

HEART

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FIRST CLASS MAIL



NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY, December 11
12 NOON

Turf Valley Resort

Rt. 40 at Turf Valley Road

Snow date: Tuesday, Dec. 18

FYI...

* **Holiday luncheon/meeting at Turf Valley, Dec. 11 – bring \$\$ for the HEART Scholarship 50/50 raffle!** If you are willing to help Scholarship Co-Chair, Fran Razmus with this activity, please let her know at franrazmus@comcast.net .

* **New Directory is coming!**

HEART NEWS

*A Publication for the members of the
Association of Retired Howard County Public School Personnel*
Volume XLX Number 2 Howard County, MD November, 2018

A Message From Your Co-Presidents: Addie Kaufman and Sue Mascaro

Connecting, Protecting, and Making a Difference; these are the words of Ann Marie Downey, President of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA). Mrs. Downey, who was the keynote speaker at our luncheon on October 9th, shared the goals of MRSPA as well as the importance of joining both HEART and MRSPA. As we discussed at the meeting, HEART advocates for our health benefits and sponsors luncheon meetings, social activities and community service projects. Membership in our State Association provides the financial and legislative support that protects our pensions. Therefore, if you are not already a member of MRSPA, we encourage you to join and be a part of this great organization.

The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association not only protects our pension, it also supports the work of your Executive Team. Earlier this fall, Association Presidents throughout Maryland came together for a two-day conference sponsored by MRSPA. During the two days, we received training on marketing and communications while networking with colleagues and gathering ideas on ways to increase membership and actively engage existing members. The connections with our colleagues from around the state represent a valuable tool as we work to make our organization stronger. When an organization has strength in numbers, the organization is vibrant and its voices are heard.

Although the protection of our health benefits and pensions are a critical aspect of our work, connections with each other are also important. Many of our members “connected” at HEART’s first luncheon meeting in October. Just how many? We’re pleased to report that the luncheon was SOLD out, with over 100 retirees in attendance. Attendees, including quite a few new and prospective members, took part in an icebreaker/connecting activity. Based on the level of conversation (noise!) during the activity, it was a success. Also at the meeting, members nominated and confirmed two new vice-presidents, *Ronnie Bohn* and *Linda Storry*. Changes were made to shorten the business portion of the meeting, including spotlights on select committees rather than reports from all. And it was with great pleasure that we recognized Committee Chairs *JoAnn Horan* and *Donna Brackins* for their hard work and dedication to HEART. We’re happy to share that based on feedback collected at the meeting, members enjoyed the new format.

An additional change HEART is making is the way in which we recruit members. To inspire recent retirees to join HEART and MRSPA, all new retirees received an invitation to a *Happy/Information Hour* on November 15th at Players’ Bar & Grille. Executive Team members will be at the event to greet and connect with prospective members. In addition to learning about the Association first-hand, retirees will be able to join both HEART and MRSPA on site. And to supplement our “local” recruitment efforts, the Executive Team approved a similar gathering for prospective members in the state of Delaware, a place to which many of our colleagues have retired. Stay tuned for more information about this activity.

We look forward to our next luncheon meeting on **Tuesday, December 11th** at Turf Valley Resort. The cost of this ever-popular event is now only \$25, so be sure to reserve a seat early by completing the reservation form or by calling *JoAnn* at 301-854-6268. (The deadline for rsvp’s is 11/27.) For the December meeting, we invite members to bring items to support our newest service endeavor, *Comfort Cases*. Donation specifics are included in the newsletter; thanks in advance for your support of this worthwhile cause!

As always, it is our pleasure to serve HEART members as we work together to *connect, protect, and make a difference*.

Addie & Sue

HEART Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2018

St. James United Methodist Church West Friendship, MD

Welcome/Introduction of New Members

Sue Mascaro, Co-President

Sue mentioned we have three (3) platforms for sharing information:

- HEART Newsletter
- HEART website
- FACEBOOK Page

Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation

Addie Kaufman, Co-President

Lunch, Munch & Mingle!

- \$168.00 was collected in today's sale of the raffle tickets from MRSPA for teacher scholarships. Janet Zimmerman gave the money and ticket receipts Anne Marie Downey.
- Additional tickets will be available at the December luncheon.

Call to Order

Sue Mascaro, Co-President

- Sue Mascaro, Co-President called the meeting to order at 12:53 pm.
- New members introduced themselves.

Recognition Program

Sue Mascaro, Co-President

- **Elizabeth Waltman**, HCPSS Teacher of the Year, was presented with flowers for appreciation. She has been in HCPSS since 2009 at Lime Kiln Middle as a math teacher.
- **Donna Brackens**, chair of the Membership Committee was recognized. Donna mailed over 250 letters to new members, handled all the applications, and called all the members that had not renewed.
- **JoAnn Horan** was recognized for organizing today's sold-out luncheon.

Guest Speaker

Anne Marie Downey, President MD Retired School Personnel Assoc.

- Anne Marie taught elementary school in Washington County for her entire career. She served as president for four years for her local association before becoming a representative to MRSPA.
- She encouraged members to consider using their skills at the State level.
- Overall in the State, membership has declined. It is important to recruit the newly retired and those who have not yet joined. The organization works exclusively to protect and defend our benefit program. Increased membership results in increased clout in lobbying.
- The recent MRSPA conference focused on increasing memberships. Information will follow a format of "Clear, concise, compelling, and consistent."
- "Connecting, Protecting, and Making a Difference" is Anne Marie's new tagline.
- She emphasized that the personal touch is one of the best ways to encourage someone to join.
- Members are encourage to vote on Nov. 6
 - "Fix the Fund" – Question 1, is endorsed.
 - HEART gave Anne Marie a mum as a thank you gift.

Business Meeting

• Ice Breaker Activity

HEART Members

- Members talked with someone they did not know to discover their favorite vacation spot.

• Co-Presidents' Report

Addie Kaufman & Sue Mascaro

• Protecting our Assets

- HEART protects our health benefits
- MRSPA protects our pension
- The executive board has been calling new retirees to encourage them to join HEART and MRSPA.

- HEART is holding a complimentary Happy Hour for new members on Nov. 15 (4-7pm) at Players Bar and Grill. Everyone is encouraged to invite new retirees to attend to learn more about HEART and MRSPA.
- Many HCPSS retirees live at the beach. HEART plans to hold a Happy Hour somewhere in Delaware to connect with the retirees and encourage them to join both organizations.
- As of today we have 64 new members.

- **Connecting and Serving**

- Social events are planned, including a trip to Toby's Dinner Theater. The next trip is Nov. 1 for "Ain't Misbehavin." Tickets are only \$35.00. Six tickets remain.
- A bus trip was held to Longwood Gardens.
- Donations were collected today for the Food Pantry. HEART volunteers at the Food Bank. Nov. 16 is the next scheduled date.
- Sue explained "Comfort Cases." It provides foster children with cases, rather than trash bags when they have to move. 270,000 youth enter foster care every year. Supplies are needed for the cases. Members are asked to donate items at the December meeting. Items needed are:
 - Boys deodorant
 - Unisex journal
 - Gently used books
 - Pajamas
 - Amazon also sells Comfort Cases

- **Approval of the Minutes**

Janet Zimmerman, Interim Secretary

- Chuck Ridgeway moved to accept the May minutes; Ann Ridgeway seconded the motion. The members voted to accept the minutes

- **Treasurer's Report**

Ellen Hill, Treasurer

- Current funds:
 - Checking account: \$13,854.04
 - Other account: \$24,889.06
 - Scholarship: \$813.78
- We will decrease the cost of the Dec. luncheon by supplementing the cost to keep it at \$25.00
- Scholarships will increase from \$1,000 to \$1,500 this year.
- Increasing membership with activities was described. There will be a complimentary **Happy Hour for new and prospective members** at Players in Woodstock on **November 15 at 4:00pm**. Spread the word!

- **Committee Highlights**

- **Scholarship Committee**

Fran Razmus & Donna Streagle, Chairs

- Donna Streagle stated that in January the committee reaches out to promote and advertise the scholarships.
- The committee meets in April to select the winners.
- The scholarships are awarded at the Awards banquet.
- Candidates must be a graduate of HCPSS, studying education, and have a certain GPA. Applications are reviewed and a scoring sheet is used to determine the winners.
- Fran Razmus collects the scholarship money.
- Fran read a thank-you note from one of the recipients.
- For raising money, Donna said members might want to consider contributing money in the name of someone who passes away. A letter of recognition is provided.
- The 50-50 raffle at the December meeting and March meeting is a fund raiser.
- Students who receive a scholarship may reapply.
- Members are encouraged to join the scholarship committee.

- **Nominating Committee**

Corita Oduyoye, Chairperson

- Corita welcomed the new members and returning retirees.
- She has one member on her committee, Regina Cook.
- The nominating committee seeks to find members to serve on the Board or committees.
- Currently the committee is looking for someone to work with Ellen Hill on photography and publicity.
- Ronnie Bohn and Linda Storey volunteered to be Co-Vice Presidents. Debbie Cartney moved to nominate Ronnie and Linda to the position. Chuck Ridgeway seconded the motion. The motion passed. Anne Marie Downey installed Linda and Ronnie into office.

• **Fraud Protection**

Fran Donaldson, AARP Representative

- Last summer Fran attended an AARP luncheon. The speaker currently works for the FBI and lectures on protecting yourself from scams and fraud. It is important to be educated on the subject. Fran provided copies of the *AARP Watchdog Alert Handbook*. More copies will be provided at the December meeting. It is now free to freeze our credit reports. Trusona is the technology of the future to replace passwords.

• **Important Announcements**

Sue Mascaro, Co-President

- Sue stated that we will no longer hold a May auction. We will have a guest speaker at each meeting. Instead of the auction we will hold a 50-50 raffle. Proceeds will go toward the Scholarships.
- Deadline for the newsletter is Monday, October 29 (to Gail)
- JoAnne Horan encouraged members to pay attention to the deadlines in the newsletter for payments for the luncheons. She thanked everyone for their attendance today.
- Kim Sullivan, President of the Necrology Committee, announced the passing of the following members:
 - Thurman Butcher
 - John “Jack” Wineke
 - Shirley Young
- Janet Oaks has brochures from the League of Women Voters.

Door Prizes/Adjournment

Addie Kaufman, Co-President

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15.

PROGRAM NEWS: General Membership Meeting on December 11th (Sue Mascaro)

HEART’s next membership meeting, our annual holiday luncheon, will be held on **Tuesday, December 11th at Turf Valley Country Club** in Ellicott City. Members will have the opportunity to “connect” with former colleagues and friends while enjoying a delicious meal. Because this is one of our most popular meetings, we will forgo a traditional guest speaker to allow more time to munch, mingle, and be merry.

During the business portion of the meeting, members of HEART’s Executive Team will provide updates on current and new items of interest. And to help our members get into the spirit of the season? Two of the school system’s award-winning musical groups will dazzle us with live performances.

Registration forms for the holiday luncheon are located in this newsletter. Be sure to note the new, low ticket cost of \$25. This reduction in cost, approved by your Executive Team in August, was in response to feedback from our members. Tickets are sure to go fast, so get your registration in today!

We hope to see each and every one of you on December 11th. (Snow date, December 18.)

COMMUNITY SERVICE with HEART

Thanks to the generosity of HEART members who attended our October meeting, we donated seven (!) bags of food to the *Howard County Food Bank* last month! But donating items is not the only way we support the Food Bank. On Friday, November 16th, a team of your HEART colleagues will be sorting and stocking items at the facility. Although we are

already booked solid for this particular date, we hope you can join us on a future outing. Be sure to check the website and Facebook for our next volunteer date.

This year, we're excited to introduce a new community service project, *Comfort Cases*. The mission of this incredible organization, founded by a former foster child, is to "inspire communities to bring dignity and hope to youth in foster care." Each year, over 270,000 youth enter foster care, with most arriving to their foster placement with little in the way of clothes or personal belongings. The staff at *Comfort Cases* supports foster children in two ways; by providing police and social workers with new duffle bags so the children can transport their belongings, and second, by including in those bags special "cases" filled with comfort and essential items to ease their transition into the foster home.

At our December meeting, HEART will be collecting items to fill these comfort cases. Suggested donations include personal items for boys and girls (deodorant, shampoo, etc.), pajamas (particularly larger sizes), unisex journals, and new or gently used books. Members can drop their contributions in the donation baskets located at the meeting Registration/Welcome Desks.

GET SOCIAL with HEART: TOBY'S Dinner Theatre

On Thursday, November 1st, 40 of your HEART colleagues enjoyed a terrific performance of the award-winning Fats Waller musical, *Ain't Misbehavin*. Quite a few of your fellow members were grooving to the music... if only we had captured those moves on film!

Perhaps you weren't able to join us on the 1st? Not to worry, as we've already booked ANOTHER show! Join us for an evening of food and fun at Toby's on **Thursday, February 21st**. This time, we're off to see **Gypsy**, regarded by many theatre professionals as the greatest musical ever created. Set in the 1920's when burlesque was born, Gypsy explores the world of show business with brass, humor and heart.

Tickets for HEART members are \$45. This new cost reflects an increase in ticket prices for 2019 and a 12% gratuity, still a considerable discount from the regular box office price. Contact Sue via email (scmascaro@gmail.com) or cell (443-878-6883) to reserve seats. We hope to see you there!



Welcome, New Members!



The following has joined HEART since our last newsletter:

Michelle Baier	Carole Phipps	Anna Seitz	Marcelino Bedolla	Carol Lynn Collins
Kirk L. Thompson	Marian Wheitle	Arlene Harrison	Ann Fersht	Susan Kaufman

Application for HEART Membership

Name ((PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)) _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Email: _____ Birthdate: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please mail this form with a check for \$10.00 to:

HEART c/o Mrs. Donna Brackins
904 Roller Coaster Court
Mt. Airy, MD 21771

If you know anyone who is retiring, or has retired but not yet joined either HEART or MRSPA, please share this edition of the newsletter with them, or at least, give them a copy of this HEART membership application. [To join MRSPA, they need to contact MRSPA directly.](#) That can be done by going to their website: www.mrspa.org and clicking on "Member Services" or by calling 1-877-625-6782. (Their address is 8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A, Odenton, MD, 21113 - 1508)

HEART Scholarship Donation Form

Enclosed is my donation of: \$ _____ Date _____

Name _____ (Phone _____)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please designate: ___ **Honor of** ___ **Memory of:**

Name of honoree or deceased _____

Special Occasion for honoree _____

Send acknowledgement to: Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Donation for Retirement years/ Other: _____

Mail this completed form with your check to Scholarship Committee Chair:

Fran Razmus
9221 Maple Rock Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21042

New Directory to be Distributed

At the December meeting, the Annual Membership Directory will be distributed to HEART members. If your information has changed since last year's Directory, please let me know ASAP! **If your email address was not in the Directory last year, and you would like it included this year, please send me that request and that information. I will not publish your information without your permission.** The new directory will be going to the printer in early/mid November. If you will **not** be at the December meeting, and would like a copy of the new directory, please send a **\$2 check made out to HEART** (to cover the postage/envelope) to Gail M. Phillips at 2716 Mt. Olive Court, Mt. Airy, MD 21771 **before Nov. 15**. I need that information before **Nov. 15** so I know how many directories to have printed. If you will be at the December meeting, there is no charge since there will be no mailing of your copy.



**HEART Luncheon/Meeting
Reservation Form**

DATE: *Tuesday, December 12, 2018 at Turf Valley*

*** 50/50 Raffle for the HEART Scholarship Fund and music by HS Madrigals ***

PLACE: Turf Valley Resort and Conference Center – Route 40, Ellicott City, MD

TIME: 12 Noon **COST:** \$25.00 per person (non-refundable)

MENU: Turf Valley’s Luncheon Buffet

**Please complete the following form and send it by November 25, 2018
with a check payable to H.E.A.R.T. to:
JoAnne Horan
17494 Timberleigh Way
Woodbine, MD 21797**

_____ Reservations for Luncheon at \$25.00 per person \$ _____ Total Enclosed

Name(s): _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Reservations are needed by **Tuesday, November 27, 2018**. Thank you for early reservations! Late reservations cannot be accepted, as a count must be given on this date. **Call 301-854-6268 if you think your reservation will not get to JoAnne in time! In case of bad weather,** we will follow the HCPSS decision for that day. **If schools are closed,** the luncheon is **canceled**. If school is **delayed,** we **will** have the luncheon!! If you don’t have or use email, please put a phone number we can use. Email is preferred, since we can reach more people more quickly that way. **The “Snow Date” is Monday, December 18, 2017.**

In Memoriam

We are saddened to learn of the passing of Shirley Young earlier this year in June. She was an emeritus member of HEART and MRSPA.

A Message from Kim Sullivan, Necrology Chairperson
(H: 410-489-4886 or C: 443-280-1608 or kimberliesullivan@verizon.net)

It is important to keep informed of changes in our membership. Should you become aware of the passing of any of our members, please let me know. Any information you could provide about that person would be very helpful in the preparation of the written bios that are included in our newsletters. Of course, our “Personal Data” forms are tremendous resources when needed. Please make sure you have a completed ”Personal Data” form in our HEART files. For your convenience, a copy of the form will be available at the December luncheon/meeting. It is also available on our website!