



Reflections

ST. MARY'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
RETIREES ASSOCIATION, INC.

2018-2019 OFFICERS

Co-Presidents: Robert Abell
rateach2nd@aol.com
703-475-5879

And Karol Wolgemuth
karolwolgemuth@aol.com
301-863-5638

Vice-President: Omega Taylor
obtaylor@md.metrocast.net
301-904-6978

Recording Secretary:
Sharon Thorstensen
sharont@md.metrocast.net
301-737-5586

Corresponding Secretary:
Sandra Ulibarri-
rsulibarri@verizon.net
301-737-1237

Treasurer: Jack Hazuda
hazudajs@md.metrocast.net
301-863-8649

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	1
Service Projects	
Branches & Lunches	2
Committee Reports	3
Committee Reports, cont.	4
Scholarship Remembrances	6
MRSPA News	5
Contact List Calendar, Links	7
Membership	8
blank	9
Views of the Past	10

C O - P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E



Hopefully, our bad weather is behind us and **spring** is just around the corner. With the coming of **spring**, we take on a new vibrancy.

⇒ Plans have been finalized for our March 5th Brunch at the Dr. James A Forrest Career and Technology Center with a delicious menu. Our guest speaker for the meeting will be our own Dr. Scott Smith, Superintendent of Schools. In addition, a representative from EASMC will speak briefly about an upcoming rally for education in Annapolis.



⇒ On April 23rd, we are trying a new venue for our general meeting. We will gather for lunch at the Wicomico Shores Golf Club. This is a wonderful facility and should be beautiful in the spring. There is ample parking for those with mobility challenges

⇒ May 8th is the MRSPA Annual Meeting. We encourage you to attend and you do not have to be a member of the Board of Directors. We always have more slots than we fill. See any board member if you are interested.

⇒ June 11th is our last General Meeting of the year at The ELKS Lodge. We will celebrate birthdays with raffle of prizes by months and remember those members who are no longer with us.

Again this last month, we are leading the way in the state for recruiting new members with 6.14% growth. This is in large part due to the efforts of all of you encouraging people you know to join our association. MRSPA is also encouraging current members to recruit so it is offering a \$10 gift card for anyone who gets a new person to join using payroll deduction. So thank you to everyone for your continuing efforts. Let's keep leading the way.

Our association has made a \$500 donation to the school system's shoe fund. In addition we have been giving four elementary schools a \$250 donation to be used for the needs of their students. The four schools this year were Town Creek, Piney Point, Hollywood and Leonardtown. These funds were distributed during the month of December. Once we have donated to each elementary school, we will begin on the secondary schools.

EASMC has requested that we invite our members to join them at a rally in Annapolis to support funding for education. The rally, **MARCH FOR OUR SCHOOLS**, is March 11th with transportation and dinner being provided. For more details see the full article that has been included in our newsletter. **OUR KIDS CAN'T WAIT.**

~Karol Wolgemuth and Robert Abell

Meeting Service Projects—2018-2019

February, April—non-perishable food items or paper products
June—nursing center items for Bingo prizes & Birthday presents

Keep a lookout for specials on these items during your travels.



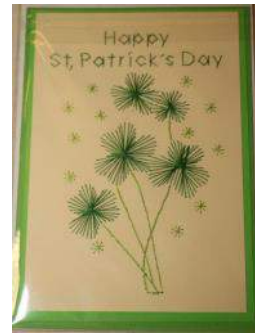
BRUNCH AND LUNCH MEETINGS

All pictures are posted at <https://smcpsra.shutterfly.com/>. Pictures taken by Lonna Siskind.

December Lunch



Books collected for donation.



Hand-made Greeting cards, donated by Omega Taylor.



Glenn Richards has spirit



Sharon Weiner, Beth Wright, & Duff Bailey each won 4 of the greeting cards raffle.



Salad bar and buffet tables



March 5 Brunch Meeting
Brunch Menu: Scrambled Eggs, Sausage Gravy with Biscuits, French Toast Casserole, Bacon, Bruschetta Stuffed Chicken, Mushroom & Spinach Stuffed Shells, Rice Pilaf, Lemon Butter Roasted Asparagus, Dinner Rolls, Blueberry Lemon Scones, Chocolate Chip Scones, Cinnamon Coffee Cake, German Chocolate Cake, Carrot Cake, Tiramisu Mousse
Bring: a non-perishable food item or paper product
Program: Dr. J. Scott Smith, *Superintendent of Schools* will join us.
Raffle: Quilt raffle tickets will be for sale.

March Brunch Meeting
Dr. James A. Forrest Career & Technology Center
 24005 Point Lookout Road
 Leonardtown, MD 20650
Time: 10:00
 Please arrive 30 minutes early to pay for your meal and socialize & write notes of encouragement to teachers.
Price: \$13.00, meal + a food item

C O M M I T T E E R E P O R T S

Treasurer's Report

Our Checking Account's balance is **\$16,281.50** and our Money Market Savings Account's balance is \$10,045.91 as of February 6, 2019.

~Jack Hazuda



Community Service

Remember to keep track of your volunteer hours for this year. The Community Service Record form is found online at: <http://smcpsra.org/forms/default.html> You can download the form to your computer, or print the form and fill in as you volunteer.

Thank you so much for your support. It makes all the difference.

Quilt Raffle



Members can now buy/sell chances on the quilt. Proceeds from the raffle tickets are going toward the scholarship and Skills USA funds.

Tickets will be available at all Lunch and Brunch meetings before the drawing and upon request. Contact Robert Abell. Drawing will be June 11 at the June lunch meeting.

1 ticket = \$2
3 tickets = \$5

Date: 12/21/2018
From: Leonardtown ES
Leonardtown MD



I would like to extend my sincere appreciation for your \$250 donation. The funds will be used to purchase general school supplies to distribute amongst classrooms. Thank you again to your organization!

With gratitude,
Dr. C. Quick-McQueen
Principal



Date: April 10, 2018
From: Benjamin Banneker ES



I would like to thank you for the \$250 donation to our school and students.. We were able to refresh our supply of school supplies for our students in need.

Sincerely,
Audrey Ellis Principal



History Collection

Archives: As always we welcome articles and items that memorialize persons and events of the school system. Placement of some materials will remain at Green-



view Knolls Elementary School with annual contributions made to SMC Historic Society. If you have questions about donations contact

~Janet Kellam, Archives Chairman



Travel Committee

Day Trips

None at this time.

Overnight & Cruise Trips

None at this time. Trip: 2020—Italy

All Cruise and Trip flyers can be found online at [our website](#) and at the Shutterfly web site. Trip pictures are at [Shutterfly](#) website.

~Ernestine Pence



Date: 12/16/2018
From: The Soup Kitchen St. Mary's Caring



With grateful hearts we acknowledge your donation of children's books. While our mission is to feed the less fortunate, we believe that providing additional tools and resources to enhance their lives of our clients is also a priority. Thank you for touching the lives of the children who frequent our soup kitchen. We are truly grateful. (ed. note: 97 books were delivered.)

Kristine Millen, Executive Director

Shoe Fund Donation

Debbie Faller presented a \$500 donation to the Shoe Fund to Student Services Director, Ms. Cheryl Long on 12/14/2018.



Notes of Support


On Tuesday, 12/11, Deb Faller delivered our notes of support to Great Mills High School. The notes were written by members at the December lunch meeting. Thank you, Deb.



Town Creek ES

Harold Siskind presents \$250 donation from SMCPSSRA to the school Principal, Mrs. Marie Hankinson on 12/21/2018.





St. Mary's County Public Schools
Central Administration
Office of the Superintendent
23160 Moakley Street, Suite 109
Leonardtown, Maryland 20650

Phone: 301-475-5511 ext. 32178; Fax: 301-475-4270

Dr. J. Scott Smith
Superintendent

December 17, 2018

Mr. John Hazuda
St. Mary's County Public Schools Retirees Association
P.O. Box 1037
Leonardtown, Maryland 20650

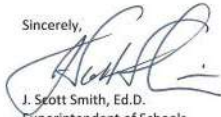
Dear Mr. Hazuda:

Please thank the St. Mary's County Public Schools Retirees Association for their recent donation to the St. Mary's County Public Schools' Shoe Fund. Their generous donation of \$500.00, will be extremely helpful for the school system to fulfill requests from parents/legal guardians to receive shoes for their students.

Pupil personnel workers in the Department of Student Services facilitate the referral process, recordkeeping, purchasing, and delivery of shoes to the families. One hundred percent of the contributions received for this fund are used to purchase shoes for students.

St. Mary's County Public Schools did not provide any goods or services in exchange for this contribution. A receipt is enclosed for your records.

Please understand how much I appreciate your generosity. The request for shoes has exceeded our normal expectations and your generous donation will allow the school system to meet the students' needs.

Sincerely,

 J. Scott Smith, Ed.D.
 Superintendent of Schools

THANK YOU

cc: Ms. Long, Director of Student Services

St. Mary's County Public School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, religion, or disability in matters affecting employment or providing access to programs.



MRSPA. The **only** organization in the state:

- **That works exclusively for retired school personnel**
- **Advocates for its members' interests locally in Annapolis and nationally in Washington**
- **Is represented on the Maryland Retirement/Pension System Board of Trustees**

If you haven't joined, now is the time. Protect your future pension.

[Join MRSPA.](#) Payroll deduction is the best way to pay your dues once/year.

Each One, Bring One!

MRSPA Legislative Priorities 2019



Pension Protection

MRSPA seeks to protect defined benefit pensions which contribute to the state economy and promote personal security Full actuarial funding of the state system ensures sustainability of the fund and is in the best economic interest of all taxpayers.

Health Care

MRSPA supports legislation that provided full-funding of local school systems as they provide health benefits/ options for retired school personnel MRSPA supports legislation to control the cost of prescription drugs.

Consumer Protection

MRSPA supports legislation that provides protection for all citizens from identity theft and scams. The State recognizes that this is a particular concern among the elderly.

Secure Choice Retirement

MRSPA supports a secure retirement for all Marylanders. State assistance to achieve this goal is commendable and encouraged.

Long Term Care

Legislation supporting long term Care insurance encourages older adults to provide for their own care in advance this benefits individuals families and the state

Education

MRSPA supports public education in all Maryland jurisdictions, including pre-school and lifelong learning option. State support for these programs is essential to forming an educated and productive citizenry.

Supplemental Pension Funding

Promised make-up contributions to the state pension system must be made as legislated They are economically, legally, and morally important for all state taxpayers.

Quality of Life

MRSPA supports services and communities to help older adults age-in-place and supports programs to help older adults remain healthy, active and independent.

Safety

MRSPA advocates preventing abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults. The State continues to work to identify best practices in an effort to combat elder abuse exploitation,

(Source MRSPA Legislative Brochure 2019)



2018-2020 MRSPA President - Ann Marie Downey, Washington County, 2-year motto:

"Connecting, Protecting and Making a Difference"



Remembrances

Please remember these persons and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Anna Moseley—her father, Joseph Jackson Holly—(non-member, not pictured), 6/29/1918—1/23/2019. Her father was 100 years old, Jack worked for many years on a farm owned by Victor and Billy Brubacher in Medley's Neck, MD. When Jack left the farm life, he went on to work at St. Mary's Ice and Fuel in Leonardtown, MD for over 40 years.



SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

THANKS FOR A YEAR OF GENEROSITY TO THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Robert Abell and **Myra Raspa** represented SMCPSSRA at the Scholarship Fair held at the Forrest Center on January 22. This is the night that students and parents peruse the various scholarships available from citizens and organizations in the community. Students then complete the common application form from BECA and return it by February 15. Between March 8 and April 15, our scholarship committee will meet and select the SMCPSSRA scholarship recipient(s) for this year. The winner(s) will attend the Awards Ceremony at the Forrest Center on May 14 and will be introduced to you at our general meeting on June 12.

Many thanks to the following members for your generous contributions to the Scholarship Fund:

Drew Dowdell in memory of **Wanda Farrell; Jack and Sally Hazuda** in memory of **Rhokey Millham; Mary Jane Shoemaker** in memory of **Tom Servello, Joanne Thompson, Elsie Nixon, and Brenda Bassford; Janet Kellam** in memory of **Brenda Bassford; Evelyn Leland** in memory of **Marvetta Scott, Joanne Thompson, and Helene Hogan.**

Omega Taylor's beautiful gift cards were a big hit at the December raffle.

Elynn Davis and **Joyce Judd** donated funds from the book signing for "Whispers from the Colonial Past—A Self-Guided Walking Tour".



~Linda Himmelheber

St. Mary's County Public Schools Retirees Association Scholarship Fund Donation
Make checks payable to the "Lexington Park Rotary Foundation"
Indicate *SMCPSSRA* Scholarship Fund in memo line.

Name:	
Date:	Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Donation:	<input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Contribution:
Mail to: Linda Himmelheber 18100 Carthegena Lane; Drayden, MD 20630	If memorial, please give name of individual



Membership Directory Updates as of 12/1/2018 Welcome New Members



Last Name	First Name	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE
Denny	Michael	37602 Louis Bailey Road	Avenue	MD	20609	410-538-3710
Forest	James	28941 Hill and Dale Drive	Mechanicsville,	MD	20659	240-808-4931
Sandstrom	Timothy	707 Dettaviland Drive	Pittsburgh	PA	15239	724-317-5989

Member Changes

Return to: Betsy Hundert; 40821 South 40 Drive; Leonardtown, MD 20650. Or Email changes to her: betsyahundert@gmail.com. Or, bring to a lunch/brunch. You get up-to-the-minute news and newsletters in color, if emailed.

Name:	Date of change:
New Address:	
New Email:	<input type="checkbox"/> DO NOT PUBLISH email in Directory
New Phone:	
Signature:	



Source: MRSPA *Consumer Connection*; January-February 2019. Submitted by Anna Moseley, SMCPSSRA Consumer Education/Health Committee Chair. You can read the rest of the MRSPA *Consumer Connection* at MRSPA.org.

The Benefit Corner

Stress-Free Solutions: Looking to downsize? Moving soon? Call today for a free on-site consultation 301-280-0170 MRSPA members receive **10%** off their entire Downsizing full service (magic wand) package. If a MRSPA member doesn't need the entire package, they will extend 4 hours of unpacking services complimentary if they utilize Stress Free Solutions for their moving needs.
www.stressfreeseniors.com



**The start of a new year is a great time to start fresh by organizing your home.
 Start with your documents. Tax time is around the corner.**

Protecting your tax records is easy and practical with these tips from IRS.gov:

- Always retain a copy of your completed federal and state tax returns and their supporting materials. These prior-year returns will help you prepare your next year's taxes, and receipts will document any credit or deductions you claim should questions arise later.
- If you retain paper records, you should keep them in a secure location, preferably under lock and key, such as a secure desk drawer or a safe. If you retain your records electronically on your computer, you should always have an electronic back-up, in case your hard drive crashes. You should encrypt the files both on your computer and any back-up drives that you use. You may have to purchase encryption software to ensure the files' security.
- Dispose of old tax records properly. Never toss paper tax returns and supporting documents into the trash. Your federal and state tax records, as well as any financial or health record should be shredded before disposal.
- If you are disposing of an old computer or back-up hard drive, keep in mind there is sensitive data on these. Deleting stored tax files will not remove them from your computer. You should wipe the drives of any electronic product you trash or sell, including tablets and mobile phones, to ensure you remove all personal data. Again, this may require special disk utility software.

The IRS recommends retaining copies of your tax returns and support documents for a minimum of 3 years to a maximum of 7 years. Remember to keep records relating to property you own for 3 to 7 years after the year in which you dispose of the property. Three years is a timeframe that allows you to file amended returns, or if questions arise on your tax return, and seven years is a timeframe that allows filing a claim for adjustment in a case of bad debt deduction for a loss from worthless securities.

To learn additional steps you can take to protect your personal and financial data, visit Taxes. Security. Together., or IRS publication 4524, Security Awareness for Taxpayers.



2018-2019

Officers and Committee Chairpersons

Officers

Co-President..... Robert Abell
Co-President..... Karol Wolgemuth
Vice President..... Omega Taylor
Corresponding Secretary Sandra Ulibarri
Recording Secretary Sharon Thorstensen
Treasurer Jack Hazuda

Committee Chairs

Archives Janet Kellam
Bylaws/Legislative Harold Siskind
Communications/Publications..... Lonna Siskind
Community Service..... VACANT
Consumer Education/Health..... Anna Moseley
Finance George Kirby
Membership Betsy Hundert
Nominating Myra Raspa
Program Murphy Holley
Remembrance..... Robert Abell
Scholarship..... Linda Himmelheber
Telephone Tree Debbie Faller
Travel/Activities Ernestine Pence

Committee Members Still Needed!

Contact Robert Abell, rateach2nd@aol.com or karolwolgemuth@aol.com or Email: smcpsra@gmail.com

Why wait for the mail? Receive this Newsletter at least a week earlier with email delivery! And it's in color!

Keep your email address up-to-date

If you are NOT receiving emails and expect them from us, contact Lonna Siskind at smcpsra@gmail.com or call her at 301-862-1315.



Activities email: trips@smcpsra.org
Directors email: directors@smcpsra.org
Regular email: smcpsra@gmail.com

If you want up-to-date news, get it on email.

Stay Informed

Pictures of Events

Pictures will be posted from our events on our Shutterfly website, and some will also go on our Facebook page. Go to www.smcpsra.org for links.

Reflections is published quarterly, plus additional ones as needed. You may have it emailed or mailed. Email is encouraged to save mailing costs and labor.

You can submit articles & pictures for Reflections, website, or Facebook to: smcpsra@gmail.com
Lonna Siskind, editor. phone #: 301-862-1315

2019 May/June Issue—
Articles & pictures due 11 May 2019

CALENDAR



2019

March 5 Brunch The Tech Center @ 10:00
Apr 23 Lunch Wicomico Shores @ 11:00
May 8 MRSPA State Annual Meeting
June 11 Lunch Elks @ 12:00
Aug 13 St. Mary's Co Nursing & Rehab Center Bingo/Birthday party 2-3:30
2019: Board of Directors meeting
3/12; 5/14; @ 10:00 in SMCPs Board Room
8/13

Not a Member?

If you are getting this newsletter from a friend, why not join and get all the benefits & pension protection? Go to www.mrspa.org to join (can mail, or use credit card), www.smcpsra.org to download the membership form, or contact an officer or committee chairman. Auto deduction 1/yr is the best way to go. No more writing checks and remembering to submit dues.



Here is our QR code for the website. Use with a smart phone free QR application.



Links



Our websites: www.smcpsra.org or http://lonnasiskind2.wixsite.com/smcpsra

Our Picture & Newsletter archive website: smcpsra.shutterfly.com



Like us: https://www.facebook.com/SMCPsRA

The St. Mary's County Public Schools web site has a link to our retiree website: http://www.smcps.org/staff. The link is found under Human Resources, within the "Staff Portal" page.

MRSPA-State retiree's web site: https://www.mrspa.org/

VISIT

www.smcpsra.org or http://lonnasiskind2.wixsite.com/smcpsra

OPEN 24/7

EASMC has asked if our association would be willing to assist them in recruiting people to attend a rally in Annapolis to try to increase state funding for schools. This was presented at our most recent Board of Directors meeting. After some discussion, the board decided that this would be a good thing for us to do. Below is the complete information provided by EASMC and the details of how to participate. By having some of our members participate, we are demonstrating how we as an association, continue to support our local school system.

~Robert Abell

From [Jill E. Morris](#)
President, Education Association of St. Mary's County (EASMC)

Please join us on [March 11](#) to support public education!



Maryland legislators have the historic chance to fix the \$2.9 billion funding gap impacting Maryland's schools - an average of \$2 million in every school across the state. But now some leaders in Annapolis are saying educators and students have to wait ANOTHER YEAR before they can finally fix this problem. Our kids can't wait. It's time to give them the support they deserve. So on [March 11](#), we are marching to make sure that every student in every neighborhood has a great public school and an equal opportunity for success. We would love to have you join us, and you are welcome to invite family and friends to march with us as well.
RSVP TODAY: MarchForOurSchools.com.

Once you've registered, someone from EASMC will contact you with details. Buses, with bathrooms, will leave from our EASMC office in Leonardtown on [March 11 at 3:30 p.m.](#) Dinner will be provided, and we should be back at the office by about [9:30 p.m.](#)

There is some walking involved with the March, but anyone who prefers not to walk much can just make noise, hold signs, and stay in place if walking does not work for them. The bus will drop us off and pick us up at Lawyers' Mall, right by the State House.

If you have questions, you may contact Jill Morris, EASMC President, at jmorris@mseanea.org, or Office Manager Jen Waybright at jwaybright@mseanea.org, or call them at [240-309-4196](tel:240-309-4196).



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



The Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, Inc.

800 Southerly Road, Box 1
Towson, Maryland 21286-8403
mschf.org

- Allegany
- Anne Arundel
- Baltimore City
- Baltimore Co.
- Calvert
- Caroline
- Carroll
- Cecil
- Charles
- Dorchester
- Frederick
- Garrett
- Harford
- Howard
- Kent
- Montgomery
- Prince George's
- Queen Anne's
- St. Mary's
- Somerset
- Talbot
- Washington
- Wicomico
- Worcester

Nomination Time for the 2019 Hall of Fame

We are currently seeking nominations of qualified senior citizens to be considered for induction into our 2019 Hall of Fame. Last year nominations were received from 19 counties. It is our goal to have 100% participation, but we need your assistance. Please consider nominating a qualified senior or passing this nomination form on for use by an interested person or organization in your community.

Each year qualified senior citizens are inducted into The Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame based upon their outstanding contributions as volunteers to improve the lives of others in the community. Nominee qualifications, nomination procedures and a nomination form are enclosed. Nominations must be received by April 8.

Our Selection Committee reviews the nomination forms and selects up to 50 qualified nominees to be presented to the MSCHF Board for approval. Approved nominees are inducted into the Hall of Fame at our annual induction luncheon held in October. They receive a complimentary ticket to the luncheon, membership certificate, MSCHF lapel pin and copy of the *Blue Book* that includes a picture of each honoree and a summary of their volunteer service. Of these honorees, a maximum of five may be selected to also receive the GERI Award given for extraordinary volunteerism.

This year our induction luncheon will be held on Thursday, October 24, 2019, at Michael's Eighth Avenue in Glen Burnie.

Additional information about our organization and nomination forms may be obtained on our website mschf.org or by calling 410-828-5852. The deadline for submitting nominations is April 8.

Your interest and support are great appreciated.

Note: If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please send an email to mschf.mail@verizon.net or call 410-828-5852.

Blank page for your notes



Views of the Past



Hospice Tree (see more pictures at: <https://smcpsra.shutterfly.com/>)



St. Mary's County Public Schools Retirees Association, Inc.
 PO Box 1037
 Leonardtown, MD 20650