

April 2019

VOLUME 12, NO. 2

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message *by Linda King*

Happy spring to you all! I should probably whisper that so I don't jinx the weather, and I will keep in mind that mother nature rules.

Our March meeting was very enjoyable with delicious food and a great time to socialize with friends. Our speaker, Priscilla Rall, was quite informative and challenged our knowledge of the Great War, WWI. Bill Price won that challenge and received a copy of Priscilla's book, *The WWI Diary of PFC Wilbur R. Baker*.

March is denoted as our Scholarship Fund Meeting and everyone present has an opportunity to donate to build our scholarship fund. You can still make a contribution by mailing your check to our treasurer.

I hope that you are planning to attend the FCRSPA Happy Hour on April 11th at Oscar's Ale House. Oscar's has delicious food and a great selection of beer and other drinks. It's a perfect opportunity to socialize with old friends and meet new ones. Check out the details on about the happy hour on page seven of this newsletter.

The MRSPA Annual Business Meeting is May 8th at the Conference Center in Bowie, MD. All members of MRSPA/FCRSPA are eligible to be delegates for that meeting at no expense to you.

Just send me a text or an email if you are interested in joining us.

Our May meeting is always a busy one with many items on the agenda. Our speakers will be the President of MRSPA, Ann Marie Downey, and Wanda R. Twigg, MRSPA Executive Director.

Please take notice, on page four, the proposed budget for the upcoming year that will need approval at the meeting. We will also be asking for your acceptance of the FCRSPA slate of officers. The officers elected will be installed by the MRSPA President.

This is my last President's Message since my term of office ends with the installation of the new president at the May meeting. These two years have gone by quickly. I have totally enjoyed working with all of you while serving as your president. I applaud all of the accomplishments of the FCRSPA!

I am looking forward to seeing you at our FCRSPA Happy Hour on April 11th, and on May 14th luncheon for the last time as FCRSPA President.

Linda

Lindalou2173@alive.com

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FCRSPA

May Luncheon

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Dutch's Daughter Restaurant

581 Himes Ave.
Frederick, MD 21703

Doors open at 11:00 a.m.
Buffet Luncheon at 12:00 noon

Cost: \$25 (Members and guests)

Buffet Menu

Dutch's Chicken
Beef Tips
Tossed Salad and Rolls
Au Gratin Potatoes
Green Beans
Dessert – Apple Crisp
Coffee, Tea, Soda

**The reservation form for the May Luncheon is
on the last page of this newsletter.**

**ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER
THAN MONDAY, MAY 6, 2019.**

Thank you!

A Letter from the Nominating Committee to the FCRSPA Membership

Judith Brandenburg & Mary Straits

Dear FCRSPA Member,

The Nominating Committee of the FCRSPA (Frederick County Retired School Personnel Association) has the job to find people willing to serve in our officer positions. The positions are needed to guide the work of this organization to work for the general welfare of retired school personnel, to promote good fellowship among its members, to keep its members informed of the activities of the association and news pertaining to the professional and retirement life, and to initiate and support any legislation for the benefit of retired school personnel.



With that said, FCRSPA is in need of a President-Elect. The President-Elect shall automatically become President when that office becomes vacant for the two-year term of 2021 - 2022.

The President-Elect shall be installed as President for a two-year term at the May meeting of the association in 2021. On the even numbered years at the May meeting of the association, a new President elect shall be elected and installed. The President will remain on the Board for a year after completing the two-year term. (2021)

Nominations for the office shall be made by the Nominating Committee and presented at the March meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor providing previous consent has been received from the nominee(s).

The President-elect shall act as assistant to the President and shall perform the duties of President in the absence of that officer. The President-Elect shall receive and disburse funds in the absence of the Treasurer and President.

The Board of Directors meets only four to six times a year.

With that information, we are asking you to consider helping with this position. If you would be willing to fill this President-Elect position, please communicate with us by using one of the following:

Judith - E-mail – judithbrandenburg@comcast.net

Mary – E-mail – jmstraits@comcast.net

We would really appreciate your response.

Thank you for your time.

Judy Brandenburg and Mary Straits

2020 Proposed Budget*Shirley McDonald, Treasurer*

Budget 2020	
Income	Proposed
Member Dues	7000
July Luncheon	1600
October Luncheon	1900
December Breakfast	3000
March Luncheon	3000
May Luncheon	2700
Donations	
MRSPA	
Directory	
	19200
Expenses	Proposed
Membership	300
July Luncheon	1600
October Luncheon	2100
December Breakfast	2800
March Luncheon	3200
May Luncheon	2900
MRSPA scholarship prize	75
Handbook	
Postage	800
Community Outreach	1000
Newsletter	2000
Sunshine	75
Bank Charges	50
Website	16
certificates	
Garden ESSL	400
President	359
Bridges	500
Mileage	
Scholarship	1000
MRSPA liability insurance	25
	19200

We will be voting on the budget at the May meeting at Dutch's Daughter on May 14. If you have any questions, please let me know at samcdonald72@gmail.com or

Health/ Insurance

Joe Polce

Benefit Office Change

Penny Opalka, Senior Benefit Manager, is leaving FCPS. She replaced Colette Baker earlier. Penny has been excellent in handling retiree concerns and will be missed. Until a replacement for Penny is appointed, problems and concerns should be directed to Doris Toms at 301 644 5052 or Doris.Toms@fcps.org. I will send an email when a replacement is confirmed.

Insurance Budget for FY20

The Insurance Council is discussing the insurance budget for FY 20. A final decision has not been made at this time but should be finalized at the end of April. Health and dental premiums could be impacted with the approval of the budget.

Plan Renewals for FY 20

The life insurance and the drug prescription plans are scheduled for renewal for FY 20. Bids have been submitted and the review process has begun. Final decisions will be made in late April.

Walkersville Eye Care (WEC)

According to the rep at Walkersville Eye Care they are now in network for eye exams only. The rep indicated that Davis Division requires a specific frame that is on order and not currently available. Once the required frame is available, then WEC would be in network for those frames. Now, the other side of the story. I spoke with a Davis Division rep and was told that this information was not accurate. Our plan allows \$150.00 for frames that can be applied to any frame. If WEC is your provider, make sure you understand what exactly is covered. The vision plan details can be found at fcps.org under benefits.

Eye Exams

The refraction test administered with the eye exam is covered by the vision plan. If an ophthalmologist does the exam, the exam is covered under the medical plan (CareFirst). If an optometrist does the exam, the exam is covered under Davis Division.

Community Projects

Irene Bailey, Claudia Harrington, Beryl Long

Do you have an idea for a community project that the members of the Frederick County Retired School Personnel Association could tackle? Or, do you know of an existing project needing the help of the FCRSPA? Please contact Irene Bailey at braveirene@msn.com, Claudia Harrington at claudia280@comcast.net, or any officer or board of directors member. We need some fresh ideas and we have many able volunteers. As with any project, leadership and commitment are key ingredients. Would you be willing to organize and lead? Let us hear from you.

Three FCRSPA members are currently working with dedicated school volunteer Jamie Thurman to learn the skill and art of library book repair. Becoming a skilled book mender is a slow process and the instructional group must remain small, but there is potential for great benefit to school libraries. Last year, Mrs. Thurman repaired approximately 100 books which would have been thrown away, thus saving the BOE and taxpayers somewhere between \$1500 and \$2000. As the three novices become proficient they will add to the number of renewed books and may be able to train new volunteers next year.

FCRSPA Scholarship Fund

Nancy Gordon

THANK YOU!

A big “Thank You!” to the membership of FCRSPA. At the March 13th luncheon, \$1265.00 was donated to the FCRSPA Scholarship Fund. This is one of the largest amounts collected.

Donations can still be sent to the fund. If you wish to contribute to the fund, you may send your contribution to: Shirley McDonald, Treasurer, 3677 Ridgeview Road, Ijamsville, MD 21754. Checks should be made payable to Community Foundation of Frederick County, FCRSPA Scholarship Fund or FCRSPA Scholarship Fund/Petre in the memo. Of course, contributions can be made at any time to the Community Foundation, 312 East Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701.

The Community Foundation Scholarship process began in March with applications completed by the end of the month. They will be reviewed in mid-April, with selections to be finalized by early May. Several FCRSPA members are on the Scholarship Committee which reviews the more than 300 scholarships available through the Foundation. Information about the recipients of the FCRSPA Scholarships will be in a future newsletter.

Again, thanks for your continued support of the FCRSPA Scholarship Program.

Community Foundation Fund Update

Shirley McDonald, Treasurer

Community Foundation Fund stands at \$1,265 as of March 20, 2019. Earlier this year the Board of Directors added \$1,500 to the Fund and we have \$1,000 budgeted for next year.

The deposit will not be made to the Community Foundation until April 22, and we would like to try to reach \$1,500 to match what the Board has already put into the fund by that time. If you would like to donate and have not already, please send your donation to me at 3677 Ridgeview Road Ijamsville, MD 21754. Thank you to everyone who has already donated.

Community Services

Irene Bailey, Claudia Harrington, Beryl Long

The Community Services Committee focuses on providing school supplies to needy students. If you would like to help, please bring items such as pencils, pens, erasers, crayons, glue, scissors, spirals, loose leaf paper, binders, rulers, protractors, etc. to the Tuesday, May 14 luncheon at Dutch's Daughter. We will also accept cash and do the shopping for you. If you are unable to attend, please ask a friend to carry items or cash to the luncheon for you. There are students in need at every school every day.

Thanks to everyone who contributed \$1265.00 to the scholarship funds at the March luncheon. With the emphasis being on scholarships no school supplies were collected, but two huge bags of travel-size toiletries were donated for the Bridges to Success program to assist needy, low-income, and homeless students.

Travel Size Toiletries

Irene Bailey, Claudia Harrington, Beryl Long

Please bring any small soaps, shampoos, lotions, etc. you have collected from your travels to the May 14 luncheon **at Dutch's Daughter**. Additionally, disposable razors, shave cream, toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant, and feminine hygiene products are needed. The Community Services Committee will deliver them to the Bridges to Success program which will get them to disadvantaged Frederick County students.

Happy Hour
Thursday, April 11, 2019
From 4-7 p.m.



906 N. East Street

Happy Hour Specials:
 \$2.00 off pizzas
 \$2.00 off appetizers
 \$1.50 off drinks

Please RSVP to
 Debbie Thackston
Deborah.thackston@gmail.com
by March 31, 2019.

Website News

Carroll Kehne

Our website is located at fcrspa@org and offers each member a chance to stay up-dated on all of our activities and committees. Our “Calendar” of meetings and luncheons is listed, so as to update your own calendar ahead of time. Also, it's nice to know that Joe Polce has immediate information on our “FCPS Insurance” for 2019.

Please look at the “Links” content and find relevant information for your passion. I found that our local Senior Centers offer so much, including meals, programs, trips and classes. I actually signed up for the Tai Chi class. The trips are intriguing and offer unique educational opportunities at reasonable costs.

Just hit “Recent News” that provides information and pictures of current and past events your colleagues and friends are doing. Join in on their volunteer work and offerings.

Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership Project

Sally Smith



A big thank you to Pattie Komons, Carol Gutwalt, Cindy Friedman, Penny Jurchak, Jodi Hersch, Cita King, Rise' Lanier, Barb Ferguson, and Sancu Canella, for making 12 blankets for Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership.

The next no sew blanket get together will be April 15, Tax Day, from noon to 3:00 in the Spires Cafe at the Career and Technology Center. Please let Sally know by April 10 if you are planning on helping out so we have enough blanket kits.

simplysally@comcast.net

Looking forward to seeing you and don't forget to bring your sharp scissors.



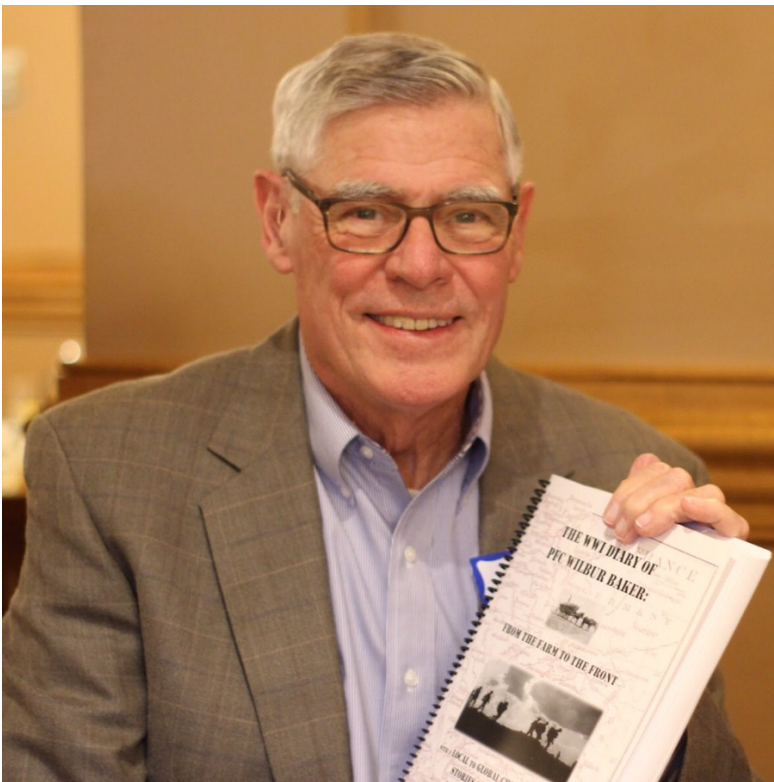
March Luncheon Photos

Jennifer Powell





Our guest speaker at our spring luncheon was Priscilla Rall, author of *The WWI Diary of PFC Wilbur Baker, From the Farm to the Front*. She brought with her informative displays about the World War I. Her fact-filled presentation included a quiz of WWI trivia.



Above: Two of our members, Becky Cross and William Baker were the grandchildren of Wilbur Baker, the subject of Priscilla Rall's book. She was delighted to present to them a commemorative plate. Their parents, the late Bill and Weetie Baker were also members of FCRSPA.

Left: Bill Price was our guest speaker's contest winner having had the most correct answers on her trivia quiz. He won a copy of her book.



Six of our members won a door prize which was a lovely St. Patrick's Day themed planter. Our winners were: (Top photo; L to R): Christine Preston, Jodi Herche, Mayetta Zimmerman and (Bottom photo; L to R): Bob Clayton, Beryl Long, and Judy Main.

Remembrance and Sunshine Committee

Please notify us if you hear of or know of any members who have illnesses or deaths. We will send thinking of you, get well, and sympathy cards.

Brenda Martz
brmartz@comcast.net

Faye Buckingham
buck0107@comcast.net



General Membership Meetings

Thursday, April 11, 2019
 Oscar's Ale House
 Happy Hour
 4-7 p.m.

*Wednesday, May 8, 2019
 MRSPA Annual Business Meeting

Tuesday, May 14, 2019
 Dutch's Daughter
 Luncheon at Noon
 Doors open at 11:00

Tuesday, July 9, 2019
 Annual Picnic
 Jefferson Community Center
 Samo & Hess will entertain
 6 p.m.

Tuesday, October 8, 2019
 Lewistown Fire Hall
 Noon

Tuesday, December 10, 2019
 Holiday Breakfast
 Dutch's Daughter
 Noon

FCRSPA Board of Directors Meetings

Meetings are held at CTC on
 Tuesdays at 2:00 PM
 May 21, 2019
 August 13, 2019
 October 15, 2019

*MRSPA Annual Business Meeting will be held on May 8, 2019 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Conference Center in Bowie, MD. FCRSPA has many delegates. If you are interested in attending let Linda know.

Membership Musings by Marsha Wise and Debbie Thackston



Since the last newsletter, MRSPA hosted a Membership Workshop for local membership chairpersons. The focus for the next year (as it has been) is not only to recruit new members, but also to retain and to regain members. If you know someone who is no longer a member, reach out and ask them to come back. Over the next months, we will be launching several new initiatives to encourage a growing membership.

We continue to contact FCPS retirees as they set off on their retirement journeys. On March 6, we hosted an information table at the FCPS Pre-Retirement Fair. We spoke with approximately 40 individuals who were looking for information and/or thinking about retirement in the near future. It is important that the information they receive includes knowledge of FCRSPA as well as the support it and MRSPA can provide. We need to put (and keep) FCRSPA/MRSPA in the retirement vocabulary.

As of March 6, 2019, we have **734** Unified members PLUS **41** Local Only members for a Grand Total of **775** members.

The \$10 Gift Card Incentive is BACK! Effective immediately, any member who signs up a NEW member via DUES DEDUCTION will receive a \$10 Walmart Gift Card from MRSPA. Make sure you name is on the application form before it is sent to the MRSPA office. The application is printed later in the newsletter.

Help us to grow our membership!

... Marsha Wise, Membership Co-chair; myfcrspa@gmail.com



New Member Judith Michael joined us at the March Luncheon.



To our new members!!

- Carol Breeze
- William(Tim) Dean
- Billie Hickman
- Billie Laughland
- Judith Michael

New members will be recognized at the May luncheon.



In Memoriam

Edward (Ned) Kerns
11/7/1933-1/16/2019





??New Contact Information??

Address Change?

Phone Number Change?

Email Address Change?

Please remember to contact us if your contact information changes so that we can update our records.

myfcrspa@gmail.com

The **Membership Roster has been updated**. Electronic copies have been emailed as noted in February's newsletter. If you have an email on file with us and did not receive yours, please contact us at myfcrspa@gmail.com. However, please check your Spam folder for an email from either lois_s_humphrey@hotmail.com or myfcrspa@gmail.com, and add these email addresses to your address book. The next hard copy publication will occur after November 1, 2019 if you wish to purchase a printed copy.



Emeritus Membership?

Do We Have Your Birth Date?

If you turn **90** on or before **June 30, 2019**,
you will be eligible for **Emeritus** membership beginning on July 1, 2019.

Congratulations! **No more dues!**

We must have your birth date in order to award your *Emeritus designation*.

Please contact

Email: myfcrspa@gmail.com

New Emeritus members will be recognized at the May Luncheon.

Because the change goes through the Retirement System, no refunds can be made after the fact.



Thank you to **Emily Jacob and Zhanna Snyder, CTC media arts students**,
for photographing our March Luncheon.

It is gratifying to see FCPS students developing and honing their skills.

Their volunteer service allowed all our members to enjoy the fellowship of the gathering.

Also, a **BIG THANK YOU** to

Adam Frank, CTC media arts instructor, for helping to coordinate the student photographers
and to

Jenny Powell for coordinating photography and news publications.



If you are a Facebook member, you can find our page by searching
Frederick County Retired School Personnel Association.
All requests will be vetted against our membership roster.



New Member Recruitment Incentive!

Earn a \$10 gift card for each **NEW MEMBER** you sign up as a **DUES DEDUCTION** member.



This allows automatic renewal, so no membership interruption while

saving trees  , time  , and postage  !

Write your name on the membership application, as recruiter.
Return the completed application to:

MRSPA
8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A
Odenton, MD 21113

Questions: Email MRSPA at mrspa@mrspa.org or call MRSPA at 410-551-1517



Connecting, Protecting, Making a Difference



MRSPA Membership Application (Please Print) (New Members Only)

Name _____ Date of Birth _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
 Email _____

Your Position at Retirement:

- Administrator/Supervisor Non-Certificated/Support Staff
 Teacher/Other Certificated Other _____

Retired from _____ Date of Retirement _____
 (County/Local)

Payment Options:

Dues Deduction from pension authorization. I hereby authorize annual dues deduction from my retirement check or deposit. This authorization shall remain in effect until I revoke it. By authorizing dues deduction, I will receive a one-time \$10 reduction in my state dues. (see chart on the back)

Signature _____ Date _____

(Social Security Number Required) _____ - _____ - _____

Forms with Social Security #'s are destroyed when MRSPA is notified of dues deduction.

- Enclosed is a check made payable to MRSPA.
 I prefer to pay by credit card. Please go to www.mrspa.org

Signature: _____ Date _____

- Do not share my information with member benefits providers.
 I prefer to receive the MRSPA Newsletter electronically.

Referred or Recruited by _____

Return completed form to:
 MRSPA
 8379 Piney Orchard Pkwy Suite A
 Odenton, MD 21113

<i>Local and MRSPA Dues</i>				
	Local Dues	MRSPA Dues	Total Dues	Total for Dues Deduction Only
Frederick Co.	\$10	\$45	\$55	\$45

The MRSPA Membership year is July 1 through June 30

FCRSPA May Luncheon Reservation Form

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY
Monday, May 6, 2019
PLEASE RESPECT THE RESERVATION DEADLINE.
THANK YOU!**

**Location: Dutch’s Daughter Restaurant
581 Himes Ave.
Frederick, MD 21703**

Time: Doors Open at 11:00 a.m. Buffet luncheon served at 12:00 p.m.- noon

Cost Per Person: \$25.00 (same fee for all)

Name: _____ Name of Guest: _____

Street: _____ City _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Total Number Attending: _____

Have you become a new member within the past 12 months? Yes _____ No _____

Emeritus _____
(90 years or older)

\$ _____ Amount Enclosed (\$25.00 per person – Members & Guests)



**Reservations must be received by
Monday, May 6, 2019.
Mail form and check made out to
FCRSPA**



FREDERICK COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL
PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION
8009 Ridge Road
Frederick, MD 21702-3530