

HEART General Meeting Minutes 3/11/25

Sue Mascaro, Co-President, called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm. The meeting was held at The Meeting House in Oakland Mills. 105 members registered for today's luncheon.

General Business and Committee Updates

Approval of December 10, 2024 General Meeting Minutes

Janet Zimmerman, Secretary, stated that the minutes of the meeting were published in the February 4, 2025 email blast. There were no questions or corrections. **Susan Sellner** made a motion to approve the minutes; **Lisa Davis** seconded the motion. Members voted and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: **Ellen Hill**, Treasurer, reported the current balances: Checking = \$36,386.61; other interest-bearing checking (savings) = \$7,183.46; Scholarship = \$1,480.78.

Guest Speaker

The guest speaker was **Steven Migdal** from AARP. His presentation covered *How to Avoid Fraud, Scams, and Identity Theft*. He is a fraud specialist for AARP who contacts people after they have been scammed. Steve's advice includes: Don't open an attachment from someone you don't know, don't click on a link in an email or text, don't answer calls if you do not know the caller (block them and delete). Steven reminded members that the AARP magazine, AARP Bulletin, and AARP website include information on identify theft, scams, data breaches, etc. It is critical that we protect our personal information as well as what we do with that information. We must **control access** to our Social Security number, driver's license, financial account numbers and PIN numbers, and credit card information (including the card number, expiration date, and security code). Crypto is the latest big scam. No government agency will ever contact you by phone, threaten you, or demand immediate a payment. You can freeze your credit with the 3 credit bureaus, set up a fraud alert with any one of the three credit bureaus, and get a "My Social Security" account for protection. WiFi in public libraries and airports is not secure. (NOTE: "https:" is secure VPN.) Use a credit card rather than a debit card. Check and monitor your credit report. Two-step authentication is a great tool. Steve provided a handout with important numbers and websites on today's topics. The information will be posted on the HEART website.

Recruitment & Retention

Susan Sellner thanked everyone who helped set up today's luncheon. Susan sends out emails to new members. The recruitment brochures were revised and will be given to new retirees. Our current total joint membership (MRSPA & HEART) is 598; another 383 are HEART only. First time members were introduced.

An *Endless Summer Happy Hour* and a *Not Back to School Happy Hour* will be held in June and September. Details will be announced in the April newsletter.

Socializing with HEART

Performances at Toby's: The April 3 performance is *The Music Man*. August 22 will be *Saturday Night Fever*; December 4 will be *Elf, the Musical*.

Join HEART at the Strathmore and enjoy the incredible music of the BSO. The new season begins this fall. Check the April newsletter for additional details. A considerable discount over the box office price is available through HEART. Contact **Sue Mascaro** via email (scmascaro@gmail.com) or cell (443-878-6883) for tickets to either venue.

Necrology

Marlyn Oatts, Necrology Chairperson, provided a *Moments of Remembrance*. Since the December 13, 2023 general meeting, HEART became aware of the passing of thirteen members. They include: Sylvia Hazzard, Christine Raines, Delma Kemmet, Joanne Welling, Kathleen Avery, Emma Jean Merson, Anna Lupashunski, Roger Volrath, Joan Simon, Sally Farrell, Howard Rohrer, Mary Appler, and Marie DeAngeles.

Marlyn read the poem, *A Teacher for All Seasons* in tribute for those who passed.

Drawings

A drawing was held for members born in February, March, and April and gifts provided.

Lisa Davis announced the winner of the 50/50 drawing. Nancy Jansen won \$123.00. Proceeds support the scholarship fund. Scholarships are open for application and due by April 1. Donations are always accepted. Anyone who donates by check or Zelle will be eligible for a special drawing.

Door prizes: **Susan Sellner** made a collection of beautiful spring arrangements for today's door prizes.

Serving the Community

HEART continues to sponsor *Comfort Cases* and the *Howard County Food Bank* with donations. Members donated generously to both organizations today. *Comfort Cases* provides a back pack with books, journals, pajamas, a stuffed animal friend, and other essentials for youth required to move to a foster home. In the past youth were given a trash bag for their belongings when moving. *Comfort Cases* was founded to provide a more humane touch for the children.

Miscellaneous

Sue asked for volunteers to attend the MRSPA Conference at Turf Valley Resort on May 6. Contact Sue if you are interested in attending.

The directory was emailed during the winter. A limited number of paper copies are available for a fee. The directory will be sent again with the April Newsletter. A big thank you to Genée Varlek and Anne Swartz for updating the directory!

HEART is now an incorporated entity thanks to Sharon Kramer. The next step is to revise the bylaws. Sharon volunteered for the task.

A big thank you to **Gail Zitney, Susan Sellner, and their committee members** for organizing today's luncheon.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Zimmerman, Secretary

Looking for the most up-to-date information from your organization?

Visit our website at <https://howardrspa.org>.

Like us on Facebook: Search for HEART, *The Association of Retired Howard County Personnel*.

Upcoming General Membership Meeting/Luncheon: May 13, 2025 at 12:00 pm at *The Meeting House* in Columbia