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President's Message by Kenny Garvey

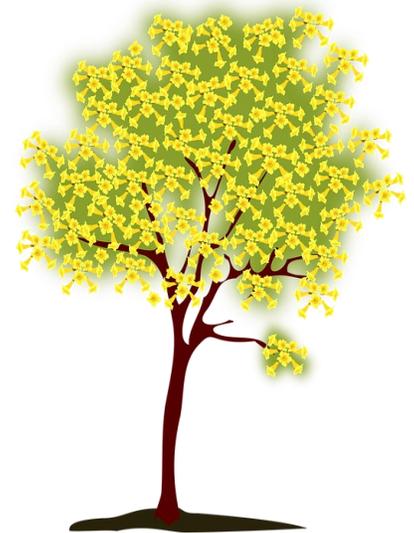
INSIDE THIS ISSUE



"Spring is sprung, the grass is green. A purtier thang, I ain't never seen." Why do I recall this little poem that I learned decades ago for a play I did in junior high? I don't recall the name of the play. Nor do I recall any of my other lines. But this... this sticks in my brain. Memory is a tricky thing. For me, the sights, sounds and fragrances of spring seem to trigger in me random thoughts and memories.

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Recently, while walking downtown, I saw a sign outside of a store that read: "Aah, Spring. What will your weather be today? Will it be cool or hot? Sunny or cloudy? Will there be rain? Maybe snow? Spring: Yes." Suddenly, I'm 17 again and back at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri (aka: Fort Lost-in-the-Woods, Misery) for basic training. My platoon is awakened at zero-dark-thirty by an angry drill sergeant. A spring storm has already dropped several inches of snow over the training grounds. As the platoon and I run our requisite miles (in combat boots) and complete our daily calisthenics, flurries continue to fly. The drill sergeants have a saying here - well, they have lots of sayings, most I can't repeat - but they are fond of saying "If you don't like the weather, stick around a bit. It'll change!" By mid morning the sun appears, burning off the clouds as we conduct mud drills and march for marching's sake. By afternoon, temps are in the 70s as we practice close quarter combat. Then come the rains. Downpours that inundate everything on the base, including the live-fire obstacle course - a slog of woods dotted with fallen trees and decaying logs and pockmarked with shallow, body-sized divots worn into the ground by repeated use. Undeterred by the rains, our drill sergeant marches us two miles out to the course. We obediently drop to our bellies and begin crawling through the melted snow and mud while live "enemy" rounds crisscross above our heads. We take turns laying down covering fire from behind the logs and trees and while laying in the now water-filled divots, trying our best to knock down pop-up enemy targets like some deranged carnival game. As night falls, the rains stop and the skies clear. Temps plummet into the 20's and ice begins to form in the divots and on our soaked and muddied fatigues. The exercise continues, though, as we attempt to navigate the now quiet, but pitch black, forest without stumbling upon traps or knocking into trip wires that cause lights, flares and flash-bang grenades to 'explode' around us. It's early-morning before we finally return to the barracks. And snow is falling again.



Aah, spring! The only time you can experience a year's worth of weather in a single day! Fortunately, the weather here in Frederick County is a bit more

President's Message Continued

settled and there are much less demanding outdoor activities in which you can partake. Spring is the perfect time to get out and enjoy all that the area has to offer. The 34th Annual Children's Festival is April 23 in Baker Park and the America 250! History Fair is April 28 down along Carroll Creek. There is First Friday Fun on May 3 at Rosehill Manor and, of course, Downtown Frederick celebrates First Saturday every month. If you are the active sort, there's the Frederick Running Festival on May 8. If you are looking for a different kind of festival, make your way out to one the local farms or wineries hosting any number of spring events. Or, spend a quiet spring day visiting historic sites or just walking along the many trails located in our National Parks. To that end, we have invited National Park Ranger Carrie Andresen-Strawn to be our speaker for the May luncheon at Schroyer's Tavern in Middletown. She will speak on the history of the parks, upcoming activities, ways to explore the parks' walking and hiking trails, free and fee-based National Park passes, and volunteer opportunities. More details on, as well as a registration form for, the May luncheon can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Spring awaits - Go! Enjoy the season. *Kenny G*

Health and Insurance News

Colette Baker

Self Insurance Fund Update

The insurance plan for FCPS is self-insured. This means that the plan must have funds to pay claims and administrative costs. The fund is financed with premiums from members and the BOE contribution. The monthly financial reports show that total claims and administrative costs continue to increase. This is due to increased medical and prescription drug costs. Inflation is also a contributing factor. Staying healthy continues to cost more!

FY25 Premiums

The Insurance Council along with a consultant have been deliberating the insurance premiums for next year (FY25). There are many factors that are considered in this process and the major consideration is the overall performance of the plan. Once the FY25 premiums are finalized, the FCPS Benefits Office will send out detailed information in early May.

New Life Insurance Company



The Board of Education recently approved to award the life insurance contract to MetLife. MetLife will be replacing The Standard effective July 1, 2024. Retirees who continued the life insurance benefit will receive more information about MetLife during the month of May from the FCPS Benefits Office.

FCRSPA Scholarship Update

Nancy Gordon

Thank you!

Thanks to those members who contributed to the FCRSPA Scholarship Fund during the March Community Service outreach. This year \$810 was added to the fund. In addition, there are members who contribute throughout the year to help the fund grow. The FCRSPA Board of Directors hopes to plan for a recognition of the 25th Anniversary of when the fund was established and the first scholarship awarded. That may be a time for members to make a major gift to the fund so that it continues to grow and allow the association to award meaningful scholarships to Frederick County students.

You may still send a contribution to our treasurer, Shirley McDonald at 3677 Ridgeview Road, Ijamsville, MD 21754. Checks should be made out to Community Foundation of Frederick County, memo: FCRSPA Fund. Thank you for your dedication to helping students complete their education.

Community Service

Irene Bailey, Claudia Harrington, Charlie Perry

The Community Service Committee has nominated Ginny Brace for the annual MRSPA Community Service individual award. She has worked tirelessly for the beautification of Waterford Park with an organization she helped to create The Friends of Waterford Park. The state committee will meet and select a winner to be announced at the Annual Business Meeting in May.



At the March 13 luncheon several bags of toiletries and a few school supplies were donated as well as \$10 in cash earmarked for school supplies, which will be purchased and donated.

Please bring all your accumulated (or newly purchased) school supplies and toiletries to the May 8 luncheon at Schroyer's Tavern. The committee is hoping for large donations to two or three schools. There are always students at every level in need of basic supplies. SHIP (Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership) accepts travel-size or full-size toiletries -- everything from soap and toothpaste to shaving and feminine products-- for homeless students and has been very appreciative of FCRSPA's contributions.

If you would like to make a monetary donation to SHIP, which provides "new clothing, funding for youth enrichment activities, counseling services, and emergency shelter when no other options exist" (from the website www.shipfrederick.com), you can **send a contribution via Zelle to samcdonald72@gmail.com**. (If you use Zelle to make a contribution, please email Shirley McDonald letting her know that your Zelle payment was for SHIP.) Or you can make a contribution using a **check made payable to FCRSPA with SHIP on the notation line and bring to the luncheon or mail to FCRSPA Treasurer: Shirley McDonald at 3677 Ridgeview Road Ijamsville, MD 21754.**

Annual Bag Collection



Often, when children and teens find themselves suddenly moving to a new place to live because of family upheaval, everything has to be transported in large trash bags. These young people sometimes get the feeling that "my stuff is trash and I'm trash." If you find any gently used, **CLEAN** luggage, duffel bags, backpacks, or totes in your spring cleaning (or any time of the year), please consider donating them to SHIP of Frederick County, 203 Broadway St. Suite 210, Frederick, MD 21701. If you bring them to the May luncheon the Community Service Committee will take them to SHIP for you. Having a real suitcase or travel bag could make a huge difference to someone.

Blankets for Children of Incarcerated Parents

Peggy Harrison, Tess Blumenthal, Sally Smith, Linda Sanders, Brenda Hedges, Sharon Marconi, Linda Ferrant, Karen Kehoe, Barbara Ferguson, Jodi Herche, Irene Bailey and Maryann Frank had a wonderful time socializing and making twelve no-sew blankets for COIPP. These soft blankets will be given to children who have a parent who is incarcerated.

If you would like to participate in this worthwhile volunteer activity, we will be getting together again in the Spires Café at the Career and Tech Center from noon until 3:00 on May 16.



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 May 13 so that we can be sure to have enough kits. Hope to see you soon.

simplysally@comcast.net 240-626-8166

SCENES FROM OUR MARCH LUNCHEON



Photos courtesy of:
Tina Bruley, FCRSPA member and
Joe Spillis, CTC Student



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

301-662-951

Faye Buckingham

Buck0107@comcast.net



BRING A FRIEND AND JOIN US AT THE FCRSPA SPRING LUNCHEON

Wednesday, May 8, 2024 Doors open at 11:00 Buffet served 11:30 \$25.00 per person



SCHROYER'S TAVERN AT MARYLAND NATIONAL GOLF CLUB

8836 Hollow Road, Middletown, MD 21769



From Frederick: Follow Route 40 West for approximately 5 miles and turn left on Hollow Road. At the stop sign, turn right to access Hollow Road. Follow Hollow Road for 1 mile, Maryland National Golf Club is on the left.

Served Garden Salad, Rolls and Beverages (tea, water, lemonade and fountain soda)

Buffet includes: Penne Pasta with Peppers and Mozzarella in Marinara, Marinated Black Angus London Broil, Chicken Madeira, Scalloped Potatoes, Chef's Choice of Seasonal Vegetable and Cake



Our Guest Speaker will be Carrie Andersen-Strawn from the National Park Service. She will share information about the history of the parks, trails and opportunities to explore, the parks' accessibility, free and fee-based National Park passes, and volunteer opportunities available in the parks.

Reservations are due to Ann Keyfauer, 205 Linden Blvd., Middletown, MD 21769 by April 28, 2024

Pay by Check to FCRSPA, CASH to Ann Keyfauer

Or a Zelle, electronic payment to samcdonald72@gmail.com

\$25.00 per person

Name _____ Guest _____

Phone _____ Email _____ Total Attending _____

Have you become a new member in 2023 or 2024? _____ Emeritus (90 or older) _____

_____ Amount enclosed (\$25.00 per person Members and Guests)



**Good Times on Leap Day
at our La Paz
Happy Hour
February 29**



The Garage Happy Hour
1341 Hughes Ford Road (Near the Airport)
May 21 4:00-7:00
Happy Hour Special
\$5 Draft Beer & Wine by the Glass
No cover and run your own tab



Go to their website at [The Garage](#) 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)
RSVP to Sally Smith by MAY 16
simplysally@comcast.net 240-626-8166

FCRSPA Approved 2024 Budget

Question? Email our treasurer, Shirley McDonald at samcdonald72@gmail.com

Income	2024
Member Dues	7600
July Luncheon	1800
October Picnic	2100
December Breakfast	2600
March Luncheon	2000
May Luncheon	2500
from Money Market	
MRSPA	
Directory	
	18600
Expenses	
Membership	100
July Luncheon	2000
October Luncheon	2100
December Breakfast	2600
March Luncheon	2100
May Luncheon	2200
MRSPA scholarship prize	75
Handbook	200
Postage	1000
Community Outreach	1000
Newsletter	1500
Sunshine	75
Bank Charges	0
Website	25
certificates	300
Garden ESSL	400
President	300
COIP Bridges	800
Mileage	0
COIP Silent Auction	0
Scholarship	1000
MRSPA liability insurance	25
Zoom	0
Advertising	800
	18600

DESPERATION HAS SET IN!

WE NEED YOU!



We train! We do good work!

We're still looking for a **president-elect** and help with our **nominating committee**. We need YOUR help to keep our organization strong!

PLEASE contact Kenny Garvey today to join our Board of Directors team at mrgarvey@msn.com

Thank you! 

When is the last time you've checked out our website? We're working to make it an excellent resource for all our members. Take a look and see what we're doing!

We're located at: [FCRSPA Home](#)

Thanks to Lee Jeffrey for all her efforts towards updating our website!



"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.

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

782 Unified Members plus 28 Local-Only Members for a total of 810 FCRSPA Members in 20 states

 **Welcome New Members** 

Ronald	Ahalt	3641 Jefferson Pike Jefferson, MD 21755	240-674-7878	elladybug3641@gmail.com
Annette	Case	9907 Mount Tabor Rd Myersville, MD 21773	240-405-8326	Nac4Keeps@gmail.com
Kevin	Cuppett	6210 Canyongate Rd Baltimore, MD 21239	301--631-4750	kevincuppett@gmail.com
Cynthia	Doggett	7952 McKaig Rd Frederick, MD 21701	240-446-1088	cdogge301@gmail.com
Kerri	Hutchison	104 Deerfield Pl. Frederick, MD 21702	240-446-8937	birdiehutch@msn.com
Susan	Maseth	721 Changing Season Rd Westminster, MD 21157	443-244-2188	rmaseth@comcast.net

In Memoriam

Larry Cassell 8/31/1947 ~ 2/15/2024	Dorothy Fogle 1/8/1922 ~ 2/ 9/2024	Ramona Hoth 7/4/1936 ~ 7/26/2023	JoAnne Ireland 9/7/1948 ~ 3/20/2024
Kathleen Koons 4/11/1932 ~ 2/26/2024			Evelyn Orndorff 5/16/1925 ~ 3/28/2024



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.

Nancy	Gordon	5645 Poole Rd Jefferson, MD 21755	301-371-6137 240-586-9602	nlg45@aol.com
Rose	Graf	2542 Olympia St Frederick, MD 21702	301-606-2005	rose.graf@yahoo.com
Joan	Pezenosky	Autumn Lake Healthcare at Glade Valley 56 West Frederick St Walkersville, MD 21793		
Jennifer	Powell	2612 Blazing Star St Frederick, MD 21702		
David	Schrodel	7401 Willow Rd. Apt 421 Frederick, MD 21702	301-845-8466	DRSchrodel@gmail.com
Shirley	Sixma	7401 Willow Road, Apt. 269 Frederick, MD 21702	240-629-1957	shirley.sixma@comcast.net



First billing notices will be sent to **Unified members** in late June. Payments should be returned to the MRSPA Office. Your local dues will be sent to our treasurer.



Local-only members will receive their bills in June.

Switch and Save Invitation

In April, **MRSPA** will extend an invitation to cash-dues paying members to switch to dues deduction for **2024-2025**. If you make the switch, you are eligible for a one-time \$10 reduction in state dues. You would pay \$40 for state dues, plus our local dues amount. Members need to complete and return the 2024-2025 Dues Deduction Authorization Form which will be available on the MRSPA website under Switch and Save (<https://www.mrspa.org/switch-and-save>) **later in April**. You should choose **Switch & Save before June 30** if at all possible to make the July dues deduction deadline.

Should you have questions, please contact
Debbie (240-315-7148) OR
Marsha (301-788-1117) OR
Email (myfcrspa@gmail.com)

Gift Card Incentive

The \$10 Gift Card incentive continues! Any member who recruits a **NEW** member who chooses to pay by **DUES DEDUCTION** will receive a \$10 Walmart gift card. Include your name as the one who recruited the new member before it is returned to the **MRSPA** Office. If you choose not to add your name as the “recruiter” please add Debbie Thackston or Marsha Wise, membership chairpersons, and they will use the card as a door prize at one of our events.



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.

As of April 5, we have **281** members who have joined our page.

Please join us!



In Memory of our Deceased Colleagues and Friends

March 1, 2023 ~ February 29, 2024

**A Better Place
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

Gunda Christa Angelone 2/27/1942 ~ 12/9/2023	Mark Bowman 1/11/1950 ~ 3/24/2023	Larry Cassell 8/31/1947 ~ 2/15/2024
Kathryn Crawford 1/9/1958 ~ 3/23/2023	Ruth Dredde 2/24/1930 ~ 5/3/2023	Marty Fisher 12/4/1942 ~ 5/31/2023
Dorothy Fogle 1/8/1922 ~ 2/9/2024	John Gladhill 5/16/1946 ~ 1/4/2024	Rosemary Glenn 6/3/1945 ~ 11/4/2023
Robert Guyton 2/10/1932 ~ 6/17/2023	James Hoffman 4/17/1939 ~ 7/15/2023	Romona Hoth 7/4/1936 ~ 7/26/2023
Kathleen Koons 4/11/1932 ~ 2/26/2024	Shirley Lakel 7/7/1927 ~ 12/20/2023	James Moffatt 6/13/1940 ~ 3/27/2023
Patricia Petre 4/2/1938 ~ 3/25/2023	Carrie Pierson 6/21/1958 ~ 3/19/2023	Mary Smith 9/18/1936 ~ 5/13/2023
Dixie Sterling 12/19/1930 ~ 7/13/2023	Gloria Thompson ~ 1/19/2024	Carol Wilcom 4/15/1944 ~ 10/21/2023
	Dolores Wojcik 6/25/1942 ~ 7/24/2023	



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 this Spring!

- * Spring Luncheon at Schroyer's Tavern May 8
- * Blanket Making at Career Tech Center May 16
- * Happy Hour at The Garage May 21

