

## **AARSPA Executive Board Meeting**

**Thursday, July 10, 2025**

AACPS Board of Education Building, Riva Road, Annapolis, MD, 10:00 a.m.

Attending: Ray Bibeault, Kate Gilbert, Debbie Ahalt, Denise Anderson, Anthony Anzalone, Tillie Barckley, Susan Baugher, Karlie Everett, Millie Gardner, Bob Kanach, Linda Poole, Leslie Schell, Dixie Stack, Kay Stawas, Sharon Stratton, Rick Wiles

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:59 a.m. by Co-presidents Kate Gilbert and Ray Bibeault, followed by the pledge to the flag led by Rick Wiles. The co-presidents welcomed new members of the Executive Board and greeted returning members.

### **Treasurer's Report**

No full Treasurer's Report was submitted. Max Muller submitted a written statement of the Scholarship Funds as of June 30, 2025 (attached). Bob Kanach and Denise Anderson summarized the progress of the transition to the new treasurer and new fiscal year.

### **Minutes**

No minutes were presented from the June 12 Executive Board meeting. Linda Poole agreed to record minutes from today's meeting.

### **Corresponding Secretary's Report**

No report

### **Bob Mosier, Chief Communications Officer, AACPS**

Kate Gilbert welcomed and introduced Bob Mosier, reminding the Executive Board members that Bob was invited to discuss ways to make AARSPA more visible to AACPS employees and the community at large.

In his opening remarks, Bob Mosier drew attention to the "Our Story" section on the AACPS website as one opportunity, noting that AARSPA can send information or 30-45 second "spots" to be posted on Our Story. He emphasized that short videos are more effective than photos. He also noted that in recent updates to the school system website, a previous page for the Free School was accidentally lost. The team working on the website is currently reconstructing that page.

Ray Bibeault highlighted three main goals underlying the need for greater visibility: to increase membership, to increase knowledge of and applications for the AARSPA scholarship program, and to increase knowledge of and applications for the AARSPA mini grants for teachers.

Leslie Schell recapped recent efforts to increase membership. Ray Bibeault and Susan Baugher contributed additional information. Bob Mosier said that posters and personal contact are good, but that social media and the web are most effective. Deb Ahalt noted that AARSPA has a website and a Facebook page. Bob said that he would review the AARSPA website and get back to Ray.

Bob Mosier noted two main issues for AARSPA: few people know that we exist, and few people know what we do and/or can do for them. He commented that Facebook is not as popular

currently as Instagram and other social media platforms. He and his team are willing to partner with AARSPA to help us update or expand our online presence. He suggested that there may be possibilities to improve AARSPA's presence on the AACPS site, declaring that the public needs to know what we are doing – frequently, continually.

He also made other suggestions:

- AARSPA needs a 30-sec. promotional video. His office can help us develop that.
- The AACPS Superintendent issues a segment called “Thursday Thoughts.” Bob will ask if the Superintendent would consider AARSPA as a topic for one of those segments.
- He spoke about the AACPS mobile app saying that he would help us to get on that and that he will look for more ways to get us out on social media emphasizing the importance of a presence on Instagram.
- He again stressed the importance of developing 15-30 sec. videos highlighting various AARSPA activities (the Free School, scholarship program, ...) and getting these posted on various social media platforms.

Ray thanked Bob for giving us so much of his time and expertise, for his interest in our organization, and for his offers of continued help and support.

Dixie Stack shared that retiree health care costs continue to be a significant AACPS budget issue. Karlee Everett explained that the AACPS budget is now divided into “Blueprint items” and “non-Blueprint items.” Retiree health care is the largest expense under “non-Blueprint items.” They suggested that as we update our messaging, we need to highlight that we are advocates for maintaining retiree health care coverage and for limiting increases in cost for that coverage.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Voices in Melody**

Rick Wiles reported that while there are no concerts during the summer, several members have been working on organizing and inventorying the large quantity of music that the chorus owns and stores in the warehouse. He assured the Executive Board that the chorus is aware of and in compliance with pertinent copyright laws.

### **Community Service**

No report

### **Consumer Education**

No report

### **Educator/Employee of the Month**

Tony Anzalone clarified that this committee operates directly under the Board of Education, not the Central Office. The awards are presented at Board of Education meetings. Tony shared how those presentations take place and the surprise and appreciation of the recipients.

### **Free School Museum**

Karlie Everett highlighted recent and upcoming events at the Free School including The Big Read, Maryland Day, and preparations for the nation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She explained

initiatives for cross-marketing with other organizations, and other efforts to increase publicity for the museum such as collaboration with Chesapeake Crossroads.

### **Historian/Newsletter**

No report

### **Legislative Committee**

No report

### **Membership Committee**

Leslie Schell gave updates on membership and renewal issues, specifically complications that sometimes develop because members may choose to belong to MRSPA only, AARSPA only, or both. Ray Bibeault shared that he is trying to set up electronic payment for dues. Discussion followed that if electronic payment is activated, this possibly could be expanded to include luncheons, trips, and other AARSPA payments. Leslie reminded the Board of the meet and greet breakfast for new retirees scheduled for September 21. She shared that the 2026 Eastern Shore gathering is tentatively set for April 18, 2026 in Ocean Pines. She also announced that she and Marge Smith are working on a new edition of the membership directory.

### **Pre-Retirement Committee**

Susan Baugher reported that the committee is updating the recruitment posters with the plan to reprint these and distribute them to schools in spring 2026. She announced that Bridget Wicklein, Benefits Manager AACPS, will be speaking at our September general membership meeting.

### **Program Committee**

Sharon Stratton said that the committee is looking at ways to make our general membership meetings more interesting and informative for our members. While they plan to retain some of the previous agenda items, they are considering adding some activities. They are also exploring various presentation topics of specific interest to retirees/senior citizens. The committee would welcome additional members to their committee. Suggestions for agenda revisions, activities, or presentation topics may be sent to Sharon at roxystratton1@gmail.com.

### **Raffle Committee**

No report

### **Remembrance/Sunshine Committee**

Millie Gardner announced that, at present, we have 70 Emeritus members. She and Leslie Schell are reviewing and amending that list. Millie also spoke about positive reactions and feedback from the cards and personal notes she sends to the Emeritus members. Linda Poole shared that, in addition to the current annual database of member deaths, they have developed a master electronic database of AARSPA member deaths dating back to 2019 and are in process of entering the remaining paper records from past years.

### **Scholarship Committee**

Tillie Barckley reported that applications for the 2026 Scholarships for Scholars will be published and available from Oct. 15, 2025 until Feb. 4, 2026. She said the Kilarney House fundraiser was a success. The next fundraiser will be at Brian Boru in Severna Park on Monday, Sept. 29. She noted that the main course menu has changed and that reservations are recommended for those who plan to dine in the restaurant. The committee is considering

Carrabba's in Severna Park and Ramshead Roadhouse on Generals Highway as potential sites for future fundraisers.

### **Trips and Travel Committee**

Kay Stawas reminded Board members that there are still some openings left for the September 6 Buddy Holly Story trip. She asked for suggestions for ways to get out more frequent and timely reminders to members about trips and events since the notice in the *Informer* is often far in advance of the trip. She and Bob Kanach also commented on the rising cost of trips and the fact that the bus company is requiring the non-refundable deposit much earlier ahead of each trip than they did previously.

### **Old Business**

No old business was addressed.

### **New Business**

Ray Bibeault and Kate Gilbert reminded Board members of the general membership meeting and lunch on September 11 at the Severna Park Elks Lodge. Speakers will be Bridget Wicklein, AACPS Benefits Manager; Bob Malamud from AACC regarding the Peer Learning Partnership; and Nancy Gordon from MRSPA. No committee reports will be presented at the September meeting. If any committee has information they need to share at that meeting, please contact Ray or Kate.

In the interest of time, no further new business was addressed.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by the Co-presidents at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Poole  
Substitute Recording Secretary

## **Scholarship Funds as of June 30, 2025**

Carryover from 2025 scholarships as of June 30, 2025 is

**\$25, 756.32**

Amount Collected or Available from Dues or donations for FY25

\$25,756.32     carry over amount from previous year

\$ 7,140         from dues as of June 30, 2025

\$ 315            from 50-50 drawings

\$ 3,425         from donations through June 30, 2025

\$14,755 from 21<sup>st</sup> Century Donations through June 30, 2025

**Total: \$51,011.32**

**Total: available donations/income as of June 30, 2025: \$51,011.32**

**Minus 5 scholarships paid on December 24, 2024 for this year's scholarships.**

**\$25,000 on December 24, 2024. Check #3188.**

**Leaves currently \$26,011.32 for next year's scholarships. Note that we will continue to receive scholarship donations from July 2025 – June 2026.**

## **Dates to Remember**

Mon., July 21, 2025	Deadline for August 2025 AARSPA <i>Informer</i>
Fri., Aug. 01, 2025	Committee Reports due
Sat., Sept. 06, 2025	<i>The Buddy Holly Story</i> trip, Lancaster, PA
Thurs., Sept. 11, 2025	General membership meeting and luncheon, Severna Park Elks Lodge, 9:45 a.m., registration; 10:30 a.m., meeting
Mon., Sept. 22, 2025	New Member Meet & Greet Breakfast, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m., Severna Park Elks Lodge
Mon., Sept. 29, 2025	Brian Boru fundraiser for Scholarship Fund
Thurs., Oct. 09, 2025	Executive Board Meeting, 10 a.m. – 12 noon, MRSPA office, Odenton
Thurs., Nov. 13, 2025	General membership meeting and luncheon, CAT North, Severn, 9:45 a.m., registration; 10:30 a.m., meeting
Thurs., Dec. 04, 2025	Holiday trip to Stone Gables Estate, Elizabethtown, PA
Fri., Dec. 20, 2025	Deadline for January 2026 AARSPA <i>Informer</i>
Thurs., Jan. 08, 2026	Executive Board Meeting. 10 a.m. – 12 noon, MRSPA office, Odenton

Fri., Jan. 19, 2026	Deadline for February 2026 AARSPA <i>Informer</i>
Thurs., Feb. 12, 2026	General Membership Meeting and Luncheon, Renditions Golf Course, Davidsonville, 9:45 a.m., registration; 10:30 a.m., meeting
	<u>SNOW DATE</u> (Note: Only if AACPS schools are closed to students on Feb. 12, 2026)
	Thurs., Feb. 19, 2026. Renditions Golf Course, Davidsonville, 9:45 a.m., registration; 10:30 a.m., meeting
Sun., Feb. 22, 2026	Nation's 250 Anniversary Celebration, the Free School Museum, Davidsonville
Weds., Mar. 2026	AARSPA Florida Event (specific date, location, TBD)
Thurs., Mar. 2026	Florida meeting/luncheon (specific date, location, TBD)
Mon., Mar. 23, 2026	Deadline for April 2026 AARSPA <i>Informer</i>
Thurs., Apr. 09, 2026	Executive Board Meeting, 10 a.m. – 12:00 noon, MRSPA Office, Odenton
Sun., Apr. 12, 2026	The Big Read under the Catalpa Tree, the Free School Museum, Davidsonville (date tentative)
Fri., Apr. 18, 2026	AARSPA on the Eastern Shore (date tentative)
Thurs., May 14, 2026	Business Meeting and Luncheon, Two Rivers Restaurant, Lake Shore Plaza, Pasadena, 9:45 a.m., registration; 10:30 a.m., meeting
Thurs., June 11, 2026	Executive Board Meeting, 10 a.m. – 12:00 noon, the Free School, Davidsonville
Thurs., July 9, 2026	Executive Board Meeting, 10 a.m. – 12:00 noon, MRSPA Office, Odenton

AARSPA Executive Board Meeting

Corresponding Secretary Report

July 9, 2025

**I. Academic Accolades and Recognition**

A. **Career and Technical Schools**—CAT South student, Bridget Long awarded first place at the National Skills USA Tournament in Atlanta; receiving full scholarship to Culinary Arts of America in New York and a placement to compete in World Food Championship.

CAT North students receiving awards: Izquieta-Cochamanidis (Restaurant Service Award); Holly Broughton, Jackson Dupree, Evelyn Elder, Tilo Nomm bronze awards (Entrepreneurship).

Eight other Cat North and South students received top 10 awards in their respective categories.

B. Meagan Yeager, Chesapeake Science Point Charter School received 2nd place in Environmental Engineering; International Science and Engineering Fairs (ISEF) in Los Angeles; awarded \$2,000; Project focus was aerosol usage in water purification and filtration. Required original research project and presentation in a week long celebration of STEM.

C. Josh Hader, Old Mill High School graduate, pitching for Houston Astros received American League Reliever of the Month award for June.

D. Brayden Morgan, Glen Burnie High School student takes oath for 2025-26 Students Member of the Board of Education.

**II. Other—**

A. AACPS Technology Service Desk—nationally recognized for its “commitment to excellence through certification.” This service desk supports “more than 12,000 district users and more than 150,000 devices and enterprise systems.”

B. AACPS Purchasing Office nationally recognition; received 2025 Achievement of Excellence In Procurement Award from National Procurement Institute. “One of 23 school districts and 216 agencies across the United States and Canada.”

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda V. Gibson

Corresponding Secretary