

AARSPA Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, October 9, 2025, 10:00 A.M.
MRSPA Conference Room

Attendees: Debbie Ahalt, Denise Andersen, Tony Anzalone, Tillie Barckley, Susan Baugher, Ray Bibeault, Virginia Crespo, Carla Duls, Brenda Gibson, Kate Gilbert, Bob Kanach, Linda Poole, Leslie Schell, Marge Smith, Dixie Stack, Kay Stawas, Sharon Stratton, Deborah Turner, and Rick Wiles

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by Co-chair Ray Bibeault, followed by the pledge to the flag led by Rick Wiles.

Minutes

Minutes from July 10, 2025, were approved with a motion from Bob Kanach with a second from Leslie Schell.

Corresponding Secretary- Brenda Gibson

- Thank you notes were sent to the following speakers at the September 11, 2025 Membership and Meeting at the Severna Park Elks Lodge: Nancy Gordon, MRSPA Area II Director, Bridget Wicklein & Vickt Cosby, Board of Education Human Resources, and Bob Malamud, Peer Learning Partnership
- Notes of appreciation were sent to Lynne Bailey, Severna Park Elks Lodge, Robert Silkworth, Board of Education President and Gloria Dent, Board of Education Vice President.
- Teacher notes of congratulations to Jacqueline Sanderson, Maryland Teacher of the Year (9/26)
- Student notes of congratulations
 - Zhane Wiggins, (9/26 Northeast High, BigFuture Scholarship from College Board-\$40,000.
 - Madeleine Hardesty-Arundel High, Nathaniel Weinbaum & Zachariah Jackson-Broadneck High, Elyse Katolin-Crofton High, Selah Sulton-Meade High, Aaron Ahmadi, Evan Crockett, Maya Kirsein, and Christopher Lowman-Severna Park High.

Committee Reports

- **Voices in Melody Concert Dates-** Rick Wiles
 - December 9th @12pm – O'Malley Sr. Center
 - December 10th @12:30 pm– South County Sr. Center
 - December 16th @12:30 pm - Pascal Sr. Center
 - TBA – Future Care Arnold
- **Community Service Committee** – Phyllis Cherry absent
No report
- **Consumer Education Committee** Debbie Ahalt reporting for Phyllis Cherry
 - School supplies were delivered to Manor View and Van Bokkelen Elementary Schools
 - October 19, 2025 – AARSPA from the Heart at Sandy Point
- **Educator/Employee of the Month** – Tony Anzalone
 - October Employee of the Month from Bates Middle School and October Educator of the Month from Crofton Middle School were honored at the School Board meeting and were totally surprised.

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- **Free School Museum Maintenance** – Bob Kanach
 - Bob Kanach suggested selecting someone to collaborate with the Free School due to Karlie Everett’s illness.
 - Suggestions are to be sent to Bob.

- **Historian/Newsletter** – Carla Duls
 - Many documents are still missing.
 - Debbie asked members to send programs and other documents for historical reference.
 - Newsletter has been sent to AARSPA members.

- **Legislative Committee**
No report

- **Membership Committee** – Leslie Schell
 - Reported 16 new members have joined AARSPA (recent MRSPA report)
 - Letters being sent to MRSPA members who have not renewed their AARSPA membership
 - Discussion took place on ways to encourage retirees to attend recruitment events. Reported that library meetings, personal invites vs. group invite and retirement celebrations worked. Reviving the retirement celebrations was suggested.

- **Pre-Retirement Committee** - Susan Baugher
 - Committee is working to update the AARSPA poster with new pictures, verbiage, etc.
 - The retirement letter is being sent to schools. Kate Gilbert suggested that the letter & poster be delivered to principals personally at one of the principals’ monthly meetings.
 - Recruitment incentives – Volunteers to research incentives are Bridget, Leslie, Susan, Sharon, and Denise.

- **Publicity Committee** Debbie Ahalt
 - The Publicity Committee is updating the Facebook page and considering Instagram
 - Website: There are concerns that the current website developer may not have the necessary skills for the Board’s website needs.
 - The Board is open to finding a new website developer, recognizing this would involve a fee.
 - There’s discussion about budget allocation for this expense and gathering information on web designers.
 - The group is encouraged to look at other organizations’ websites for inspiration.

- **Programming Committee** – Sharon Stratton
 - Sharon Stratton shared feedback from the September meeting/luncheon.
 - Positive feedback which included a feeling of belonging with the photo ice breaker, speakers from Human Resources, well planned agenda, Millies’s jokes, and Tillie’s sparkle.
 - Suggestion: Set a time limit for speakers to decrease the length of the meeting.
 - Sharon asked the board for their input on future general meetings:

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- Provide legislative and benefits updates as needed; reserve time for member suggestions, Senior Center activities, social events, and guest speakers, including county council members.
- Set time limits for topics and restrict the number of speakers to maintain audience engagement.
- Continue inviting scholarship and grant recipients (and their parents) to general meetings; allow recipients to briefly share the impact of their awards. Consider moving the luncheon to late May (before graduation) or January.
- Share updates on school changes since retirement.
- Discuss the website and its benefits.
- Reference Article II of the AARSPA Bylaws regarding the purpose of general meetings.

Raffle Committee – Cindy Smith

November meeting will not have a raffle drawing since the meeting/lunch will be at CAT-North.

- **Remembrance/Sunshine Committee – Linda Poole**
 - Linda Poole reported that we have 74 emeritus members. Leslie Schell & Millie Gardner have located the birth dates of these emeritus members.
 - Announcement of passing of Don Patterson. His obituary is listed in Legacy.
 - Pat Jones' husband passed. Obituary may be found on the Barranco Funeral Home website.
 - Charles Wilkerson passed. Check Arundel website.
- **Scholarship Committee – Tillie Barckley**
 - Brian Boru Pub Fundraiser raised \$580.00
 - Tillie thanked members for donating their September 22nd breakfast fee to the scholarship fund as a result of the canceled event.
 - Exploring restaurant options for scholarship fundraising
- **Trips & Travel Committee – Kay Stawas**
 - 2025 Christmas trip is sold out and has a waiting list
 - In the process of planning trips for 2026

Old Business

- **85 for 85 Campaign Progress – Kate Gilbert/Ray Bibeault/Leslie Schell**
 - Committee chairs encouraged everyone to continue recruiting new retirees.
- **Online Luncheon Registration – Ray Bibeault/Denise Anderson**
 - Board members tested the online registration for upcoming meetings & events.
 - Members were receptive to the online registration form, and a brief discussion took place.

New Business

- **Committee Reports at November meeting – Ray Bibeault/Sharon Stratton/Executive Board**
 - Keep reports brief
 - Recommended that Tillie Barckley and Millie Gardner to continue their presentations
- **Establish agenda for November membership – Sharon Stratton**
 - Send reports to Kate and Ray.

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- November meeting Speakers: Superintendent Dr. Mark T. Bedell and Ms. Jacqueline Sanderson, 2025 AACPS Teacher of the Year.
- Dr. Tobin and Nancy Twigg will also attend and speak.
- Arundel High School Band will perform as members arrive and open the meeting at 10:30 with one additional selection before returning to school.
- Ocean Pines Luncheon – Friday, April 10, 2026
- AARSPA in Florida = March 10-11, 2026
- AARSPA in Florida 2027 – Tabled until the next meeting

Adjournment

- Kate Gilbert thanked everyone for attending the meeting and continuing their work for AARSPA
- Meeting adjourned at 12:19 pm.