



The Beacon

Visit our website: www.hcrspa.org

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Harford County, MD

September 2025

The President's Message

Welcome to the start of a new year. Anyone associated with education regards September as the start of the year. I don't know about you but seeing all the school supplies in the store makes me want to buy new pencils, crayons and notebooks, not that I need any of those things! For those who have recently retired, the summer seems like it always does. But, when September comes you just feel a little anxious, like you should be planning lessons or gathering materials for the start of the year. At least that's how it was for me, and I felt like I was really being lazy till it sinks-in. As a result, you can plan trips for the fall and relax on a Sunday night! Being retired offers you so many options for how you use your time and resources. The best way to safeguard your benefits is to join HCRSPA and MRSPA. We have watchdog committees at the state level who monitor any legislation that could affect seniors. MRSPA also works closely with AARP to look for benefits and perks for members.

Your HCRSPA executive board will be back at work with the September board meeting brainstorming ways to get new retirees to join. We have already scheduled several fund raisers for the scholarship fund. Mark October 8th in your calendar to join us at MaGerk's in Bel Air from 5-9. Then next week on October 14 join us at the Jarrettsville Creamery from 5-9 for food and desserts. Both fund raisers last year provided hundreds of dollars toward our scholarships. We welcome any other ideas for other places to go to for fund raisers.

At the May Annual Meeting for MRSPA they unveiled a new logo design that you will now see in all their publications. It is a nice new look. If you know someone who has recently retired, MRSPA is offering a recruitment incentive. Any member who recruits a new member who signs up for dues deduction will receive a \$10 gift card. All they need to do is include your name on the membership form. There is no limit to the number of gift cards you can earn. New members who sign up for dues deduction will also receive a one-time \$10 deduction in state dues! For those of you who are currently a cash member if you

switch to deduction dues you will receive a one-time \$10 deduction on the state dues. The challenge is to earn gift cards and get new members!

Hope you all have a wonderful Fall and enjoy the much-needed cooler weather.

*Linda Chamberlin,
HCRSPA President*

Community Service

As another school year begins, HCRSPA will continue to support our school nurses with underwear, shirts, pants, and socks. Accidents happen during the school day, and the nurse is the person who is called on to help. They appreciate our donations very much! And I appreciate all the donations made by our members so I can purchase the clothes they need.

Our next luncheon will be December 2, 2025, at the Maryland Country Club. If you would like to support this first of two community service projects before then you can send a check made out to HCRSPA to our treasurer, Bill Ekey, 710 Long Bar Harbor Rd., Abingdon, MD 21009.

Thank you again for your generosity and support to our school nurses and the children in Harford County schools.

*Joan Marcus,
Community Service Coordinator
marcusjoan7@gmail.com
443-243-6651*





Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. If you have any input about the newsletter or have suggestions for future issues, please contact the Editor, Jackie Remige at jremige@hotmail.com. Thank you!

Harford Community College is

NOW HIRING

Miss teaching? Harford Community College is hiring instructors in our non-credit department. We have opportunities for instructors to teach single day courses or term-long courses. Our greatest need is for daytime instructors in the trades, technology, and Microsoft applications. We have a wide variety of class offering and we are always open to new course ideas. Think about bringing your personal passions to the classroom! To apply, please use this link:

<https://harford.peopleadmin.com/postings/2654>.

If you have questions, please email Dr. Austin Hill at auhill@harford.edu.



NOW ACCEPTING
New Nominations for the Hall of Fame

MRSPA announced a new logo on May 6, 2025 at the Annual Business Meeting. You will gradually see the new logo in the MRSPA applications, files, correspondence, and newsletters. The Website is updated already.



The requirements and forms can be found on our website, www.hcrspa.org. Click on the Hall of Fame link at the top of the home page. There you will find links to requirements, the nomination form and previous inductees.

Autumn

© Lisa K. Putnam

Misty mornings, frosted lawns,
The wind is blowing a winter's song.

Changing colors of the leaves,
Slowly falling from the trees.

Soon the trees will all be bare,
Offering no shelter taken there.

So gather up the summers harvest,
For darker days are now upon us!





**HCRSPA
2025/2026
Save the Dates!**

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

Wednesday, Oct. 8
5:00 – 9:00 PM
MaGerks
120 S. Bond Street
Bel Air, MD 21014

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Tuesday, Dec. 2
11:00 AM
Maryland Golf &
Country Club
1335 E. McPhail Rd.
Bel Air, MD 21015

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

Tuesday, Oct. 14
5:00 – 9:00 PM
Jarrettsville Creamery
1747 Jarrettsville Rd.
Jarrettsville, MD 21084

MAY LUNCHEON

Thursday, May 7
11:00 AM
Maryland Golf &
Country Club
1335 E. McPhail Rd.
Bel Air, MD 21015



**Board
Meeting**

**November 13, 2025
February 12, 2026**

**April 9, 2026
June 11, 2026**

**All Board meetings are held at Fallston Senior
Center Beginning at 10:00 am.**

Your Executive Board

Working for all members

President - Linda Chamberlin **Treasurer** - Bill Ekey
Vice President - Belinda Cole **Secretary** - Diana Wehage

Committee Chairs

Community Service and Communications - Joan Marcus
Budget - Bill Ekey
Greetings and Remembrances - Pat Carpenter
Hall of Fame - Terry Wainwright
Legislation - To be determined
Member Benefits - Peg Goodson
Membership - Christine Douglass
Public Relations and Newsletter - Jackie Remige
Scholarships and Social events - Bonnie Dubel
Website - Jim Gyolia

**Greetings & Remembrances
Your Help Is Needed
and Appreciated**

It is the intent of our organization to send appropriate greeting cards to members who are seriously ill, experiencing other hardships, great joys meriting congratulations, or loss. In order to make this possible we need input from you. Please call or send an email to Pat Carpenter if you know of members who are experiencing these situations.



Thanks for your help!
Pat Carpenter, Coordinator
Email: patcarpent@comcast.net
Telephone: 443-764-4790



Constitution Day

Constitution Day is observed every year on September 17th. It allows citizens to learn more about their rights and responsibilities. It is not a public holiday.

Constitution Day commemorates the formation of the United States Constitution. On September 17th, 1787, 39 out of 55 delegates signed the document. The Constitutional Convention was held in Philadelphia. This was four years after American gained its independence from Britain. It was one of the most critical events. It formed a strong central government with three separate branches and gave us our individual rights.

The signing of the Constitution on this day formed a basis for the rule of law, the balance of power, and enduring principles that built the United States. Our Constitution is the oldest in the world and is considered one of America's most important documents.

Constitution Day is celebrated in many ways. The President of the United States may proclaim the day and have flags displayed on all federal buildings. Individuals can also proudly display their flags showing their national pride.

Constitution Day encourages a sense of civic pride, unity, and appreciation for the fundamental principles that shape the United States. It is a reminder of the significance of the Constitution and its impact on the lives of the citizens of our nation.

ATTENTION: **SWITCH & SAVE** **INCENTIVE**



MRSPA has extended an invitation to cash members to switch to dues deduction for 2025-2026. If they make the change, they are eligible for a one-time \$10 reduction in state dues. They would pay \$40 for state dues for 2025-2026, plus their local dues amount. Members need to complete and return the 2025-2026 Dues Deduction Authorization Form, which is available on the MRSPA website under "Switch and Save" (<https://www.mrspa.org/switch-and-save>). Current Cash dues payers, who have not yet paid their dues, would be eligible for "Switch and Save".

Recruitment Incentive:

MRSPA is offering a \$10 Walmart gift card to ANY member who recruits a *NEW* member who signs up for *DUES DEDUCTION*. All you have to do is get the *NEW* member to complete an application form, signing up for *DUES DEDUCTION*, and then WRITE YOUR NAME on the application before sending it to MRSPA. MRSPA will send you a gift card. You can recruit as many *NEW DUES DEDUCTION* members as you like! Just remember to put your name on each application! We are calling on ALL members to assist us in this recruitment effort.

Thank You!

FOLLOW US ON
facebook 

Like HCRSPA's Facebook page. From your Facebook account, enter "Harford County Retired School Personnel Association" in the search box and click "Like" when the page appears.

by all these lovely ^{TOKENS}
september ^{DAYS ARE HERE,}
WITH SUMMER'S BEST OF *weather*
AND autumn's
best of cheer.
[h.h. jackson]

MAILING/EMAIL ADDRESS **UPDATES**

Reminding members to keep their mailing and email address up to date. When we mail or email communications, many of you do not receive the information due to out dated addresses. Thank you!

HCRSPA Newsletter
Published four times annually
Linda Chamberlin, President
Jackie Remige, Editor
Wendy Ambler, Design & Layout

For information or to submit an article, call 410-557-7369
or send e-mail to jremige@hotmail.com



Important Websites:
www.hcrspa.org
www.mrspa.org





MRSPA New Member Application

Personal Information

Name: First, MI Last

Address (Street or PO Box)

Address

City, State, ZIP

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Email

Date of Birth

Date of Retirement

Retired from *(school system)*

Membership Information

Position at retirement:

- Teacher/Other Certified
- Support Staff
- Administrator/Supervisor
- Other _____

Mailing Preferences:

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

Local Associations & Dues

MRSPA Annual State Dues: \$50.00

\$5.00 - Somerset

\$8.00 - Caroline

\$10.00 - Calvert, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Washington, Wicomico, Worcester

\$12.00 - Harford

\$15.00 - Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Baltimore, Kent, Montgomery, Talbot

\$20.00 - Allegany, Prince George's

Selected Local: _____

Referred By: _____

The MRSPA Membership year is July 1 - June 30.

Payment Methods

Automatic Dues Deduction from MD Pension

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.

Check - Make payable to MRSPA

\$50 State + \$_____ Local = \$_____ Total Dues

Credit Card - www.mrspa.org/join-mrspa



HCRSPA
P.O. Box 133
Churchville, MD 21028

Change Service Requested