

**Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association
General Membership Meeting and Luncheon Minutes
February 9, 2023
Yellowfin Steak and Fish House**

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. by Co-President Gable.

Pledge to the Flag Rick Wiles lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Greetings and Introductions Co-President Gable welcomed our guests and reviewed the agenda, informing us the order will be changed due to time constraints of Dr. Tobin

- Dr. Joanna Tobin, President of the Board of Education of AACPS
- Ms. Wanda Twigg, Executive Director of MRSPA
- Ms. Chanel Compton and Mr. Tony Spencer representing the Banneker-Douglas Museum in Annapolis, Maryland

Business Meeting

Overview of Today's Activities

Committee Reports, Proposed changes to our By-Laws, Guest Speakers beginning with Dr. Tobin at approximately 11:20 AM

Secretary's Report

The minutes from the November 10, 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved with a motion made by Virginia Crespo and seconded by Don Kramer. The minutes were accepted unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer was absent. Bob Kanach, Assistant Treasurer, reported we are in good standing.

Committee Reports Co-President Ahalt now led the meeting

AARSPA Voices in Melody

Rick Wiles reported the current 35 members in the chorus finished their 9 concert series and are preparing for their spring concerts. 3 more members may be joining also bringing their chorus numbers up to 38.

Consumer Education/Community Service

Members were thanked for their generous donations throughout the year (pet foods, Alzheimer walk, books, school supplies, etc. The little library project was reviewed from its origin to its current status of 3 already set up and one more to soon be installed.

Phyllis Cherry also reported on the Community Service project dealing with nursing homes/assisted living facilities. She reminded us that MD is 39th out the entire USA in our treatment of our seniors. Her committee is further researching to identify 3 facilities that will be our focus....some for simple items like bars of soap.

Free School Museum

Karlie Everett gave the report on the Free School. April is Open House and more docents are needed. MD Day Celebration will be April 2nd from 1-4 p.m. The 300th anniversary will be celebrated on October 26th and on the 28th, students will afforded the opportunity to experience school starting back in 1723, into the 1800's through modern times. Toys, first readers, chalkboards, etc. will be available for use. Chesapeake Crossroads card listing all of the participating organizations for the 16th Annual MD Day Celebration were distributed on tables and referred to during her presentation. (Attached). She also summarized our 300th birthday celebration of the Free School and the planned activities.

Scholarship Committee

Tillie Barckley provided the committee report. There will be four \$5,000 scholarships this year. Her cheer was *I-N-V-E-S-T-I-N-G* as she thanked members for their continuing support of this fund with our

donations in the yellow envelopes on each table and the 50/50 raffle. She also shared we earned a total of \$824 with our restaurant fundraising events.

Legislative Committee

Virginia Crespo summarized the legislative session to date, sharing there are now more than 1700 bills, 16 or so for which MRSPA is monitoring closely and 9 of which deal with curriculum being decided by legislators vs. educators. Other topics include senior protection. Tax credits and assisted living facilities regulations. It was also reported that MD is 50th in the USA for our Emergency Room Wait Times and a very inclusive Task Force will be formed to study this issue.

Educator/Employee of the Month:

Tony Anzalone shared the history of this very special project and described the process in great detail.

Guest Speaker Dr. Tobin

Dr. Tobin shared her background and discussed the new community involvement initiative, Hash Tag Be Present. She reported AACPS is the only School Board in the entire USA with a voting student member. Budgetary items were discussed with salaries at the forefront along with benefits and agreeing with MRSPA...curriculum should stay out of politics. She thanked all of us for what we have done and continue to do to help students.

Membership Committee

Leslie Schell reminded the entire membership present that we are the Membership Committee. There is a mailing on the 16th and she welcomes help. We have approximately 130 members on the Eastern Shore so we are having our first Eastern Shore luncheon in Cambridge on April 20th, hoping to attract more members and one to coordinate the luncheon for next year. 69 people retired this year and letters have already been sent to them welcoming them to join both MRSPA and AARSPA. Many of the members who did not renew this year, were also contacted and most did select AARSPA only. Again, we all are the committee and she is just the data keeper.

Guest Speakers Ms. Chanel Compton and Mr. Tony Spencer

Ms. Compton shared the history and mission of the museum and its importance to our democracy and Black History Month. Hours are Tuesday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and all are invited.

Mr. Spencer stressed community involvement with the museum and what its history means today.

By-Laws Committee

Dixie Stack shared the attached printout of the by-laws and reviewed the changes. Most changes were due to COVID related modifications, Co-Chairperson or Co-Presidents now and consistent terminology. Amendments were presented today after Board approval and will be voted on at the May meeting. (Refer to attachment, noting the gray area shows the changes)

Remembrance Committee

Millie Gardner reminded the group about the birthday drawing and encouraged members having birthdays in January, February and March to add their names for some great prizes.

Trips and Travel

Rick Wiles spoke for new co-chairs Kay Stawas and Gail Matthews who were absent. The first boat cruise is planned and more details will be in the next Informer. More trips to come.

Old Business

Co-President Gable called for any old business. Bob Kanach also reported on the upcoming Florida trip to Venice Florida hosted by Bob Wagner and his wife. 42 members are currently signed up.

New Business

Eastern Shore gathering already discussed under membership

Lunch was served

Announcements

Birthday Drawing: January, February and March birthday raffle winners were awarded

Raffle Drawing: The 50/50 Winner earned \$258, returning the money to the Scholarship Fund.

Scholarship Report: \$\$230 in cash and \$305 in check to 21st Century were collected.

Adjournment: The meeting be adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

Dates to Remember	
March 21-22	Florida Gathering being hosted by Bob and Lisa Wagner in Venice, Florida
April 4	Executive Board Meeting – 10 AM – Board of Education, Center 2A
April 20, 2023	Eastern Shore Gathering" in Cambridge, MD at noon at Snappers Waterfront Cafe and Tiki Bar
May 9	MRSPA Annual Business Meeting at Valley Mansion in Cockeysville, MD
May 11	AARSPA General Membership Meeting/Luncheon at Two Rivers Steak and Fish House in Pasadena, MD

Respectfully submitted
Sharyn Doyle, Substitute Recording Secretary