



INFORMER

Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association

October 2025

Volume 51 Issue 2

Co-Presidents

Kate Gilbert
(410) 788-6375
cgilbert218@verizon.net
Ray Bibeault
(433) 223-5350
raybebo@verizon.net

Co-Immediate Past Presidents

Sharyn Doyle
(410) 788-2338
sharyndoyle@yahoo.com
Anthony Anzalone
(410)268-0587
ajapop1@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary

Deborah Turner
301-379-6222

Assistant Recording Secretary

Zetta Hart
(410) 544-4697
dollyzee@verizon.net

Treasurer

Denise Andersen
410-212-8037
dandersen21155@gmail.com

Assistant Treasurer

Robert "Bob" Kanach
(410) 757-7393
rwkanach@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary

Brenda V. Gibson
(410) 353-6281
gibsongn@aol.com

AARSPA Informer

Carla Duls, Editor
(410) 353-0714
kid3dle@aol.com

AARSPA Membership

Leslie Schell
(410) 969-0129
lahschell@verizon.net

AARSPA - Riva Road

For Information
(410) 222-5000
www.aarspa.org



Co-Presidents Kate Gilbert and Ray Bibeault



It's been a busy but rewarding start to our term as your co-presidents. We are committed to making our organization stronger, more connected, and more responsive to your needs. Here's a glimpse at some of the work already underway:

Website Improvements

We're making changes to the website to make it easier to read, easier to navigate, and more useful for all members. Our goal is to keep you informed while making sure you can quickly find the information you need—whether that's upcoming events, advocacy updates, or member benefits.

Modern Payment Options

We understand that many members want the convenience of paying for membership, luncheons, and trips electronically. We're exploring secure, user-friendly payment methods that will make signing up for events faster and easier—while still keeping traditional payment options for those who prefer them.

Building Stronger Relationships for Retirees

We are actively working to strengthen our relationship with Anne Arundel County Public Schools leadership. Recently, we met with Dr. Mark Bedell, Superintendent of Schools;

Matt Stanski, Chief Financial Officer; and Jessica Cuches, Chief Human Resources Officer. These conversations were focused on building trust, communication, and advocacy—especially around retirees' health care needs and benefits. Our shared goal is to ensure your voices are heard and that retiree concerns are part of the district's long-term planning.

You may also notice the presence of some of our AACPS Board of Education members at subsequent general meetings. Their willingness to attend and participate in our meetings presents another opportunity to foster partnerships, advocacy, and a deeper understanding of our unique roles in supporting and protecting retiree benefits.

Did you know that AARSPA is actively making a difference in our community? We're reaching out to senior citizen centers, providing much-needed support, and offering back-to-school supplies to some of our neediest children. Your support is what makes all of this possible. Together, we can continue to make a positive impact!

We are thrilled to share that our recent trip to the Buddy Holly Story was a tremendous success. Everyone enjoyed the incredible music, delicious food, and wonderful fellowship. It was a memorable

(Continued on page 2)



(Co-Presidents, page 1)

experience for all who attended. Be sure to take advantage of the other trips offered by our trips and travel committee as these not only offer unique travel experiences but an opportunity to enjoy the fellowship of other members.

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined us for our first General Membership Meeting and Luncheon on September 11th at the Severna Park Elks. Your presence, energy, and input made the event a great success. It was wonderful to see familiar faces and welcome new ones as we launched into the year together.

Our November 13th general membership meeting will be held at CAT-N and is always one of our most attended and favorite gatherings. This year, we are excited to welcome Dr. Bedell, superintendent of schools, and the current AACPS Teacher of the Year, Jacqueline Sanderson, as our guest speakers. It is strongly recommended that you sign up for this luncheon as soon as possible by using the registration form in this newsletter.

Additionally, we will be celebrating the 85th anniversary of AARSPA. As part of our

anniversary celebration, we are challenging our members to reach out and invite a retiree who hasn't yet joined to become a member of AARSPA. Our goal is to bring on 85 new members, one for each of our incredible 85 years, before our celebration luncheon on November 13. We encourage each of you to take this opportunity to be an ambassador for AARSPA. If you know a retired colleague who is not yet a member, please reach out and share the benefits of belonging to our organization. By inviting others to join, you help us strengthen our voice, expand our reach, and ensure that AARSPA continues to thrive for years to come. Let's work together to make our 85th anniversary not just a celebration of our past, but a launchpad for our future growth and impact!

Thank you once again for your continued support and engagement. Together, we are building a vibrant community that values each voice and works collaboratively for the benefit of all members. If you have suggestions, questions, or would like to get more involved, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

Kate Gilbert & Ray Bibeault
Co-Presidents

Meet Your New Presidents

Kate's Journey

My career in education has been guided by a passion for nurturing young minds and supporting those who inspire them. I began as a teacher at Chesapeake Bay Middle School, where I learned firsthand how transformative education can be. My path led me to serve as principal of Old Mill Middle South, a role that deepened my appreciation for collaboration and the collective spirit that makes our schools thrive. Following that, I served as the Director of Middle Schools, where I had the opportunity to work closely with school leaders and staff across the county to foster excellence in teaching and learning. Most recently, before retiring, I had the privilege of working as a Regional Assistant Superintendent, where I witnessed the creativity, resilience, and dedication of educators across our region. These experiences have shaped my commitment to serving you and supporting the mission of AARSPA.

Ray's Story

From my earliest days as a teacher at George Fox Middle School, I knew I wanted to make a difference—not just in the lives of students, but in the communities that surround and support them. I was fortunate to serve as principal at both Hillsmere Elementary School and Brooklyn Park Middle School, each place brimming with passionate staff, curious students, and supportive families. Later, I too became a Regional Assistant Superintendent, working with outstanding educators, and retired from that role in 2018. Throughout my career, I have been inspired by the tenacity and kindness of my colleagues and am thrilled to embark on this new chapter with you all.



Free School Museum News

The Gift of Books

The Anne Arrundell County Free School Museum was happy to donate approximately 150 children's books to the South County Reading Camp.

The Camp was an exciting and successful week in August. Thirty-four campers and as many volunteers read and discussed books, developed journals, reviewed literacy skills, created pottery items, played games, enjoyed a carver's skilled craft, read to therapy dogs, and ate breakfast, lunch, and snacks together.

Campers and parents took home a total of 1300 books, which they had individually selected, previewed, and/or read. Campers also took home art creations, handmade blankets, book characters, a "Book-Nook" bin, a camp shirt, fall school supplies, and memories of their successes in the world of literacy.



News You Can Use

New State Pension Communications Changes

You may have seen in the Retirement News and Notes newsletter that you received in the US Mail in August that the pension system is moving to all-digital communications (with some exceptions). On September 17, 2025, the MRSPA Board of Directors invited you to attend a webinar presented by the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System. The webinar showed participants how to set up an individual account on the "mySRPS" portal. This webinar was requested by MRSPA to ensure that members can access the "mySRPS" portal and any communications from the pension system. A link to this webinar, "How to register for mySRPS," is available on the MRSPA website (mrspa.org) under News and Events - Resources. You will need a smartphone and a government-issued ID to set up your account on the portal. AARSPA and MRSPA will work to keep you informed of these changes and how to get assistance with the process.

SAVE THE DATES

Even though we're currently looking forward to pumpkins and turkeys, it's not too early to be thinking about sun and fun in Florida! The Florida Get-Together is scheduled for March 10-11, 2026, in Kissimmee and Orlando. So mark your calendars and look for additional information in the January AARSPA Informer.

MEETING DATES

Executive Board Meetings -10:00 a.m.

January 8, 2026 MRSPA Office
Odenton

General Membership Meetings - 10:30 a.m.

November 13, 2025 CAT-N
800 Stevenson Road,
Severn

February 12, 2026 Renditions Golf Course
Davidsonville

DATES TO REMEMBER



October 16, 2025

December 4, 2025

December 20, 2025
January 19, 2026
February 22, 2026

February 27, 2026
March 10-11, 2026

OTHER DATES

Senior Citizens Hall of Fame Luncheon
Ten Oaks Ballroom, Clarksville

Stone Gables Estate, Holiday Show
Elizabethtown, PA

Deadline for January AARSPA Informer
Deadline for February AARSPA Informer
Nation's 250 Anniversary Celebration
Free School

MRSPA Legislative Workshop
Florida Get-Together
Kissimmee and Orlando

Membership Report

Recruitment Information

Just a reminder that during this 85th anniversary year, the goal is to bring to the association **85** new members. Each of us must enlist one retiree for this to succeed. **You** are the ambassadors for AARSPA, so call, lunch, text, and email those you know who are not members to help them understand the benefits of joining both AARSPA and MRSPA. Plus you will receive a \$10 Walmart gift card for each new member who joins with **Dues Deduction** by signing your name to the application. This is a win-win for everyone. New member applications are available on the website of both associations and at each luncheon meeting. **Do your part to keep our organizations strong!**

Eastern Shore Luncheon Date

Look at that new 2026 calendar that just arrived and mark this date on it – **Friday, April 10, 2026, for the Eastern Shore Luncheon, at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club.** We want to see all those who attended last year and more! More information in a future newsletter.



Melissa Campasino
 Lauren Johnson
 Alexis McKay
 Sanya Reyes-Chapman
 Kathleen Richburg
 Peter Shiller

Check out the following pages:

Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association (AARSPA)

Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA)

National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA)

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS)



Scholarship Update!

With your generous donations, our high school scholars will have the opportunity to become the architects of knowledge, designing a blueprint for success in each student's life. With gratitude, Sharyn, Tony, Dr. Leslie, and Tillie.

In Honor of...

Betty B. Turner (A stalwart advocate of all things education)

In Memory of...

Kenneth Crosby (Heavenly Birthday)
 Dr. Tim Dangel
 Robert Ferguson
 Donald Lilley, Sr.
 Gail Matthews
 Carol Petrosky
 Margaret Portch
 James W. Preston
 Dr. Francis A. Ruffo
 Harry Sinclair, Jr.
 Linda Unklesbee

Teacher Education Scholarship

As we look toward rewarding the best of the best for a \$6000 Teacher Education Scholarship, please share this information with high school seniors who may want to embark upon a teaching career, including Early Childhood education, Elementary Education, Secondary Education, and/or Special Education.



Visit www.scholarshipsforscholars.org to apply and for specific requirements and deadlines. Applications will be available from October 15, 2025, to February 4, 2026.



The link below allows you to donate online to the AARSPA Scholarship Program through the Education Foundation of AACPS.

<https://aacpsfoundation.networkforgood.com/projects/242891-anne-arundel-retired-school-personnel-association-aarspa>



November Donations

Once again, we will collect canned goods and pantry supplies for **Harvest for the Hungry** at our November luncheon. Toiletries and pet supplies will also be collected.



A big THANK YOU to our very generous members who donated school supplies during the September luncheon! Members of the Community Service Committee will deliver these items to Manor View Elementary and Van Bokkelen Elementary Schools.

MRSPA Leadership Workshop

AARSPA members Leslie Heiderman Schell (MRSPA Member Benefits Chair) and Carla Duls (MRSPA Area II South Director) participated in the MRSPA Leadership Workshop held virtually on September 30. Their topic was "What's In It For Me?" which highlighted the many benefits available for MRSPA members. Leslie spotlighted *Fast Park, Oasis Senior Advisors, Stress Free Solutions, and United Legal Benefits* while Carla demonstrated the *AMBA Passport* discount program. A webinar is available on the MRSPA website that explains the program and the sign-up process. AARSPA member and MRSPA Legislative Aide, Virginia Crespo, provided a Legislative Update.

Other topics covered included:

- MRSPA Ad Campaign
- Facebook Strategies
- Local Luncheon Speaker Ideas



Catching Up With AARSPA

April 11th
AARSPA on the Eastern Shore
Ocean Pines Yacht Club



Kay and Stan Stawas, Deb Ahalt, Rick Wiles, and Susan Baugher



Kim Bibeault and Kate Gilbert



September 11th
Luncheon Meeting
Severna Park Elks

MRSPA Vice President Tillie Barckley, Larry Day, and MRSPA Area II North Director Nancy Gordon



Millie Gardner, Remembrance Chair

September 29th
Scholarship Fundraiser
Brian Boru



Charlie Gable and Sean Swanson



Phyllis Cherry and Edie Picken



Sharon and Ed Stratton



Emeritus Member Ron Ruffo



First Timers Lisa Leary and Teresa Tudor

Remembrance

Anniversaries

October		
1	Rosemary & Ken Lathroum	59
10	Gale Erbe & Thomas Worthington	44
12	Wayne & Cindy Bark	46
17	Michele Einolf & Kenneth Grice	44
24	Carol & John Strigle	61
31	Lynn & Bill Grap	65
31	Tom & Lisa Leary	11
November		
16	Leslie & Dennis Schnell	40
23	Pam & Jim Jones	40
24	Sharyn & Ed Doyle	54
25	Patricia & Michael Keaser	40
30	Maggie & Will Walton	62
December		
2	Reggie & Nancy Haseltine	52
9	Jeanne & Wayne Shaw	63
15	Meg & Ed Meehan	
16	Linda & Rusty Swenson	53
16	Ann & Bob Schult	57
28	Michelle & Charles Day	52
28	Katie & Andy Borland	61
29	Linda & Tom Poole	41

Emeritus Birthdays

October		
1	Kathleen Graves	96
4	Joyce Christie	92
8	Ruth Joy Gulley	95
9	Robert Brooks	94
12	Ethel Bohle	99
15	Eva Palmer	97
21	Myrna Dobbs	91
November		
5	Domenica Tozzi	94
10	Paul T. Bagley	99
14	Lucy Travers	91
18	Katherine Tartar	98
18	Dorothy Brown	92
22	Irma Messinger	99
24	Ola Legg	94
30	Jack Hogsten	96
December		
15	Mary Sue Hines	97
15	Matilda Pair	102
17	Ron Ruffo	92
21	Mary Madeleine	98

Member Deaths

Cynthia L. Hall
 Barbara N. Johnson
 Joline R. Krolicki
 James W. Preston
 Linda C. Unklesbee
 Meryle R. Watts

Family Member Deaths

Barbara Geier	father-in-law
Patricia Gross	sister
Cathryn Kravitz	mother
Debbie Stottlemyer	husband

Get Well/Thinking of You

Andy Borland
 Althea Freeman
 Ed Johnson
 Phyllis Mentzell

If you have information concerning AARSPA members, please contact the following people:

Anniversaries and Congratulations

Millie Gardner at milliegardner65@gmail.com or 443-784-2190

Deaths of AARSPA members and family members

Linda Poole at mlp2118@yahoo.com or 410-570-4020

Illnesses and Accidents, etc.

Dianne Rogers at wvdsrogers@verizon.net or 410-647-7585





Luncheon and General Membership Meeting Center of Applied Technology-North 800 Stevenson Road, Severn, MD



Thursday, November 13, 2025
Registration: 9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Please bring a photo ID with you.

Luncheon reservations **must be received** no later than Friday, **October 31, 2025.**

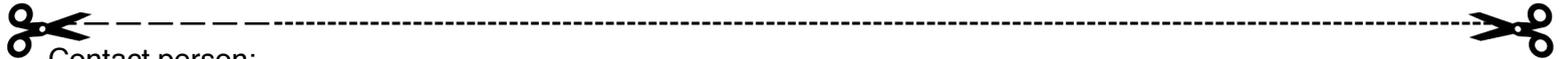
Entrée Choices:

1. Pan-seared chicken breast served over rice pilaf with maple-glazed carrots and pan sauce
2. Sweet potato shepherd's pie served with seasonal side salad
3. Stuffed acorn squash with farro, spinach, mushrooms, and cranberries finished with a balsamic reduction

All entrees come with dinner rolls and whipped butter *Contains wheat, dairy, soy, eggs, milk

Dessert Choices:

1. Apple almond tart **contains nuts, dairy, wheat, eggs, soy**
2. Chocolate mousse cake **contains gluten-free ingredients, made in a shared facility that contains dairy, soy, and eggs**
3. CAT North cheesecake **contains dairy, wheat, eggs, and soy**



Contact person: _____

Home phone: _____ Email address: _____

Cost: \$37 per person. **Please make checks payable to AARSPA.**

MAIL TO : Bob Kanach
512 Augusta Drive
Arnold, MD 21012

Please choose one

Please choose one

Name	Chicken or Shepherd's Pie or Stuffed Squash	Tart or Mousse or Cheesecake
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Number of reservations _____ x \$37.00 = \$ _____ amount enclosed

_____ Please check here if this is your first AARSPA luncheon.

_____ Please check here if you are an emeritus member (age 90 or greater).

The students will again make cheesecakes available for members to take home on a pre-order basis. A 7" cheesecake will cost \$15.00, and a 10" cheesecake will cost \$30.00. **Please make your separate check for the cheesecakes payable to AARSPA and include it with this reservation form and luncheon payment. It is most helpful if the checks for the luncheon and cheesecake are written separately.**

7" cheesecake quantity wanted: _____ x \$15.00 = _____

10" cheesecake quantity wanted: _____ x \$30.00 = _____





Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association
 2644 Riva Road
 Annapolis, MD 21401





Scholarship Fund Donation

Scholarships are of the utmost importance to ensure the contribution of quality teachers entering the education profession.

I wish to make a donation to the scholarship fund.

Donation Amount is: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

for:

_____ birthday _____ anniversary

_____ other (please indicate) _____

Please make checks payable to:

Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association
 or for

Tax Deductible Donations, make checks payable to:
 Education Foundation of AACPS

Mail checks to:

Matilda Barckley
 8238 Great Bend Road
 Glen Burnie, MD 21061

Name and Address of the honoree:

We will inform the honoree(s) and/or the family of the deceased that a gift has been made to the scholarship fund.

Send notice of my donation to:

Name _____

Address _____

Donor's Name _____

Address: _____

For questions, please contact:

Matilda Barckley barckleya@comcast.net 410-768-3408