



# Keeping You in the Loop . . .

From the desk of Donna Copenhaver

## August Sun

*An August sun can gently warm the early dewdrops, in the morn  
And days of carefree, golden charms. An August sun can gently warm  
The songs of whispered daydreams, torn from posies, sweet, among the thorns  
An August sun can gently warm the early dewdrops, in the morn*

By Carrie Richards

Hopefully this eNewsletter finds you well and enjoying the summer. Even though it is still a little more than 2 months until the Fall Luncheon Meeting, I wanted to let you know that we will be having a very special speaker during lunch. State Comptroller, Peter Franchot, will be speaking about what is being done to protect our pensions and to fully reimburse our State Pension Fund. It promises to be a meeting you won't want to miss. Save the date, October 18, on your calendar now. The luncheon form is attached and will also be available in the September UPDATE newsletter. Get your reservation in now and tell your retired friends, even if they are not currently BCRSPA members.



Hope to see you in October.  
Sincerely,  
Donna

### On the Horizon:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Crab Feast, September 18, 2016, 3pm-6pm @ Camp Running Bear. (See attached registration for details)
- Early September: Newsletter "UPDATE" distribution
- Executive Board Meeting: September 20, 2016 @ St. Isaac Jogues Cronin Center, Room 1 (Please consider attending. Just eMail me for directions and details.)
- Fall Members Meeting at Columbus Gardens, October 18, 2016 registration 9:30am. (See attached registration for details)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Breakfast with Colleagues, at Columbus Gardens, December 8, 2016 @ 10:00am. (See attached registration for details)
- Navy Band Holiday Concert to be held at the DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. on December 18, 2016. To express an interest, call C. David Copenhaver at 410-515-0456, or eMail: [cdavidcopenhaver@gmail.com](mailto:cdavidcopenhaver@gmail.com) (Only 8 seats remaining)

# Special EVENTS

9/18/2016

## BCRSPA 3rd Annual Crab Feast

### BCRSPA 3rd Annual Crab Feast

Crabs/ Shrimp/ Fried Chicken/ Cole Slaw/ Potato Salad/ Beer/ Soda/ Dessert

Sunday, September 18, 2016

3:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

Camp Running Bear in Monkton

Tickets  
\$40 each,  
Same as  
last year!



Rain  
or  
Shine!

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10/18/2016

## BCRSPA Fall Luncheon Meeting

Peter Franchot, Comptroller of MD, will be the special guest speaker at our Fall Luncheon Meeting on October 18, 2016. In addition, Teacher of the Year, Corey Carter – Northwest Academy of Health Sciences (formerly Old Court Middle School) will be a guest speaker. You will want to register as soon as possible!

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12/8/2016

## 3rd Annual Breakfast with Colleagues

Perry Hall High School's Steel Drum Band, "Pan Grove", under the direction of Mr. Scott Engel who has been selected by School Band and Orchestra as one of the "50 Directors Who Make a Difference" will be performing at our "Breakfast with Colleagues" on December 8, 2016. You will want to register as soon as possible as space is limited!

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## **Be Prepared: Scammers Target Smartphones Every Day**

### **Spam**

Nearly 70 percent of smartphone texters say they receive unwanted spam messages, studies show. And people are three times more likely to respond to spam received by cell phone than when using a desktop or laptop computer. That's particularly dangerous because more than a quarter of text-message spam—such as free gift cards, cheap medications and similar text-message come-ons—is intended to criminally defraud you, compared with only about 10 percent of spam arriving by email. These texts often lead you to shady websites that install malware on your phone or otherwise seek to steal sensitive details for identity theft.

### **The one-ring con**

In a longtime calling scam, crooks leave voice messages asking you to call back a specific number because you have won a sweepstakes or have an undeliverable package. Now they simply program calls to smartphones to ring only once or disconnect when you answer. Your curiosity over a missed-call alert results in you spending upwards of \$30 to call back. The reason: Despite a seemingly American area code, the call is to an international phone number—often in the Caribbean—that charges a premium connection fee and per-minute rate, which is extended through long holds and frequent transfers.

You might also find charges crammed onto your bill with such innocuous language as "special services," "Internet advertising" or "minimum monthly usage fee."

What to know: Beware of any unfamiliar calls—one ring or otherwise—with area codes 268, 284, 473, 649, 664, 767, 809, 829, 849 or 876.

(Source: aarp.org. Some changes were made.)

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## **Memorial Scholarship Donations Are Now Tax Deductable**

By membership request, your BCRSPA Executive Board created an Ad Hoc Committee to investigate having your Memorial Scholarship contributions being tax deductible. After much investigation and work, the committee recommended that we partner with the BCPS Education Foundation, an established 501 C3 organization that has tax deductible status. The Executive Board approved a trial partnership for two years.

If you wish to donate to the BCRSPA Memorial Scholarship and would like your donation to be tax deductible, all you need to do is alter the way you fill out your check. You will make your check payable to BCPS Education Foundation and on the memo line write BCRSPA Scholarship Fund (see sample check). You still send your form and check to the BCRSPA Treasurer. He/she will forward the check to the Foundation and they will send you a receipt for your taxes.

If you are not interested in having your gift be tax deductible, you may continue to make your check payable to the BCRSPA Scholarship Fund.

If you have questions regarding the partnership with the BCPS Education Foundation, feel free to contact our treasurer, Stu Tucker, at [rstucker@juno.com](mailto:rstucker@juno.com). Thank you for your generous contributions to our Scholarship Fund. We hope that you will continue to donate. Now you have two options, one that is tax deductible and one that is not. Choose the one that best suits you.

## Navy Band Holiday Concert

Only **8 seats** remain for Navy Band Holiday Concert to be held at the DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. on December 18, 2016 The cost of the trip is estimated to be \$30-\$35 which includes the bus and the driver gratuity. Tickets are not available until October or early November. We are currently compiling a list of seriously interested people. To express an interest, eMail C. David Copenhaver at [cdavidcopenhaver@gmail.com](mailto:cdavidcopenhaver@gmail.com) or call him at 410-515-0456. (Only 8 seats remaining)



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# This n That

## Clever Ideas and Solutions (A few new “Life Hacks”)

I just love it when I get emails with hints like these — you’re never too old to learn.

- Freeze Aloe Vera in ice-cube trays for soothing sunburn relief
- Lavender promotes sleep, and eases anxiety. Put the leaves and flowers in water in a vase on a night-stand to take advantage of the soothing scent.
- For a mosquito-bite itch, try pressing a warm spoon on the welt. Run a spoon under hot water and apply.
- Tea bags in your footwear. This sounds wacky, but believe it or not, it’s a great way to reduce odor in sneakers and other shoes. The tea bags absorb the moisture and the stink. Step #1: Wipe the inside of each shoe with a cotton ball moistened with rubbing alcohol, to kill the bacteria. Step #2: Place a dry unused tea bag inside the shoe, let them sit overnight.
- How to hull strawberries, all you have to do is poke em’ with a straw! You start at the bottom of the strawberry, push the straw up, and the stem and white bit just pop right up!
- Pre-bake your cakes and keep them fresh overnight by placing a slice of bread on top. In the morning your bread will be hard as a rock but the cake will remain moist, ready to ice. See more @ <http://myfridgefood.com/tips/keep-your-cake-fresh-with-bread/>.
- Before you throw away a post-it, run it between the keys on your keyboard to collect crumbs and fluff.
- Bounce batteries to see if they are good or bad. Drop them on a table from about 6 inches. If they give a small bounce and fall right over they’re good. If they bounce around anymore than that they’re dead or on the way out.

(Source: <http://www.lifehack.org/>. Some changes were made.)

**BCRSPA working together to Engage and Empower!**