

HEART GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

03/12/2024

Sue Mascaro, Co-President, called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm. The meeting was held at The Meeting House in Columbia. 93 members registered for today's meeting. Ed Salazar catered today's luncheon.

Approval of the December 13, 2023 minutes: **Janet Zimmerman** provided copies of the minutes from the December general meeting. There were no questions or corrections. **Kay Brooks** made a motion to approve the minutes; **Lois Savor-Rock** seconded the motion. The members voted and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: **Ellen Hill** reported the current balances: Checking = \$29,891.09; other interest-bearing checking (savings) = \$9531.74; Scholarship = \$1,809.00.

Membership and Recruitment: **Susan Sellner/Donna Brackins** provided a membership update. Currently there are 572 joint memberships (MRSPA and HEART). Word of mouth is the most effective recruitment tool. Members may wish to give or email fliers to their friends. It is important to explain to new members that MRSPA works to protect our pension. MRSPA sent out renewal emails for past members to rejoin. The State is having a special of \$10 through the end of May to encourage members to join MRSPA. HEART is working hard to recruit new members by working with HR. **Sue** attended an online Zoom seminar for upcoming retirees. HCPSS retirement packages contain HEART fliers. In addition, HEART sends out letters to new retirees in June. One member suggested exploring ways to recruit out-of-state members who cannot come to meetings. A happy hour was suggested before people retire where we discuss the important pieces of HEART. The drawing was held for a gift for members with birthdays in March, April, and May.

Guest Speakers: **Ashley Hope and Kristie Kidd** from *Oasis Senior Advisors* provided a very informative presentation on the various housing and/or care options for seniors including skilled nursing facilities (short-term rehab and long-term skilled care) and assisted living facilities, active 55+, licensed communities, continuing care retirement communities, and rental communities with assisted living. Their advisors assist seniors and families to find the senior living solution that is the right fit. There is never a cost for their services. Their process includes assistance with: in-depth consultation to identify personal preferences; funding options to keep monthly housing costs low; personalized list of housing options; touring preferred communities with your Oasis Senior Advisor; and selecting your community and moving in with ease. The Veterans Aid and Attendance Benefits program was mentioned as a possible source of financial assistance for veterans and spouses of veterans. Contact Oasis by email at OSAteam@YourOasisAdvisor.com or by phone (240) 866-0064 for additional information.

Serving the Community: HEART continues to sponsor *Comfort Cases* and the *Howard County Food Bank* with donations. If a member wishes to provide a cash donation, both organizations gladly accept a check or credit card payment at any time. Let them know your donation is on behalf of HEART.

Socializing with HEART: **Sue Mascaro** announced the upcoming shows at Toby include: *Beauty and the Beast* (May 9); *Jersey Boys* (July 11); and *The Addams Family* (Nov. 7). In addition, the BSO at the Strathmore in Bethesda will present *Blockbuster Broadway* on Friday Oct. 4. Contact Sue Mascaro via email (scmascaro@gmail.com) or cell (443-878-6883) for tickets and/or details for Toby's or The Strathmore.

Leading with HEART: **Sue Mascaro** discussed members "stepping up to the plate" with HEART. We are in need of a website editor, Silent Auction Committee (chaired by Elise Jordan) members, and delegates to attend the annual MRSPA meeting on May 7th at Turf Valley Resort.

Necrology: **Kim Sullivan**, necrology committee, announced the passing of four HEART members: Luella Ford(93) , Sylvia Jo Hazzard (87), Delma Kemmet (81), and Kathleen Avery (76). **Patti Neidig** mails a sympathy card to the families of the members. In addition, if someone is ill, HEART will provide a card to the member. It is important for each HEART member to complete a [Personal Data Form](#) to keep on file with HEART. There is a link in the newsletter, on our website, or a paper form can be provided.

Moving HEART Forward: Feedback forms were provided to members for input on upcoming luncheons. We also welcome suggestions for guest speakers.

The HEART Directory will be provided electronically this fall. There will be an opt out in May for those members who do not wish to be in the electronic directory. A print option will be available for a minimal fee.

Miscellaneous: **Jim Evans** shared that Harper's Choice Middle School will hold its 50th anniversary celebration on April 13 from 9-11.

Lisa Davis, Scholarship Chairperson, thanked members for their donations toward the scholarship fund. Members who donate are eligible for a gift card drawing in spring. There is an online form or members may print and submit. The application process opened last month and the closing date is April 1, 2024. The scholarship is intended for current HCPSS seniors going into education and college students currently in an education program. Financial need is not a requirement. Today's drawing yielded \$242.00. Half of that amount went to Suzy Zilber who graciously donated her award back to the college fund. Thank you, Suzy!

****Door prizes were awarded.** **Susan Sellner** created lovely March buckets of goodies. Thank you, Susan