



UPDATE

Baltimore County Retired School Personnel Association

Vol. 41, No. 3
March 2015

From the President

The 2015 Maryland General Assembly

opened in mid January. I am urging all BCRSPA members to become informed about the issues that affect Maryland educators, especially those of us who are retired and on fixed incomes. Take a few minutes to contact your senators and delegates



C. David Copenhaver

during the session and let them hear the voice of the retirees. Let them know that you are grateful for our defined benefit pension plan. Be sure to mention that the retirees with defined benefit plans help stabilize the economy. To stay informed of proposed legislation, visit the MRSPA website and contact your delegates and senators. The MRSPA website allows you to send a prepared response to your representatives.

In December, we initiated Breakfast with Colleagues. This new venue provided an opportunity to bring together new and current members as well as prospective

members to enjoy a social morning. Admission was a “new unwrapped” toy for Toys For Tots and/or a contribution to fight Breast Cancer. Staff Sergeant Szwala from the U.S. Marines was in attendance to accept the more than 100 donated toys for Toys for Tots and donations in excess of \$400 were collected for the American Breast Cancer Foundation.

The festivities included: The Dundalk Sweet Adelines performing numerous Christmas favorites and leading the audience in an old fashioned Christmas sing-a-long. After a full buffet breakfast, Santa Claus appeared *continued on page 2*

In this issue...

Membership News	1
Retirees Who Rock	2
In Memoriam.....	2
Scholarship Memorials...	3
Legislative Update	3
Spring Luncheon.....	4
Moving to Oak Crest.....	6
Western MD Trip	7
Member Events	7
Calendar	8

MEMBER ACCOUNTING NEWS

Membership Decline

The 2014–15 Membership Year ended February 28, 2015. During the past year we have added 65 new members. However, our membership has still declined by 2.9% due to deaths (49) and membership cancellations (72).

Cash Members Dues Reduction Incentive

If members who currently pay dues by check authorize dues deduction, they will receive a \$10.00 reduction in their state dues. This is a limited one-time offer (March 1 – June 1) for the 2015-16 membership year.

Member Recruitment Incentive

If an MRSPA member recruits a new member their name will be entered in a drawing for \$50.00. (Include your name on the application form of the new member as the recruiter.) A winner will be drawn prior to the April newsletter and a final drawing will be held at the MRSPA Annual Business Meeting on May 12, 2015.

E-Mail Addresses

Receive notices of upcoming trips and events by sending your e-mail address to:

C. David Copenhaver
P.O. Box 44016

continued on page 2

In Memoriam



Richard Bergman	Eileen Bevans
Shelia Bonnell	Edward Brunbaugh
Ralph Daniels	Bernadette A. Dew
Helen Diehl	Merrill Egger
Edna Morris	Joan Pickens
Keith Rembold	Betty Spanos

President's Message... continued from page 1

and visited each table for pictures which were processed on site and given to each person before leaving.

Our Scholarship Committee has received numerous applications from high school seniors who are trying to secure a \$1,500 scholarship from BCRSPA or WEBCO. Our hope is to award six such scholarships.

Once again, I invite you to share your email address (if you have one) with me so you can receive my monthly "Keeping You in the Loop" eNews. It allows you to receive timely announcements and advanced notice of BCRSPA continued on page 5

Member News...

continued from page 1

Nottingham, MD 21236-9998

Or email it to cdaavidcopenhaver@gmail.com.

New Members

Brenda Beasley	Alison Maier	Donna Bowman
Kathy Marschall	Phillip Brauer	Pamela McCracken
Donna Carroll	Brian Morrison	Nancy Cassell
Judith Murray	Lucille Conway	David Lee Parker
Karen Hastings	Christine Senft	Patsy J. Holmes
Celeste Stivers	Hellana J. Johnson	Lelia Walker
Jennie Kagel	Diane Young	Bernadine Zienkiewicz

Charlotte Price, Member Accounting Chair

Retirees Who Rock!

Do you know someone who has given new meaning to the term "retired" in a unique way?

Maybe he has reinvented himself through a completely different career path as a trainer of prize winning Cocker Spaniels. Maybe she has started her own business and made a fortune selling organic applesauce. Maybe they (spouses/partners/best friends) have opened a bed and breakfast in Hawaii or New England or Key West. Maybe he has written a crime novel or a prize winning jingle. Maybe she designs jewelry from discarded objects.

Or maybe—well, you get the idea. If you know of a fellow retiree who does something cool or different or noteworthy or laudable, TELL US ABOUT IT! It is a wonderful (and easy) way to put the spotlight on a deserving colleague.

Send that person's name and email address (or phone number) to Donna Copenhaver at P.O. Box 44016, Nottingham, MD 21236-9998 or call 410-515-0456 so that we can feature him or her in an upcoming newsletter. (With the person's permission, of course!)

BCRSPA Memorial Scholarship Fund

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Donation Amount \$ _____

Make check payable to: BCRSPA Memorial Scholarship Fund
(Non tax-deductible donation)

In Memory of _____ *(please print)*

In Honor of _____ *(please print)*

Mail to: Treasurer David Peters
PO Box 44016, Nottingham MD 21236-9998

Baltimore County Retired School Personnel Association, Inc.

P. O. Box 44016
Nottingham MD 21236-9998

UPDATE

The Baltimore County Retired School Personnel Association newsletter will be published four times annually: September, December March and June.

Editor, Donna Copenhaver
dmcopenhaver@gmail.com

Publisher, John T. Case
UPPER CASE Letters
410-803-1970
jcaseasbo@comcast.net

Legislative Committee Report

On January 15, 2015, the State of Maryland's Legislators began their annual deliberations in Annapolis. The results of the Legislative session can have a significant effect on the future of its citizens.

It is essential that we, as retirees, have a voice in this process, either as an individual or through the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) representation in Annapolis. The MRSPA Legislative Committee monitors all potential legislation that might impact retirees, especially the funding of the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System. Max Muller, Judith Zahren, and Tish Raff visited each Legislator to express MRSPA's concerns for our retirement benefits in the face of the large budget deficit in the State. The MRSPA committee will meet every two weeks to review action by the State Legislators in order to keep the membership informed. Parker Koons, BCRSPA's Legislative Committee Chair, will be in attendance at these meetings as well. As was stated in the December *MRSPA News*, members that have provided the office with their email address will receive legislative alerts regarding important matters. Members need to contact legislators about concerns by e-mail, telephone and/or letters. You may reach your elected officials by using the MRSPA website which allows you to send a prepared response to your legislators or type your own.

This year, it is imperative that all retirees become more active by reminding our elected officials that we are aware and concerned Maryland State residents. Board members will be on alert for any proposed changes in retirement benefits. Know your elected officials and be prepared to respond when called upon by the organization to make your feelings known regarding key issues that impact retirees.

Submitted by Parker E. Koons

Scholarship Memorials

August 2014

Yvette Velie by DKE MU Chapter (*Sheila Owens*)

Cordella F. Snyder by DKE MU Chapter

(*Sheila Owens*)

December 2014

Mary Alice Harvey by Neighbors & Friends

(*16 people listed*)

Joan Pickens by Linda Yaffe

Joan Pickens by Dr. Edna May Merson

January 2015

Joan Pickens by Anna J. Gallagher

Merreen Kelly by Duvall & Barbara Sollers

Carlton Charnock by Duvall & Barbara Sollers

Merreen Kelly by Bob Coleman

Samuel Herman by Bob Coleman

Richard E. McCall by Pat McCall Paquin

Kenneth E. "Mac" McDonald by Helen & Niel Carey

Andrew R. Bunce by Charles C. Royer

Constance Goldstein by Charles C. Royer

Robert McNeish by Bob Dubel

Sam Herman by Bob Dubel

Joan Pickens by Bob Dubel

Bernard Kotula by Bob Dubel

Bernard Kotula by Charlotte & Clair Price

Joan Pickens by Charlotte & Clair Price

All scholarship donations should be sent to:

BCRSPA Scholarship Fund

c/o David W. Peters, Treasurer

P.O. Box 44016

Nottingham, MD 21236-9998

Do you know where these members are?

**Nell M. Craft, Ruth Hopkins, Esther L. Lambert,
Mary K. Plott, Beatrice L. Wolcott**

If so, please call Mary Lou Brown at 410-252-4710 and give her an update.



Baltimore County Retired School Personnel Association, Inc.

SPRING LUNCHEON MEETING

Tuesday, April 21, 2015, at *Columbus Gardens*

AGENDA

Registration9:30 a.m.

Annual Business Meeting10:00 a.m.

Treasurer's Report

Budget Presentation

Election of Officers

Installation of Officers

Remembrance Service

Program

Update— Baltimore County Public Schools, Office of Employee Benefits

Social Hour — *cash bar available*11:30 a.m.

Luncheon 12:00 noon

Introduction of Scholarship Recipients

LUNCHEON MENU

Fresh Garden Salad with Ranch or Italian Dressings

Boneless Stuffed Breakfast Chicken

Beef Burgundy over Egg Noodles

Italian Blend of Vegetables and Glazed Baby Carrots, Rolls and butter

Ice Cream with Assorted Toppings

Cost: \$23.00

Deadline for Registrations: April 10, 2015 (*no refunds after this date*)

Please remember to bring your food/school supply item(s) for the ACTC.

Directions to Columbus Gardens are on the facing page.

RESERVATION FOR APRIL LUNCHEON MEETING — APRIL 21, 2015

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Name of Guest(s): _____

Number of Reservations: _____ Scholarship Donation:\$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks payable to **BCRSPA.**

Send reservation(s) and check(s) to:

Luncheon Chairperson, PO Box 44016, Nottingham MD 21236-9998

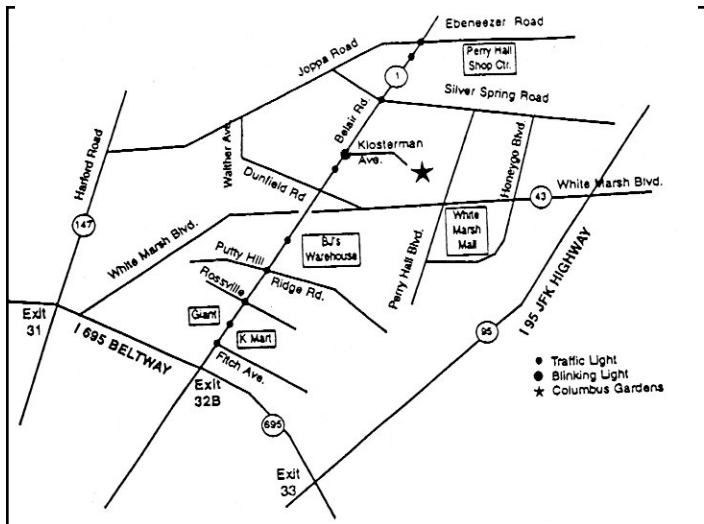
President's Message... *continued from page 2*

events to come. If you don't have an email address, you can still see the monthly "Keeping You in the Loop" by logging onto the BCRSPA website <http://www.bcrspa.org/index.html> or logging onto our new Shutterfly website <https://bcrspaevents.shutterfly.com/> (password is bcrspa). The Shutterfly site is quite informative. You can read the *Update* newsletter see the "Keeping You in the Loop," view pictures of events, and much more. I urge you to take some time to check out Shutterfly. The password is *bcrspa*. 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.

Please try to join us for at least one event this year. Also, if you have an event suggestion, don't hesitate to contact me at cdauidcopenhaver@gmail.com or call 410-515-0456.

Best Regards, David

Directions to Columbus Gardens



From I-695, take Exit 32B (Bel Air) north 1-1/4 miles to the blinking light at Klosterman Ave. Turn right and follow the street down until it dead ends in the Columbus Gardens parking lot.

VISIT
www.bcrspa.org
 and
<https://bcrspaevents.shutterfly.com/>
 (Password is *bcrspa*)

Like nature and want to volunteer?

There are many opportunities to be a volunteer at the Willow Grove Farm at Cromwell Valley Park. The Farm offers nature education, an outdoor classroom, a nature discovery zone, and a children's garden. Visit



<http://cromwellvalleypark.org/willowGroveFarm.html> to learn more about the programs and how you can get involved. Cromwell Valley Park also is open to the public. They have hiking trails and numerous public events.

**Thinking of Decluttering?
 What Is My Stuff Really Worth?**

Here are a couple suggestions where to look to answer this question.

- www.ebay.com Click on Advanced Search. Type in the name of your item, and where it says Search Including, click the Completed Listings button. Look for the green prices, Sold, which will give you an idea of what others received by selling what you want to sell.
- www.lofty.com Appraisers and experts provide free evaluations of the art, antiques, collectables and jewelry, and a marketplace to buy and sell.

Look for more suggestions in future issues of the *Update*.

The information given here is an excerpt from an article in the *Senior Spirit* newsletter of the Society of Certified Senior Advisors, Sept. 2014 edition. To read the full article, visit www.csa.us/wpcontent/uploads/0914Money.html.

**Emeritus Membership
 in BCRSPA**

(Age 90 as of June 30, 2015)

Name _____

Address (include Apt # and ZIP+4 code)

Date of Birth (month, day, year) _____

Telephone (____) _____

Mail to: Mrs. Charlotte Price
 PO Box 44016
 Nottingham, MD 21236-9998



Maryland Retired School Personnel Association
 Baltimore County Retired School Personnel Association Unit #04
Application for Automatic Dues Deduction



Name: _____ Soc. Sec. # _____ Birthdate: _____

I understand that my social security number is required if I wish to become a dues deduction member.

Address: _____ Telephone #: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

***Please sign authorization below for dues deduction and MAIL TO:**

BCRSPA Membership Chair	STATE DUES	\$35.00
P.O. Box 44016	LOCAL DUES	<u>15.00</u>
Nottingham, MD 21236-9998	TOTAL:	\$50.00

I hereby authorize the Teachers Retirement System of the State of Maryland to deduct annual membership dues for the MRSPA and Local Retired School Personnel Associations from one of my Retirement checks each year. This authorization is to remain in effect until cancelled by written notice mailed to the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Email Contest

Do you have an email address? We only have the email address of about 602 of our 1850 members. If you already receive the monthly “Keeping You in the Loop” eCommunication from our President, congratulations! If not, you may be missing some important,

timely information.

Anyone who has an email address but has not communicated it with us, this contest is for you! Send us your email and we will enter your name in a drawing for a \$25 Visa gift card.

Our *Update* newsletter is only published 4 times a year whereas the President communicates

monthly via email. Email allows us to stay connected on a more regular basis. We promise there will be complete privacy. No outside organizations will receive your information and there will be no spam. So send us your email address (new addresses only) to C. David Copenhaver at cdavidcopenhaver@gmail.com.

Slate of Officers

2015-2017

The Executive Board recommended the following slate of officers to be elected:

President-ElectDonna Copenhaver
 TreasurerE. Stuart Tucker
 Assistant TreasurerCindy Schulz
 Recording SecretaryBob Kane
 Corresponding Secretary ...Linda Yaffe
 DirectorSharon Norman
 DirectorEd Veit

Nominations for these positions will also be accepted from the floor at the Spring Business Luncheon Meeting on April 21, 2015, at Columbus Gardens.

After being elected, the slate of officers will be installed. An updated Executive Board Directory will be published in the June 2015 newsletter.

Moving to Oak Crest Village?

Did you know that BCRSPA has a partnership with Oak Crest Village? Well, we do! Any time a BCRSPA member moves into Oak Crest and informs them that they are a member of our association, Oak Crest will donate \$500 to our scholarship fund. That’s a significant contribution that you can make to BCRSPA, and it won’t cost you a dime!

So if you are contemplating a move to Oak Crest Village, be sure to mention that you belong to BCRSPA, and you will earn \$500 for our scholarship program. Also, remember to send a change of address to Charlotte Price at P.O. Box 44016, Nottingham, MD 21236-9998 so you can continue to receive your newsletter.

Recent/Upcoming Membership Events

On December 11, 2014, nearly 100 members, potential members, and guests got into the Holiday Spirit. Admission was a new unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots or a monetary donation to fight Breast Cancer. We had a delicious breakfast, were serenaded by the Dundalk Sweet Adelines, sang Christmas songs, had a visit from Santa Claus, and gave away over 50 door prizes.

We collected approximately 100 wonderful toys and over \$400 for Breast Cancer. Thank you for making this social event a huge success.



Breakfast with Colleagues

Western Maryland for Fall Foliage 2015

Interest Survey

Have you been to Western Maryland in October when the leaves are at the peak of changing colors? The sights are breathtaking!

BCRSPA is thinking about planning such a trip. We will take a deluxe motor coach to Cumberland and then take a luncheon train ride up to Frostburg. The train ride will encompass The Narrows, Helmstetter's Curve, Bone Cave, and Brush Tunnel. We plan to spend some time in Frostburg while the train turns around. You will have plenty of opportunity to take gorgeous pictures of the wondrous sights. When the train is ready, we will return to Cumberland where we will board our motor coach and head for home.

The cost of the trip is estimated to be between \$100-\$125 which includes the bus, the luncheon/gratuity train ride, and a tip for the bus driver. We must fill the bus with 54 people. To express an interest, email C. David Copenhaver at cdavidcopenhaver@gmail.com or call him at 410-515-0456.

March 2015

BCRSPA UPDATE

Avoid Fare Hikes

Ever notice that when you check a flight price online but don't book, a return visit to the website can show a higher fare for the same flight? It may be the work of consumer-tracking "cookies" – they alert the website that this is a return visit, meaning you may be eager to buy even at a higher price. To snag the original price, use a different browser for a second visit.



Page ~7~

BCRSPA

P. O. Box 44016
Nottingham MD 21236-9998

BCRSPA Calendar

January 20, 2015Executive Board Meeting
St. Isaac Jogues, Cronin Center, Room 1
February 17Executive Board Meeting
St. Isaac Jogues, Cronin Center, Room 1
March 17Executive Board Meeting
St. Isaac Jogues, Cronin Center, Room 1
April 21Annual Spring Business Meeting
at Columbus Gardens
(Deadline for reservations is Friday, April 10)

UPDATE Deadline

DECEMBER ISSUE — January 15, 2015

Lolita Lassen Harmeyer

“New Audience in a Multi-cultural World”

Lolita Lassen Harmeyer was an outstanding Spanish teacher at various BCPS schools before retiring from Loch Raven High. Her classes combined high-energy enthusiasm for teaching with a genuine desire to share her love of her Spanish heritage with her students.

After retiring in 2005, she began teaching a different type of student. Her new audience: adults who interact with native Spanish speakers, such as the police, medical personnel, landscapers, and educators. According to Lolita, “It is a very different to teach job-specific Spanish rather than teaching a Spanish class in high school. The emphasis is on providing people with little prior knowledge of the language



how to communicate using job-specific vocabulary without teaching grammar skills. The courses target the actual language used by people in their daily activities providing functional language skills as well as relevant cultural insights about the Hispanic/Latino Community.”

In 2010, Lolita initiated a Spanish for Pharmacists course for the Pharmacy School at NDM. Why pharmacists? “For many people,” explained Lolita, “the pharmacist is much more accessible than the doctor. Imagine trying to help a non-English speaker explain a medical problem, understand medicine dosage, or navigate insurance paperwork without any knowledge of the language or culture.” Introduction to Medical Spanish for Pharmacists was such a helpful course that the students themselves requested a second, more advanced course which began in 2013.

Lolita and husband Keith are active retirees who travel extensively and have many interests, but the desire to teach and inspire others is at the heart of this outstanding educator.