

**Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association  
General Membership Meeting and Luncheon Minutes  
September 11, 2025  
Severna Park Elks Lodge**

**Welcome & Opening remarks – Co-President Ray Bibeault**

- **Greetings & new format for meetings**
  - Guest speakers on topics to benefit members
  - Member interaction/conversations
- **Welcome**
  - Ron Ruffo, Emeritus member
  - First-time attendees Lisa Leary and Teresa Tudor
- Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence – Rick Wiles
- Birthday Raffle reminders – Millie Gardner

**Member Conversations**

Sharon Stratton

Membership activity to get to know one another through conversation & pictures.

**Guest Speakers:**

**MRSPA Update on member benefits - Nancy Gordon & Leslie Schell & committees**

- Tillie Barkley -Scholarship & Grant Update
  - Window to apply for scholarships and grants will run for two weeks beginning January 2, 2026. Scholarships will help members to advance their careers.
  - Student Based Projects – are due by November 1, 2025 which involves classroom participation. Anne Arundel County non-winners will go to the county level for grants.
- Leslie Heiderman Schell – MRSPA Website updates
  - Encouraged members to visit <https://www.mrspa.org/member-benefits> for updates and all your needs
  - Click here for travel information  
[https://www.mrspa.org/files/ugd/640edf\\_a8ff6324718e45d1a11ca57d4527fab.pdf](https://www.mrspa.org/files/ugd/640edf_a8ff6324718e45d1a11ca57d4527fab.pdf)
- Virginia Crespo - Advocacy
  - Seven ARSPA members serve on the MRSPA Legislative Committee
  - Virginia reiterated the importance of advocacy and member involvement.
  - Visit <https://www.mrspa.org/legislative-updates> to stay up to date on work being done to benefit AARSPA members and the importance of your voice.

**AACPS Human Resources – Retiree Benefits Updates - Bridget Wicklein & Vicky Cosby**

- Open Enrollment: October 13 – October 24, 2025
  - Review benefits to guarantee best fit
  - Confirmation on benefits selected will be sent out in November and is the last chance to confirm.
- Medicare Enrollment
  - Must have Parts A and B to stay on the plan.
  - Part B works hand in hand with AACPS Health Benefits
  - Dependent eligibility is available again. Rate increase beginning January 1, 2026: 2% for Medicine, 4% for UCCI dental and 6% for Vision

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- New cards will be sent in January 2026 with a separate card for dental
- No co-pay increases
- Silver Script – no changes
- Conversation took place on reasoning for bidding when we are satisfied with Blue Cross/Blue Shield CareFirst. Response was that they have to go through the process even if there will be no changes for AACPS.

**Anne Arundel Community College Peer Learning Partnership – Bob Melamud**

- Sponsored and supported by Anne Arundel Community College
- Informal Classes that are in person and on zoom.
- Register online at AACCC.EDU/PLP; Click on the “PLP Course box.” May also register in person
- November 3<sup>rd</sup>- Open House for Winter classes

**Lunch & Networking (12:00 – 12:45 pm)**

**Announcements and Updates – Co-President Kate Gilbert**

**Minutes**

Co-President Kate Gilbert shared the minutes posted on our website from May 8, 2025, and asked attendees to accept the minutes as posted. The minutes were approved.

**85 for 85**

- Recruitment strategy: members asked to recruit members for AARSPA.
- Prize for signing up new MRSPA members who elect dues deduction will be a \$10 Walmart gift card.

**Raffle Drawing (50/50 & Birthdays) - Millie Gardner presented six prizes.**

**Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Denise Andersen reported that the online payments through Zelle will be available in the next 6 months. Testing will take place at the October board meeting.

**Grants, Donations, and Senior Citizens Hall of Fame Phyllis Cherry**

- Member’s donation of school supplies which will be sent to Manor View and Van Bokkelen Elementary Schools. She thanked everyone for contributing.
- Grants: Visit the MRSPA website for the mini grant deadline submission.
- Senior Hall of Fame: This is a statewide organization recognizing community service. Phyllis asked members to send in recommendations.
- Donations: The committee is working on locations to give as the Light House is no longer interested.
- Discussion on ways to get around scams.

**Scholarships Tillie Barkley**

- Scholarships are for high school students interested in a teaching career.
- \$6, 000.00 scholarships

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- Visit [scholarshipforscholars.org](http://scholarshipforscholars.org) for more information.
- Scholarship restaurant fundraisers are located in the Informer under Dining for Scholars.
- Tilley Barkley thanked members for their donations which totaled \$1,160 through today's raffle tickets, cash, and check donations.

**Chorus Recruitment – Rick Wiles**

- The chorus began in 1962 and is still strong. It continues to share music with local organizations. They are a diverse group that includes members who are more than just musically trained.
- Recruitment time: All members are welcome. Stressed the need for male voices. Visit <https://chorusamerica.org>
- Six concerts each year
- Meet on Tuesdays from 2:00 – 3:30 pm

**Alzheimer's Walk Annapolis - Deborah Ahalt**

- Sunday, October 13 at Sandy Point State Park
- Team name – AARSPA from the Heart
- Donations can be made in the team's name
- Walkers are still being accepted.
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**Member Feedback & Closing Remarks**

- Co-President Kate Gilbert thanked all speakers and new members for participating today.
- Sharon Stratton asked members to complete the feedback card.
- Co-President Ray Bibeault asked member to spread the word about ARPSA and recruiting members on Facebook.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Deborah Turner  
AARPA Recording Secretary

October 9, 2025	Executive Board meeting 10:00 a.m. MRSPA Office, Odenton
January 8, 2026	Executive Board Meetings 10:00 a.m. - MRSPA Office, Odenton
November 13, 2025	General Membership Meetings - 10:30 a.m. CAT-N 800 Stevenson Road Severn
October 16, 2025	Senior Citizens Hall of Fame Luncheon Ten Oaks Ballroom, Clarksville Ten Oaks Ballroom, Clarksville
December 4, 2025	Stone Gables Estate Holiday Elizabethtown, PA
December 20, 2025	Deadline for January AARSPA Informer