

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES -- MAY, 12, 2026

Addie Kaufman, Co-President, called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm. The meeting was held at The Meeting House in Oakland Mills.

General Business and Committee Updates Addie Kaufman stated HEART continues to have a great relationship with HCPSS. This morning Addie met with Bill Barnes, HCPSS Superintendent. Bill is very supportive of HEART. Addie explained retirees have no bargaining rights (bargaining is for active teachers only); consequently, there is no limitation to how many organizations can "support" (not bargain for) retired teachers. HEART has been in existence since 1975, under MRSPA, and will continue to inform retirees. HEART is happy to partner with any other organization that supports retirees. Gene Streagle and Jim Evans continue to advocate for HEART through the BAC (Benefits Advisory Committee).

MRSPA works to protect our pension; HEART protects our benefits through HCPSS. The price of dues is \$20.00/year to join HEART and \$50.00/year to join MRSPA. Automatic deductions for both from the July pension deposit is easy to set up through MRSPA.

Approval of March 10, 2026, General Meeting Minutes Janet Zimmerman, Secretary, stated that the minutes of the meeting were published in the April 2026 newsletter. There were no questions or corrections. Kaye Brooke made a motion to approve the minutes; Susan Sellner seconded the motion. Members voted and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Ellen Hill, Treasurer, reported the current balances: Checking \$41,899.22; Savings (other interest-bearing checking account) \$1,684.26; Scholarship-\$3,514.26. HEART awarded five scholarships of \$1,500 each this year and all recipients have received their funds.

FY 27 Budget Sharon Kramer presented and explained the FY 27 budget. It is a zero-based budget. Total Revenue is \$26,510; total expenses are \$26,510. Carol Hahn made a motion to accept the FY 27 budget as written; Alice Haskins seconded the motion. Members voted and the budget was passed.

Featured Presentation: Housing Stability & HoCo Home Share Dana Sohr from Bridges to Housing Stability, presented information on homeless services (Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Rehousing, and Family Home Start). The organization has its own stock of affordable housing (Bridges Alliance, Help End Homelessness). Dana described HoCo Home Share and their comprehensive process. He also provided literature on the program. 30% of those in the program are over age 55. There are home sharing programs throughout

the U.S. Learn more and apply at: <https://www.bridges2hs.org/hoco-home-share> Contact the organization at 410-312-5760 X 121

HEART & MRSPA Last week several members attended the MRSPA annual business meeting at Turf Valley. Our pension fund is in excellent shape. Some by-laws were amended. Neighboring retiree school systems shared ideas. One idea included mini grants to support HCPSS teachers. Another included awards to retirees. One system hosts an I Don't Have to Go to School Today Breakfast.

Betty Weller, current president of MRSPA, spoke to members. She appreciates our membership. MRSPA supports and advocates for our pension as well as relevant Maryland legislation. Betty said the best way to affect legislation is to have a personal conversation with legislators. Anyone who knows a delegate is encouraged to have a conversation with that delegate to provide information on MRSPA, teachers, pensions, benefits, etc. MRSPA gives scholarships to future teachers. Everybody is encouraged to join MRSPA - The more members we have, the louder our voices.

HEART's Website Karyn Littlejohn, our webmaster, has revamped the HEART website. The website is open to everyone; it is no longer password protected. There is a new Meeting Recap Page with links to the approved meeting minutes and other relevant resources from the meeting. We are hoping more HCPSS retirees will join our private Facebook group. As Craig Powell posted, "Sometimes it takes all day to do nothing!"

Socializing with HEART Sue Mascaro announced Performances at Toby's in Columbia. Join HEART members for The Donna Summer Musical (Oct. 29), and White Christmas (December 17). Contact Sue to reserve tickets for Toby's (by phone (443-878-6883) or by email, at scmascaro@gmail.com). In addition, HEART is sponsoring our annual Endless Summer Happy Hour on June 16 at Kelsy's Irish Pub in Ellicott City. The cost is \$15. RSVP to Sue by June 12.

The Scholarship Committee Lisa Davis reported HEART awarded five scholarships (out of 11 applicants this year) to future educators. Donations are accepted throughout the year (the form is online or can be mailed). Information is posted on the HEART website. Donations may be mailed via check or through Zelle. A gift card surprise will be awarded to Jacqueline Lashinsky.

A 50/50 drawing was held today to support the scholarship committee. \$230 was collected. Debbie Cartney graciously donated her \$115 share back to the Scholarship Committee.

Retiree Benefits Update Gene Streagle provided an update from the Benefits Advisory Committee (BAC). Maryland has a Defined Benefits Pension, the best type of pension to

have. The Maryland legislators have no idea that our health insurance is paid for by the county. They think the State pays for it. The State legislators want to eventually pass the State funding for pensions to be paid by the counties. All retirees still have HCPSS Life Insurance. HCPSS has great health care benefits for retirees, maybe the best in the State. If you know anyone in the county council, please speak with that person about not allowing

Serving the Community HEART continues to sponsor Comfort Cases and the Howard County Food Bank with donations. Both organizations accept donations throughout the year (in person, by mail, or through their website). Members donated generously to both organizations today. Today's economic world is difficult for many of our Howard County residents. Comfort Cases provides a backpack with books, journals, pajamas, a stuffed animal friend, and other essentials for youth required to move to a foster home. Comfort Cases was founded to provide a more humane touch for the children as they transition to new foster placements.

Susan Sellner provided lovely plant door prizes. May, June, and July birthdays were celebrated. Members thanked Gail Zitney, Susan Sellner, Jo Schelle, Anne Polilove, Gisella C, and Debra Dear, and Donna Brackins for the success of today's luncheon.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Zimmerman, Secretary