

**Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association
General Membership Meeting and Luncheon Minutes**

**November 14, 2019
Center for Applied Technology North (CAT-N)**

Greetings, Overview, and Special Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Rick Wiles. Barry Fader lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Wiles spent the first several minutes reviewing the agenda and explaining the format of the meeting. President Wiles welcomed the new members (9) as well as the Emeritus Members (6) who were in attendance.

A welcome was given to our guest speakers for this meeting:

- Terry Gilleland, AACPS Board of Education, President
- Monique Jackson, AACPS, Deputy Superintendent for Student and School Support

Secretaries Report

The minutes from the September 12, 2019 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Leslie Schell for acceptance of the minutes and Jean Curry seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Bob Kanach gave the Treasurer's Report. He stated that AARSPA is in good shape this first quarter with 186 new members. AARSPA treasury would be better if 95 additional members were acquired. Not many expenditures were reported for this quarter. The new heat pump at the Free school was the largest expenditure for this fiscal year. An announcement was made that we provide five scholarships this year. Annette Smith made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and Millie Gardner seconded the motion. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

Committee Reports:

• **Trip and Travel**

Bob Kanach reported that the Friday, December 13, 2019, trip to the Riverside Dinner Theater, "The Christmas Spectacular" in Fredericksburg, Virginia, is a go. It was announced that on May 20, 2020, a trip is planned to see the Blue Angels perform. It is expected this will be a popular event and will sell out quickly. Watch for the announcement in the Jan/Feb newsletter.

• **Free School**

Bob Kanach reported that the Free School is in good shape. The facility needs to be painted on the outside. The heat pump is functioning appropriately. Karlie Everett is requesting the additional help of more docents. Now is the down time for tours. She hopes to have boy/girl scout troops visit. Scouts can earn a badge during the tour. The Free School Committee is researching the building's history. This may be the only Free School still standing.

• **Community Service/ Consumer Education**

Phyllis Cherry shared that on each table there is a "Vial for Life" for each attendee. The form inside the bottle was borrowed from MRSPA. By completing this form and returning it to the bottle you will help

emergency personnel if they should be called to your home. The bottles can be placed on the refrigerator door for easy access by the medical personnel helping you. This could save your life.

Debbie Ahalt reported that there were 16 walkers for the Alzheimer's Walk. They raised \$3,500 during the event.

Zetta Hart shared that the Little Free Library project is moving forward. Several possible sites have been identified as well as the stewards for these sites. Plans for constructing the book containers were provided for the staff at CAT-N. They will contact Bob Kanach with estimates for their construction costs. Books have also been collected. Zetta will work at the Scholastic Warehouse in December to add more books to the stock.

- **Membership**

Leslie Schell conveyed that 51 individuals did not renew their membership. Reminders will be sent out. It was reported that 1,049 members use the automatic deduction from their retirement benefits. Leslie recommended that members move to this system. It is much easier. The first time this automated system is used, the member receives a \$10 reduction in the fees. The committee will be sending out Christmas cards and a welcome letter to all new members. Rick Wiles reported that a missing opt-out clause was missing from documents provided for new retirees, so approximately 250 individuals do not know of AARSPA and the benefits from joining. April will be the next time to connect with potential retirees.

- **Legislative Committee**

Virginia Crespo, MRSPA, informed the membership that 74% of the retirement fund is at this time funded. New websites are going to be rolled out, first to active teachers and then retirees. The 2020 Legislative Session will focus on education and the Kirwan Commission, school construction, guns, and opioids. MRSPA has not taken a position on the Kirwan Commission. Research is still being conducted. The governor has raised \$25 million to oppose Kirwan. Sharyn Doyle stated that membership should pay attention to the reports and other information coming out. We do not have a guarantee of healthcare insurance, so it could be lost if funding the Kirwan becomes an issue.

- **Scholarship Committee**

Tillie Barckley started her report with V-A-L-U-E-D for all of the membership and the donations made for scholarships. There will be five \$4,000 scholarships this year. The current recipients of our scholarships are doing well and succeeding in their studies. There will be a spring dining events to raise funds. Watch the newsletter for information.

- **Remembrance Committee**

Millie Gardner displayed the gifts for the birthday drawing. She also requested that members should keep her informed if you are nearing 90 years of age.

- **Voices in Melody (AARSPA Chorus)**

Judy Englemeyer has scheduled rehearsals on Tuesday's from 2:00-3:30 p.m. at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church in Severna Park. If you are interested in joining this group please let Mr. Fader know. There are 8 one hour concerts scheduled in the next several weeks. The chorus consists of 41 members at this time.

New Business Items from Members

There were no new business items.

Break and Conversations Followed by Guest Speakers

- Terry Gilleland, AACPS Board, President, greeted our membership and shared that there is no discussion about healthcare this fiscal year. He is appreciative of the work AARSPA does for the schools and community. He thanked Anthony Anzalone for his work with Employee/Teacher of the month program. He stated that the designs for the Old Mill complex have been approved. He also shared the location of the displaced students during the construction of the new complex. It will be several years before all construction is completed and students are assigned to new buildings.
- Monique Jackson, AACPS, Deputy Superintendent for Student and School Support, greeted the membership and shared the same greeting for Dr. Arlotto. She reported that there are approximately 84,000 students in AACPS and wonderful things are happening in the schools. She shared that Crofton High School Cardinals, will have red and black as their school colors. A Global Citizenship Course has been infused in the ninth-grade curriculum. This will focus on social media and the added stress it presents. She highlighted other programs such as Second Step, STAIR Program, and Senior-to-Senior Core. The school system is in need of temporary teachers to fill classrooms, write curriculum, and revise curriculum.

Lunch was served

- The staff and students who prepared our luncheon were thanked for their hard work and delicious meal.
- Old Mill High School Steel Drum Core played a variety of tunes for our entertainment.
- Birthday Drawing Winners: seven individuals were selected from the group
- The scholarship committee collected approximately \$600.00 in donations.

Adjournment: A motion was made that the meeting be adjourned at 1:00. There was a second to this motion. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted
Zetta Hart
Recording Secretary