

Montgomery County Public Schools Retirees Association, Inc.



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

Volume 2018-19, Issue #2

December, 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dr. Carol Dahlberg
President - MCPSRA

Again this year, an MCPSRA member was inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame (MSCHF). Joe Howard, former MCPS teacher, principal and administrator, was recognized on October 25, 2018, at the MSCHF Awards Ceremony for his volunteer activities in the community. Congratulations, Joe!



What a great turnout we had at our first luncheon of the year at Normandie Farm on October 18. It felt good to be back together again for another year. Our luncheon speaker was elder-law attorney Michael G. Day. He gave a very informative and lively presentation on many of the financial issues important to our members. LeeAnn Kaye (Political Action Committee chair) introduced the candidates for various Montgomery County government offices who were endorsed for election by MCPSRA. Each candidate was invited to speak briefly... most complied with her request. Kudos go to LeeAnn who designed questionnaires for candidates and collated their responses, organized candidate interviews, and kept our members informed

throughout this election year. LeeAnn has now stepped down from the chairmanship position on that committee. Fortunately, Lou D'Ovidio, a very active community volunteer at county and state levels, has agreed to chair this committee.

Tom Hickman and Steve Raucher, as the chairmen of the Insurance and Benefits Committee, maintain direct contact with MCPS officials to review, discuss and protect our medical, dental, vision and life insurance programs. They also meet with representatives of each insurance company to review coverage and, when necessary, improve coverage. They attend the MCPS Joint Employment Benefits Committee meeting representing MCPSRA members with an equal voice and voting rights as ERSC (Employee and Retiree Service Center) union executive directors and their members. Their contact information is on Page 2 of this newsletter.

Please continue to support our community service projects: **Toolkits and Backpacks** (p.3) and the **Josiah Henson Park** (p.7). Your donations have a huge impact on MCPS students and the establishment of the Josiah Henson museum and educational center.

Note: all MCPSRA members are welcome to participate in Board of Directors Meetings. They are held at 9:30 am on the first Thursday of each month (except July) in Room 134 at CESC and at 11:30 prior to our luncheons at Normandie Farms.

Carol Dahlberg

MCPSRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers:

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------------|
| President | Dr. Carol M. Dahlberg john.dahlberg234@gmail.com | 301-253-2212 |
| Vice President | Dr. Russell G. Wright russwright408@gmail.com | 301-806-7252 |
| Immediate Past President | Dr. Stephen M. Raucher sraucher@comcast.net | 301-460-9092 |
| Recording Secretary | Mary D'Ovidio ldovidio01@comcast.net | 240-246-7818 |
| Treasurer | Dr. Kenneth K. Muir kkmuir@aol.com | 301-598-3649 |

Committee Chairs:

| | | |
|------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Archives | Juliette Trevino jgtrevino@comcast.net | 301-460-9670 |
| Auditing | Harvey Strine strineah@verizon.net | 301-251-0478 |
| Budget Development | Kenneth E. Huff kenandmarylou@gmail.com | 301-622-2161 |
| Community Service | Frieda J. Price fjprice@verizon.net | 301-926-2286 |
| Consumer Education | Dr. Debra Munk debramunk@yahoo.com | 240-426-8407 |
| Hospitality/Luncheons | LeeAnn Kaye geolakaye@gmail.com | 301-598-5480 |
| --- Co-Chair | Trish Bendler patricia_bendler09@comcast.net | 301-540-5160 |
| Insurance and Benefits | J. Thomas Hickman CTMAR28@yahoo.com | 301-929-9660 |
| Legislative | Fred S. Evans fredevans1970@gmail.com | 301-706-3993 |
| MCPSRA Projects | Joan Donovan jcjdonovan@aol.com | 301-253-6099 |
| ---Co-Chair | Trish Bendler patricia_bendler09@comcast.net | 301-540-5160 |
| --Josiah Henson Project | Mary D'Ovidio ldovidio01@comcast.net | 240-246-7818 |
| Membership | Juliette Trevino jgtrevino@comcast.net | 301-460-9670 |
| Newsletter Editor | Dr. Russell G. Wright russwright408@gmail.com | 301-806-7252 |
| Nominating | Dr. Stephen M. Raucher sraucher@comcast.net | 301-460-9092 |
| Parliamentarian | Nickie Neary nearynic@msn.com | 301-869-0057 |
| Political Action | Lou D'Ovidio ldovidio01@comcast.net | 240-246-7818 |
| Public Relations | Fred S. Evans fredevans1970@gmail.com | 301-706-3993 |
| Recognition | Joan Donovan jcjdonovan@aol.com | 301-253-6099 |
| Scholarship | Joy G. Schwab joyschw35@verizon.net | 301-253-3294 |
| Trips | Judy Adler Reiff generaljar@gmail.com | 240-481-4016 |
| Louise S. Walker Scholarship | Kenneth E. Huff kenandmarylou@gmail.com | 301-622-2161 |

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

Election 2018

Your Montgomery County Public Schools Retirees Association (MCPSRA) congratulates all of the newly elected officials who will work to make Maryland and Montgomery County a great place to live.

Of the 44 races in which MCPSRA endorsed candidates, we were successful in electing 43. We look forward to working with everyone.

Many thanks to the interview team of Carol Dahlberg, Lou D'Ovidio, George Kaye, Ken Muir and Darlene Simmons who put in countless hours on the interview team. And a hearty "thank you" to all of you who voted.

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.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TOOLKITS PROJECT



Many individuals have requested more information about why and when our project got its start, which students receive the kits, what is contained in each toolkit, and why the plastic bottle caps are included. In responding to these inquiries we hope you will better understand how beneficial our project is to the youngest and neediest of our county's school children and will be inspired to support it with a financial contribution:

- The project was initiated by MCPSRA in 2003 at the request of MCPS Superintendent Dr. Jerry Weast to help economically disadvantaged kindergarten children who have few if any school supplies at home to support their learning at school. Approximately 20,000 toolkits have been assembled and distributed to children during the 15 years of the project's existence.



- Kindergartners as well as Head Start students who attend the Title I Extended Learning Opportunities Summer Adventures in Learning (ELO SAIL) Program at 22 to 25 elementary school sites during July and August each summer receive kits at a Parent Training Seminar at the conclusion of the summer.

- The carefully selected items in each kit include: a number line, set of magnetic letters, crayons, eraser, Play-Doh, set of ABC cards, set of math activity cards, pad of

paper, glue stick, 2 pencils, pencil sharpener, scissors, ruler, bag of 30 clear bottle caps, 20 bottle caps of various colors and sizes, 5 sheets of story paper, and 11 sheets of lesson plans and suggested activities (printed in English and Spanish) for use by parents with their children.

- The bag of 30 small clear bottle caps are used as manipulatives with the number line, hundreds chart, and base 10 mat included with the lesson plans to reinforce math skills such as counting, addition and subtraction, odd and even numbers, and sets. The 20 bottle caps of various colors and sizes are used with sorting activities, teaching colors and patterns, and developing an understanding of math vocabulary and concepts such as smallest, biggest, most, least, same, as well as width and height.

Each summer the number of kits requested by the Title I coordinators has increased due to the escalation of the number of families in our county experiencing economic challenges. In addition, the cost of the items in the kits has gone up. Our project can only continue if we have the support of our association members. In the past, many loyal and caring individuals have generously responded to our appeals for donations. 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. Thank you in advance for your caring and commitment to our project!

MCPSRA TOOLKITS SPONSORSHIP FORM

Please provide (print clearly) the following information and mail it along with a check (payable to: **MCPS Educational Foundation** with "Toolkits Project" on the memo line) to Mrs. Joan Donovan, 13 Hilton 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 acknowledgement to _____

_____ Please do **NOT** include my name on the toolkit's label

Welcome New Members

Joined in September 2018

| | | |
|----------------------|--|--------------|
| Rodgers, Patricia C. | 20517 Addenbrook Way, Gaithersburg, MD 20879 | 301-963-3493 |
| Martin, Adelaide E | 125 Evans Street, Rockville, MD 20850 | 301-602-7981 |
| Singer, Ellen K. | 3415 Clarks Lane Apt. B2, Baltimore, MD 21215-2546 | 410-358-5721 |

Joined in October 2018

| | | |
|--------------------|---|--------------|
| Mcintosh, Nancy Z. | 14551 Triadelphia Mill Road, Dayton, MD 21036 | 301-854-3712 |
| Weiss, Linda | 2722 Silver Hammer Way, Brookeville, MD 20833 | 301-651-8343 |

MCPSRA Consumer Education Update

The holiday season is upon us...consider the following:

December is the best time to buy:

Holiday Shopping Security

Be careful while you're out doing your holiday shopping. Now is the time when theft is on the rise.

- Never walk out into a parking lot when you feel unsafe. Ask the store or mall security to escort you to your car.
- Don't leave packages in plain sight in your car. Don't leave your purse on the seat of the car while pumping gas, etc. "Smash and Grabs" are prevalent at this time of year.
- Be aware of people following you and keep your purse close to your side. Stay off your cell phone while walking along so that you don't become an easy target for theft.
- Be aware when ordering packages online. If you see suspicious vehicles in your neighborhood that don't belong there and appear to be looking for packages left on doorsteps, notify your local police.

Headphones
Wireless Speakers
Smart Watches
Cordless Drills
Tablets

The Twelve Days of Safety

1. Never use lighted candles near trees or boughs.
2. Keep poisonous plants out of reach of children and pets.
3. Keep trees away from fireplaces radiators and other heat sources.
4. Make sure your tree has a stable platform.
5. Choose an artificial tree that is labeled fire resistant.
6. If using a natural tree make sure it is well watered.
7. Check holiday lights for fraying bare spots, gaps in the insulation or excessive kinking in the wire.
8. Turn off all tree lights and decorations when not in use.
9. When putting up decorations, use a step stool or ladder to reach high places.
10. Designate a sober driver.
11. When preparing a meal, wash hands, utensils, sink and anything else that touches raw meat.
12. Reheat leftovers to at least 165 degrees F.

November is the best time to buy

Televisions
Refrigerators
Blenders
Coffee Makers
Fitness Trackers

Identity Theft.gov to report identity theft.

MCPSRA TRAVEL 2018-2019

- **Welcome to our latest MCPSRA TRAVEL TEAM offerings for the coming months. We hope you will find one or more tours that interest you and some that your family or friends might enjoy, too! Please**

share this list with others so we can continue to build the program and share the love of travel and adventure with many more. Your ideas are always encouraged! Please contact us and let us know how we can do our best for you!

- **DEADLINES:** We don't want to cancel any of the trips, so please pay for your trip as soon as possible. If a trip has to be cancelled because of insufficient numbers by the published deadline, your check will be returned to you.
- **Some trips are shared by EYRE Tour & Travel and MCPSRA. Trips marked "EYRE TRIP" can be paid by credit card directly to EYRE. Make sure they know that you are traveling with MCPSRA!**
- **GRATUITIES** for drivers are not included in the price of the trip.
- Most trips require at least 30 participants.

DAY TRIPS

OVERNIGHT TRAVEL

OVERSEAS TRIPS (offered by private tour companies)

****Detailed flyers available for these tours. Please request one from Ann Vermillion or Judy Adler Reiff**

****Land Journey to NORMANDY honoring the 75th Anniversary of D-Day (AHI Travel) July 13-21, 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, roundtrip airfare to/from Paris with transfers to/from Honfleur.

No Single Supplement! Small Group (28 passengers max.) Contact us for additional information.

****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, roundtrip airfare to/from Naples with transfers to/from Sorrento.

****Spain & Portugal in Depth (Grand Circle Travel) September 13-27, 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 pp. Tour with airfare from BWI: \$4195 pp. 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.

**For additional travel opportunities, check out the website
for MRSPA at <https://www.mrspa.org/travel-1>**

REMINDERS ABOUT THE MCPSRA TRAVEL PROGRAM

- 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.

PAYMENTS: Write a separate check payable to MCPSRA for each trip. Include the name and date of the trip on each check. Send your check with your completed reservation form. Your reservation will be definite upon receipt of your deposit/full payment, whichever is required.

- Upon receipt of registration form and payment confirmation, the Travel Team will send an email to the participant acknowledging the booking.
- **REFUNDS** are made only when your space can be filled.

**TRIP RESERVATION FORM
(use one for each tour, please)**

TOUR _____

NAME _____ **Email** _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone# _____ **Cell #** _____

Member of MCPSRA Yes ___ No ___ Are you traveling with others? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, complete next line.
Names & contact information for travel companions:

Are your travel companions paying independently? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, please enclose that check with registration.
Total number of travelers, including self _____ **X TOUR FEE = TOTAL PAYMENT \$** _____

CIRCLE ONE: Method of payment: check **OR** credit card payment to EYRE.
CREDIT CARD payment is accepted for trips offered by **EYRE** only. If paying by credit card, call the **Tour Department** at EYRE
TOUR & TRAVEL: 1-800-321-3973 x 3252.

Please let us know if you have special needs or requests. (seating, mobility, food allergies, medical issues, etc.)

CHECKS should be made payable to **MCPSRA**. One check per tour, please.
MAIL all checks and reservation forms to **Ann Vermillion, 3438 Chiswick Ct, Silver Spring, MD 20906**
QUESTIONS: Please contact Judy Adler Reiff, Travel Chairperson, via email at jadlerreiff@gmail.com or by phone/text at 240-481-4016 with any questions regarding the trips. We welcome your suggestions, too!

In Memoriam

The following MCPSRA members have passed away:

August

Doris Anderson
Paula G. Hauprich
Ann E. Small
Helen W. Youmans

November

Marybeth Talamo

September

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

October

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

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. Ken Muir, 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.

Here are the advantages of the email version:

- it's in color
- it arrives earlier than the print version, and
- if you only get the email version it saves our organization money.

If you are not getting the email version, it's because we don't have your correct email address. 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 email only.**

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P.O. Box 4367
Rockville, MD 20849

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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 December, 2018 issue.