

FREDERICK COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

President's Message by Kenny Garvey



As I compose this message, the local snowfall and daily temps have been defying the norms, and not in a good way! Daily highs are struggling to reach 20°F and nightly lows dip to the low single digits. Brrr! The snow that accumulated with the recent storms has found its happy place on the grassy expanses, along the curbs, and piled in parking lots, sunning itself with little concern for its nemesis. What little melt the

daytime sun can manage, the nighttime breezes use to turn sidewalks into skating rinks and to harden the dirty snowbanks left by the plows and weary homeowners, each trying to impose their own will. Parking spots are hard to come by. The trickles of water from melting porch roofs, gutters and eaves form icicles that hang like swords of Damocles. And mittens and scarves do little to stem the cold that "stings the nose and bites the toes." Man, this winter is making my thrice daily walks around Frederick with Barnaby more adventurous than ever.

But, the dark and chilly days of winter are nearly gone. Soon enough, the first few blades of green will begin perforating the harsh winter barrier formed by the constant thaw and freeze battles of the last few months. Early spring bloomers will begin to awaken from their sleep, stretching their stems and leaves, breaking through the mulch and dead leaves and cracking the snow cap to reach for the sun. The drab whites and grays of this dreary season will gradually be replaced by the warmth of the yellows of primrose and daffodils and the oranges of jonquils and verbena; the beauty of which will be highlighted by the theatrical purples of croci and bluebells and the striking hues of sturdy tulips popping up in gardens throughout the county. In a few weeks, Spring will be here! And, the only white I hope to see then will be on the flowers of the snowdrops and the petals of the occasional Shasta daisy.

As winter subsides, FCRSPA has events to get you out of the house. On February 7th, members can meet at the CTC Clustered Spires Cafe, 12 noon, to catch-up with one another and to create No-Sew Blankets for Children of Incarcerated Parents. February 26th is our next Happy Hour, 4 -7pm, at Brewer's Alley in downtown Frederick. The weather will have warmed a bit and the boats will still be on the creek so, come out and enjoy an easy time with friends. Speaking of weather, our featured speaker for the March luncheon (Monday, Mar. 17th - St. Patrick's Day) will be NBC4 Washington meteorologist and Middletown High graduate, Ms. Amelia Draper. Doors of the Frederick Elks Lodge will open at 11:30am. We have also invited a few local teachers, to whom the association has awarded funds, to join us and to speak briefly about the projects those funds will support. Details on these events and more await you inside this issue.

February 2025

VOLUME 16 NO. 1 Editor: Jenny Powell E-mail: myfcrspa@gmail.com

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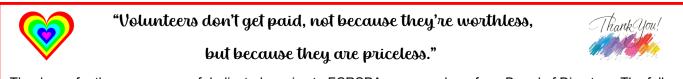


Continued on page 2

President's Message continued

Finally, I must ask for your help. For the first time in memory, we have lost more members than we have gained over the past year. With changes to how FCPS reports retirements, we are finding it difficult to gather information on potential new members. Please consider using your network of friends and contacts in and around FCPS to learn of anyone who has recently retired, is thinking of retiring or who retired "long ago" but never joined. Bring friends to our events. Talk up the good works we do! We must get the word out that we exist for the benefit of all FCPS retirees. We are doing our part; creating a vertical banner for display at events, placing posters in all FCPS schools and offices, and submitting photos and articles on recent events to the local paper. So, if you know of someone, or even think you know of someone, retired or ready to retire, please reach out to membership chairs Marsha Wise and Debbie Thackston. BTW - We are still in need of members, like yourself, who would be willing to fill roles on the Board of Directors. Open positions include: President-elect, Nominating Chair, AARP Liaison, Archives, and Email.

Kenny G



Thank you for the many years of dedicated service to FCRSPA as a member of our Board of Directors. The following members have decided to step down from their duties:

- * Judy Brandenburg for her diligent work to find volunteers to fill any Board of Director vacancy.
- * **Faye Buckingham** for her caring work in remembering members when they experienced a life-changing event.
- * Ann Keyfauver and Mary Straits for their many delicious, well-organized luncheons.
- * Cindy Stull for her careful attention in maintaining our archives.
- * Sandy Zimmerman for her timely dissemination of our email communications.

Health/Insurance

Colette Baker

Medicare Changes for 2025

The standard monthly premium for Medicare Part B enrollees is \$185.00 for 2025. Medicare premiums are income-based.



The Medicare annual deductible for 2025 is now \$257, and this deductible reset on January 1, 2025. The medical deductible must be paid before medical claims are paid by CareFirst. The Delta Dental deductible also reset on January 1, 2025.

Medical Plan Update

FCPS conducted a Request for Proposal (RFP) process this fall for providing medical and vision benefits for active and retired employees. The Insurance Council and staff recommended the contract be awarded to CareFirst Blue Cross Blue Shield effective July 1, 2025. The Board of Education approved this contract at their January 22, 2025, meeting. Retirees who have medical/vision benefits with FCPS can plan to continue receiving these benefits through CareFirst Blue Cross Blue Shield.

CareFirst BurnAlong® Program

This complimentary program for FCPS medical plan participants features 1,000's of online classes for all ages, interests and levels to help achieve your health and wellness goals. There are 70+ wellness categories spanning physical, mental and financial wellness. If you don't have an account, visit <u>https://join.burnalong.com/fcps</u> to activate an account.



FCRSPA Scholarship Program Update

Nancy Gordon, FCRSPA Scholarship Chair

(from the January 2024 FCRSPA Newsletter):



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.)

As we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the FCRSPA Scholarship awards, please consider making a contribution that will significantly add to the endowment fund so that the amount able to be distributed can continue to grow and the number of scholarships awarded each year can increase. 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. However, feel free to donate at any time throughout the year. Contributions for this year can be sent to: Shirley McDonald, Treasurer, 3677 Ridge Road, Ijams-ville, MD 21754. Checks should be made payable to Community Foundation of Frederick County, FCRSPA Scholarship Fund in the memo. The FCRSPA Scholarship program will be highlighted at a future association event.

Community Services

Irene Bailey, Claudia Harrington, Charlie Perry

At the December 3 Holiday Breakfast FCRSPA members gathered 136 toys and \$65 in cash and checks for the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots campaign. Thanks to Sgt Ryan Campbell for his attendance and assistance in displaying and transporting all the toys, and thanks to all who contributed. 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.

Two large totes of donated toiletries were taken directly to SHIP (Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership). One bag of school supplies and \$5 in cash earmarked for school supplies were also donated.

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, but feel free to bring any school supplies or toiletries you have accumulated as well to the Elks Club on Monday, March 17.



Pictured above are members of our Community Service committee (L to R) Irene Bailey, Sgt. Ryan Campbell (from Toys for Tots) and Claudia Harrington.



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. Please send the information to Brenda Martz at <u>brmartz@comcast.net</u> or call her at 301-662-9519.

Maryland State Legislature Update

Tom Slater



The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association's Legislative Committee, composed of members from throughout the state, is looking out for your interests in Annapolis and is your advocate. The first thing the committee does each year is review our legislative goals. Our goals this year include protecting well-earned pensions, enhancing health care, ensuring safety for seniors, supporting public education, promoting technological access for seniors, defending the right to vote, safeguarding consumer rights, helping seniors age in place, and addressing the rising cost of long-term care.

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. We will keep you informed. Please contact us if you have any questions.

So far in 2025, the committee has repeated our opposition to bills that seek to restrict access to the right to vote and our support for tax credits for those that provide home care for the disabled. We will continue to have committee meetings to monitor legislative proposals.

Tom Slater, Legislative Committee Chair. Contact me at <u>tgslawslate@comcast.net</u> if you have any questions.

TANK

Another wonderful time was had by all who attended our Holiday Breakfast at

The Vistas at the Richland Golf Club on December 3, 2024





FIRST FCRSPA HAPPY HOUR OF THE NEW YEAR



FEBRUARY 26, 2025 4:00-7:00PM

COME JOIN THE FUN! ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS WELCOME.

\$2 OFF HOUSE YEAR-ROUND DRAFTS, WINE BY THE GLASS, RAIL COCKTAILS

\$4 OFF SELECT STARTERS



PARKING ON THE STREET AND IN THE DECK

FREE DRINK FOR NEW MEMBERS AND THOSE WHO JOIN DUES PAYMENT BY PAYROLL DEDUCTION

PLEASE RSVP TO SALLY SMITH: SIMPLYSALLY1947@GMAIL.COM BY FEBRUARY 21, 2025

(NOTE SALLY'S EMAIL IS NEW!)

FCRSPA Awards Grants to Three FCPS Teachers

Three FCPS teachers were awarded \$500 grants by the FCRSPA Board of Directors for projects designed by them to benefit students at their schools. Grants were awarded to:



Kate Ehrlich - Oakdale High: Black History Project - Cambridge

Ms. Ehrlich's project will focus on the Black history of Cambridge, Maryland. Students and staff will visit the area, and students will research key people and places. Using primary and secondary sources, students will become experts on one or more locations before the visit to the city and will present their findings to staff and other students. This project meets important learning goals in multiple social studies curricula, including AP US History, African American Studies, and American Studies II.

Ryan Kint - Walkersville High: Enhancing Engineering and Wood Design with Laser Engraving and Cutting.

Mr. Kint will use the funds towards the purchase of a laser engraving/cutting tool for use by his Project Lead The Way (PTLW) classes. PLTW is a STEM initiative class offered at most high schools. This project will serve around 150-200 students annually, supporting their design and engineering projects. Many of these students would not have access to such technology outside of the school environment, making this an essential component of their educational experience.





Christina Hurley - Frederick Classical Charter: Science Olympiad

Ms. Hurley's project will allow her students to compete in 23 science-based events through the Science Olympiad. These elementary students will study topics including, the anatomy of the skin, muscular and skeletal systems, earth and space science topics, amongst others. They will be required to build a Rube Goldberg machine, a tower and a helicopter. Students will also practice breaking cryptological codes. Each event requires partner teams to research the topic, learn the important material, to design models to complete tasks and to complete trial runs with their build, making changes and adaptations along the way.



IT'S YOUR LUCKY DAY!!

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

WHEN? <u>MONDAY</u>, March 17, 2025 (Snow Date March 19, 2025)

WHERE? FREDERICK ELKS LODGE 684 289 Willowdale Drive, Frederick, MD 21702

TIME?? Doors open at 11:30 with lunch served at 12:00 NOON



Buffet menu (prepared by Leprechauns): Baked Chicken, Potatoes with Butter and Parsley, Cabbage and Carrots, Baked Apples, Rolls/Irish Bread, Assorted Desserts, Beverages: Iced tea, Lemonade, Coffee, Water

Ms. Amelia Draper, NBC4 Washington meteorologist and Middletown High graduate, will be our guest speaker.



\$20 Per person (includes tax and gratuity) Check, Cash, Zelle



If using Zelle, send the electronic payment to <u>samcdonald72@gmail.com</u>. (No additional processing fee.) If using STRIPE to pay with a credit card, the additional fee charged to us will be passed onto the member.

For 1 member, \$22:https://buy.stripe.com/8wMeW61Zu2BD3oA3cEFor 2 members, \$44:https://buy.stripe.com/3cs29k0Vq6RTe3e4gHFor 3 members, \$66:https://buy.stripe.com/cN2cNY5bGa45e3e4gG

***If You Are Paying By Cash/Check

Please fill out and mail the bottom of this form with your check to FCRSPA as soon as possible.

Mail to Deb Buckman, 12640 Jesse Smith Rd, Mount Airy, MD 21771 Phone 301-676-0475

The Deadline for Reservations is March 7, 2025.

Name		Guest(s)	
Phone		Email	
	Total number attendin	g	
	Amount enclosed \$		
Have you become a new member in the past year? YES NO			
Are you Emeritus (90 or older)?			

THE GREAT FREDERICK FAIR ~ VOLUNTEERS 2024



Sixty-four volunteers of the 86 total volunteers, filled from the ranks of retired educators, served as "Ag Hosts" in the eleven agricultural themed learning centers for the 4,500 elementary-aged students and their chaperones at the Great Frederick Fair in September, some serving with friends/spouses for several days. The Frederick County Board of Education, which sanctioned Fair field trips, had reduced the number of visitation days from 4 to 3, which ran during September 16, 17, and 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Midway was closed during those mornings. Volunteers were granted free

parking and admission, as well as cold water and free ice cream for those days on which they served. There was mostly "fair weather" on those memorable days. Volunteers attended a brief in-service of duties and received their parking, admission, ice cream tickets, and day-glow vests on the Fair grounds in the City Streets and Country Roads pavilion next to Machinery Row, just off of Highland Street on the Wednesday evening before the opening of the Fair. Another retired educator, Jim Ferrant, not counted among the above 64, helped unload and reload the school children from their yellow buses. I personally thank those many, selfless volunteers.

Many thanks to Dr. John George for organizing the volunteers, their photos and article.





Debbie Mills Sally Smith







Peggy & Terre Rhoderick Ann Keyfauver Linda Geiser Julie Vogl









Cindy & Barry Diamondstone Wendy Campbell Ann Reever Vicki Hill



It's MRSPA Foundation Raffle Time!

The MRSPA Community Service and Scholarship Committees provide tremendous support to students and staff in our schools across Maryland. Therefore, we are seeking *donations* to the *MRSPA Foundation* so that we can continue our work. Again, this year, raffle tickets will be purchased solely through the MRSPA newsletter and through local association newsletters using the form below. All donations are tax deductible and come with our thanks and appreciation!

Your name will be entered into a drawing upon receipt of your donation based on this criterion: Donations of \$10 will earn 1 raffle ticket while donations of \$25 will earn 3 raffle tickets incrementally. MRSPA staff will write your name on the correct number of tickets and send your tickets stubs to you in the US Mail when we receive your check. The drawing will take place at the May 2025 Annual Business Meeting whether held in person or virtually. You can win the \$300 cash first prize, a Maryland themed basket valued at \$175 second prize, or one of 5 third place themed baskets valued at \$125: Cooking, Game Night, Wine Lover, Book Worm, and Sports Lover. Out- of-state winners will receive gift cards in lieu of basket contents.



Entering the drawing is fun and easy!

- 1. Make your **check payable** to **MRSPA Foundation.**
- 2. Write *MRSPA Foundation* Raffle on the FOR line.
- 3. Date and **sign** your check.
- 4. **Mail** check and completed form to MRSPA at 8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A, Odenton, MD 21113 **before March 21, 2025.**

Will you send a donation today? Receipts and ticket stubs will be sent via US Mail.

MRSPA Foundation		
Your Name:		
	Cell Phone:	
Lindii Addie33.		

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. This team work is more important than ever! More than 30 members did not renew for this year. Along with 10 deaths and 14 new members, we slipped backward, rather than increasing our membership. MRSPA is again offering the gift card incentive as well as the Switch & Save incentive. Information is on the next page, with forms at the end of the newsletter. To be eligible to take advantage of one of these incentives provides a \$20 bonus.

Please send names of any upcoming FCPS retirees to **Debbie Thackston at Deborah.thackston@gmail.com** as well as encourage that person to join.



Dana	Covey	1550 Paten Drive Gainesville, GA 30501	301-674-4439	idcovey@gmail.com
Jerry	Donald	6827 Vale Summitt Lane Middletown, MD 21769	301-371-7501	jbbmdonald@aol.com
Dawn	Getzandanner	1008 Valley Rd Knoxville, MD 21758	301-514-0064	dgetzandanner@gmail.com
Judith	Hardister	703 Poplar Grove Dr Mount Airy, MD 21771	240-578-2938	HardisterJudith@gmail.com
Pamela	Kerr	4230 Spring View Ct Jefferson, MD 21755	301-834-7997 240-367-2101	kerr.pamela@gmail.com
Debra	Rippeon	13731 Hillside Ave Thurmont, MD 21788	301-662-0545	debrarippeon@comcast.net
Elizabeth	Root	7004 Montgomery Rd. Lake Wylie, SC 29710	980-250-2225	liz@dasroot.com
David	Schwab	13309 Pulver Place Darnestown, MD 20878	301-514-6482	davidschwab1@comcast.net
Kim	Smith-Edwards	23310 Shiloh Church Rd Boyds, MD 20841	301-540-3435 240-447-2850	smiedwards@aol.com
Rachel	Whitaker	1828 Lawnview Drive Frederick, MD 21702	301-694-8216 240-409-8383	rlw309@hotmail.com

	Ruth Ann Engel 12/1/1939 ~ 12/18/2024	In Memoriam	Sally Grove 12/20/1955 ~ 11/9/2024	
	Beverly Phillips 1/12/1950 ~ 8/29/2024	Frieda Stroup 2/22/1952 ~ 11/7/2024	Evelyn Zimmerman 10/18/1944 ~ 12/12/2024	



Member Changes



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

Joy	Campbell	2471 Merchant Street, Apt. 308 Frederick, MD 21701	240-651- 3525	dcamp3@comcast.net
Wendy	Campbell	857 Oregon Trail Harpers Ferry, WV 25425	240-409-0021	wc1158@comcast.net
Patricia	Custer	c/o Tim Custer 1002 Challenger Blf Mesquite, NV 89034	301-668-9247	
Jeri	Holmes	511 East Main Street Middletown, MD 21769	240-285-2660 240-285-2660	saganook@aol.com
Norma	Kelsey	3114 Gracefield Road, Apt. 205 Silver Spring, MD 20904	301-874-2187	norma.w.kelsey@gmail.com
Mary	LaTona	820 Motter Ave Apt 325 Frederick MD 21701	240-357-5986	
Kathleen	Leber	822 Rocky Fountain Dr. Myersville , MD 21773	301-401-0044	Kathleenleber0@gmail.com
Dian	Nelson	25258 Conrad Ct Damascus, MD 20872	240-994-8435	spirelit4@gmail.com
Jackie	Peyton	PO Box 249 Middletown, MD 21769	301-293-3657 240-698-1753	jpeyton15@outlook.com
Josephine	Remsberg	Orchard Terrace @ Edenton 5905 Edenton Ct., Unit 712 Frederick, MD 21703	240-772-7645	
Tom	Slater	2229 Lamppost Ln Frederick, MD 21701	240-409-1497	tgslawslate@comcast.net



The \$10 Gift Card incentive continues! Any member who recruits

a **NEW** member via **DUES DEDUC-TION** will receive a \$10 Walmart gift card. Please ensure that the member The **MRSPA** membership special will run from March 1 through May 31, 2025. New and reinstating members can become members of MRSPA for the 2024-2025 membership year for just \$10 state dues. If the new or reinstated members signs up for dues deduction, they will pay \$0 state dues for their 2025 membership. Members joining during the special promotion period will be billed in June 2025 for the 2026 membership year which begins on July 1, 2025.

FCRSPA will waive local dues for 2025-2026 for current cashpaying members who choose to convert to Switch & Save.



Our FB page provides up-to-date, FCRSPA-related news and reminders as soon as we have information. There is no waiting for the next newsletter. 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.

Please join us!

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	Member ID
Maryland MRSPA NEW MEMBERS ONL	d Retired School Personnel Association Membership Form-Special New Reinstate Special State Dues Rate: March 1 - May 31, 2025
MARYLAND RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION	MRSPA Annual State Dues: \$50,00 \$10
Personal Information	Local Associations & Dues
Name-(First MI Last):	\$5.00 - Somerset FREE \$8.00 - Caroline FREE \$10.00 - Calvert, Carr 2025-2026
Address (Street or PO Box):	Frederick, Garrett, Q FCRSPA Wicomico, Worcester Membership With Dues Deduction
Address 2:	\$12.00 - Harford, Wa \$15.00 - Anne Arund Montgomery, Talbot
City, State, ZIP:	\$20.00 - Allegany, Howard, Prince George's
	Select Local:Frederick
Home Phone/landline:	Referred By:
Cell Phone:	
Email:	The MRSPA Membership year is July 1 - June 30 You will be billed in late June for your 2025-2026 membership dues. If paying via dues deduction, no bills are sent.
Date of Birth:	
Membership	Payment Methods
\Box I am a MD public school system Retiree.	Retired Public School Personnel —- Choose 1 (one) method (3 payment options: deduction from MD pension, credit card or check)
I am an active, public school employee.	Automatic Deduction from MD Pension
Expected Month/Year of Retirement://	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
Retirement Information	-time \$10 reduction in my state dues. This authorization will remain in effect until cancelled by written notice to MRSPA. Do NOT send check or use credit card with this payment
Date of Retirement:	method.
Retired from (school system/college/university):	s
Position at Retirement:	Signature (required) Date
Teacher/Other Certified Administrator/Supervisor Non-Cert/Support Staff Other:	Signature (required) Date Da
Additional Information	
Mailing Preferences:	Active Public School Employees, Spouses of MRSPA members, Others Choose 1 method. (2 payment options:—- credit card or check)
Newsletter: 🛛 🗖 Email 🗖 US Mail	□ Check - Make payable to "MRSPA"
Benefit Providers: OK Do Not Share	\$10 State + \$10 Local = \$20 Total Dues
Bill Notice (If pay by Check or Credit Card only): Email 🛛 US Mail	Credit Card - go to: <u>https://www.mrspa.org/</u>
Please complete form and mail to: MRSPA; 8379 Piney Orchard F	Pkwy, Ste A; Odenton, MD 21113. Or, email to: <u>mrspa@mrspa.org</u>



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



Happy Hour at Brewers' Alley Winter Luncheon MRSPA Raffle Tickets Due Happy Hour at the Anchor Bar February 26 March 17 March 21 April 14

DETAILS ARE FOUND INSIDE.