

CRSPA

President's Message

Hello everyone,

For this newsletter, I wanted to give you updates on the following matters.

MRSPA Legislative Priorities 2021

Maryland Legislative Updates January 25, 2021

Maryland State Retirement and Pension System

Recently, the Maryland General Assembly overrode several landmark bills that Gov. Larry Hogan rejected last year, including a multibillion-dollar overhaul of the state's public education system and two taxes that would help pay for the restructuring: a tax on digital streaming and a first-in-the-nation tax on digital ads.

In its first floor session since the legislature convened last month, the House of Delegates voted 95 to 37 to override Hogan's veto of the school overhaul bill. The Senate is expected to vote to overturn the veto later this week.

The bill would set in place a 10-year plan to expand pre-kindergarten; increase funding to schools with a high percentage of poor, special-education or limited-English students; raise teacher pay and increase standards for teachers; and add more programs to ensure students are prepared for college and careers. Its authors say the legislation is designed to move Maryland from a "middle of the pack" system to one of the best in the world.

The overhaul in education policy is the biggest effort by a state to reshape public education since Massachusetts — now considered to have the top-performing school system in the country — passed legislation more than 30 years

ago.

House Majority Leader Eric G. Luedtke (D-Montgomery) said the Maryland measure will give students "a better start in life than we have given them in the history of the state."

When he vetoed the measure last year, Hogan criticized its \$4 billion-a-year price tag as too costly — especially with the coronavirus pandemic impacting state revenue. He also said it lacked accountability and a funding source.

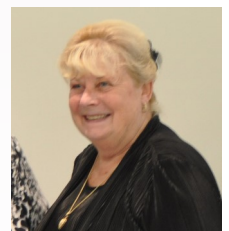
The governor also vetoed the digital ad tax and the streaming tax. Hogan and a coalition of small business groups argued the digital ad tax would ultimately be passed along to advertisers, hitting small businesses and entrepreneurs trying to stay afloat during the pandemic.

Legislative leaders say schools and the widespread distance learning that resulted from the pandemic highlight and exacerbate the inequities the bill aimed to address. *Reported by the Washington Post Ovetta Wiggins and Erin Cox.*

Please stay safe and vigilant in maintaining efforts to mitigate the COVID-19 virus. Hopefully, we will be able to meet again in person in the near future.

Vicky Karol
President, CRSPA

(Additional legislative news on page 7
from Ray Enrico, Legislative Chair)



Save These Dates

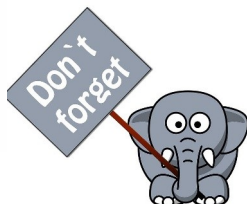
2020-2021 CRSPA Meeting Dates

Executive Mtgs/Zoom

- March 3, 2021
- May 5, 2021

General Meetings/Zoom

- March 10, 2021 @11am
- May TBA



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In Memoriam

Jean Jarvis Horsmon

June 27, 1930 - October 31, 2020



Jean Jarvis Horsmon, 90, of Solomons passed away October 31, 2020 at her home. She was born June 27, 1930 in Prince Frederick to Carter Vernon and Helen (Leitch) Jarvis. Jean was a lifelong resident of Calvert County and a graduate of Calvert High School. She later attended Towson State Teacher's College and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in teaching. Jean married Vernon Delmar Horsmon, Sr. on June 29, 1950 and they lived in Prince Frederick and St. Leonard before moving to Solomons.

Jean was employed by Calvert County Public Schools for many years, working as a substitute teacher and in various office positions. Her primary position however, was head of finance for Calvert High School, a position in which she retired from in 1992.

Jean was a member of DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution), All Saints Episcopal Church, Calvert County Fire Department Auxiliary, and the Lions Club. In her spare time, Jean enjoyed golfing, swimming, and spending time with her granddaughter.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, November 21, 2020 with burial at All Saints Episcopal Church Cemetery. Contributions can be made in Jean's name to the Prince Frederick Volunteer Fire Department.

Patricia Gale Young

June 5, 1947 - December 24, 2020



Pat Young of Ocean City, formerly of Chesapeake Beach, passed away on December 24, 2020, after a year-long battle with cancer. She died peacefully surrounded in the last months by her family and friends.

She attended the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse and Bowie State where she earned degrees in English Education and Secondary Administration and Supervision. Her career began in St. Mary's and Prince George's counties and concluded in Calvert County where she served as a teacher, vice principal, principal, and director. In 1988, she was named principal of Calvert Middle School making her the first woman secondary principal in Calvert County Public School history. While there, she was awarded the 1994 Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leadership Award.

Pat completed her career with Calvert County in 2007 after serving in several Central Office roles, most notably as Director of Instruction and Director of Human Resources.

During her retirement, she enjoyed volunteering, living at the beach, making new friends, traveling, entertaining the families' younger ones, music, cards, and the Packers.

A celebration of life is expected for Summer 2021. Donations may be made to a charity of your choice, perhaps based on a shared interest of yours and Pat's.

CRSPA's Next Meeting

CRSPA Executive Board

2020-2021

President

Dr. Vicky Karol
karolvd@comcast.net

Vice President

Linda Mooney
ljmooney16@gmail.com

Immediate Past President

Barbara McKimmie

Recording Secretary

Jan Travers
janettravers@yahoo.com

Corresponding Secretary

Fran Armstrong
farmstrong@comcast.net

Treasurer

Merry Ellen McGown
mellen20639@yahoo.com

Newsletter

Debbie Hance
debbiehance@gmail.com

Safety Tips

MRSPA Preventing Scams
&
Fraud Virtual Seminar
Held 1/6/2021

Watch Here:

[Preventing Scams & Fraud Virtual
Seminar - 1/6/2021 - YouTube](#)



Date: Wednesday, March 10, 2021

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 March.

Welcoming New Members

Adrian Beard
Mandy Blackmon
Cheryl Blockland

Lavetta Hutchins
Patricia Quinn
Cheryl Yates

Did you know? From Berta Airey

"I just ordered my new hearing aids and learned that our CCPS insurance will pay up to \$3000.00 toward them. I hope this information may make a difference to others of our retirees. Pays for the exam, fitting, follow-up also. I go to Freedom Hearing Center in PF. Dr. Jahed is superb! "

Information from Bridget Scott @ CCPS

Adult hearing aids is a new coverage negotiated with the unions effective September 1, 2020. Attached is a new, updated summary of benefits for your review. https://www.calvertnet.k12.md.us/UserFiles/Servers/Server_123339/File/Departments/Human%20Resources/Benefits/CareFirst_Summary_Of_Benefits_Retirees.pdf
(Page 14 for hearing aids)

Suggestion Box

We would like to hear from you with suggestions/information for future newsletter issues. Please contact Debbie at debbiehance@gmail.com with any input.

Thank
You 



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
Alice Sewell 16
Andrea Daniels 16
Kathy Simone 16
Lori Idol 17
Donna Nichols 17
Ken Horsmon 21
Arlene Thornton 23
Barbara McKimmie 24
Catherine Howanstine 26
Lula Parran 31

April

Mary Friedman 7
Jennifer Bates-Hudson 9
Mary Ellen McGown 11
Mary Bannerman 13
Pat Major 15
Wendell Brady 23
Lisa Tettimer 25
Jeniene Wishart 30

May

Ray Enrico 1
Linda Mooney 2
Marsha Gray 6
Connie McSpadden 7
Winnie Herberie 10
Kandia Spain 15
Cathy Cutright 16
Cheryl Ragusa 16
Sherry Burcham 18
Barbara Brown 21
Russell Costley 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!



This Photo by Unknown

CRSPA—Spring Community Outreach Project

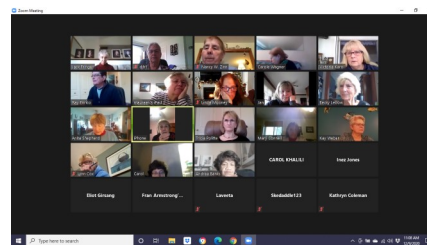
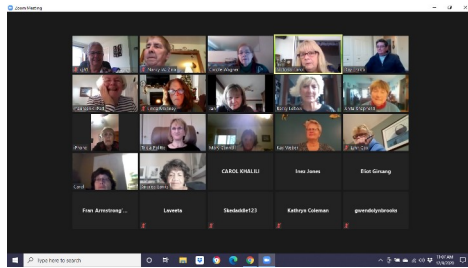
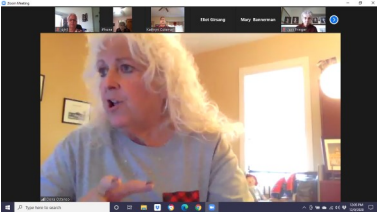
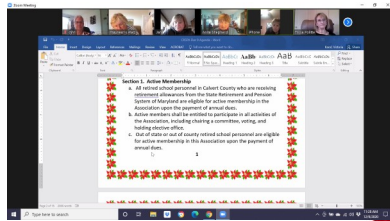
Contribution Update as of February

Six donations = \$700

Our fundraiser for the Spring (now until April 1st) will be donations to the Calvert County Meals on Wheels. Their goal is to ensure that homebound persons receive nutritious meals 5 days a week with a smile in Calvert County. If you would like to donate to this worthy cause, please kindly drop off a check (made out to **CRSPA Inc.**) or cash to the Community Bank of the Chesapeake. You do not need our account number or anything! Please put in the check memo line that your check is for Meals on Wheels. **You may also mail your check to:**

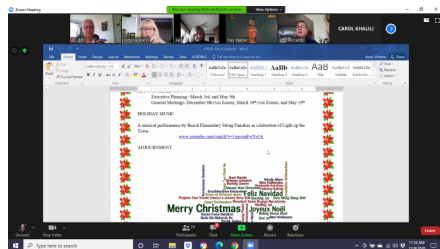
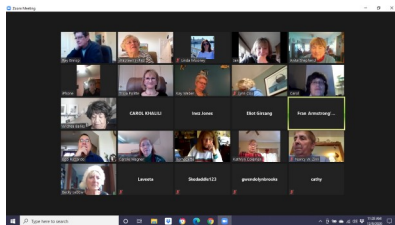
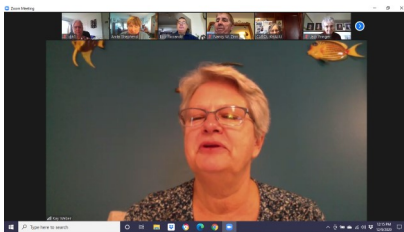
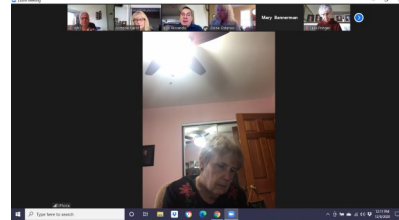
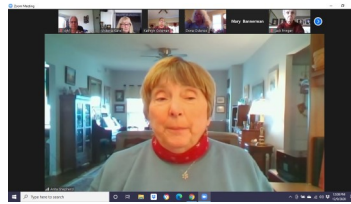
**Merry Ellen McGown, CRSPA Treasurer,
9140 Nana Russell Road, Owings, MD 20736.**

Good times at our December Meeting.....



CRSPA's next meeting is Wednesday, March 10th.
See you on Zoom!

And More.....



CRSPA's next meeting is Wednesday, March 10th.
See you on Zoom!



2021 Maryland Legislation

On Friday, Feb. 12th, Maryland lawmakers overturned Gov. Larry Hogan's vetoes of a sweeping education bill (Kirwan Legislation--Blueprint for Maryland's Future) and a first-in-the-nation tax on digital advertising to pay for it. The education bill will require the expansion of several programs with the goal of returning the state's public schools to among the best in the nation. The digital advertising bill is an attempt to tax Big Tech's income from selling internet ads, potentially raising \$250 million per year for the state. Both bills will become law in 30 days, following largely party-line votes from the state Senate on Friday and in the House of Delegates earlier in the week. Democrats were in favor of the measures and Republicans opposed. Hogan posted a video to his social media accounts, saying the Kirwan legislation "takes us back to the failures of the past at the worst imaginable time." He said the laws will result in "crippling tax hikes" and lack accountability. (Pamela Wood, Baltimore Sun, Feb. 12th)

*As of Feb. 12th, the House has submitted 1353 bills and the Senate has submitted 941. According to the Maryland General Assembly website, none of these bills has yet been approved by **both** chambers and sent to Governor Hogan.*

When a bill is submitted by each chamber, it is presented to that chamber for a first reading, questioning, and discussion. It is then referred back to a committee for further discussion and revision. Afterwards, it is presented for a second and third reading. It is then reviewed in its original chamber and either sent on to a Conference Committee of both chambers for final approval, or the bill is withdrawn. When approved by both chambers, the bill is sent on to the governor.

Each of the bills submitted in the 2021 session is now in this process. This year's meeting of Maryland's General Assembly will end on April 12, 2021. Between now and that time, we will learn which of these bills have been passed by both chambers.

Submitted by Ray Enrico, CRSPA Legislative Chair





Contact Your Representatives

STATE: Maryland General Assembly

www.mgaleg.maryland.gov
1-800-492-7122

FEDERAL: U.S. Congress

www.congress.gov
202-225-7000

U.S. House of Representatives

www.house.gov
202-224-3121

U.S. Senate

www.senate.gov
202-224-3121

MRSPA "C's" You...
*through Communication,
Commitment, Community*

MRSPA MISSION STATEMENT

The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association is a non-profit organization comprised of almost 14,000 retired school system personnel. It serves as an advocate for and provides expanding services to members, empowering them to enrich the quality of their lives. The Organization is dedicated to excellence in education and lifelong learning. It promotes community service by its members through a myriad of volunteer activities.

President

George Denny, Jr.
3508 Taylor Street
Brentwood, MD 20722
george.dilden@yahoo.com

Legislative Chair

Fred Evans
701 Grandin Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850
fredevans1970@gmail.com

Legislative Aide

Virginia Crespo
410 Francis Court
Millersville, MD 21108
v18gardner@aol.com

Executive Director

Wanda Ruffo Twigg
MRSPA Office
wtwigg@mrspa.org

The MRSPA Legislative Committee has statewide representation and provides leadership on legislative issues which affect MRSPA members and all Maryland citizens. These legislative priorities were developed with the participation and support of members. The committee reviews and takes positions on legislation and communicates through newsletters, legislative alerts, and the MRSPA website: www.mrspa.org.



**Maryland Retired School
Personnel Association**

Legislative Priorities 2021



8379 Piney Orchard Pkwy, Suite A
Odenton, MD 21113
410-551-1517 1-800-625-6782
www.mrspa.org
www.facebook.com/mrspa1945



**The Maryland Retired School
Personnel Association**
*advocates for its almost 14,000
members.*

*The organization encourages
members to serve in their
local communities and work
with legislators statewide.*

PENSION PROTECTION

MRSPA works to protect defined benefit pensions and a secure retirement for all Marylanders. Pensions contribute to the state economy and promote personal financial security. Full actuarial funding of and the legislated make-up contributions to the state pension system are economically, legally, and morally necessary to ensure system sustainability.

HEALTH CARE

MRSPA supports legislation that provides full-funding of local school systems as they provide health benefits/options for retired school personnel. MRSPA supports legislation to control the cost of prescription drugs.

EDUCATION

MRSPA supports public education in all Maryland jurisdictions, including pre-school and lifelong learning options. State support for these programs is essential to forming an educated and productive citizenry.

TECHNOLOGY

MRSPA supports legislation and grant programs to promote access to computers, the internet, and training to decrease the isolation of seniors and to close the digital divide. Lack of access to broadband, Wi-Fi, and internet-based programs limit access to telehealth/telemedicine, connections with family and friends, and access to news and other current information.

SAFETY

MRSPA advocates preventing abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults, and supports legislation to reduce crime and violence against seniors. The State continues to work to identify best practices in an effort to combat elder abuse, exploitation, and neglect.



CONSUMER PROTECTION

MRSPA supports legislation that provides protection from identity theft, fraud, and scams for seniors and vulnerable adults. Theft of funds from investment portfolios and other financial accounts is of great concern. MRSPA supports legislation that protects all seniors, especially those with diminished capacity, from financial exploitation.

QUALITY OF LIFE

MRSPA supports services and communities to help older adults age in place and supports programs to help older adults remain healthy, active and independent.

LONG TERM CARE

MRSPA supports legislation to address the rising cost of long term care insurance. Older adults who invested in long term care insurance to provide for their own care are faced with unreasonable price increases or a loss of benefits. These increases are prohibitively expensive and should be negotiable and greatly limited.

VISIT

www.crspa.org

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



"The challenge of retirement is how to spend time without spending money."

"Retirement: World's longest coffee break."

"There is life after retirement, and it is BETTER."

"The trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off."
Authors Unknown

MRSPA Fund Request for Donations – Raffle Drawing

The MRSPA Community Service and Scholarship Committees provide tremendous support to students and staff in our schools across Maryland. In the past, funds for these scholarships and mini-grants were partially obtained through in-person sale of raffle tickets statewide. This year, that option is not available to us due to the pandemic. Therefore, we are seeking **donations** to the *MRSPA Fund* so that we can 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 based on this criterion: Donations of \$10 will earn 1 raffle ticket while 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 2021 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.

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 at 8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A, Odenton, MD 21113 **before February 28, 2021**

Will you send a donation today? Receipts will be sent via email or US Mail.

Please include the form below with your donation.



MRSPA Fund Donation

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address for Receipt: _____

VISIT

www.crspa.org

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



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 mrspa@mrspa.org or call MRSPA at 410-551-1517

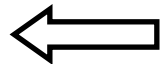


Connecting. Protecting. Making a Difference



CALVERT COUNTY
HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

Covid-19 Info
Click Here



CRSPA

Debbie J Hance

4805 Regal Lane

Dunkirk, MD 20754