



UPDATE

Baltimore County Retired School Personnel Association

Vol. 48, No. 1

September 2021



From the President

Donna Copenhaver

I hope everyone had a fun and safe summer. As fall approaches, I know we are once again masking up to help keep COVID from spreading. If you or your family and friends have not yet been vaccinated, I encourage you to discuss your options with your personal health care provider.

I know that we were surprised to receive the July 23, 2021 letter from the BCPS Benefits Office. There is an article in this newsletter with a brief explanation. Please take the time to read the article. I am also trying to get a representative from BCPS Benefits and a representative from Labor First to join us at our October 19, 2021 Fall Meeting/Luncheon at Columbus Gardens to answer any general questions you may have regarding the changes.

Included in this publication is the registration form for the October Fall Meeting/Luncheon. The agenda is a bit nebulous because I am still trying to nail down certain aspects. We certainly hope you can fit this activity into your schedule. It's been a long time since we have been able to gather, and I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

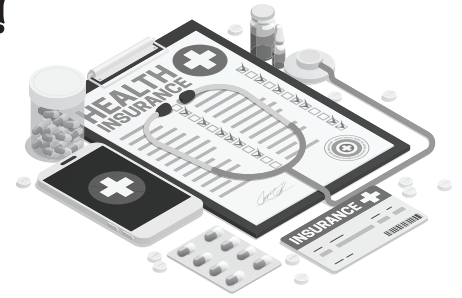
We are moving forward with our plan to hold the December 2, 2021 Breakfast with Colleagues. Look for the registration form in this UPDATE as well. In addition, David Copenhaver is working on putting together a trip to the annual Navy Band Christmas Concert at the DAR in Washington, D.C. Tickets are not yet available, but I wanted to make you aware of this possibility. More information will be forthcoming through our eNews connection. If you do not receive our "Keeping You in the Loop" monthly, then we do not have your current email address. If you wish to be included in our eNews, let David know. You can reach him by email at

Health Care Surprise!

Most BCPS retirees were surprised when we received a letter from Employee Benefits Manager Christine Cossaboon dated July 23, 2021. The letter explained that BCPS had partnered with Labor First, a manager of group retiree Medicare Medical Supplement, Medicare Part D (EGWP) and Medicare Advantage (MA/MAPD) plans. They are not an insurance carrier. The letter stated that as of January 1, 2022 that Labor First will administer medical and prescription benefits for Medicare eligible retirees through the Baltimore County Retiree Private Medicare Exchange.

There are several choices that will be available from which to choose. However, it is important to note that those currently enrolled in the Cigna Surround plan will automatically be defaulted into the Cigna MAPD High plan UNLESS you call Labor First during the Open Enrollment Plan and tell them you want to stay with Cigna Surround. The Open Enrollment is from October 15, 2021 – November 11, 2021. You will still need to choose a prescription level to accompany your health plan.

According to Labor First, BCPS Benefit Booklets should be mailed to you prior to the Open Enrollment period. These will detail the various plans and costs. If you have questions about which plan is the best fit for you, you can call Labor First



at 443-290-3114 or 833-550-1676. They ask that you have on hand a list of your current doctors, medications that you take, your retirement date, and the number of years of employment so they can assist you better.

Many have asked why we didn't inform our membership that this change was coming. BCRSPA was not aware of this change. Although we have tried many times in the past, BCPS will not allow any retiree groups to be represented at the negotiation table. TABCO, among other groups representing active employees, do the negotiations and the retirees are then included in the outcome.

Although this was a surprise, I believe each retiree will be able to choose the health and prescription insurance that benefits them the most. Also note, if you are not happy with your choice during Open Enrollment, you may switch to another plan by calling Labor First at any time.

cdavidcopenhaver@gmail.com or by phone at 410-515-0456.

Our membership has been dropping. If you know a BCPS retiree (in any capacity), ask them to join. A membership application is included in this newsletter. Remember, the larger our organization, the more input we have with the Maryland Congress about our pensions. Let's keep our pension funds safe from "Congressional looting" and in our pockets.

Sincerely, Donna

Do You Know Where This Member Is?

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Marian C. Drach

If so, please call
Mary Ellen Zimmerman at
410-668-2563
and give her an update.

Rockin' Retirees

Years ago, there was a local radio program that closed each broadcast with, "Take on the day!" Carmela still responds daily to that signature sign-off; she does take on each day and it sums up her daily enthusiasm. She enjoys our children and the old school lunch box notes have turned into daily individual text messages to Anne in Austin, Texas; Jennifer in Lancaster, Pennsylvania; and Terry who lives locally. Carmela enjoys the company of friends—ones she met years ago or ones she met only five minutes ago.

Over the years, Carmela says she had the good fortune of teaching secondary English and Journalism at Dundalk HS and later Kenwood HS. After ten years of teaching, she became a stay-at-home mother to the three daughters, but after the oldest started school she reconnected with education through the PTA involvement. Carmela not only operated at the local school level but became president on the Baltimore County PTA and then later the Maryland State PTA. She took volunteering seriously and believed it was rewarding work. She enjoyed advocating for children and young adults as well as working with legislators and political leaders to get the very best for young people, schools, and communities.

Now, home and hearth are the center pieces of Carmela's daily life except for the monthly meetings of the Gunpowder Garden Club; she is their secretary. Learning about plants and the environment along with collecting tips to improve back yard gardening interest her. Gardening consumes much of her energy. Carmela says, "Ed does not quite hear that clarion call, "Take on the Day" in the same vein as I." So now she has become the Lady of the Manor charged with setting the tone and assignments for each day—she relishes that task.

Me, I have always been into: Games! Sports! Ever since the first "choose-up" baseball game after we North Wales, PA kids had created a baseball diamond on some vacant lot, I have viewed myself as an athlete, a triathlete. And while my body allowed it, I enjoyed the competition of soccer, football, basketball, softball, baseball, even track. But as my muscles and bones protested, I simply gave up one activity and moved on. The last stop at age fifty was duck pin bowling, surf fishing, and golf. What was unusual? These activities gave me up in my late seventies. Now at age 86 I am into bird watching, poker playing and reading.




As an avid bird watcher, I tend to a dozen hummingbird feeders, another dozen bird houses and a central feeder. I feed nuthatches, downy woodpeckers, flickers, and a single yellow-bellied sapsucker. An indigo bunting makes a daily visit along with a flock of gold finches and about five cardinal couples.

Poker also evolved in my childhood. When I was maybe fourteen, I was allowed to play if there was an open seat. Now, I am in a seven-man poker group that meets twice a month, and the stakes are modest: dimes and quarters.

Reading is my daily or evening activity. My selections are usually non-fiction. Soon after dinner I am off to my books, usually I am into reading three or four at the same time, but always selecting the one that needs my attention.

And finally, at 86, I do remember. I remember about being a fingerprint clerk for the FBI or joining the Metropolitan Police Department of DC or being a U.S. Army MP at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama or entering West Chester State as a 26-year-old freshman and having to take zip English or coaching soccer at Malvern Prep, Dundalk High School, or UMBC or TABCO but...still, my most precious memory is that of becoming a floating English teacher at Dundalk High School and with my desk and filing cabinet placed in Room #233, there I met Ms. Carmela DeFlora who vocalized her unhappiness at having a rookie teacher in her English and journalism empire. We were married the following August and have been together for the past 54 years.



BCPS
Benefits Office
443-809-8943

Visit... <https://bcrspaevents.shutterstock.com>
(password is lower case bcrspa)
& www.bcrspa.org
or call 443-793-5867
Join our BCRSPA Facebook page!



Fall Luncheon Meeting

**Tuesday, October 19, 2021
Columbus Gardens**

Program

Registration..... 9:30
Call to Order..... 10:00

Greeting and Recognition of Guests

Business Meeting

Representatives from the Employee Benefits Office & Labor First will be invited.

Social Hour – cash bar available 11:30

Luncheon 12:00

Luncheon Menu

House Salad served with Ranch or Italian Dressings
Turkey Cutlet w/Stuffing • Baked Ham
Green Bean Amandine • Bacon & Cheese Twice Baked Potato
Hot Rolls & Butter
Ice Cream Sundae Bar with Assorted Toppings
Regular & Decaffeinated Coffee • Hot & Iced Tea with Lunch

Cost: \$25.00

Deadline for Registrations: Monday, October 11, 2021 *(No refunds after this date)*
Please remember to support our Community Services Project for the ACTC.
(Assistance Center of Towson Churches)

Food/Personal items needed

Canned & Nonperishable Food Items • Personal Hygiene Items • School Items

Reservation for Fall Luncheon Meeting October 19, 2021

Name: _____ Phone: _____

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

Bylaw Amendment

Due to very unusual circumstances in 2020, the Executive Board found it necessary to exercise emergency powers in order to maintain the proper and smooth functioning of the organization. We have proposed the following Bylaw Amendment to officially address a similar situation should it arise.

Article VIII – Executive Board, Section 3. Emergency Powers: During a national, state or local emergency, as declared by the appropriate federal, state, or local authorities, that prohibits or otherwise prevents in person meetings, all functions of the “Membership” as specified in these Bylaws shall be assumed by the Executive Board.”

Executive Board Meetings may be held by traditional face to face, conference call, or video/webinar. Accommodations will be made to ensure all Board members participate in any meeting.”

Membership News

Those members who have the dues deduction saw that in their July pension statement. If you are an annual check renewal, it is time to send in your renewal dues to MRSPA 8379 Piney Orchard Pkwy, Suite A, Odenton, MD 21113.

Most retirees join after July 1, which is the primary retirement date. We would like to welcome the following new members to BCRSPA/MRSPA

- Joyce A. Boyer • Karen Danmyer*
- Sally J Foreman • Susan C. Hershfeld*
- Peggy T. Wimberly*

If you would like to see if a friend is retiring; use this link to Board Docs <https://go.boarddocs.com/mabel/bcps/Board.nsf/Public> Once you are on this page you can click on “Meetings” at the top and look at agendas for any of the past board meetings. On the agendas you will see an item that is “Retirements” click on this. It will open an icon and click on it and you can see the listing.

If you know someone who is retiring or is retired but not a member, reach out to them and refer them to our membership chairperson.

Dale Rauenzahn
 Membership Chairperson
 bcspa.membership@gmail.com
 442-793-5867

Slate of Officers 2020-2022

Nominating Committee’s proposed Slate of Officers

- President *Margaret Grady Kidder, Ph.D.*
- Vice President *Joyce Cummings*
- Treasurer *E. Stuart Tucker*
- Recording Secretary *Barbara Barzyk*
- Corresponding Secretary *Patti Butler*
- Director *Patsy Holmes*
- Director *Jack Woodward*

Nominations for these positions will also be accepted from the floor at the Fall Business Luncheon Meeting on October 19, 2021, at Columbus Gardens. After being elected, the slate of officers will be installed.



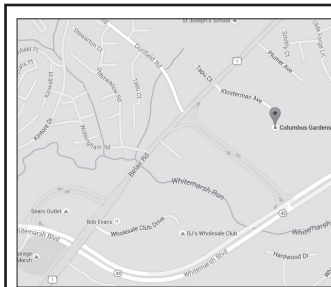
Brianna Ross was named as Baltimore County Public Schools' 2021 Teacher of the Year. Ross began her teaching career at BCPS, first at Scotts Branch Elementary School and, since 2018, at Deer Park.

"Brianna Ross represents the very best of the teaching profession – talented, dedicated to her students, and passionate about learning," Superintendent Darryl Williams said in a statement. "In a year that has tested every educator – not only in Baltimore County, but across Maryland and the nation – Ms. Ross shows us that great teaching transcends even the constraints of a pandemic. She shows us that great teaching – and great teachers – are among the most powerful forces anywhere and at any time."

In her sixth year as a teacher, Ross teaches middle school history. She serves as Deer Park's Social Studies Department chair, equity liaison and summer transition program coordinator, and she has been a BCPS curriculum writer among many roles.

A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, where she received both a bachelor's degree in applied developmental psychology and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction, Ross also earned a certificate in administration and supervision from Loyola University Maryland and is working toward a doctorate in urban educational leadership from Morgan State University.

"In my classroom, I have created a culture that prioritizes building positive relationships and academic rigor above all else. It is my mission to ensure that when each of my students step into my space, they feel that they are part of a community that loves them, values who they are, and will protect them no matter what. In spite of the chaos that has surrounded the last year, 'stepping' into my classroom and teaching continues to be a source of joy. If I have learned anything from this pandemic, it is that taking care of my students will always be my first priority," Ross said.



Directions to Columbus Gardens

From I-695, take exit 32B (Bel air) north for 1.25 miles to the blinking light at Klosterman Avenue. turn right and follow the street down until it ends at Columbus Gardens Parking lot.



Breakfast With Colleagues

BCRSPA Members, Guests & Prospective Members
Are Invited To Breakfast
Columbus Gardens,
4301 Klosterman Avenue, Nottingham, MD 21236
Thursday, December 2, 2021, at 9:30AM.

**Admission: A “new unwrapped” toy for Toys For Tots
and/or a contribution to fight Cancer.**
(Check(s) made payable to the American Cancer Society)

Delicious Full Breakfast Including:
Fruit; Bacon; Sausage; Cream Chipped Beef; Scrambled Eggs;
Hash Browns; Belgian Waffles; Biscuits; Coffee, Tea, OJ
(Mimosa or Bloody Mary Available at \$3.00 Each)



No Business Meeting

Visiting With Colleagues



Current Members – bring a former colleague and/or friend who is not a member for a free breakfast and to enjoy a morning with other colleagues.

Hurry – send in your registration; space is limited. **Deadline is November 25th**

Any reservation received after deadline may not be honored.



Breakfast with Colleagues

Name(s) _____ Guest(s) _____

Number of Reservations _____ Telephone # _____

Address _____

Send Reservations to:

Mr. Dave Peters BCRSPA, P.O. Box 44016, Nottingham, MD 21236-9998



You are our most valuable resource!

You can help bring more retirees into the fold of BCRSPA! Listed below are the latest Baltimore County retirees. If you recognize someone, please take a few minutes to contact them and invite them to attend an upcoming event and to join the organization. BCRSPA is counting on you!

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Karen Loon | Carole Harthausen |
| Margaret Michae | Debra Hohenstein |
| Maryann Nietubicz | Charlene Kollman |
| Carrie Polikandriotis | Edward Lough |
| Rachael Rasmussen | Stephen Marchak |
| Carol Rodgers | Nancy Marley |
| Julie Rudolph | Katherine Newell |
| Carol Searles | Kimberly Sparklin |
| Heather Corasaniti | Debra Sugarman |
| Neil Fishler | Susan Weinstein |
| Deborah Gilreath | Nancy Woodside |
| Kathryn Graybeal | Kathy Ziese |
| Susann Griggs | |

Baltimore County Retired School Personnel Association, Inc.
 P.O. Box 44016 • Nottingham, MD 21236-9998
443-793-5867
UPDATE
 The Baltimore County Retired School Personnel Association Newsletter will be published four times annually: September, December, March & June.
Editor: C. David Copenhaver
cdavidcopenhaver@gmail.com
Publisher: Anne Fullem

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Ekaterini Akalestos | Margaret Michae |
| Catherine Carter | Ekaterini Akalestos |
| Ann-Marie Chouinard | Catherine Carter |
| Elizabeth Cunningham | Ann-Marie Chouinard |
| Lisa D'lorio | Elizabeth Cunningham |
| Ada Drake | Lisa D'lorio |
| Denise Esbrandt | Ada Drake |
| Betsy Goldstein | Denise Esbrandt |
| Zahra Khanssari | Betsy Goldstein |
| Elizabeth Lanier | Zahra Khanssari |
| Karen Loon | Elizabeth Lanier |



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 MRSPA, 8379 Piney Orchard Parkway-Suite A, Odenton, MD 21113-1508 so you continue to receive your newsletter.

Application for Automatic Dues Deduction



MARYLAND RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION
BALTIMORE COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION UNIT #04



Name: _____

Soc. Sec. #: _____ Birthdate: _____

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

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone #: _____

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

BCRSPA Membership Chair
 P.O. Box 44016
 Nottingham, MD 21236-9998

STATE DUES	\$45.00
LOCAL DUES	15.00
TOTAL:	\$60.00

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: _____

Funky Fingertips?

What Nails Say About Your Health



Clues about your health could be right at your fingertips. Take a look at your nails. They Many nail changes are could give insight about possible health concerns.normal and nothing to worry about. But sometimes changes in the way your nails look and grow can be a sign of disease. Nails are actually specialized skin cells. They're made of keratin, a protein also found in your hair and skin.

Talk with your health care provider if your nails start to look abnormal. Your doctor may send you to see a dermatologist.

*Source: News in Health, August 2021
(Some changes were made.)*



Scholarship Memorials

In Memory of..

Dr. Benjamin Ebersole *by* Joan Burnett Berman

Dr. Edna May Merson *by* Glenda Johnson

Jean Kuhlman *by* Sharon Norman

John Bailey *by* Glenda Johnson

Orlan Cowan *by* Katherine Bradley Smith

Peggy Patterson *by* Susan Tusa

Shirley Conner *by* Phyllis Bailey

Sally McNelis Bowerman *by* Barbara Francis

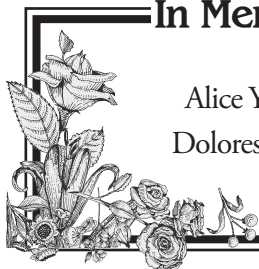
Sally McNelis Bowerman *by* Elaine Bousquet

Theresa Margolis *by* Joan Burnett Berman

In Memoriam

Alice Y. Snyder

Dolores S. Young



Preventing Nail Problems

- Try not to bite, pick, or tear at your nails.
- Clip hangnails. Be careful not to tear or remove cuticles, as that may lead to an infection.
- Keep your fingernails dry and clean to prevent bacteria from growing under nails.
- Moisturize your nails and cuticles with hand lotion.
- Limit your use of harsh nail care products like nail polish remover.
- Ask your health care provider about medicines that can help with abnormal nails. If you have a nail infection, you may need antifungal or antibacterial drugs.

Source: News in Health, August 2021 (Some changes were made)

How to Report the Death of A BCRSPA Member

Name of Deceased Member: _____

Date of Death: _____

Death Reported By: _____

Relationship of the Reporter to Deceased: _____

Mail this form to: Mary Ellen Zimmerman
9001 Chateaugay Court • Parkville, MD 21234
OR

Call Mary Ellen Zimmerman at 410-668-2563

BCRSPA Memorial Scholarship Fund

Name: _____

Street _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Donation Amount: \$ _____

**Make check payable to BCRSPA Memorial Scholarship Fund
or BCPS Education Foundation.***

In Memory of _____
(please print)

In Honor of: _____
(please print)

*For non-tax deductible contributions, make the check payable to BCRSPA Memorial Scholarship Fund.

*For tax deductible contributions, make the check payable to BCPS Education Foundation. Be sure to put BCRSPA Memorial Scholarship Fund on the memo line of the check.

Mail to:

E. Stuart Tucker, Treasurer • P.O. Box 44016, Nottingham, MD 21236-9998



P.O. Box 44016
 Nottingham, Maryland
 21236-9998
 443-793-5867

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BCRSPA Calendar:

September 21, 2021	Executive Board Meeting @ St. Isaac Jogues Church Hall
October 19, 2021	Fall Luncheon Meeting @ Columbus Gardens
November 16, 2021	Executive Board Meeting @ St. Isaac Jogues Church Hall
December 2, 2021	Breakfast with Colleagues @ Columbus Gardens
January 18, 2022	Executive Board Meeting @ St. Isaac Jogues Church Hall

UPDATE Deadline:
 December Issue – October 1, 2021

Change of Address

BCRSPA (*Effective Date*) _____
 Name: _____
 Old Address: _____

 New Address: (*Include Apt. # & Zip +4 Code*) _____

 New Telephone: _____

Mail to: MRSPA/BCRSPA Membership
 8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A • Odenton, MD 21113-1508

Emeritus Membership in BCRSPA

(*Age 90 as of June 30, 2021*)

Name: _____
 Address: (*Include Apt. # & Zip +4 Code*) _____

 Date of Birth: (*month/day/year*) _____
 Telephone: _____

Mail to: MRSPA/BCRSPA Membership
 8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A • Odenton, MD 21113-1508