

January 4, 2015



Keeping You in the Loop . . .

From the desk of C. David Copenhaver

*We'll take one little step
And then we'll take one more,
Our unlimited potential
We'll totally explore.
Have a Lovely Happy New Year!*

From Paris

Hello BCRSPA Members,

BCRSPA is a dynamic and forward-looking organization that has recently made great strides and we hope the progress will continue unabated. You can help! With the continued dedication, hard work and cooperation of your Executive Board and our membership, I have no doubt that we will fulfill this goal. Trips, seminars, and fun activities are in the planning stages right now. Watch for news on these items in upcoming publications.

In a previous “eCommunication” I mentioned that we were looking into developing a BCRSPA Shutterfly site, whereby we could “reach out and touch” all of our members. We envisioned a single location to share pictures with friends and family from all our meetings, trips, events, community service projects, etc. We have created a site called “Baltimore County Retired School Personnel Assoc.” (Not enough space to spell out association, unless I used a really small font!). The new site is ready to launch and we would like you to check it out at: <https://bcrspaevents.shutterfly.com/>. Let us know what you think. The password is “bcrspa”. We welcome your comments and/or suggestions.

The Shutterfly site is not meant to replace our current website. You can check out the latest updates on the official website, <http://www.bcrspa.org/index.html>. The two sites will provide a broader scope of opportunity for our membership to stay in touch and truly feel a connection wherever they may be.

On another note, please consider attending an Executive Board meeting, joining a committee, attending at least one activity/trip, or sharing an idea you have! Hope to see you at a meeting or activity and/or hear from you. I can be reached at cdavidcopenhaver@gmail.com. You can also stay informed by visiting our website at www.bcrpsa.com. We hope to provide an opportunity at the Spring Luncheon on April 21st for you to meet the chairperson of each committee and to learn a little more about what they do. We hope this will entice a few of you to join a committee, none of which is very time consuming. Many hands help lighten the workload!



On the Horizon:

- *Executive Board Meeting, January 20, 2015, 10:00am at St. Isaac Jogues – Cronin Center, Room 1 (Please consider attending. Just eMail me for directions and details)*
- *Cherry Blossom Luncheon Cruise, Washington, DC, April 8th, 2015 (Sold out! Now forming waiting list)*
- *Annual Spring Business Meeting – April 21st, Columbus Gardens (Early-Bird registration.. See attached for details)*
- *President's Seminar # 2, an informational seminar for our members on Identify Theft. (Time, date, location TBD)*
- *MRSPA's 70th Anniversary (1945-2015), May 12th, 2015 (See December MRSPA News for details)*



Free Pizza Coupons May Leave a Bad Taste In Your Mouth!

Who doesn't like coupons—especially ones good for free pizza from Pizza Hut? Many people are receiving emails from what looks like Pizza Hut. The message says that in honor of the chain's 55th anniversary, they are giving out online coupons that can be redeemed for a free pan pizza. Beware! Before you click on a link that supposedly takes you to the promised coupon, think twice.



More likely than not, clicking on the link won't get you free pizza, but it will get you malware—"malicious software" that includes viruses and spyware that get installed on your computer, phone, or mobile device without your consent. Malware is used by criminals to steal your identity, send spam, or commit fraud.

Scammers have become quite talented at mimicking the look of legitimate business emails. They artfully cut and paste real logos and color schemes so their fake email looks as good as a real one. While the email may appear to come from Pizza Hut or Wells Fargo or another well-recognized company, what you are seeing is actually a scammer in disguise.

Follow the clues:

Fortunately, there are a few clues to look for to help figure out if an email is from a scammer.

1. Did the email go right into your junk folder? If so, keep it there; odds are good that it's a scam.

2. Does the sender's email address seem consistent with the company it's supposedly from? For example, does it end in pizzahut.com if it's from Pizza Hut? Big national companies have recognizable email addresses.
3. When you hover your cursor over the coupon link, the address of the link should pop up. If it's real, the address should include pizzahut.com.
4. Visit the company's actual website by hand-typing in the URL address (not by hitting the link). Are they promoting what is promised in the email? If not, put the email in the trash.
5. Do you regularly receive email alerts from that company or did it seem to arrive out of the blue?

If there is any doubt, don't click the link. Delete the email. Free pizza is great, but the trouble and expense of eliminating malware from your computer will definitely make you lose your appetite.

For more information about scams and how to protect yourself from unscrupulous criminals, visit the Federal Trade Commission's new website "Pass it on" at consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0030-pass-it-on. See more at: <http://www.ericksontribune.com/articles/2014/12/free-pizza-coupon-may-leave-bad-taste-your-mouth#sthash.PUood2bu.uYEp95BF.dpuf>

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The coming year promises to be a productive and a fun time. As you make plans for 2015, don't forget to include some, or all, of the trips/activities offered by your association. I am anxious to meet as many of our members as I can during my Presidency. So, join us when you can, and let me know how you think things are going. Email me at cdavidcopenhaver@gmail.com or call me at 410-515-0456.

10 FUN FACTS

1. You can't wash your eyes with soap.
2. You can't count your hair.
3. You can't breathe through your nose, with your tongue out.
4. You just tried no. 3
6. When you did no. 3 you realized it's possible, only you look like a dog.
7. You're smiling right now, because you were fooled.
8. You skipped no. 5
9. You just checked to see if there is a no. 5
10. Share this with your friends to have some fun too! :-)

BCRSPA together, creating a moment!