Montgomery County Public Schools

Retirees Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 4367 Rockville, MD 20849-4367 www.montgomervschoolsmd.org/departments/mcpsretirees/

Volume 2018-19, Issue #3

February, 2019



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Carol Dahlberg *President - MCPSRA*

During this past December, three MCPSRA members were honored

for their service to the Montgomery County Public Schools: Michael Durso, Larry Bowers and Joan

Donovan. At the December 3 MCPS Board of Education Meeting, Mr. Durso was recognized for the impact he has had as a BOE member for the past 10 years. His colleagues praised him for his thoughtful and principled



approach to resolving issues and moving MCPS forward.

At the December 5, Decennial Gala, the MCPS Educational Foundation honored Mr. Bowers and

Mrs. Donovan for their dedicated service to MCPS staff and students. Mr. Bowers' tenure of 38 years in MCPS included serving as Chief Operating Officer and Interim Superintendent. He was recognized for his strong, low-key leadership



skills. The MCPS Educational Endowment fund named a scholarship in his name.

Mrs. Donovan was cited for her 13 years dedicated to raising money and collecting and assembling materials for toolkits for students in the ELO SAIL



Yolanda Pruitt, Executive Director of the MCPS Ed. Foundation and Joan Donovan

summer program.
She was described as "a retired teacher who sees helping children as a personal mission" as reflected in her passion

for this project.

John Dahlberg is in the process of constructing a new website for MCPSRA with input from members. It may be accessed at:

https://johndahlberg234.wixsite.com/mcpsra/home Feedback and additional input are welcome.

The Maryland State Legislature is currently in session. Read the important article on page 4. It shatters some myths about the security of our pensions and might make you want to recruit a retired friend to join us.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our next luncheon at Normandie Farm on February 21, 2019. Oh, those popovers!

Carol Dahlberg

MCPSRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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	generaljar@gmail.com	204 626 515
Louise S. Walker Scholarship	Kenneth E. Huff	301-622-2161
	kenandmarylou@gmail.com	

2018-19 BUSINESS MEETING/LUNCHEON DATES

Business meeting/luncheons are held four times a year at the delightful Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road, Potomac, MD 20854.



Here are the dates for our three remaining luncheons for this school year:

Thursday, February 21, 2019 Thursday, April 11, 2019 Thursday, June 13, 2019

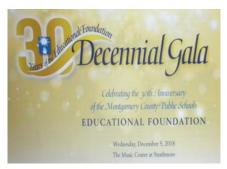
Three officers from the Maryland Retired School Personal Association (MRSPA) will be our guests at the February luncheon. Ann Marie Downy (MRSPA President), Sally Smith (MRSPA Area I East Area Director), and Wanda Ruffo Twigg (MRSPA Executive Director) are looking forward to conversation with our members over popovers and lunch. After lunch they will share the podium to address the legislative goals of our state organization and update us on what's happening during the current Legislative Session.

LIKE us on FACEBOOK!

Look for our page on Facebook. Go to Montgomery County Public Schools Retirees Association to get the latest news and reminders about upcoming travel and events. Give us your suggestions! YOU are important to our success.

SHARING THE HONOR

On December 5, 2018, the MCPS Educational Foundation celebrated 30 years of highly successful endeavors that have benefited Montgomery County Public Schools students. Special honorees as well as distinguished alumni and institutional partners were recognized for their projects, service, and generosity at a gala held at the Music Center at Strathmore. I greatly appreciated and was deeply humbled to be one of the recipients of an award for *Dedicated Service*.



When I retired in 2004, I hoped that there was a mission that I could champion that would benefit children. I found it when I was introduced to the Toolkits Project that was initiated the year before by Dr. Ken Muir and



chaired by Mary Elizabeth Lacey at the suggestion of Dr. Weast, superintendent of schools at the time. In the 15 years of the project's existence, approximately 20,000 kits have been assembled and distributed to the Title I kindergartners and Head Start students who attended the Extended Learning Opportunities Summer Adventures in Learning Program each summer.

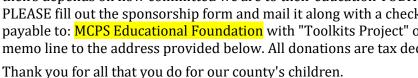
I wish to share this wonderful honor and award with the team of dedicated individuals who are responsible for the remarkable success of this project. Thank you to my co-chair, Trish Bendler; to the thousands of donors and corporate sponsors over the years whose financial contributions have made this project possible; a special thank you to the Educational Systems Federal Credit Union for annually donating thousands of items for the

kits and making a very generous monetary contribution; to Lanny Taylor and his staff at the Department of Materials Management for providing the space for us to work and for distributing the kits to the summer school sites; to the countless volunteers involved in assembling the kits; and to the Title I coordinators who train parents on the use of the lesson plans with the items each kit contains. Thanks to the MCPS Educational Foundation for providing the avenue for the Retirees Association and this remarkable team to do this very worthwhile work and for this wonderful honor and recognition of our efforts.

When one little girl received her kit and I had explained that the lady whose name appeared on the label on the side of the box had donated all the money to buy the items in the kit just for her, she exclaimed, "She must have

thought I was pretty special!" ALL children are special and are entitled to an equal start to their educational experience regardless of their families' economic status.

ALL children not only need but deserve to have the supplies necessary at home to support their learning at school. Our future as well as theirs depends on how committed we are to their education TODAY. PLEASE fill out the sponsorship form and mail it along with a check made payable to: MCPS Educational Foundation with "Toolkits Project" on the memo line to the address provided below. All donations are tax deductible.





Trish Bendler, Joan Donovan, Carol Dahlberg

Ioan Donovan

	MCPSRA TOOLKITS SPO	NSORSHIP FORM	
The state of the s	llowing information and mail it alon	g with a check (payable to: MCPS Educational Foundat	tior
<u>•</u>	no line) to Mrs. Joan Donovan, 13 H	llton Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20882-3521	
NAME:			
ADDRESS:			
I would like to sponsor #	toolkits at \$10 per kit.	Donation enclosed: \$	
Optional: In memory of		In honor of	
Send acknowledgem	ent to		
Please do	NOT include my name on the	toolkit's label	

You, Your Benefits, and MCPSRA



Just the facts... nothing but the facts.

There are several myths about the security of our pension and other retiree benefits. Many currently active MCPS Employees and recent retirees believe these myths. Since it's MCPSRA's mission to fight to preserve our benefits and assist our

members, the following analysis is offered to inform every one of the facts of our pension and benefits programs. Perhaps it will make you want to recruit a retired MCPS colleague to join us.

MYTH: As a longtime member of my bargaining unit (MCEA, SEIU, or MCCAP) I'm confident that the benefits they "bargain for" will apply to me when I retire.

FACT: The bargaining units do NOT, and CANNOT, bargain for retirees. Their contract is between MCPS and the ACTIVE employees they represent. In fact, they are <u>prohibited by Federal Law</u> from including us in their bargaining agreement.

RESULT: a) Dental coverage includes implants FOR ACTIVE EMPLOYEES, NOT FOR RETIREES.

- b) Cialis, Viagra and other ED drugs (regardless of why they were prescribed) **ARE COVERED FOR ACTIVE EMPLOYEES, NOT FOR RETIREES.**
- c) MCPS contribution to the Health Insurance plan: **80% for Active Employees**, **ONLY 65% FOR RETIREES**.
- d) Health Insurance Discounts: **ACTIVE EMPLOYEES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR DISCOUNTS** (Smoking Sensation, Wellness Screening Participation, etc.) **RETIREES ON MEDICARE GET NONE OF THESE DISCOUNTS.**
- e) MCPS is required by State Law, to recognize and bargain with employee unions. **THERE IS NO LAW REQUIRING MCPS TO BARGAIN WITH RETIREES.**

MYTH: "When I retired, I was assured that my benefits and pension were "set" for the rest of my life and my spouses' life."

FACT: THE TERMS OF OUR PENSION AND OTHTER BENEFITS ARE SUBJECT TO ANNUAL REVIEW! The State Legislature and/or (in the case of Support Service Personnel) the MCPS Board of Education can change the terms at any time.

RESULT: a) The legislature continues to "discuss and revise" the State Pension Programs. Fortunately, they usually "grandfather" current retirees, but future retirees' pensions, contributions and calculated benefits continue to be amended. Changes to the State Pension Plan are "automatically" applied to our County System as well.

b) MCPS controls our Medical/Dental/Prescription Drug Coverage. The State has nothing to do with it. SEVERAL LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION HAVE ELIMINATED MEDICAL/DENTAL/PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE FOR RETIREES AND OR FUTURE RETIREES IN THEIR COUNTIES BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE.

4

MYTH: The local representatives, Board Members, and other political leaders I vote for will do what's

right and honor the "contract" we have.

FACT: Politicians' first concern is their ability to be elected or re-elected. While many have good

intentions, ultimately the number of potential votes for or against an issue tips the yay/nay scale.

RESULT: If we can't answer the question, "How many members do we represent?" with a big enough

number - WE LOSE! USE THE FORM BELOW TO RECRUIT A RETIRED FRIEND!

Are you concerned? SO ARE WE! WHERE DOES MCPSRA COME IN.? YOU NEED US AND WE NEED YOU [AND ALL YOUR COLLEAGUES] SO WE CAN REPRESENT YOU IN THE POLITICAL ARENA. THE FATE OF OUR PENSIONS AND BENEFITS ARE AT RISK. JOIN US. RECRUIT FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES TO JOIN US. HELP GROW OUR NUMBERS, AND TOGETHER WE'LL WORK TO SECUREOUR FUTURE IN RETIREMENT!

MCPSRA & MRSPA Application for Membership

(Please Print)

Name		
Address:		
City:	State	ZIP + 4
Birth date:	Telephone:	
Email		
		o deduction includes annual membership ctober 1, 2019 the cost is only \$45 for
I hereby authorize the Retirement and I for the MRSPA and the MCPSRA from		land to deduct annual membership dues ecks each membership year.
I understand that my Social Security Nu	umber (SSN) is required	for dues deduction.
SSN		_
This authorization will remain in effect user School Personnel Association.	until cancelled by written	notice mailed to the Maryland Retired
Signature		Date
Recruiter		

NOTE: Members who currently pay by check can also get a one-year \$10 discount by using the form above to switch to dues deduction!

Welcome New Members

Joined in November 2018

Kelley, Judith D. Parce, Bruce Simantiras, Demetria K.	9820 Kraft Hill Road, Perry Hall, MD 21128 1613 Frances Avenue, Fort Pierce, FL 34949 201 Sportsman Way, Gaithersburg, MD 20878	240-4757843 301-869-0767
Joined in December 2018		
Ahearn, Mary G.	24224 Club View Drive Gaithersburg, MD 20882	301-253-3852
Bichefsky, Patricia	22101 Creekview Drive Gaithersburg, MD 20882	301-987-1259
Brenneman, Eric W.	287 E. Eureka Court Hernando, FL 34442-5963	301-785-8686
Denion, Laura	13204 Old Forge Road Silver Spring, MD 20904	
Mosier, John	106 Citrea Drive Summerville, SC 29483	301-524-8822
Wilson, Judith V.T.	191 Delhi Court Smyrna, DE 19977	302-653-6862

MCPSRA Consumer Report by Debra Munk

Wise Moves to Prevent Injuries this Winter with Tips from Ancient China:

- Shoveling snow: The "Gyro-scope" keep your shovel close to you and dig using the big muscles of your legs and behind, not the puny ones in your arms and back. Breathe slowly and evenly as you squat, twist, rotate, toss, repeat.
- Walking icy paths: The "Stealthy Scout"—
 Send one foot forward slowly, assess your
 stability and then put weight on the foot.
 Now sneak your other foot forward and do
 the same, like a sly mythical creature.
- All tasks: The "Smart Sparrow" Use an opponent's strength to your advantage.
 Hire the eager teenager next door for winter chores, while you mindfully sip cocoa inside, or perhaps a healthful chai?

Staying Warm Inside:

 Set your heat at 68 degrees or higher. To save on heating bills, close off rooms you are not using. Close the vents and shut the doors in these rooms and keep the basement

- door closed. Place a rolled towel in front of doors and keep out drafts.
- Make sure your house isn't losing heat through windows. Keep your blinds and curtains closed. If you have gaps around the windows, try using weather stripping or caulk to keep the cold air out.
- Dress warmly on cold days even if you're staying in the house. Throw a blanket over your legs. Wear socks and slippers.
- When sleeping, wear long underwear under your pajamas; use extra covers.
- Drink alcohol moderately, if at all.
 Alcoholic drinks can make you lose body heat.
- Ask friends or family to check on you during cold weather. If a power outage leaves you without heat, try to stay with a relative or friend.
- Use caution with space heaters. But some are fire hazards, and others can cause carbon monoxide poisoning. The Consumer Product Safety Commission has information on the use of space heaters.

MCPSRA TRAVEL 2018-2019

THE MCPSRA TRAVEL TEAM wants your input...

- As we plan for future trips, please share your suggestions for day, overnight, overseas, bus, train, airplane, and cruise travel.
- Feedback about the trips offered by MRSPA at the website: https://www.mrspa.org/travel-1.

REMINDERS

- We all travel at our own risk. When signing up for one of the sponsored trips, participants accept all liability for any loss, damage or personal injury related to that trip and hold MCPSRA, its Officers and Board harmless should any accident, injury or loss occur.
- Itineraries, times and details are approximate. Changes are sometimes necessary and unavoidable.
- Trips are open to members, their families and adult friends, unless otherwise indicated.
- ACTIVITY LEVEL: Most tours require considerable walking, often with steps to climb or limited accessibility. Participants should be capable of maintaining the group's pace.

2019 OVERSEAS TRIPS (offered by private tour companies)

**Detailed flyers available for these tours. Please request one from the MCPSRA Travel Team!

**Land Journey to NORMANDY honoring the 75th Anniversary of D-Day (AHI Travel) NEW DATES! July 20-28, 2019

9 days/7 nights - 7 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners - Discovery excursions that highlight the local culture, heritage, and history, including: the impact of WWII at the Caen Memorial Museum; the bravery of the Allied landing forces and the wartime history of Utah Beach & Sainte-Mere-Eglise, D-Day and the Battle of Normandy; historic Honfleur's harbor; a UNESCO World Heritage site - Mont St.-Michel; and the vivid details of the Bayeux Tapestry; and the region's cider brandy, Calvados.

Price includes 7-night stay at 1st Class hotel in Honfleur, meals as listed, excursions, Welcome & Farewell Receptions, VOX headsets for tours, tips for guides and drivers. Airfare is not included in the price, but AHI Flex Air program is available for roundtrip airfare to/from Paris.

No EXTRA charge for single travelers!

Small Group (28 passengers max.) Contact us for additional information. \$3195 per person.

**Land Journey to Italy's Amalfi Coast (AHI Travel)

September 4 - 12, 2019

9 days/7 nights - 7 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners - Discovery excursions that highlight the local culture, heritage, and history, including: Naples and the Museo Archeologico Nazionale; Herculaneum and Pompeii; a Sorrento farm; Meet the People luncheon in Paestum and a visit to the ruins with the well-preserved Greek temples; as well as the charming Amalfi Coast with Positano, Amalfi, and Sorrento; and an optional tour to the Isle of Capri.

Price includes 7-night stay at 1st Class hotel in Sorrento, meals as listed, excursions, Welcome & Farewell Receptions, VOX headsets for tours, tips for guides and drivers. Airfare is not included in the price, but AHI Flex Air program is available for roundtrip airfare to/from Naples with transfers to/from Sorrento.

\$3295 per person, double occupancy. Additional \$795 for single travelers.

**Spain & Portugal in Depth (Grand Circle Travel)

NEW DATES! September 10-24, 2019

15 days/13 nights - 13 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 6 dinners - 10 guided tours and 2 exclusive Discovery Series events: Home-Hosted Lunch and Horse-breeding farm visit; 3 nights stays in Madrid, Torremolinos, Lisbon and 2 nights stays in Granada and Seville; tours included in Madrid, Toledo, Alhambra, Cordoba, Malaga, Ronda, Seville, Lisbon, Sintra, and Cascais; optional pre-trip tour to Barcelona and post-trip tour to Madeira, Portugal.

Price includes hotel accommodations, meals, tips for guides and drivers, headsets for tours, baggage handling. Tour only: \$3195 per person. Tour with airfare from BWI: \$4195 per person. Deposit: \$350 Final Payment: June 12, 2019

No Single Supplement! (GCT Good Buy Plan can save you up to 10% - book early, save more!)

For reservations and information: 1-800-221-2610 Mention G9-28170 when booking.

Does an itinerary interest you, but the dates don't work with your schedule? Please contact the company for alternate dates!

Tell Grand Circle Travel that you are a member of MCPSRA/MRSPA (use code G9-28170) and you will help support the scholarship program at both local and state levels. This special offer is good for ANY GRAND CIRCLE TRAVEL or OAT TOUR.

QUESTIONS for the Travel Team: Please contact **Judy Adler Reiff** via email at **jadlerreiff@gmail.com** or by phone/text at 240-481-4016 with any questions regarding the trips. A member of the Team will return your message!

Volunteering by Frieda Price

Volunteers are in demand!

Volunteer opportunities are advertised in local newspapers, in brochures, and often near the entrances of organizations where you are needed. A list of volunteer resources is also located on the first page of the 2018 MCPSRA membership directory along with websites and phone numbers.

Recently seen advertised: Kennedy Center volunteers needed; requests for tax preparers; the organization **Gaithersburg HELP** has opportunities, inside and outside the home (https://www.gaithersburghelp.org).

Please try to find the time to help others who are not able to help themselves. There is no better feeling than comes when we show our love by reaching out to others.

Check out this excellent website sponsored by the Montgomery County Volunteer Center: https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter/ It allows you search for volunteer opportunities by calendar, by organization name, and by distance from your zip code.

A big THANK YOU to all of our volunteers. Keep up the good work.

MCPSRA Nomination/ Elections are Coming

Dr. Steve Raucher, Chair - Nominating Committee

Per the By Laws of MCPSRA: with the approval of the Board of Directors, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of a chair and four members. Not more than one member shall be from the current Board of Directors, and the President shall not serve as a member of this committee. The Immediate Past President shall be the chair. The committee will nominate a slate of officers and present their recommendation to the membership attending the February Luncheon. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at that luncheon meeting provided the consent of the nominee has been obtained. The Election will be held at the April Luncheon Meeting and the officers will be installed at the June Luncheon to take office on July 1.

This year we will be electing a President, Vice President and a Recording Secretary, each of which will serve for a two-year term. We will also be electing a Treasurer, who shall serve for a three-year term. There are no "term limits" on re-electing officers in MCPSRA.

As you can see, attending the next three luncheons is not only a fun and gastronomically worthwhile experience, it will make each of us a part in the continued governance of our organization.

See you at lunch.

IN MEMORIAM

The following MCPSRA Members passed away in 2018:

JANUARY:

Myrtle H. Brooks Emelie (Trish) Toven Francis L. Maciorowski

Doris L. Arnold
Joanne Budelman
Evelyn L. Edmunds
Maurice C. Genies

Elizabeth (Betsy) P. Doyle

Thomas E. Buck Kay R. Hickey

Frank N. Carricato Frank E. Biddinger

FEBRUARY:

Elsa L. Leonard
John A. Baroni
Kenneth A. Walter
Elsie T. Strohlein
John A. Canning
Henry O. Benndict
James A. O'Connor
Mavis J. Vandegrift
Laura L. Turner

MARCH:

Toby B. Loewy
Penny L. Peterson
Kenneth N. Cudd
Annabelle H. Highfill
James L. Prentiss

APRIL:

Adrian C. Anderson
Fumie Yamamoto
Michael J. Fasanella
Mary Louise Dickenson
Helen L. Good
Laura Steele
Donna J. Gullickson
Sherry B. Adams
Helen S. Joseph

MAY:

Gregory A. Slatniske Jeanne F. Drew Nancy S. Walker Gail F. Hooker Mildred G. Kline

JUNE:

Helene McKamey John S. Haddad Jerome K. Bradford

JULY:

Judy K. Mills Barbara S. Davis Frances A. Hendrickson Barbara A. DeWitt Frances G. Hassell

AUGUST:

Paula G. Hauprich Bertha Meister Doris Anderson Helen W. Youmans Lois P. Parker Ann E. Small Barbara Stout

SEPTEMBER:

James S. Thomas
Jean H. Johnson
Arlie Lee Kingery, Jr.
Nancy J. Gallagher
Mary L. Melvin
Nathan P. Pearson
Meridith M. Cash

OCTOBER:

Pat D. Abrunzo
Betty T. Herndon
Patricia T. Carr (wife of
Paul Carr)
Joseph J. Cammisa
William Joseph Mitchell
Dr. Lois A. Martin
John L. White
Dorothy F. Davis
Patricia K. George
Stanley L. Fries

NOVEMBER:

Marybeth Talamo Ruth P. Doak Harry Golding Doris E. Hackey Joan S. Bedell

DECEMBER:

Irma Alperin

	MCPSRA-Henson Project Donation Form
	the following information and mail it along with a check (payable to: "Montgomery County Parks Foundation") to Nuir, 3100 North Leisure World Blvd. #508, Silver Spring, MD 20906.
NAME:	
ADDRESS:	

OPT OUT? IT'S YOUR CHOICE

If you do not wish to share your name and address with the travel companies that are working with MCPSRA to offer special trip opportunities, please write the words **OPT OUT** on a piece of paper along with your name and address and mail to:

MCPSRA PO Box 4367, Rockville, MD 20849.

ARE YOU GETTING YOUR NEWSLETTER AS AN EMAIL ATTACHMENT?

We are sending every issue of the Newsletter as an email attachment to all members for whom we have a working email address.

If you are not getting the email version, it's because we don't have your correct email address or your provider is sending it to your spam folder. If you are one of these people, and if you would like to receive the color version of the Newsletter as an email attachment please send an email to MCPSRA.Newsletter@ebsinstitute.com. Use this same address to let us know if you want the newsletter by <a href="mailto:emailt

NOTE: If you have asked for email-only delivery but are still getting the US mail version, that's because it can take several months before your name is be removed from the MRSPA mailing list.

If you want to get the newsletter in the US mail but aren't, contact our membership chair Juliette Trevino at jgtrevino@comcast.net.

MCPSRA Luncheon and Business Meeting

Thursday, February 21, 2019 Normandie Farm 10710 Falls Road Potomac, MD 20854 301-983-8838

www.popovers.com

If MCPS is closed, luncheon is cancelled. Delayed opening, luncheon is held. Gathering: 11:00 a.m. Business Meeting: 11:30 a.m. Luncheon: Noon; Program 1:00 PM Menu Choices:

Breast of chicken w/apples, onions & cider	\$23.50	Entrees include: roasted tomato and	
Beef stroganoff	\$23.50	fennel soup, Popovers, vegetables.	
Sautéed filet of sea trout w/lemon beurre blanc	\$23.50	brownie w/ice cream, tea, coffee, soda.	
Spinach, mushroom and red pepper quiche	\$20.00	Cash bar available.	

Thursday, February 21, 2019 <u>Circle Entrée Choice</u>

Name:	Phone:	Chicken Beef	
email address:		Fish	Vegetarian
Name:	Phone:	Chicke	n Beef
email address:		Fish	Vegetarian
Total amount enclosed:			

RESERVATION FORM AND CHECK MUST BE RECEIVED BY <u>FRIDAY</u>, <u>February 15, 2019</u>.

Make check payable to MCPSRA. Mail to:

LEEANN KAYE

3210 N. LEISURE WORLD BLVD. #306

SILVER SPRING, MD 20906

FOR INFORMATION: LEEANN KAYE 301-598-5480 OR TRISH BENDLER 301-540-5160 GEOLAKAYE@GMAIL.COM PATRICIA_BENDLER09@COMCAST.NET

ANY FOOD ALLERGIES? PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

Montgomery County Public Schools MCPS Retirees Association, Inc. P.O. Box 4367 Rockville, MD 20849 NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 201
Suburban, MD

DATED MATERIAL



MCPSRA Luncheon/Business Meeting NORMANDIE FARM

Gathering: 11:00 a.m.; Business Meeting: 11:30 a.m.; Luncheon: 12:00 Noon; Program 1:00 p.m.

Next Luncheon Date February 21, 2019

The MCPSRA Newsletter is published in October, December, February, April, and June. This is the February, 2019 issue.