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President's Message *by Tom Slater*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Coping during a pandemic is not easy for anyone. Your Board of Directors has had to make some tough decisions, all made with the safety of our members paramount. We cancelled the May luncheon due to Governor Hogan's stay at home orders. We have also decided to cancel the scheduled July picnic out of an abundance of caution. Hopefully, we will be able to resume normal activities in the Fall with the luncheon scheduled for Tuesday, October 13. Our speaker will be Dr. Anna Johnson-Winegar, a Frederick High graduate, who became a scientist and eventually the United States Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Chemical and Biological Programs. She and her husband, Lucien, live at Homewood. I am sure that she will have some insight into the current situation with the coronavirus, and she will tell us how her high school teacher inspired her to become a renowned microbiologist. If our October meeting is cancelled due to the coronavirus, we will schedule Dr. Johnson-Winegar for the next luncheon that we are able to hold.

For those of you who could make it to our last luncheon, we were delighted to hear from Linda Singh, a product of the Frederick County Public School system, who recently retired as a major general of the Maryland National Guard, as well as the first female and first African-American Adjutant General for Maryland from 2015 to 2019. She was very complimentary of the educators in Frederick County who motivated her to become a very successful military officer and entrepreneur, especially her basketball coach, Bob Dawson. She also announced at our luncheon that Governor Hogan had just appointed her to serve on the task force he created to advise him on how the government should respond to this pandemic.

Hopefully we will see you all at our October luncheon. Most of all, stay healthy!

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Health/Insurance Update

Submitted by Joe Polce

Medical Copay Update from Care First

In an effort to assist members' access medical care for COVID-19 and all medical concerns, FCPS is partnering with Care First to offer enhanced benefits. Please take advantage of these online and telephone options.

CareFirst Video Visits: No copays will be charged for any Care First Video Visit. This includes all categories of visits available on the site (behavioral health, lactation support, nutrition counseling and urgent care services) Access the Care First visit site at <https://www.carefirstvideovisit.com/landing.htm>.

Telephone Consultations: No copays will be billed for telephone consultations with **in-network Care First** primary care physicians, OB/GYN physicians, nurse practitioners. Out-of- Network providers will be paid at a 100% of the in-network allowable rate, but members may be balanced-billed by these providers.

If you are searching for an in-network provider call 1-866-386-2043 or visit www.carefirst.com/frederick. Not sure what care you need? Call the Care First free 24-hour nurse advice line: 1-800-535-9700.

COVID-19 Treatment: All copays and deductibles will be waived for care and testing related to COVID-19 for in-network Care First providers; out-of-network providers will be paid at 100% of the in-network allowable rate, but members may be balanced-billed by these providers.

Clarification:

As all Medicare-eligible members do not pay co-pays, this information would benefit the non- Medicare members. The Medicare members do have access to the telephone consultations which is a new benefit that I took advantage of. I also signed up for the video visit by going to the web site mentioned above but have not used the benefit. Medicare members have not been eligible in the past due to the required co-pays.

I urge all members to take advantage of the updates. Please follow all the guidelines for staying safe and most of all protect yourself.



Even at our July picnic last year, John George was preparing for COVID 19!

Community Service submitted by Irene Bailey & Claudia Harrington

With our meetings and luncheons cancelled for the time being the Community Services Committee has become aware of a way FCRSPA members can still donate and assist FCPS students during this "stay at home, stay healthy" time.

City Youth Matrix (founded by an FCPS teacher) and partnered with FCPS and other community groups is requesting donations for School Activity Buckets. (There was a photo in the Frederick News Post on Wednesday, May 13.) The program distributes activity buckets to children of lower income families and/or those who may be in an especially vulnerable state as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The buckets include musical, art, athletic, family engagement, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) components.

Monetary contributions will be accepted two ways. Please go to www.cityyouthmatrix.com and click on DONATE NOW for credit card and PayPal convenience. Or, send a check payable to City Youth Matrix to 5710 Kent Drive, New Market, MD 21774.

Scholarships Submitted by Nancy Gordon, Scholarship Chair

The FCRSPA Board of Directors designated March as the time members are encouraged to contribute to the Scholarship Fund. Those attending both the March luncheon at the Elk's Lodge and mailing contributions added \$910 to the fund. Contributions can continue to be made by sending donations to FCRSPA Treasurer, Shirley McDonald. Checks should be made payable to Community Foundation of Frederick County, FCRSPA Scholarship Fund in the memo. The Board of Directors appreciates the continued support of association members through their contribution



No-Sew Blanket Making



Thank you to the volunteers who completed ten no sew blankets for Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership. Pictured above: Lori Seaton, Sylvia Cooper, Deb Carroll, Janis Dagger, Sally Smith, Pattie Komons, Linda Sanders, Rise' Lanier, Marsha Smith.

We will gather when it is safe to make more blankets.

thank you!

Special Thanks

to

Jenny Powell for coordinating press releases to *The Frederick News Post*, *Herald-Mail*, *Middletown* and *Brunswick Citizen*, and *The Catoclin Banner*

Sally Smith for arranging our Happy Hours

Luis Rodriguez, CTC Student, for serving as the March Luncheon photographs.

March Luncheon



We launched the 2020 speaker series of *Former FCPS Students* at our March luncheon held at the Frederick Elk Lodge 684. Our first speaker of our series was Linda Singh, a retired major general of the Maryland Army National Guard, former senior advisor to the Governor of Maryland, as well as the first female and first African-American Adjutant general from 2015-2019. She served more than 30 years in both the enlisted and officer ranks with deployment to Kosovo and a combat tour in Afghanistan. General Singh spoke about the lasting positive impact FCPS teachers and support staff had on helping her to become who she is today.



Ann Marie Downey, Maryland Retired School Personnel Association President (L) and Wanda Ruffo Twigg, MRSPA Executive Director (R) updated us on what is happening at the state level. Ms. Downey will be stepping down as President because her term is ending.





Debbie Thackston provided the centerpieces for the March Luncheon. Those who won them as door prizes were Karen Byrnes, Deborah Carter, Silvia Cooper, Doretta Dorsch, Alyce Luck, Jane Mackley, Judy Main, Shirley McDonald, Carolyn Pleasant, Jenny Powell, Theresa Ringer, Tom Slater, Mary Smith, and Barbara Summers.

Teresa Meem won a special door prizes provided by MRSPA.

Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties, we do not have a picture of the winners, but hope you enjoy the photo of one of lovely centerpieces.

President-Elect

Kathy Campagnoli was officially nominated to become our next President-Elect. She will be installed at our next general meeting.



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

Faye Buckingham
buck0107@comcast.net



Membership Musings

~ Debbie Thackston & Marsha Wise

The membership committee has been busy updating incomplete member records. We appreciate those who have responded and look forward to responses from all our inquiries. We also continue to contact those who have recently retired or are planning to retire in the near future. Please, if you know a newly retired FCPS employ- ee, invite them to join us. **Membership** and **Switch & Save** applications are included at the end of this newsletter.

Renewal and new membership information can also be found at <https://www.mrspa.org/why-join-mrspa>

As of **May 1, 2020**, we had **748 Unified members** PLUS **36 Local Only** members for a **Grand Total of 784** members.
Since our last newsletter, we gained 4 new members and lost 9 to our memorial roster.



New member
Marsha Cohen joined us
for the March Luncheon!

At our March Luncheon, we honored Doris Toms as a new member, pre- senting her with a complimentary first year membership and one of Debbie Thackston’s beautiful flower arrangements. Doris worked in Human Re- sources for 16 years. Recently she has been the contact for retiree bene- fits. Anyone who has had the need to contact HR with a retirement question knows that Doris took customer service to an outstanding level.
We will miss her in that role but welcome her to FCRSPA.



New Members

- Gayle Brown
- Lee Jeffrey
- Doris Toms
- Dianne Tracey



In Memoriam



Avadna Coghill
11/30/1929 ~ 3/30/2020

Lewis Corl
12/7/1933 ~ 4/17/2020

Dotty Ewing
1/21/1931 ~ 3/27/2020

Doris Felton
2/5/1931 ~ 4/11/2020

Lyla Franklin
1/26/1934 ~ 3/21/2020

Paul Hargett
10/11/1954 ~ 3/24/2020

Doreen Neff
4/25/1943 ~ 1/15/2020

Pamela Shaw
7/16/1952 ~ 4/30/2020

Erminie R. Wars
11/17/1950 ~ 1/26/2020

Membership Changes



**Members enjoy the February 11, 2020 *I Love My Retirement* Happy Hour
at BJ's Restaurant Brewhouse.**

New Emeritus Member Recognition

With the cancellation of our May 2020 meeting, we will reschedule our recognition of all new Emeritus members to a later date. Members who are new to this group of 90+ year-olds will be notified in writing prior to the recognition. Any questions, contact Debbie Thackston.



IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS

MARCH 1, 2019 ~ FEBRUARY 29, 2020

THEY MADE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

A Better Place

By

Faith Elizabeth Brigham

my heart is strongly set
to do what good i can do
and when i leave this world
i hope to have made a difference
to have made the world
a better place in my own way
even if it is in a small way
by having tried to be kind

to all whose path has crossed mine
by treating others with respect
helping those in need of encouragement
to reach their goals
or perhaps by writing something
that helps someone in some fashion
if i have accomplished this
then i have completed my soul's work

Clotene H. Barrett
4/6/1934 ~ 4/23/2019

Robert Malcolm Byers
4/3/1929 ~ 11/1/2019

Virginia Naomi Carroll
7/28/1944 ~ 9/25/2019

Peggy Carter
1/19/2029 ~ 4/12/2019

Dorothy J. Cressler
1/28/1921 ~ 8/15/2019

Carolyn B. Dorsey
5/7/1922 ~ 4/28/2019

Meade Felton
5/6/1927 ~ 11/22/2019

Josephine C. Gilbert
1/19/1929 ~ 1/4/2020

Helen J. N. Kerns
2/26/1935 ~ 11/4/2019

Sandra Koontz
7/15/1940 ~ 5/14/2018

Barbara McCutcheon Martin
8/4/1926 ~ 1/26/2019

Doreen Neff
4/25/1943 ~ 1/15/2020

Kenyon R. Parker Sr.
3/8/1925 ~ 12/17/2019

Jean Smith
10/8/1940 ~ 4/18/2019

Theresa E. Vance
10/9/1936 ~ 11/24/2019

Erminie R. Wars
11/17/1950 ~ 1/26/2020





**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

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MARYLAND RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION
 8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A
 Odenton, MD 21113-1508

SWITCH AND SAVE!
AUTHORIZATION FOR ANNUAL DUES DEDUCTION

I hereby authorize the Maryland State Retirement Agency to deduct state and local annual membership dues for the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association from one of my retirement checks each membership year. This authorization will remain in effect until cancelled by written notice by me. I understand that my full social security number is required, if I wish to become a dues deduction member.

Print Name _____ SSN: _____
 Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please mail this form to the Odenton, MD address above

Local Association Dues 2019-2020

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------|-------------------------------|------|----------------------------|------|
| Allegany County | \$20 | Anne Arundel County | \$15 | Baltimore City | \$15 |
| Baltimore County | \$15 | Calvert County | \$10 | Caroline County | \$8 |
| Carroll County | \$10 | Cecil County | \$10 | Charles County | \$10 |
| Dorchester County | \$10 | Frederick County | \$10 | Garrett County | \$10 |
| Harford County | \$12 | Howard County | \$10 | Kent County | \$15 |
| Montgomery County | \$10 | Prince George's County | \$15 | Queen Anne's County | \$10 |
| St. Mary's County | \$10 | Somerset County | \$5 | Talbot County | \$15 |
| Washington County | \$10 | Wicomico County | \$10 | Worcester County | \$10 |

MRSPA dues (\$35)* + Local Association dues \$_____ = Total Membership Dues _____

*Switch and Save dues deduction members will receive a one-time \$10 reduction in state dues.
 MRSPA dues is \$35 the first year and \$45 per year thereafter.

(Recurring Dues deduction is made once/year from the July 31 pension check.)



FREDERICK COUNTY RETIRED
SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

ALERT!

First billing notices will be sent in June. Payments should be returned to the MRSPA Office. There will be only **two** billing notices sent this year. The second and **FINAL** billing notice will be sent later in the year.

??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.