



February 2024

VOLUME 15, NO. 1

Editor: Jenny Powell

E-mail: myfcrspa@gmail.com

## President's Message by *Kenny Garvey*



A new year is here and, hey! look at that . . . it's a leap year! That wonderfully weird, once-every-four-years, 'let's just add a day in February' event designed to realign our calendars with nature's cycles and the Earth's trips around the sun. "Happy Leap Day! A day when 'this time last year' and 'this time next year' can't be said." — Anonymous.

The Earth makes a complete orbit of our sun in one solar (tropical, celestial) year. On Earth, a solar year is 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 45 seconds or about 365.2422 days. And, therein lies the rub. During each earth day we lose track of more than a minute of celestial time. I know; That doesn't seem too bad. But it adds up! After one earth year, we are behind the heavens by more than six hours. Over a decade we lose better than 2.5 days. After a century? Well, we will have lost nearly a month! Without remediation, we would, over time, find ourselves celebrating Valentines Day in mid summer, wearing shorts and proffering sunflowers rather than roses.

The idea of a adding a "leap day" to realign us with the heavens was first introduced by Julius Caesar in 46 BCE. (Et tu, Julius?) After another millennium and a half of tinkering, bickering, all out wars, and lots of Caesars, Popes and Monarchs, the Julian calendar was scrapped for the Gregorian in 1582. Thus began our love/hate relationship with the "leap year" and the oft maligned February 29<sup>th</sup>. The Gregorian calendar is not perfect as we still lose about a day every 3300 years! So, here's to the first February 30<sup>th</sup>, in 5324!

Some people consider leap years to be bad luck, and with good reason. In 1692, in a 'friendly' little town called Salem, three women - Sarah Good, Sarah Osborn, and Tituba - were accused of witchcraft and sentenced to death. General George Armstrong Custer attacked the Sioux at Little Bighorn in 1876, (and we all know how that turned out!). In 1912 the "unsinkable" HMS Titanic struck an iceberg and well . . . sank (taking Jack's hopes of being "King of the World!" to the bottom of the ocean). And in 2012, Davy Jones, of the Monkees, took the "Last Train To Clarksville" after suffering a heart attack.

But, Leap years have also been quite lucky! In 1848, James M. Marshall discovered "there's gold in them thar hills," leading to the '49 California Gold Rush (and a namesake NFL team in 1948). The first African American to win an Oscar, Hattie McDaniel for "Gone with the Wind," did so in 1940, and Bill Keane had his nationwide debut with the comic, The Family Circus, in 1960. Baseball legend, Hank Aaron, signed a contract in 1972 making him the highest-paid player to date. And, in 1980, a scrappy

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Volunteer Opportunities	2
Insurance Updates	3
Zelle is here!	
Leap Day Happy Hour	4
Scenes from Holiday Breakfast	5
March Luncheon Invitation	6
Community Service Info	7
FCRSPA Scholarship and Legislative Updates	8
Membership News	9
Membership Applications	11

### "EACH ONE REACH ONE"

You know why you belong to MRSPA and FCRSPA. Talk to a retired friend and invite him or her to join us. You know why you are a member. Let your friend know, too! We have learned from new members that personal contact is the most effective approach to recruit new members.



2-29

© 2012 Bill Keane, Inc.  
 One The Family Circus Lane  
 www.familycircus.com

"This is allowed today! We're celebratin' leap year!"

team of underdog American hockey players beat the Russians in the “Miracle on Ice,” going on to win Olympic gold!

Folks born on a leap day are known as a “leaplings,” though it’s rare - about 1 in 1500 (less than 0.07%). And yet, Heidi Henriksen was born on February 29, 1960, her brother, Olav, followed suit in 1964, and in 1968 - you guessed it - Leif-Martin Henriksen made it a Norwegian trifecta! The Henriksens held the Guinness record for the most leaplings in a single family for the next 45 years! Then, on February 29, 2012, Jade Estes was born, joining her leaping brothers, Xavier ('04) and Remington ('08) at their Utah home and tying the Henriksen’s record. No word yet on whether the Esteses have plans to break the tie.

A typical year contains 525,600 minutes. A leap year . . . 527,040! Whether for good luck, or bad - or perhaps to break a record - how will you spend those bonus 1440 minutes? Why not take the ‘leap’ and spend some of that time with us at La Paz for a quadrennial Leap Day Happy Hour, Feb 29<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 7pm. Don’t miss it. This event won’t come around for another four years! **Happy Leap Year, Everyone!**

*Kenny G*

Many Thanks to *Ann Keyfauver* and *Mary Straits* for all their efforts in organizing and facilitating our wonderful holiday breakfast!

(And all our other wonderful meals throughout the year!)

**Thank You!**

## BLANKETS FOR COIPP

### Back at CTC

Hooray! We are getting together again to make no-sew blankets for the Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership. Thanks to the Tech Center we will be meeting on March 5 from 12:00-3:00 in the Spires Café. If you are able to join in the fun and catch up with old friends, all you will need to bring with you is a pair of sharp scissors. Please contact Sally Smith by February 28 so that we can be sure to have enough kits. Hope to see you soon.

[simplysally@comcast.net](mailto:simplysally@comcast.net) or 240- 626-8166



C.O.I.P.P.

Children Of Incarcerated Parents Partnership

## Looking for a Place to Volunteer your Time?

Family Partnership is looking for people to fill the following:

- \*Administration Assistant
- \*Adult Ed Instructional Assistant
- \*Child Development Assistant Drivers

For more information or to volunteer, contact:

Barb May, Director  
Family Partnership  
Frederick County Division of Family Services  
[bmay@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:bmay@frederickcountymd.gov)  
301-600-2774



## We’re still waiting for you to join our Board of Directors!

We do good work! We work together! We support each other! We’re still looking for a **president-elect** and help with our **nominating committee**. We need YOUR help to keep us strong!

Contact Kenny Garvey today to join our Board of Directors team at [mrgarvey@msn.com](mailto:mrgarvey@msn.com)

**We can’t wait for you to join our team!**



## Health/Insurance Information

Colette Baker, FCRSPA Insurance Chairperson

### CareFirst Blue Rewards

Blue Rewards offers you incentives for taking steps to get and stay healthy. Retirees and their spouses enrolled in the CareFirst medical plan can each earn up to \$100 for completing one, or all, of the following activities before **September 30, 2024**:



- Complete the RealAge assessment and consent to receive well-being emails – earn \$25.
- Join a specialized program that meets your health and well-being needs – earn \$25.
- Complete a health screening or a preventive exam – earn \$50!

Once you complete one or more of these activities, you will receive a CareFirst Blue Rewards Visa Debit Card in the mail. You can use the debit card toward annual deductibles or other out-of-pocket costs like co-pays or coinsurance related to eligible expenses under your CareFirst health plan. Make sure you always save your receipts as proof of your expenses. You have until December 31, 2024, to use your rewards.

To get started, go to [carefirst.com/wellbeing](https://carefirst.com/wellbeing) to log in or sign up for your account. Once logged in, select Rewards.

### CloseKnit – Virtual Care

Effective January 1, 2024, CareFirst members can now access telehealth needs through CloseKnit. Providers will use their professional judgement to determine if a telemedicine visit is appropriate or if an in-person visit is required. CloseKnit offers:

- 24/7/365 primary care anywhere in the U.S.
- Urgent care visits
- A Care Team who can answer benefits, billing, and health-related questions
- Counseling with licensed mental health therapists

To get started, go to [carefirst.com/wellbeing](https://carefirst.com/wellbeing) to log in or sign up for your account. Once logged in, select Register for CloseKnit today.

### Remembrance and Sunshine Committee

Please notify us if you know of any members who are ill, have passed away, or who have had an immediate family member pass away.

We will send thinking of you, get well, and sympathy cards.

Brenda Martz

[brmartz@comcast.net](mailto:brmartz@comcast.net)

301-662-951

Faye Buckingham

[Buck0107@comcast.net](mailto:Buck0107@comcast.net)



### Great News! Save some Postage!

#### Now Two Ways to Pay with a Charge Card!

There's some exciting news if you prefer paying with a charge card for luncheons or to make a contribution to one of our community service campaigns. You can now make a payment by going to Zelle and following the steps. (Zelle is connected to many banking institutions.) Send the money via Zelle to [samcdonald72@gmail.com](mailto:samcdonald72@gmail.com). Unlike Stripe, there is no additional fee when you use Zelle! We will still offer payment by Stripe, but the company charges a fee that will be passed onto any member who uses the service. (The process to use Stripe will remain the same. Click on the appropriate link found in the newsletter and follow the steps.) When you make a donation to any of our community service campaigns via Zelle, please send a follow up email to our treasurer, Shirley McDonald at [samcdonald72@gmail.com](mailto:samcdonald72@gmail.com) to let her know which project you are contributing to.





**51 South Market Street, Frederick**

**La Paz**

**SADIE HAWKIN'S DAY  
HAPPY HOUR**

**February 29 4:00 - 7:00**

**Upstairs with lots of room to mingle  
Elevator available**

**Special happy hour prices on drinks and appetizers**

**No cover and run your own tab**

**Go to their website [lapazmex.com](http://lapazmex.com) for a full menu**

**As a new FCRSPA/MRSPA member OR if you join MRSPA/  
FCRSPA during this event you will receive a free drink  
(Make sure to bring your checkbook)**

**JOIN IN THE LEAP YEAR FUN  
AND CHECK OUT THE BOATS ON THE CREEK**

**RSVP to Sally Smith by February 26**

**[simplysally@comcast.net](mailto:simplysally@comcast.net)**

**240-626-8166**







## SCENES FROM THE HOLIDAY BREAKFAST

*Photos courtesy of Liam Houeusle & Shawn Cottrell, CTC Students*



Holiday breakfast attendees were entertained by  
Homewood Madrigal Singers

Gail Slezak, Director

**BRING A FRIEND AND JOIN US AT THE MARCH FCRSPA LUNCHEON**

**Wednesday, March 13, 2024 (Snow Date March 15, 2024)**

**FREDERICK ELKS LODGE 684 289 Willowdale Drive, Frederick, MD 21702**

**Doors open at 11:00 with luncheon served at 11:30**



**DanDee Buffet Menu: Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Succotash, Corn Fritters, Cole Slaw, Rolls and Butter, Cottage Cheese, Apple Butter, Dessert, Iced Tea, Coffee and Soda**

**\$24.00 per person (includes tax and gratuity) Checks, Cash or Zelle**

**If using STRIPE to pay with a credit card, the additional fee charged to us will be passed onto the member.**

**Use the appropriate link below:**

**For 1 Person: <https://buy.stripe.com/4gw15g6fKa45gbm14l>**

**For 2 People: <https://buy.stripe.com/5kA01c0Vqccd2kwaEW>**

**For 3 People: <https://buy.stripe.com/9AQ6pA9rWccdf7i14n>**

**Please mail the bottom of this form and check to FCRSPA as soon as possible.**

**The deadline for reservations is March 4, 2024.**

**Mail check or cash only to Ann Keyfauver, 205 Linden Blvd., Middletown, MD 21769**

**Phone 301-371-5782**

**Name \_\_\_\_\_ Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_**

**Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_**

**Total number attending \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_**

**Have you become a new member in the past year? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_**

**Emeritus (90 or older) \_\_\_\_\_**

## Community Services FCRSPA Irene Bailey, Claudia Harrington, Charlie Perry, Chairpersons

Pictures from our December Holiday Breakfast  
Toys for Tots Campaign.

Our community service committee members,  
Claudia Harrington, Irene Bailey, Charlie Perry,  
Cpl Xavier Henson and the local firefighters who  
helped deliver our toys.



*Photos courtesy of  
Liam Houeusle &  
Shawn Cottrell,  
CTC Students*

At the December 7 Holiday Breakfast FCRSPA members gathered over 150 toys and \$360 in cash and checks for the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots campaign. Thanks to Cpl Xavier Henson for his attendance and assistance in displaying all the toys and thanks to all who contributed. The breakfast date coincidentally coincided with the county-wide toy collection managed by the Frederick County Fire Departments in cooperation with the Marines. Several first-responders rapidly packed and transported the toys to the warehouse staging area for distribution to needy families. Locally, the Marines have a goal of 15,000 toys, they serve about 2,500 children, they hope to give each child at least five gifts, and they do all this with only 13 staff members. It's a huge job every year.

Donated toiletries were taken directly to SHIP. The school supplies were added to those collected earlier in the fall and were donated to two schools.

The Community Services Committee continues to send our well-received "Hello" notes to Emeritus members (age 90+).

Traditionally, the March luncheon is dedicated to donations for scholarships. Feel free to bring any school supplies or toiletries you have accumulated as well to the Elks Club on March 13.





## FCRSPA Scholarship Program Update

### Nancy Gordon, FCRSPA Scholarship Chairperson



In 1998, the Frederick County Retired Teachers Association started a restricted endowment fund with the Community Foundation of Frederick County to award scholarships to deserving individuals who are pursuing a college degree in teacher education. “As retired educators, our organization knows first-hand the importance of adequately training students who will be educating our young people. It has been our long-time dream of establishing an endowed scholarship fund that will help support students with an interest who may not otherwise have the financial means to enter the teaching profession,” said Jack Tritt, president of the association. The scholarship committee made up of Jack Tritt, William O. Lee, Jr., Karl Manwiller, Edith L. Wars, Richard Petre, and Phyllis Smith held a campaign entitled: “\$25,000 or more, Y2K for sure!” raising enough money to push the fund over the \$25,000 goal allowing for the first scholarship to be made in 2000-01. The first scholarship was awarded to Amy Huffer Deavers, Middletown High School graduate and now a music teacher at Green Valley Elementary. (Amy brought her chorus to one of FCRSPA’s Luncheons at Morningside Inn to the delight of the attendees.)

Since 2025 will be the anniversary of the establishment of the FCRSPA Scholarship Fund, hopefully, current members will be encouraged to contribute as did the members in 1998 to help the fund grow so that more students can benefit. As a donor advised endowment fund, gifts to the fund will never be spent; interest from the annual investment return is used to provide scholarships. FCRSPA also benefits from the FCRSPA Richard and Pat Petre Scholarship Fund which also awards scholarships to Frederick County students.

In the past several years, association members have been encouraged to contribute to the fund in March as part of the Community Service Committee’s outreach. Contributions for this year can be sent to: Shirley McDonald, Treasurer, 3677 Ridge Road, Ijamsville, MD 21754. Checks should be made payable to Community Foundation of Frederick County, FCRSPA Scholarship Fund in the memo. Special plans for a 2025 focus will be shared with members with hopes of helping to increase the endowment fund measurably.

## Maryland Legislation Update

### Tom Slater, FCRSPA Legislative Chairperson

The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association’s Legislative Committee is looking out for your interests in Annapolis. I am the Frederick County Retired School Personnel Association’s representative on the MRSPA Legislative Committee and also serve as chair of the Legislative Committee. The first thing the committee does each year is review our legislative goals. Our goals this year include protecting defined benefit pensions, assuring adequate funding for local school systems, enhancing health care for all Marylanders including reducing the cost of prescription drugs, reducing crime and violence against seniors, enhancing public education and promoting lifelong learning for all students, reducing the rising cost of long-term care insurance, promoting access to computers and the internet including training to decrease the isolation of seniors, protecting the right of every citizen to vote, and protecting seniors and vulnerable adults from identify theft fraud, scams, and financial exploitation.



The Legislative Committee monitors bills introduced into the Maryland General Assembly and, during the legislative session, meets frequently to determine whether the Association should monitor, support, or oppose specific bills. Sometimes we write letters or testify in opposition or support of legislation and occasionally ask our members to contact their legislators in regard to a specific bill.

So far this year we have opposed bills that provide for the forfeiture of benefits to some members of the pension system, place undue restrictions on voting in Maryland, and provide support for non-public education. We also oppose legislative attempts to interfere in the state or local school system decisions in regard to curriculum.

We have supported this year increased tax credits for caregivers, improvements in the Prescription Drug Affordability Board, a study of long term care insurance, tax credits for seniors, the Federal Equal Rights Amendment, and Governor Moore’s proposed changes in the juvenile justice system.

We will keep you informed of additional legislation as it comes to our attention.



**HELLO**

As always, we appreciate your assistance in recruiting new members, sharing the names of those who have passed away, and informing us of contact information changes. **It is now more important than ever** since Board Docs will no longer be publishing names of retirees. We have processes in place with the assistance of HR, but it will take an even greater team effort to connect with retirees. **MRSPA continues to offer a \$10 gift card to ANY member who recruits a NEW member who signs up for DUES DEDUCTION as well as a \$10 dues savings for members who switch to DUES DEDUCTION.** See the end of the newsletter for forms.

Currently we have

**779 Unified Members plus 30 Local-Only Members for a total of 809 members**



Please add the following changes noted in **bold font** to your records (online or hard copy) as well as saving the New Member list so that you have an updated, accurate roster.

Sharon	Adams	<b>23440 Lindsay Dr Leonardtown, MD 20650</b>	<b>240-578-3894</b>	<b>sradams51@gmail.com</b>
Anne	Beck	PO Box 2144 Hagerstown, MD 21742	<b>240-816-7081</b>	beckpat123@gmail.com
Marsha	Cohen	<b>13828 Vadini St Unit A Venice, FL 34293</b>	<b>240-457-0818</b>	marshcoh@gmail.com
John	George	214 Rockwell Terr Frederick, MD 21701	301-698-5586	tsardos11@gmail.com
Peggy	Harrison	5609 Jefferson Blvd. Frederick, MD	240-490-7132	peggyjean39@comcast.net
John & Joann	Horine	2 Harp Pl Myersville, MD 21773	301-293-2794 301-730-1134	<b>John.horine1961@gmail.com</b>
Paul	Lambertson	<b>c/o Truby LaGarde 500 Pearson Circle, Apt 1016 Frederick MD 21702</b>	301-695-6056	
Christine	Pecor	<b>2022 Chamberlain Dr Frederick, MD 21702</b>	<b>301-694-5404 301-471-1793</b>	<b>bobandchrispecor@msn.com</b>
Kathleen	<b>Zannoni formerly Leatherman</b>	1338 Monocacy Crossing Pkwy Brunswick, MD 21716-9761	301-606-8140	kathzan4321@gmail.com

*In Memoriam*

<p><b>Gunda Christa Angelone</b> 2/27/1942 ~ 12/9/2024</p> <p><b>Shirley Lakel</b> 7/7/1927 ~ 12/20/2023</p>	<p><b>John Gladhill</b> 5/16/1946 ~ 1/4/2024</p>	<p><b>Rosemary Glenn</b> 6/3/1945 ~ 11/5/2023</p> <p><b>Gloria Thompson</b> ~ 1/19/23</p>
--	--	---



We were happy to welcome new members, Sue Ann Nogle, Harry Nogle, and Rosanne Fraley at the December Holiday Breakfast .

Our FB page provides up-to-date, FCRSPA-related news and reminders. If you are a FB member, you should be able to find our page by going to FaceBook, then Groups, then typing FCRSPA in the search bar. All requests will be vetted against our membership roster.

Currently we have **269** members who have joined our page.

*Please join us!*



## NEWS



For just two pennies a day, **MRSPA** will be increasing **State** membership dues by **\$5 per year** beginning with the **2024-2025** membership year, bringing your Unified (combined MRSPA/FCRSPA) membership cost to \$0.16 per day. **FCRSPA** dues remain the same.

Remember, **MRSPA** is dedicated solely to Maryland Education Retirees with a definite focus on your pension/retirement protection. Special discounts for travel, insurance, and various purchases are offered to members.

**FCRSPA** protects and enriches your retirement with

- ◆ A direct liaison to the **FCPS** Insurance Council.
- ◆ Opportunities to give back to the community.
- ◆ Events to re-connect with former co-workers.

### Switch and Save Invitation

**MRSPA** extends an invitation to cash members to switch to dues deduction for 2024-2025. Those who make the switch will be eligible for a one-time \$10 reduction in state dues. Members need to complete and return the Dues Deduction Authorization Form, available on the MRSPA website under **Switch and Save** (<https://www.mrspa.org/switch-and-save>).

### Gift Card Incentive

The \$10 Gift Card incentive continues!

Any member who recruits a **NEW** member via **DUES DEDUCTION** will receive a \$10 Walmart gift card. Please ensure that the name of the current member who recruited the new member is added to the new member application form before it is returned to the MRSPA Office. If you are in doubt regarding your “recruiter” add Debbie Thackston or Marsha Wise, membership chair persons and they will use the card as a door prize at one of our events.

**MRSPA Special Dues Reduction** from March 1 to May 31, 2024 – for **new retirees who join** and **former** members who rejoin for the last 4 months of the 2023-2024 membership year will pay **\$10** for the remainder of the 2023-2024 membership year. Anyone who signs up for dues deduction receives \$10 off; thus, paying no state dues through June 30. **FCRSPA** is also offering a \$10 discount for this period. With **Dues Deduction**, these new and returning members receive **FREE** membership through June 30. Billing for 2024-2025 will occur effective July 1.

The **Special Offer** form is published at the end of this newsletter. Please pass it on.



Member ID \_\_\_\_\_



# Maryland Retired School Personnel Association Membership Form

New  Reinstatement

**Special Rate: March 1 - May 31, 2024 Only**

## Personal Information

Name: First MI Last

Address (Street or PO Box)

Address

City, State, ZIP

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Email

Date of Birth

## Membership

- I am a MD public school system Retiree.
- I am an active, public school employee.  
Expected Month/Year of Retirement: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_
- I am the spouse of a MRSPA member.

## Retirement Information

Date of Retirement: \_\_\_\_\_

Retired from (school system/college/university): \_\_\_\_\_

Position at Retirement:

- Teacher/Other Certified  Administrator/Supervisor
- Non-Cert/Support Staff  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Additional Information

Mailing Preferences:

- Newsletter:  Email  US Mail
- Billing:  Email  US Mail
- Benefit Providers:  OK  Do Not Share

## Local Associations & Dues

MRSPA Annual State Dues: ~~\$45.00~~ **\$10**  
 IF you choose Due Deduction, you will receive a one time \$10 deduction in states dues (\$0 state dues)

- \$5.00** - Somerset
- \$8.00** - Caroline
- \$10.00** - Calvert, Carrol, Frederick, Garrett, Que, Worcester
- \$12.00** - Harford, Wash
- \$15.00** - Anne Arundel
- \$20.00** - Allegany, How



Selected Local: \_\_\_\_\_

Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_

*The MRSPA Membership year is July 1 - June 30  
 You will be billed in late June for your 2024-2025 membership dues. If paying via dues deduction, no bills are sent.*

## Payment Methods

**Retired School Personnel**  
 (3 payment options: deduction from MD pension, credit card or check)

**Automatic Deduction from MD Pension** (no check)

I hereby authorize the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System to deduct annual membership dues for the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) and my local retired school personnel association from **one** of my retirement checks each membership year. I will receive a one-time \$10 reduction in my state dues. This authorization will remain in effect until cancelled by written notice to MRSPA.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 SSN: (Dues Deduction requires your social security number)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to call 410-551-1517 to give my SSN over the phone AND will mail this form with my signature.

**Active Public School Employees or Spouses of MRSPA Members**  
 (2 payment options: credit card or check only)

**Check** - Make payable to MRSPA

\$10 State + \$\_\_\_\_ Local = \$\_\_\_\_ Total Dues

**Credit Card** - go to: <https://www.mrspa.org/>



FREDERICK COUNTY RETIRED  
SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION  
8101 Claiborne Ct.  
Frederick, MD 21702

# HOPE TO SEE YOU!

**Happy Hour at Laz Paz**

**February 29**

**Blanket Making at CTC**

**March 5**

**Luncheon at Frederick Elks Lodge 684**

**March 13**

**May Luncheon**

**Details will be forthcoming**

# DETAILS FOUND INSIDE!