

AARSPA Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, January 15, 2021
ZOOM Meeting

Attending: Tillie Barckley, Virginia Crespo, Millie Gardner, Bob Kanach, Max Muller, Leslie Schell, Rick Wiles, Charles Gable, Dixie Stack, Deb Ahalt, Marge Smith, Phyllis Cherry, Sharyn Doyle, Wanda Twigg, Brenda Gibson, John Salwach, Carla Duls, Zetta Hart

Rick Wiles called the meeting to order at 10:19 am followed by the pledge to the flag. The minutes from the October 30 meeting were approved through email.

Treasurer's Report

Max Muller gave the Treasurer's Report for both the association and the Free School accounts. Copies of the report were emailed to the committee prior to this ZOOM meeting. AARSPA currently has 1,162 members. Our budget was based on 1,750 members. Max recommended that we use 1675 members when preparing next year's budget. Also, as of that meeting there was \$1,125 carryover in the Scholarship Fund for next year. It was reported that the Gunson Fund continues to accrue interest. AARSPA had \$1,648 from last year that was spent as part of our \$12,000 expenditure to fund the 3 scholarships this year. It was decided that the budget will continue to include funds for the Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. The Free School has not posted any expenditures since the last report. Sharyn Doyle made the motion to accept the report as presented and it was seconded by Deb Ahalt. All present were in favor of accepting the report as given.

AARSPA Voices in Melody

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

Corresponding Secretary

Brenda Gibson suggested sending out congratulatory letters to 12 nominees to represent Anne Arundel County as Maryland Teacher of the Year. It was recommended that a letter of congratulations be sent to Emily Daive for being selected as the Maryland Teacher of the Year.

Community Service/Consumer Education Committee

Phyllis Cherry and Zetta Hart reported on the progress of AARSPA's Little Free Library project. The Park Elementary School's library is installed and open to the community. The Ferndale Early Learning Center's library was completed. There is a Steward for this library, Linda Wallace. A steward is still needed for Park Elementary. Dixie Stack has books to add to our stockpile for replenishing the libraries as needed. The committee discussed a request from Sarah's House that we start a Wish List on Amazon for their needs. The AARSPA Board decided that we would not advertise support for Sarah's House requests for goods through Amazon and that we would do the same for any other organization that made such a request.

Educator/Employee of the Month Committee

Educator/Employee of the Month Committee Report provided by Anthony Anzalone.

During the Regular Session of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education meeting, held virtually beginning at 6pm, the Board President announced at the appropriate agenda time: ITEM POINT 2.0 RECOGNITION EDUCATOR OF THE MONTH, and following that she stated EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH. Nelson Alvarez, Eastport Elem, and Sherry Dudley, Carver Center, were recognized for their great work and community contributions. Board President Ellis mentioned she missed the live, in-person presentations. While we have started the recognitions, there is still a lot of work/effort that needs to be done to get nominations. Due to COVID-19 and the closing of schools, nominations have stopped. The current COVID-19 situation will further cloud interest in the program as schools and the Central Office prepare for reopening

Historian and Editor of the Informer Committee

In her executive board report, Carla Duls reported that there was no news from the Historian. It was decided that a February Informer would be unnecessary since the Florida trip has been canceled due to COVID-19. There are twelve new members who will be mentioned in the January newsletter. The next deadline for submitting articles for *The Informer* is April 1, 2021.

Free School Museum Committee

In Karlie Everett's report she stated that there have been few visits to the Free School, only five visitors this year. Bob reported that the Free School needs a good cleaning.

Membership Committee

Leslie Schell provided these Membership Talking Points:

- Total membership is 1502 MRSPA + 163 AARSPA = 1665
- Newsletter is 990 by postal delivery + 150 to 2020 retirees
- Mailing of newsletters, reminders for membership dues, potential members letters account for large portion of budget
- Directory update – initial review of our directory/data base (111 pages from MRSPA) completed and have verified information up to the L list of names
- Publishing address changes and emails in the newsletter was discussed and the board agreed this would not be allowed. Emails will not go in the directory.
- An online directory with a special access code was discussed and the MRSPA attorney will be asked if this is possible. Inclusion of emails will also be investigated. AARSPA will hold off on this until we get a response from MRSPA.
- Anne Arundel ranks 2nd in the loss of members as ranked in the state (with over 1,000 membership)
 - ◇ No pre-retirement or retirement activities to publicize our group
 - ◇ Limited to the number of people who want to be contacted

Pre-retirement Committee

In his executive board report, John Salwach reported that there were no updates and that any pre-retirement activities are on hold because of the COVID-19 pandemic. He has not heard from the group since December, 2020.

Legislative Committee

Virginia Crespo updated AARSPA concerning the new legislative session that has started. Legislatures are doing the best they can with the priorities. On January 13, 2021, MRSPA met with 260 legislators. These individuals are fearful of the 700 bills that have been posted. A priority blueprint was developed and the bills will be addressed according to the blueprint. Many of the bills are COVID-19 related and were being addressed during the off session. Attention is being paid to nursing homes and assisted living centers. Broadband has been extended and Tele-med sessions with care providers is now covered by insurance. Wi-Fi dead spots throughout the state are being addressed. There is also no plan, at this time, to increase the fees for long-term healthcare.

Program Committee

The February meeting will be held by ZOOM to make decisions on business and plans for the May meeting.

Publicity Committee

Debbie Ahalt, in her executive board report stated that she continues to publicize our news on Facebook. She stated it would be helpful if we would reshare her posts because that gets the information out to others who may not be linked to the AARSPA on Facebook. If you have photos or news of AARSPA events, please send them to Debbie for dissemination on Facebook.

Scholarship Committee/Raffle

Tillie Barckley stated that she was receiving donations from AARSPA members for the scholarships even though we are not meeting. AARSPA cut a check in the amount of \$12,000 and delivered it to the Scholarships for Scholars organization to cover the 3 scholarships we will provide this year. February 5, 2021 is the closing date for the applications and the committee will set the date for evaluation after communication with Scholarships for Scholars. Tillie has been in touch with 3 out of 5 2020 recipients. They are all doing well. The fundraiser at Brian Boru Irish Restaurant Severna Park, is June 23, 2021. There is new management for the restaurant. They will continue to support us as did the former manager. The event is \$25 from 3-8 pm. The menu is the same as previous events. There will be some indoor dining as well as carryout. If you are not able to participate, donations can be sent directly to Tillie Barckley. The committee will meet on February 5, 2021 to review the scholarship applications.

Sunshine/Remembrance Committee

Millie Gardner thanked the group for their support of the Remembrance Ceremony in November. Holiday cards were sent out to our oldest members. The committee will continue to send out cards as needed.

Trips and Travel Committee

On hold during COVID-19. AARSPA has no trips planned at this time

New Business

President Wiles reminded the group that his term of office ends in June. There continues to be a vacancy for President-Elect. It was stressed that we need to identify an individual to replace President Wiles. Dixie Stack will be collecting names as they are suggested. It may need to be a shared position as we had previously. It was stressed that the people who we suggest should be contacted directly and not just by email. Dixie will review the recent retirees and get back to us quickly.

Charles and Michele Day were inducted into the Senior Hall of Fame. It was suggested when we begin our luncheon meetings again, that we provide their lunches. The Teacher of the Year has been identified as a possible speaker for our May meeting. Rick will update the Dates to Remember. John Salwach made a motion at 12:08 pm to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded.

Dates to Remember

- Th., Feb. 11, 2021 Zoom General Membership Meeting
- 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
- Th. May 13, 2021 Business Meeting/Luncheon – (Two Rivers Restaurant-TBD)

Respectfully submitted by Zetta Hart