

CRSPA



President's Letter

Hello everyone,

As we are quickly approaching Valentine's Day, I began to research how it came to be. I hope you enjoy the narrative below explaining its origin.

Valentine's Day has always been a day of love and giving gifts to the ones you love. Sometimes we hear the name St. Valentine spoken on this day. Who is St. Valentine, and what is his association with Valentine's Day?

The modern St. Valentine's Day comes from both the ancient Christian and Roman religion. One legend says that it originated from the Roman holiday Lupercalis/Lupercalia, which was a fertility celebration and was observed on the 15th of February. When the rise of Christianity came along, a lot of pagan holidays were put into the calendar. Lupercalia was no exception. In 496 AD Pope Gelasius made Lupercalia day into a feast day and proclaimed on February 14th in honor of Saint Valentine. He is who you are honoring when you celebrate Valentine's Day.

In the Catholic Encyclopedia there are three St. Valentines. One was a priest in Rome; another was a bishop in Terni. Nothing is known about the third except that he died in Africa. Surprisingly all three of them were martyred on February 14th. Pope Gelasius had chosen the first to honor.

There are two different St. Valentine stories- The Protestant and the Catholic story. Both versions agree that he was a bishop who held secret marriages of soldiers against the emperor Claudius II who prohibited marriage of young men. Claudius II prohibited marriage of young men because Rome was being faced with many confrontations, including war, education fail trade fail taxation increase, so he needed more able men to be soldiers. He felt married men were more emotionally attached to their families, and therefore made them weak. So, he announced that soldiers will no longer be allowed to marry.

It was a shock to the Romans to hear this, but they dared not speak out against their mighty emperor. When Valentine heard this, he decided to counter his decree in secrecy. Whenever couple thought of marrying, they went to Valentine, who then met them in a secret place later and then he put them into matrimony. The problem was, nothing can stay a secret for long and the emperor eventually figured out about Valentine and had him imprisoned.

While awaiting his sentence in prison, his jailor, Asterius, appeared to him. He said that Valentine has some saintly powers and that that one of them would be healing. Asterius had a blind daughter and since he knew of the miraculous power Valentine had, he asked Valentine to heal his daughter. The Catholic legend says that he did this through his strong faith, a phenomenon refuted by the Protestant which agrees otherwise with the Catholic version. However, he did it, somehow Valentine indeed did restore the vision of Asterius' blind daughter.

When Claudius II met Valentine, he was impressed by the dignity and conviction of Valentine. Valentine also disagreed with Claudius II about the ban on marriage. It is said that Claudius II tried to get Valentine to recognize roman gods, but Valentine stayed firm with his belief. He would not be convinced to recognize roman gods and even tried to convert the emperor knowing the consequences. The infuriated emperor ordered his execution.

Meanwhile, a deep friendship had formed between Valentine and Asterius' daughter. She was deeply hurt when she heard about Valentine's execution. In the legend it says that before his execution, Valentine asked for a pen and paper and wrote a letter to Asterius' daughter signed "From You Valentine", a phrase that is still used today. It is said that Valentine was martyred for not renouncing his religion. Valentine is believed to have been executed on February 14th, AD 270.

So, February 14th became a day for all lovers and Valentine became its Patron Saint. It was beginning to be recognized by young Romans who offered handwritten greeting of affection, also called Valentines, the day to the woman they admired. With the coming of Christianity, it was called St. Valentine's Day.

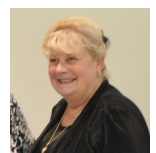
It wasn't until the 14th century that St. Valentine's Day was associated with love. Henry Ansgar Kelly credits Chaucer with being the first one to link St. Valentine's Day with romance. In medieval France and England, it was believed that birds mated on February 14th. Chaucer used the image of birds as the symbols of lovers in poems dedicated to the day. In Chaucer's "The Parliament of Flowers", the royal engagement the mating season of birds, and Valentine's Day are all related.

Today, Valentine's Day is one of the major holidays in the United States and has become a booming success commercially. According to the Card Association, 25% of all cards made are "valentines". One of the earliest Valentine's Day card was written by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London. It is now preserved in the British Museum.

I hope that all of you treat Valentine's Day as a day of love. Reach out to your friends and family to express your affection towards them. Everyone could use a warm smile, or a friend checking in on them.

Happy Valentine's Day to all of you!

Sincerely,
Vicky Karol, CRSPA President



CRSPA Executive Board

2021-2022

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Dr. Vicky Karol

karolvd@comcast.net

Vice President

Linda Mooney

ljmooney16@gmail.com

Immediate Past President

Barbara McKimmie

Recording Secretary

Vacant

Corresponding Secretary

Fran Armstrong

farmstrong@comcast.net

Treasurer

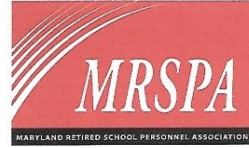
Merry Ellen McGown

mellen20639@yahoo.com

Newsletter

Debbie Hance

debbiejhance@gmail.com



New Member Recruitment Incentive!

Earn a \$10 gift card for each **NEW MEMBER** you sign up as a **DUES DEDUCTION** member.



This allows automatic renewal, so no membership interruption while

saving trees  , time  , and postage  !

Write your name on the membership application, as recruiter.

Return the completed application to:

MRSPA

8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A
Odenton, MD 21113

Questions: Email MRSPA at mrspsa@mrspsa.org or call MRSPA at 410-551-1517



Connecting, Protecting, Making a Difference



will be on the move soon!

Save These Dates

2021-2022 CRSPA Meeting Dates

Executive Mtgs/Zoom

- February 2, 2022
- March 30, 2022

General Meetings/TBD

- February 9, 2022/Zoom
- April 6, 2022



The CRSPA Newsletter is published in September, November, January, and March. Copies are emailed and mailed and can also be found on our website.

Want to receive your newsletter electronically?
Contact Debbie at debbiejhance@gmail.com.
She will add you to our **Go Green List!**

CRSPA's Next Meeting

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Safety Tips

Be careful about purchasing items through a social media site.

Be careful about what you say online.

Be extra cautious about who you "meet" online.



Date: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Place: Zoom

Time: 11am—1pm Meeting

Cost: Free

Please look for an email from CRSPA with directions and a link to Zoom our meeting. This email will be coming the first week of February.

Welcoming New Member

Geeta Holden

Zoom Door Prize Winners!

Misty Ellison
Debbie Hance
Maureen Sengstack
Patricia Politte

Carol Howard
Justine Novy
JoAnn Hill

Kay Weber
Eli Girsang
Linda Mooney



School Supplies CRSPA is collecting school supplies and money donations this year to give to CCPS Student Services at our **April 6th** General Meeting. Cash donations are also welcomed. All items are greatly appreciated and will be distributed by Student Services.



Collection will be at our April 6th General Meeting.



**Treasurer's Report
January 2022**

Balance: \$7,746.65

In Memoriam

Barbara Bowen Elliott

July 22, 1933- January 19, 2022



Barbara Rose Bowen Elliott, 88 a lifelong resident of Calvert County, MD passed away January 19, 2022 at her home in Huntingtown, MD surrounded by her loving family.

She was born on July 22, 1933 at her parents' home in Huntingtown, MD. She attended Towson University, Bowie State University and University of Maryland, College Park and obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Science and Master's Degree in Education. Barbara was a well-respected teacher at Huntingtown Elementary School for 38 years.

Barbara also served as a Judge of Orphans' Court for Calvert County from 1990- 1994 and then served as Chief Judge of Orphans Court from 1994-2010. She was a Member of Maryland Association of Orphans' Court Judges, Member of Calvert County Democratic Central Committee, Member of Calvert County Democratic Club, President of Calvert County Retired Teachers Association, Director of Huntingtown Citizens Association, and Member of League of Women Voters.

Her hobbies included taking long drives, playing cards with friends, going out to social events, taking care of family, and bowling. She was in a Bowling League at Lord Calvert Bowl for many years.

She is survived by her sons, Jeffrey Elliott and Mark Elliott.

She will be buried at Huntingtown United Method Church in Huntingtown, MD.

Contributions may be made in memory of Barbara Elliott to St. John Vianney Catholic Church and/or Calvert Hospice.

Teacher: noun. One who inspires, guides, enlightens, motivates; tireless scholar.

Henry Brooks Adams

Calvert County Board of Education to Begin Superintendent Search



Calvert County Board of Education (CalvertBOE) has begun a search for a Superintendent of Schools to replace Dr. Daniel Curry, who announced his retirement effective June 30, 2022.

Ray & Associates, Inc, a professional organization specializing in educational executive leadership searches, was selected to guide CalvertBOE through the process. Ray & Associates will work alongside CalvertBOE to recruit from the nation's largest pool of candidates searching for a new Superintendent through a robust search process. [Link Here](#)

Happy Birthday CRSPA Members

March

Vivian Jones 5
Elizabeth Towle 5
Jane Fletcher 6
Marianne Frankhauser 7
Mandy Blackmon 14
Clarice Johnson 14
Julie Roehm 14
Pamelia Moore 14
Andrea Daniels 16
Kathy Simone 16
Lori Idol 17
Donna Nichols 17
Ken Horsmon 21
Arlene Thornton 23
Barbara McKimmie 24
Chris Banks 26
Catherine Howanstine 26
Lula Parran 31

April

Gail Oaks 3
Mary Friedman 7
Jennifer Hudson 9
Pamela Wilson 9
Mary Ellen McGowan 11
Mary Bannerman 13
Pat Majors 15
Wendell Brady 23
Lisa Tettimer 25
Edith Nutter 28
Jeniene Wishart 30

May

Ray Enrico 1
Linda Mooney 2
Peggy Demedis 4
Marsha Gray 6
Connie McSpadden 7
Winnie Herberie 10
Kandia Spain 15
Cheryl Ragusa 16
Sherry Burcham 18
Barbara Brown 21
John Keosseian 23
Leonard Elter 25
Dorothy Campbell 31



Have you been left off the birthday list? Let us know so we can celebrate you each year!

CRSPA - Health Insurance Premium Holiday

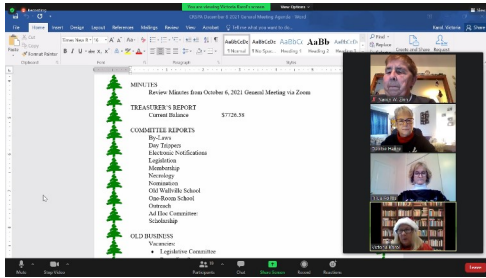
Calvert County Public Schools has received a settlement refund for the 2020-2021 plan year from our health insurance carrier (CareFirst).

In accordance with the provisions of the negotiated agreements, a portion of these funds will be used to provide one month of health insurance premium holidays for active employees **and retirees**. The premium holidays will occur during the month of February 2022.

Accordingly, active employees who currently pay for health insurance provided by Calvert County Public Schools will **not** have any deductions for health insurance premiums on February 15, 2022 and February 28, 2022.

Deductions for health insurance premiums will resume with the pay for March 15, 2022.

Good times at our December Meeting.....



CC All County Elementary School Chorus 2021-22



CRSPA's next meeting is Wednesday, February 9th.
Watch your email for the Zoom link.

This and That!

Help Needed

CRSPA is in need of a Recording Secretary

- ⇒ Shall serve as a member of the Executive Board and Executive Committee
- ⇒ Shall take the minutes and maintain a full record of all business transacted at regular and special meetings of the General Membership, Executive Board and Executive Committee

CRSPA is in need of a Legislature Rep or CoReps

- ⇒ This committee shall keep abreast of the information concerning the general welfare of retired school personnel and make information available to members.

Suggestion Box

We would like to hear from you with suggestions/information for future newsletter issues.

Please contact Debbie at debbiejhance@gmail.com with any input.

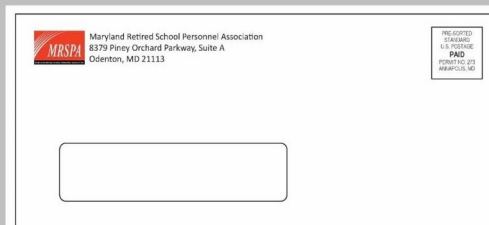


Maryland Retired School Personnel Association

Dear [redacted],

Today, January 28, 2022, we learned that a member has received their new plastic MRSPA membership card in the US Mail. This means that many of you should also be receiving them in the days and weeks to come!

The envelope will have a MRSPA logo and mailing address in the return address area. Please be looking for the envelope and do not throw it away as junk mail. We cannot replace cards that were accidentally or inadvertently discarded.



Also, because this production process has taken much longer than anticipated, some of our members may have passed away since we sent the all-member data file to the production company. This means that some deceased members may unfortunately receive a card in the US Mail. We sincerely apologize in advance for this. Please know there is no ill intent in sending the cards and that we are truly sorry for the loss of our members. This is purely the result of the production lag and delays that were out of our control.

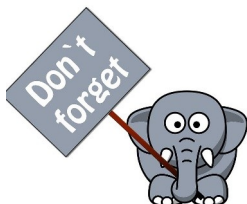
We do hope everyone will receive your new plastic membership card in the coming weeks and that you will carry it with pride. You will not receive a new card annually, so please keep this one. If you have not received your new card by March 1, 2022, please let us know by emailing us at mrspa@mrspa.org.

New members who joined after November 1, 2021, or late renewing members (after November 1, 2021) will receive your new card in the next production run at the end of the first quarter of 2022.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we worked through this process. Thank you for your membership in MRSPA!

Sincerely,

Wanda Ruffo Twigg
Executive Director



CRSPA's next meeting is Wednesday, February 9th.
Watch your email for the Zoom link.



2022 Maryland Legislation



Md. Legislative Update – January 2022

Two issues facing elected officials this year are redistricting in Maryland's counties and Police Accountability Board legislation. The Maryland General Assembly began on January 12th and will conclude on April 11th.

Delegate Mark Fisher (R- Calvert) and Delegate Jerry Clark (R. 29C Calvert-St. Mary's) each desire that Calvert not be split into parts, attached to other areas, and be represented by officials often living outside of the county. Del. Rachel Jones (Calvert-Prince Georges) explained that Calvert would need a population of 141,000 to accomplish this. The 2020 census population of Calvert was 92,783. It appears that Republican Calvert County will continue to be divided, attached to nearby Democratic jurisdictions, and represented by those living in other counties.

The other major issue facing Maryland's Congress is the debate about police reform. Jones commented that there has been discussion about modifying the last session's mandate to establish Police Accountability Boards (PAB) in each county. Current legislation requires PAB to be in action by July 1, 2022. Calvert Co. will discuss the racial, gender, and cultural diversity of its PAB at 7 pm on Jan. 26th at the Harriet Brown Community Center. County commissioners plan to make appointments to the PAB soon after the ordinance is established.

What do our elected officials have to say?

Jerry Clark *"I will not be seeking reelection. It is time for me to move on and allow younger people to take over and move this county forward. This is tough for me to do. It was a hard decision."*

Mark Fisher *"Governor Hogan has proposed significantly increased funding for the police. Considering the anti-police legislation passed last year, we hope that this funding is approved. The governor has taken the lead on this. Regarding the proposed redistricting plans by Md. Democrats for Calvert County, they bode ill for Calvert County."*

Submitted by Ray Enrico, Legislative Chair

VISIT

www.crspa.org

For the latest newsletter, meetings,
legislative updates, photos, and more.



Who *always* has a date on Valentine's Day?
A calendar!

Why did the magnet hit on the refrigerator?
He found her to be very attractive!

What do you call someone with a cold on Valentine's Day?
Lovesick!

MRSPA Fund Donations

The MRSPA Community Service and Scholarship Committees provide tremendous support to students and staff in schools across Maryland. In the past, funds for these scholarships and mini-grants were partially obtained through in-person sale of raffle tickets statewide. Last year, we sold raffle tickets via this newsletter and via local newsletters with great success. This year we are again seeking **donations** to the *MRSPA Fund* to continue our work. All donations are tax deductible and come with our thanks and appreciation!

To show our appreciation, your name will be entered into a drawing upon receipt of your donation. Donations of \$10 will earn 1 raffle ticket, and donations of \$25 will earn 3 raffle tickets incrementally. MRSPA staff will write your name on the correct number of tickets when we receive your check. The drawing will take place at the May 2022 Annual Business Meeting, whether held in person or virtually. You can win the \$300 cash first prize, a Maryland themed basket valued at \$150 second prize, or one of 5 third place themed baskets valued at \$75: Cooking, Spa, Wine Lover, Movie Night, and Sports Lover. Out-of-state basket winners will receive gift cards in lieu of basket contents.

Entering the drawing is fun and easy!

1. Make your check payable to "The Community Foundation of Frederick County"
2. Write **MRSPA Fund Donation** on the FOR line
3. Date and sign your check
4. Mail check and completed form to:

MRSPA
8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A,
Odenton, MD 21113

Due by March 22, 2022

Please, include the form below with your donation.
Receipts will be sent via email or US Mail.



MRSPA Fund Donation

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

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For the latest newsletter, meetings, legislative updates, photos, and more.

CRSPA

Debbie J Hance
4805 Regal Lane
Dunkirk, MD 20754