presented, seconded and accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ione shared the most recent report and asked if there were any questions. Having none, the report was filed for audit.

PRE-RETIREMENT: Joel Drapalski reported over 300 employees/spouses attended the pre-retirement session recently held at Severna Park High School. The feedback was very positive.

FREE SCHOOL: Howard Hall reported attendance was slow for the summer but picked up significantly in October. From this point on tours will be by appointment.

HOSPITALITY: Diane Rogers noted member/family deaths and illnesses. She recognized first time attendees and directed all members with birthdays in October/November should pick up their gifts.

LEGISLATIVE: Virginia Crespo reported the elections are over and the 2011 session begins January 12th. She referenced Casper Taylor's "Pension Sustainability Committee" and shared his concern there isn't much time remaining to complete their task and report back to the legislature. Current funding deficiencies are a result of the "Corridor Funding" which started under Governor Glendenning. The

retirement/pensions have gone from being 90% funded to being currently funded at 64%. This could impact the state AAA bond rating. She suggested everyone attend the Senior Rally on January 25, 2011 and speak with our delegates. She also suggested everyone go to the MRSPA web site for up to date information.

SCHOLARSHIP: Ione introduced our new chair, Karlie Everett. Karlie noted that scholarship donation envelopes are on the table and an accounting will be given on collections from the envelopes and the 50/50 raffle at the end of the meeting. She referenced the difference between making a cash donation or a check donation made payable to "21st Century Foundation".

NEWSLETTER: Ione reported an interest by the membership to receive the newsletter via e-mail and asked the members to complete the e-mail address cards on the tables.

USM (United Seniors of Maryland): Susie Jablinske reminded the members of the importance of attending the legislative rally on January 12th at St. Johns College. It will be held using a "Town Hall" format. She also stressed the importance of not allowing the state legislators to transfer retirement costs from the state to the locals. Susie provided recent Medicare deduction costs.

REMARKS: Ione introduced Judith Zahren, Executive Director, MRSPA. Judith told everyone the documents referenced by Virginia Crespo and Susie Jablinske are available on the MRSPA web site. She also encouraged everyone to visit the MRSPA office in Odenton. Judith stressed the importance of increasing MRSPA membership and for all members to contact their legislators in order to reinforce the need to correct the financial shortfall at the state level and not transfer the problem to the locals. She indicated the MRSPA Legislative Committee will testify next week in Annapolis on the impact of the retiree income on the state budget. She encouraged AARSPA members to contact Bonnie Brose, President of MRSPA and Tom Owens, MRSPA Legislative Chair in order to get involved.

Carla J. Duls, Area II North Director noted that all AARSPA members should get involved with MRSPA committees and should also plan to attend the MRSPA Convention to be held in Western Maryland - September 13-15, 2011 at the Wisp Resort.

AARSPA ANNIVERSARY: Ione reminded everyone we are celebrating our 70th year.

LUNCH & ENTERTAINMENT: At the conclusion of the business meeting lunch was served. Following lunch, musical entertainment was provided by "The Joint Venture Quartet".

ADJOURNMENT: Ione Thanked everyone for attending the meeting and luncheon and reminded everyone to pick up an "Apple" on the way out. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:


John Hammond, Secretary