

# MRSPA NEWS

MARYLAND RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION *Affiliated with NRTA: AARP's Educator Community*

Volume XLII, No. 5

Spring 2024

## 2023—2024 Classroom Grant Winners



**Area III South - Wicomico County**  
English Language Support Center  
Pat McKenzie, WRSPA Legislative Chair,  
Dana Hetzler, Teacher/Winner,  
Bev Yurek, WRSPA Membership Chair,  
Lavion Bratten, Principal  
*All Hands on Deck! A Day of Community Service*



**Area I East - Frederick County**  
Yellow Springs Elementary  
Joelle Grossnickle, Teacher/Winner,  
Lisa Wrzesinski, Acting Principal  
*World Indian Eskimo Olympics PE Unit*



**Area I West - Allegany County**  
Allegany High School  
Dr. John Bowman, ACRSP President,  
Alexandrea Kellermeyer, Teacher/Winner,  
Charles Moran, Assistant Principal  
*Filling Empty Bowls*

Last September, teachers in all 24 local school systems were invited to apply for a MRSPA Grant through the MRSPA Community Service Committee and the *MRSPA Foundation*. Over 60 applications from across the state were received and reviewed by committee members. One winner from each of MRSPA's six geographic areas was selected in November. Each winner received \$300 to implement their project.

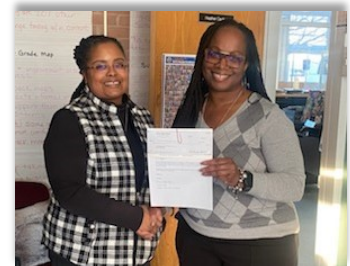
Grants are offered for projects that are not funded by the school system or parent teacher organizations. The applications show the great need that our schools and teachers have when trying to provide enrichment or enhancement to their curriculum.

Again this year, some presentations were made in person with the help of MRSPA and local association leaders. Others were presented by school staff at their request. Thank you to the presenters and everyone who supports the *MRSPA Foundation* through regular donations or our annual raffle which help make these grants possible! Just send a check made out to *MRSPA Foundation* and mail it to our MRSPA Office in Odenton to donate.

**We appreciate your support!**



**Area II South - St. Mary's County**  
Chopticon High School  
Wanda Twigg, MRSPA Executive Director,  
Amanda Myatt, Teacher/Winner,  
Leslie Roberts, SMCPSRA President  
*Invasive Species Removal*



**Area II North - Baltimore County**  
Loch Raven Technical Academy  
Heather Caulton, Principal,  
Karen Jackson, Teacher/Winner  
*After School Drum Club*



**Area III North - Talbot County**  
Chapel District Elementary  
Dr. Kari Clow, Principal,  
Dr. Debbie Chance, MRSPA Area III North Director,  
Christa Cianchetta, Teacher/Winner  
*Bilingual Book Club*



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Carla Duls

As I write this, the Mid-Atlantic early March weather is toying with us, tempting us to believe that, as a certain well-known groundhog predicted, spring is just around the corner. Yet we know that the early March sun and warmer temperatures can quickly be replaced by cold and biting winds, sleet, and even snow.

You can count on one thing. With spring on the horizon, the MRSPA staff is busy making plans for the MRSPA Annual Business Meeting, which will take place this year on May 7 at [Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City, Maryland](#). Delegates from around the state will convene there to transact association business, including adopting the FY 2024-2025 budget and voting on proposed bylaws changes.

The Annual Business Meeting (ABM); however, goes beyond just conducting business; it is an opportunity to celebrate the many accomplishments of the association and locals. The ABM program booklet will provide reports from the local associations, detailing the good works achieved around the state. Also included will be reports submitted by the eleven MRSPA standing committees. These reports, along with a slide show presentation, will provide evidence of how MRSPA members illustrate the theme of this year's meeting, [MRSPA: Working Together to Benefit Many](#).

Recently, the entertainment industry has treated us to a plethora of award shows: the Grammys, Golden Globes, SAG awards, and Emmys, among others. The ABM serves as MRSPA's award show and highlights the many accomplishments of MRSPA and the locals. Recipients of MRSPA scholarships and grants will be invited to share how those programs have benefitted their lives and those of their students. Individual and local community service awardees will be recognized as will locals be celebrated for achievements in membership. After a final opportunity is provided to purchase raffle tickets, winners of the MRSPA Foundation raffle will be drawn. Other winners will be those who benefit from donations made to the Maryland Food Bank through the MRSPA virtual food drive.

The election of MRSPA officers for 2024-2025 will also take place at the ABM. Secretary Sharyn Doyle, Anne Arundel County, is seeking her second term as Secretary. Dr. Stephen M. Raucher, Montgomery County, is seeking a second three-year term as Treasurer of MRSPA. Matilda "Tillie"

## MRSPA News

is published five times each year by the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association.

*Editor*

Debbie J. Hance

*Officers*

- President.....Carla Duls
- President-elect.....Betty Weller
- Vice President.....Nancy Gordon
- Secretary.....Sharyn Doyle
- Treasurer.....Dr. Stephen Raucher

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Barckley, Anne Arundel County, and Kathy Campagnoli, Frederick County, are vying for the position of Vice President. Current President-elect Betty Weller, Kent County, will be installed as MRSPA President.

The ABM also signals that my term as President is coming to an end. It has been an honor to serve as your President. I enjoyed traveling around the state visiting with you and thank you for your generous hospitality. Thank you to Executive Director Wanda Twigg, Secretary Frankie McDonnell, Administrative Assistant Lonna Siskind, and Clerical Assistant Heidi Rothert, whose assistance was invaluable. They, together with the Board of Directors, MRSPA committee members, and the MRSPA membership are to be commended for all they do to ensure that MRSPA is indeed able fulfill its mission: advocating for its members, promoting lifelong learning and excellence in education, and promoting community service.



*Bylaws Committee*  
*2024 Proposed Bylaws Amendments*

<b>Current Language</b>	<b>Proposed Change</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
<b>Article VI – Officers, Section 3. Terms of Officers, c.</b> , The term of office of the Secretary shall be one year and may not exceed three consecutive years.	<b>Article VI – Officers, Section 3. Terms of Officers, c.</b> , The term of office of the Secretary shall be for three years and may not exceed one additional consecutive term of three years.	To make the length of the term of office of the Secretary the same as the length of the term of office as the Treasurer.
<b>Article XII – Elections Section 2. a.</b> , Following the report of the Nominating Committee, additional nominations may be received from the floor provided such nominees state their willingness to serve.	<b>Article XII – Elections Section 2. a.</b> , Following the report of the Nominating Committee, additional nominations may be received from the floor provided such nominees state their willingness to serve <i>and meet qualifications</i> .	To align with the eligibility requirements as stated in Article VI – Officers – Section 2. Qualifications a., b., and c.
<b>Article XX - Amendments</b>	<b>Article XX – Amendments Section 2. (New)</b> With the exception of any specific content of an amendment, all amendments will take effect on the first day of the next fiscal year.	To clarify when amendments take effect.

**BYLAWS COMMITTEE**

*Patrycia Pickett, Chair, Baltimore City*  
*George Denny, Jr., Prince George’s County*  
*Carla Duls, Anne Arundel County*  
*Nancy Gordon, Frederick County*  
*Dr. Stephen Raucher, Montgomery County*  
*George Sparks, Jr., Baltimore County*  
*Betty Weller, Kent County*

**Vision Statement**

*The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association inspires the dedication, commitment, skills and abilities of its members in service to fellow retirees and the entire community in an ever-changing world.*

**Mission Statement**

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

**Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion**

*We, the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association, are evolving to reflect the goals and aspirations of a contemporary organization. Through our shared values, we create an environment where all members are included, respected, and appreciated.*

## 2024-2025 MRSPA Proposed Budget

### MARYLAND RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION PROPOSED BUDGET 2024-2025 - Page 1

INCOME						
LINE #	ACCOUNT NAME	ACTUAL 2022 - 2023	BUDGET 2023-2024	RECEIVED TO January 2024	REQUESTED BUDGET 2024-2025	PROPOSED BUDGET 2024-2025
1	<b>REVENUE</b>					
2	MEMBERSHIP DUES					
3	Membership Dues-State	\$ 517,848	\$ 513,000	\$ 496,587	\$ 550,000	\$ 550,000
4	TRAVEL COMMISSIONS	7,644	3,000	770	3,000	3,000
5	INTEREST ON SAVINGS/CD	289	150	239	400	400
6	GAIN/LOSS ON INVESTMENT FUNDS	45,629	20,000	6,338	20,000	20,000
7	REIMBURSEMENT/MISCELLANEOUS	-	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
8	Annual Meeting	3,725	4,000	-	4,000	4,000
9	MRSPA Foundation				-	-
10	Retirement Folder Ads	-	-	900	-	-
11	Miscellaneous - Other Income	4,156	2,000	105	1,000	1,000
12	Non Dues Revenue	12,005	18,000	19,200	29,200	29,200
13	<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 591,296</b>	<b>\$ 561,150</b>	<b>\$ 524,138</b>	<b>\$ 608,600</b>	<b>\$ 608,600</b>
14	<b>INCOMING TRANSFERS</b>					
15	Membership Dues - Local Associations	\$ 154,218	\$ 151,000	\$ 157,763	\$ 158,700	\$ 158,700
16	Transfer from Investment Account	-	13,000.00	-	-	-
17	Retiree HealthCare - Lincoln Financial Transfer	3,437	2,749	687	3,700	3,700
18	Retiree HealthCare - Retiree Contribution	1,489	1,490	754	1,616	1,616
19	<b>TOTAL INCOMING TRANSFERS</b>	<b>\$ 159,143</b>	<b>\$ 168,239</b>	<b>\$ 159,205</b>	<b>\$ 164,016</b>	<b>\$ 164,016</b>
20	<b>TOTAL BAL FORWARD+REVENUE+TRANSFERS</b>	<b>\$ 750,439</b>	<b>\$ 729,389</b>	<b>\$ 683,343</b>	<b>\$ 772,616</b>	<b>\$ 772,616</b>

### MARYLAND RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION PROPOSED BUDGET 2024-2025 - Page 2

Expenditures						
LINE #	ACCOUNT NAME	ACTUAL 2022 - 2023	BUDGET 2023-2024	RECEIVED TO January 2024	REQUESTED BUDGET 2024-2025	PROPOSED BUDGET 2024-2025
1	<b>OFFICERS</b>					
2	President	\$ 1,350	\$ 4,600	\$ -	\$ 4,600	\$ 4,600
3	Immediate Past President	56	-	-	500	500
4	President-elect	-	500	-	-	-
5	Vice-President	358	1,000	62	1,000	1,000
6	Secretary	-	200	-	200	200
7	Treasurer	82	800	-	800	800
8	Board of Directors	3,266	3,000	1,178	3,000	3,000
9	Executive Committee	732	1,200	6	1,200	1,200
10	<b>AREA DIRECTORS</b>					
11	Area I - West	-	508	-	500	500
12	Area I - East	37	180	52	180	180
13	Area II - North	57	225	22	225	225
14	Area II - South	188	350	62	350	350
15	Area III - North	-	150	126	200	200
16	Area III - South	150	200	-	300	300
17	<b>TOTAL OFFICERS</b>	<b>\$ 6,275</b>	<b>\$ 12,913</b>	<b>\$ 1,509</b>	<b>\$ 13,055</b>	<b>\$ 13,055</b>
18	<b>STANDING COMMITTEES</b>					
19	Bylaws	\$ -	\$ 400	\$ -	\$ 200	\$ 200
20	Consumer Education	99	1,000	6	1,000	1,000
21	Legislative	9,660	15,000	1,018	15,500	15,500
22	Membership	29,837	35,833	19,351	39,000	39,000
23	Travel	289	1,000	93	1,000	1,000
24	Community Service	2,606	1,000	449	2,750	2,750
25	Finance	285	200	5	200	200
26	Member Benefits	284	1,000	356	1,000	1,000
27	Public Relations	413	2,000	694	7,500	7,500
28	Scholarship	834	1,200	72	1,200	1,200
29	Nominating	2	200	-	150	150
30	<b>TOTAL STANDING COMMITTEES</b>	<b>\$ 44,307</b>	<b>\$ 58,833</b>	<b>\$ 22,044</b>	<b>\$ 69,500</b>	<b>\$ 69,500</b>

**Maryland Retired School Personnel Association  
Proposed Budget 2024-2025 - Page 3**

**Expenditures**

LINE #	ACCOUNT NAME	ACTUAL 2022 - 2023	BUDGET 2023-2024	RECEIVED TO January 2024	REQUESTED BUDGET 2024-2025	PROPOSED BUDGET 2024-2025
1	<b>MRSPA NEWSLETTER</b>					
2	Publications	\$ 26,273	\$ 23,000	\$ 14,272	\$ 27,000	\$ 27,000
3	<b>TOTAL MRSPA NEWSLETTER</b>	\$ 26,273	\$ 23,000	\$ 14,272	\$ 27,000	\$ 27,000
4	<b>ANNUAL ACTIVITIES</b>				-	
5	Annual Business Meeting	\$ 30,877	\$ 25,000	\$ 1,118	\$ 32,000	\$ 32,000
6	Organization Handbook		-	246.52	300.00	300.00
7	Leadership Training	3,129.51	6,000	1,984.40	6,000.00	6,000.00
8	Endowment Fund	277.65	-	-	-	-
9	Local Association Presidents' Workshop	724.53	4,000	100.54	4,000.00	4,000.00
10	<b>TOTAL ANNUAL ACTIVITIES</b>	\$ 35,009	\$ 35,000	\$ 3,449	\$ 42,300	\$ 42,300
11	<b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b>					
12	Salaries and Wages	\$ 218,834	\$ 226,928	\$ 101,123	\$ 228,393	\$ 228,393
13	Bookkeeping - Services	13,980	14,260	7,130	14,688	14,688
14	Bookkeeping - Software Fees	1,064	1,140	566	1,140	1,140
15	Bookkeeping - Bill.com	2,501	2,510	1,493	2,600	2,600
16	Expense Account	8,058	3,000	1,374	3,000	3,000
17	Staff Development	714	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
18	Recruitment				4,000	4,000
19	Legal and Valuation Services	3,759	4,500	208	5,000	5,000
20	Auditor	13,950	16,000	-	15,455	15,455
21	Taxes (Corporate Income & Property)	302	300	204	300	300
22	General Supplies	110	300	513	600	600
23	Office Supplies	6,171	6,250	817	6,250	6,250
24	Printing	966	3,000	-	3,000	3,000
25	Postage	1,147	500	176	1,200	1,200
26	Insurance	10,282	9,000	2,878	11,500	11,500
27	Telephone/Communication	3,605	3,252	2,325	3,700	3,700
28	Office Rent	69,559	70,950	41,095	72,368	72,368
29	Office Equipment - New	1,067	2,000	1,502	2,000	2,000
30	Equipment Rental	4,692	5,000	2,503	4,900	4,900
31	Equipment Repairs and Maintenance	1,110	2,300	-	2,300	2,300
32	Maintenance - Software and Virus Protection	5,444	4,000	2,626	5,000	5,000
33	Web Development	549	400	757	800	800
34	Staff Retiree Health Trust	-	-	-	-	-
35	<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	\$ 367,862	\$ 376,590	\$ 167,290	\$ 389,194	\$ 389,194


**Maryland Retired School Personnel Association  
Proposed Budget 2024-2025 - Page 4**

**Expenditures**

LINE #	ACCOUNT NAME	ACTUAL 2022-2023	BUDGET 2023-2024	EXPENDED TO January 2024	REQUESTED BUDGET	PROPOSED BUDGET
1	<b>OTHER</b>					
2	Retiree Insurance	5,335	5,359	2,408	5,756	5,756
3	Reimbursement of Membership Dues	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500
4	<b>TOTAL OTHER</b>	\$ 5,335	\$ 5,859	\$ 2,408	\$ 6,256	\$ 6,256
5	<b>UNCLASSIFIED</b>					
6	PayPal / Stripe Transaction Fees	1,458.04	1,500	1,410.66	2,000.00	2,000.00
7	Bank Charges	1,050.11	1,300	947.50	1,200.00	1,200.00
8	Payroll Taxes (SS, Medicare, FUTA, SUTA)	17,445.27	18,505	7,797.86	18,617.08	18,617.08
9	Payroll Benefits (SEP IRA)	24,854.48	25,878	10,062.31	23,793.48	23,793.48
10	Payroll Benefits (Employee Insurance)	18,133.33	19,010	2,365.06	21,000.00	21,000.00
11	Contingency Fund		-		-	-
12	<b>TOTAL UNCLASSIFIED</b>	\$ 62,941	\$ 66,193	\$ 22,583	\$ 66,611	\$ 66,611
13	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	\$ 548,001	\$ 578,388	\$ 233,556	\$ 613,916	\$ 613,916
14	<b>TRANSFERS</b>					
15	Transfer to Investment Account	-	-	-	-	-
16	Local Association Dues	154,096	151,000	152,828	158,700	158,700
17	MRSPA Foundation	150	-	-	-	-
18	<b>TOTAL TRANSFERS</b>	\$ 154,246	\$ 151,000	\$ 152,828	\$ 158,700	\$ 158,700
19	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES &amp; TRANSFERS</b>	\$ 702,247	\$ 729,388	\$ 386,384	\$ 772,616	\$ 772,616

## 2024-2025 MRSPA Proposed Budget Notes

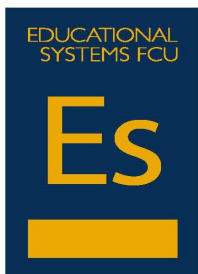
<b>Page 1, Line 3</b>	Membership is based on 11,000 dues-paying members at \$50 each
<b>Page 1, Line 11</b>	Non-dues revenue comprises \$25,000 from AMBA and \$4,000 from newsletter ads
<b>Page 1, Line 15</b>	No transfer from our investment account is proposed
<b>Page 2, Line 27</b>	Public Relations Committee requests funds for additional activities
<b>Page 3, Line 12</b>	Cost of Living increase of 4% for office staff
<b>Page 3, Line 18</b>	“Recruitment” is a new line item to reflect the costs of hiring office staff
<b>Page 4, Lines 8-10</b>	Increases in staff payroll taxes, benefits, and insurance

 **Notice:** During the May 2023 Annual Business Meeting, delegates voted to increase MRSPA dues to \$50 annually. This is a \$5.00 increase from the current \$45 state dues.

This increase will become effective on July 1, 2024, for the 2024-2025 membership year. Please make a note of it.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

*Alicia Hardisky, Chair, Anne Arundel County*  
*Brenda Barnes, Prince George's County*  
*Dr. Debbie Chance, Talbot County*  
*Carla Duls, Anne Arundel County*  
*Charlie Gable, Jr., Anne Arundel County*  
*Nancy Gordon, Frederick County*  
*Henrietta Lease, Garrett County*  
*Dr. Stephen M. Raucher, Montgomery County*  
*John Sisson, Prince George's & Worcester Counties*  
*Sally Smith, Frederick County*  
*Betty Weller, Kent County*



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**MRSPA CALENDAR**

- April 8.....Sine Die, General Assembly Session Ends  
*Annapolis, MD*
- May 7.....Annual Business Meeting  
*Turf Valley Resort, Ellicott City*
- May 27.....Memorial Day Holiday  
*MRSPA Office Closed*
- June 11.....Executive Committee Meeting  
*Hybrid*
- June 19.....Juneteenth Holiday  
*MRSPA Office Closed*
- July 1.....New Membership Year Begins  
*Odenton, MD*



**MRSPA TRIPS AND TRAVEL  
2023-2024**



**Montana and Glacier National Park**, July 13 - 20, 2024, (Mayflower Cruises & Tours), Contact Debbie Martinez, 810-797-5710 or [debbie@mayflowercruisesandtours.com](mailto:debbie@mayflowercruisesandtours.com) or Liz Unger 443-904-4540

**Rivers & Rails of Texas**, September 15 - 22, 2024, (Mayflower Cruises & Tours via Travel Leaders/Action Travel) Contact Leigh Ann Keller, 301-843-0887 or [leigh\\_ann@actiontraveltours.com](mailto:leigh_ann@actiontraveltours.com)

**The American West**: Cody, Yellowstone, & Jackson Hole, September 3 -11, 2024, (Grand Circle/Overseas Adventure Travel) Contact 800-221-2610, MRSPA Code: G4-28192

**Essence of Panama**, October 3 -10, 2024, (Mayflower Cruises & Tours) Contact Debbie Martinez, 810-797-5710 or [debbie@mayflowercruisesandtours.com](mailto:debbie@mayflowercruisesandtours.com) or Liz Unger 443-904-4540

Check our website at [www.mrspa.org](http://www.mrspa.org), click **Travel** to locate more information on trips.

All MRSPA trips are open to MRSPA members, their family and friends. Please use **Code: G4-28192 anytime** you travel with Grand Circle Tours to access a special deal for you and MRSPA, even if it's not a MRSPA sponsored trip.

**\*\*2025 Trips to be announced in the next newsletter\*\***