Montgomery County Public Schools

Retirees Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 4367 Rockville, MD 20849-4367 www.mcpsra.org

Volume 2020-21, Issue #5

June, 2021



PRESIDENT'S **MESSAGE**

Dr. Carol Dahlberg President - MCPSRA

Who knew? Who knew that. upon retiring in 2008, I would become so involved in our MCPSRA? I certainly did not. Yet there I was becoming newsletter editor in 2009, vice-president in 2013 and president in 2017. I now look forward to continuing my involvement in MCPSRA under the leadership of Dr. Debra Munk, president; Mr. Reginald Ott, vice-president; Dr. Donna Hollingshead, recording secretary; and Dr. Steve Raucher, treasurer (also recently elected treasurer of MRSPA).

We continue to be involved in our community service projects including Toolkits, co-chaired by Joan Donovan and Trish Bendler (page 3), the Josiah Henson Museum and Park (page.10.) and Scholarships for MCPS staff. We appreciate the donations that have continued throughout this pandemic. They have and will continue to make a difference.

MCPSRA again is providing scholarships to MCPS employees pursuing degrees and professional development (Scholarship Chair Elizabeth A Stonesifer). We have received over 125 applications for scholarships which came from all sectors of the MCPS staff: schools, administrative offices, warehouses and depots.

The large number of applicants may well reflect the increasing need for financial support as well as the broad-based publication of the availability of scholarships. The

Elizabeth A. Stonesifer

scholarship committee reviews the applications

and the recipients are informed of their award in June. I look forward to awardees being recognized in person during our October luncheon.

LeeAnn Kaye, Hospitality/Luncheon Co-chair



with Trish Bendler, is the force behind the success of our luncheons. She collects the reservations and fees and oversees all of the details for these luncheons. She has

already reserved LeeAnn Kaye Normandie Farm for

next year. Remember the popovers!

(Continued on page 6.)

MCPSRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD)

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r -		

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BUSINESS MEETING/LUNCHEON

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



Normandie Farm Restaurant has More than Popovers

June 17 MCPSRA Luncheon

bị hủy bỏ (Vietnamese) annulé (French)
annulé (French)
cancelada (Spanish)
avbrutt (Norwegian) annullata (Italian)
取消 (Chinese)

What do these words have in common? They all mean <u>cancelled</u>. Unfortunately, once again, due to the Covid restrictions, we are cancelling June's MCPSRA luncheon. The Board of Directors felt that even though things are looking better, safety is the number one priority. The way things are going it looks as though things will be better this fall. Our first luncheon at Normandie Farm is scheduled for October 21, 2021. Put it on your calendar and keep your fingers crossed!! Dates for the 2022 luncheons are February 17, April 21 and June 16.

My husband and I went with another couple to Normandie Farm for lunch recently. We dined outside. The food was delicious and the setting lovely. And yes, the popovers tasted great! Inside dining is also available. The tables are well spaced and the setting inviting. So, before we meet again in October, I would encourage you to put Normandie Farm on your list of places to visit.

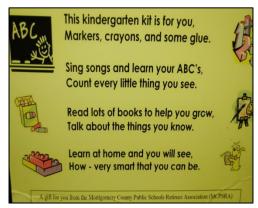
Take care. Stay safe. Get vaccinated and hope to see you in October.

LeeAnn Kaye

TOOLKITS PROJECT POSTPONED



When we were forced to place our Toolkits Project on hold last year at this time, we were experiencing great anxiety and uncertainty over just how much our lives would be altered and for how long we would be dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. It was inconceivable to think that 12 months later the virus would remain a deadly threat and we would still be in the process of redefining and



establishing a new normal. Although we are a resilient society determined to defeat the virus and move forward, moving forward has sure been slow.

That being said, we were hopeful all year long that we would be able to resume the assembly and distribution of toolkits for needy kindergartners who would be participating this summer in the Extended Learning Opportunities Summer Adventures In Learning (ELO SAIL) Program at selected Title I schools. We communicated with Title I coordinators throughout the spring to try to get crucial information regarding dates, projected numbers of participants, how the program would be conducted both in-person and by virtual learning, how many kits would be requested, which students would be eligible to receive one, and how the kits would be distributed. The logistics of how we could determine all this in time to actually go into

production became more and more impossible as the weeks went by. Kindergarten Roundup in the elementary schools is usually conducted in early spring but this year it has been done virtually or by appointment and is still being conducted. Registration for the ELO SAIL Program didn't start until May 3.

We remained optimistic that we could continue planning to assemble the kits then other obstacles surfaced:

• First, Target, where we have acquired the plastic shoe boxes at cost for nearly 10 years, informed us that they are not taking bulk orders for anything until further notice. After an exhaustive search the only company that might be able to supply them offered them to us for \$7,500, more than 3.5 times more expensive than in years past, and they could not guarantee a delivery date.



• Second, several of the items included in the toolkits (i.e., magnetic letters, scissors, Play Doh, glue sticks) are produced overseas, mainly in China, and are not being shipped at this time.

Therefore, our MCPSRA Special Projects Committee members along with the Title I Coordinator came to the heart-breaking conclusion that our Toolkits Project must be postponed until next year.

Members of the committee are bagging bottle caps that were donated prior to the pandemic. They will ready when we resume assembling the kits for next summer. We are not accepting any new donations of caps until it is safe to do so again. We must continue our fundraising efforts since the expenses for 2,200 kits each summer average nearly \$30,000. Thus far this year we've received 142 donations totaling \$12,035. PLEASE continue to support our project by completing the form below and mailing it to the address provided along with a check made payable to MCPS Educational Foundation with Toolkits Project on the memo line. Thank You!

	detach	here
	MCPSRA TOOLKITS SE	ONSORSHIP FORM
"Toolkits Project" on the me	the following information and mail it along emo line) to Mrs. Joan Donovan, 13 Hilton	with a check (payable to: MCPS Educational Foundation, with Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20882-3521
ADDRESS:		
I would like to sponsor	# toolkits at \$10 per kit.	Donation enclosed: \$
Optional: In memory of	In hor	nor of
Send acknow	vledgement to	
		or mail me a receipt
, or no receipt i	s necessary	
Do NOT includ	e my name on the toolkite lahele	

Welcome New Members

Joined in March 2021

No new members...

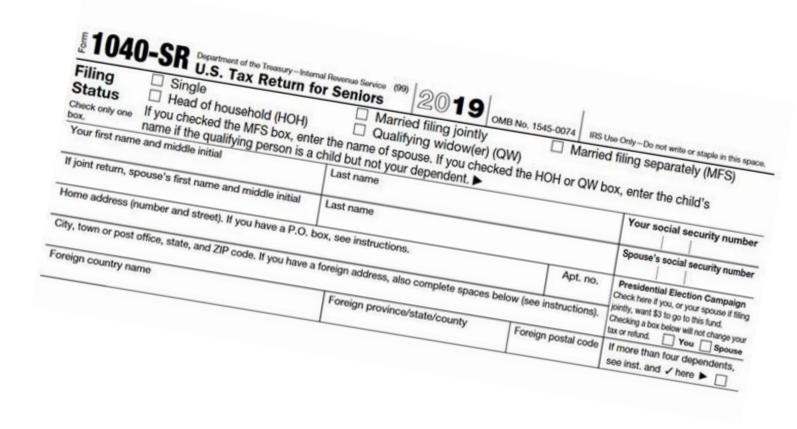
Joined in April 2021

James Allen Bishop Barbara (Bobbie) A. Jasper Meredith S. Kuykendall Ellen Turverey Claire F. Wilk 62 General Barksdale Ct., Harpers Ferry, WV 25425 7104 Old Stage Rd., Rockville, MD 20852 19609 Twinflower Cir., Germantown, MD 20876 13820 Flint Rock Rd., Rockville, MD 20853 1362 Windmill Ln., Silver Spring, MD 20905-7002 240-672-2840 240-506-3795 240-606-7629 301-871-6270 301-236-5359

MCPSRA Consumer Report by Reggie Ott

Your membership in MCPSRA assures that you are a member of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA). As a result, you have access to the bi-monthly Consumer Connection Newsletter published by the MRSPA Consumer Education Committee which offers a full array of consumer information.

1. Federal Taxes must have been filed by May 17, 2021; Maryland State Taxes are due July 17th, 2021. (Note the new 1040-SR form below.)



 Be aware that you should not engage is services claiming to be able to expedite getting you additional money or faster delivery by filing your return for a fee. There are

- unscrupulous companies which are promising you can settle tax liens for pennies on the dollar through a compromise.
- Big takeaway: The IRS will never call you demanding payment. The IRS doesn't use social media, text, or emails. The IRS will not ask for gift cards as payments.
- 2. The easiest way to protect yourself from solicitations and scams is to pay attention to your caller ID. If you don't recognize the number, even if it is local or seems legit, let the call go to voice mail. If it's a friend, you will get a message and you can call right back. If your inadvertently answer a call that turns out to be unwanted, just say "Thank you for calling" and hang up immediately. Do not engage in conversation. These people want your money, and they are good at getting it!
- 3. How to help others during the Pandemic:
 - Check on seniors, disabled or other at-risk neighbors in your area. Since there are issues around contact, leave a note or card on their doorstep so they can know that they can reach you.
 - Schedule regular chats by phone with homebound individuals.
 - Don't have a neighbor in need? Check with your local place of worship to see if there are any ways that you can help their aging attendees.

Notes from MRSPA Consumer Connection, March-April, 2021

4 This year's COLA rate for the fiscal year beginning July 1 is 1.234%. The increased monthly benefit will be shown on the Automatic Deposit Advice mailed to the homes of all retirees on July 31.

A retiree who has been retired at least one year as of July 1, 2020 qualifies for this year's COLA. Those who retired after July 2020 (August 2020 or later) will be eligible to receive their first COLA is July 2022.

Cost- of- Living Adjustment: Maryland State and Retirement and Pension System

Humor from my neighbor Arlene...

I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I missed my exit.

You don't realize how old you are until you sit on the floor and then try to get back up.

(President's Message continued from page 1.)

Kudos go to Membership Chair, Juliette Trevino. Once again, this year we received recognition from the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association for the "Largest Numerical Increase" in members. This achievement is the



Juliette Trevino

result of the outreach and

due diligence of Vice-President Debra Munk, Public Relations Chair Donna Hollingshead and Juliette. With ongoing outreach from all MCPSRA members, we will continue to grow our membership.

Making a difference for members and their families is Joan Donovan, Recognition Chair, as she keeps us informed of deaths of MCPSRA members and sends cards to the bereaved families.

Our Legislative Chair Fred Evans (for MCPSRA and MRSPA) continues to monitor legislation affecting education, health care and pensions. The committees have effectively supported legislation favoring each area.

Insurance and Benefits Chair Tom Hickman has met regularly with the Joint Committee on

Employee Benefits providing input regarding MCPS retiree's health benefits.

Harvey Strine, Auditing Committee Chair, works closely with our auditor to review our financial records each year.



Harvey Strine

During this past year, we modified and added to our Vision and Mission Statement and Bylaws as follows:

The MCPSRA "Mission and Vision Statement" was amended to include a diversity statement as follows:

> Promote and welcome participation of a diverse group of retirees as an essential component of a healthy and thriving organization.

The following Emergency Powers Referendum was approved by the membership through a mail-in referendum/approval process:

> Article IX - Board of Directors, Section 3 (f). 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 Board of Directors.

Wording in Article X Section 3 was changed from "political" to "elected" as follows:

> The Political Action Committee shall be concerned with the policies and procedures of local, state and federal; governments. This will require development of appropriate political actions to support candidates for political elective office.

I would like to recognize MCPSRA members who are retiring from the Board of Directors: Lou D'Ovidio has served as the chair of the Political Action Committee sending



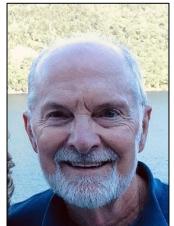
candidates for political office questionnaires and biographical forms and invitations to interview with members of the committee. He has also has been our liaison with the Josiah Henson Museum and Park.

Nickie Neary, as Parliamentarian for the past 13 years, has diligently provided guidance regarding provisions in the Bylaws and parliamentary procedures.

A platinum pen award must go the Mary D'Ovidio, Recording Secretary for the past 11 years. She has assiduously taken notes at our Board of Director meetings, compiled them into the minutes and made reports. It is amazing that she has kept the business items straight especially during the zoom meetings over the past 16 months.

I would also like to recognize Frieda Price with a platinum bus. She served as Trips Chair and Co-chair for over 20 years identifying and organizing many, many local and national outings for members each year. Frieda also was Community Service Chair. She retired from the Board of Directors when she moved South in 2019.

Although he is not retiring from the BOD another platinum pen award must go to Russell Wright, Newsletter Editor, for his accuracy and creativity in designing, reporting, and editing articles for our members for distribution both electronically and through the mail. In addition, he now has been selected as the editor for the MRSPA newsletter. What newsletters we will have at the local and state levels!



I also wish to thank Margaret Brown for assuming the chair of the Trips Committee as well as chair of the Walker Scholarship Foundation.

A new website MCPSRA.org was established in 2019 and is updated as new information is received. Stay tuned.

Russell Wright | I appreciate the support of all MCPSRA members and

especially recognize the Board of Directors for their contributions to the goals and objectives of our Association. Each has had a positive impact on me.

Vacancies on the Board of Directors

Step up and join the MCPSRA Board of Directors beginning July 1, 2021, as the chair of one of the following committees:

- Community Service: encourages members to participate in community service projects and ensures they receive appropriate recognition for such service.
- Consumer Education: informs and assists members in matters of health, housing, Social Security, Medicare, consumer education, retirement and related matters.
- Josiah Henson Project: provides information on and advocates for support of the Josiah Henson Museum and Park.
- Political Action: keeps members informed of policies and procedures of local, state and federal governments.
- **Public Relations**: helps keep members connected by sharing their stories.

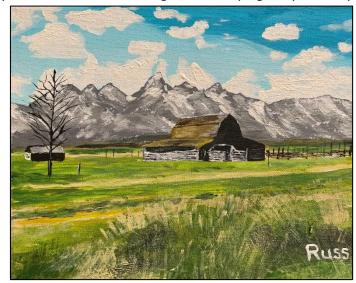
Or as:

Parliamentarian: provides guidance regarding provisions in the Bylaws and parliamentary procedures.

PROFILES IN RETIREMENT by Donna Hollingshead

This section of the newsletter is dedicated to hearing from the MCPSRA members. Stay connected with other retirees by sharing your latest news. Your submission may be a few lines or up to one page with photos to add interest. We have so many accomplished members who are actively involved with their hobbies, second careers, families, communities, and so much more! While many have said they enjoy this article, few are actually contributing to the newsletter. So, here are some suggestions for your submission:

- MCPS Connections: While we enjoy our retirement, we miss the valuable work we were committed to for decades and the positive impact we had on so many children, families, and the community. Fortunately, many of us forged some lifetime friendships and continue to stay in touch with one another. Others have more recently reconnected. At the last in-person MCPSRA Luncheon, four former teacher colleagues were reunited: Ed Chaney (Science), Bruce McKay (Math), Lou D'Ovidio (US History and World Geography), and Bob Redmond, (English). They were novice teachers together in 1960 at Edwin W. Broome Junior High School! Tells us about your work-turned-retirement friendships!
- Travels: With more people receiving vaccinations, many are open to the idea of travel out of the area. I recently travelled to Florida with my friend Marti Gray, who during her MCPS years worked in Human Resources, Communications Office, RMHS, and the Office of School Performance. This summer we are planning a trip to the mid-west and among other things will be visiting the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Tell us about your travels!
- MCPS Legacy: Do you have children/grandchildren or other relatives who are continuing the MCPS tradition in your family? Several of us on the MCPSRA Board are so proud to have our families continue the MCPS tradition. For example, Mary D'Ovidio (Broad Acres) and I recently discovered that our daughters are teachers on the very same kindergarten team at Diamond Elementary. Tell us about your family connections!
- Second Careers/Volunteerism: So many of us were not quite ready to fully retire, and took up other forms of
 work and community service. Our previous newsletters featured Catherine Long (Ritchie Park ES) and Samuel
 Quarcoo (Wheaton Woods) and the service they provided to communities here in the USA and abroad. You also
 heard from Carol Solomon (Wootton HS) and her success as a fiction author. I have been serving on the Board of
 Advisors for the Montgomery County Salvation Army. This service is rewarding and overlaps greatly with my
 - former MCPS work because the community is the same the MCPS children and their families. The Salvation Army provides food, shelter, recreation, and support to the needlest within Montgomery County. Tell us about your new career or volunteer work!
- Hobbies/Recreation: As retirees we now have time to do all those fun activities we could only dream about while working. In a previous newsletter you read about the interesting pastimes of Steve Raucher (restoring a vintage car) and Russ Wright (painting landscapes). I have been sewing face masks and given away over 1,000 to date. My two grandsons (McNair ES) especially like the Pokemanpatterned masks! Tell us about your favorite pastimes!



Moulton Ranch, Jackson, WY (acrylic on canvas by Russ Wright)

These are just a few possible topics that I hope will spark your thoughts and encourage you to submit something about yourself to share with your fellow retirees!

In Memoriam

The following MCPSRA members have passed away:

JANUARY

Queen E. Pulliam

FEBRUARY

Adda Barrett Clark Odette B. Stebbins

Sheila J. Stout

Shella J. Stout

APRIL

Victor H. Small

MARCH

Pearl R. Flowers Margaret J. Gentile Margaret F. Gonzales

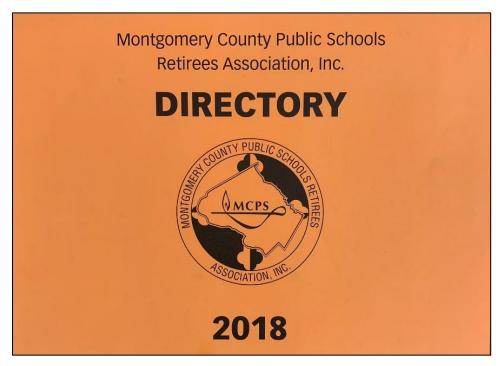
Allan J. Halper

Phyllis Parks Robinson

Nellie H. Rys Rita L. Tietze Anita J. Willens

A New MCPSRA Directory is Coming and this is your last chance to make corrections!!

This is your very last chance to update your listing! The deadline for your input is July 31!! We are planning to have our new membership directory ready this summer. Check your listing in the 2018 directory to make sure all your information is correct. If you joined since our last newsletter was published,



and you moved or changed your contact information since joining, please let us know.

Don't just verify your address, phone number, cell number, and email address. It's also important to include your middle name or middle initial.

If you find errors, omissions, or changes you wish to make, please send the information to Juliette Trevino at igtrevino@comcast.net

Josiah Henson Museum & Park

Project Update by Lou D'Ovidio

I was honored, as a member of the Josiah Henson Park Project steering Committee, to be invited on a private tour of the newly completed visitor center and museum.

On April 1, I met Mark Thorne, the new Henson Park Manager at the visitor center on Old Georgetown Road. Mark gave me a brief tour of the Center and we sat in the theater to watch the very effective introductory video to Josiah Henson.



https://www.montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/josiah-henson-park/



After the video Mark prepped me for the self-guided tour of the Riley/Bolton House which has been repurposed as the Henson Museum. It holds a series of kiosks detailing important historical details about Josiah Henson's life and experiences.

I encourage each of you to take part of a day now that the Park is open for visitors and experience the amazing life story of a man formerly a slave in Montgomery County who impacted the world.

Lou D'Ovidio

Tickets for timed entry to the Henson Museum and Park are available at: https://apm.activecommunities.com/.

Adults \$5.00 6-17 years \$4.00 Seniors \$4.00 5 and under free

Make a contribution using the form below. Programs at the Henson site have served Title 1 schools and will be expanded.

MCPSRA-Henson Project Donation Form Please provide (print clearly) the following information and mail it along with a check (payable to: "Montgomery County Parks Foundation") to MCPSRA Treasurer, Dr. Stephen Raucher, 5515 Manorfield Rd., Rockville, MD 20853. NAME: ADDRESS:

MCPSRA COMMUNITY BOARD

As a service to our members, The MCPSRA will include information in the newsletter regarding no-cost community events and opportunities that are appropriate and of interest to retirees. Note that submissions may be edited, shortened, or excluded as space permits. Events requiring a fee to participate will not be included, but may be submitted for consideration as an advertisement with an associated fee. Send items for consideration to dshollingshead@gmail.com or D. Hollingshead, PO Box 4145, Frederick, MD 21705

COVID 19 (as of May 5, 2021)

Are you seeking information on how to get tested or vaccinated for COVID 19?

For the latest information on cost-free COVID 19 testing and vaccination clinics, access the COVID 19 Information Portal on the Montgomery County Government Website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov or call 240-777-2982 for assistance in making an appointment.

"Connect-A-Ride"

Do you need transportation within the county?

Call 301-738-3252 Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. or contact connectaride@AccessJCA.org

Connect-A-Ride (CAR) is a free information and referral service that helps adults over 50 find transportation for medical services, errands, social activities and more. It connects callers with public, private and volunteer transportation services (including escorted transportation). It is funded by the Montgomery County Government and operated by the Jewish Council for the Aging.

Free Ride-On and Metrobus public transportation is available to seniors 65 or older from 9:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday; and until 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. Outside of these hours, seniors pay half fare. Metro Senior SmarTrip Card or Medicare Card with photo ID required. For Metro schedule information, call 311.

50+ Volunteer Network

Are you interested in volunteer opportunities in Montgomery County?

If you are seeking community service that will be fulfilling and tailored to your specific skill set and experience, check-out the Montgomery County "50+ Volunteer Network."

The Montgomery County Volunteer Center connects "skilled volunteers seeking purposeful opportunities with non-profit agencies needing specific assistance." Volunteers are needed for both long and short-term volunteer opportunities. The 50+ Volunteer Network matches individuals to opportunities. Access further information at www.montgomeryserves.org or email 50plus@montgomerycountymd.gov or call 240-777-2600.

Humor... (from LeeAnn Kaye)

What's the difference between a well-dressed man riding a bicycle and a poorly dressed man riding a tricycle? Attire

Just went to an emotional wedding. Even the cake was in tiers.

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.

June 17, 2021
Cancelled due to COVID-19

The MCPSRA Newsletter is published in October, December, February, April, and June.
This is the June, 2021 issue.