Our Tuesday, May 8, business meeting is just around the corner. The venue has been changed to the Bowie Comfort Inn at 4500 Crain Highway, Bowie, MD 20716.

Registration and a continental breakfast will begin at 8:30 a.m. A memorial service will be held at 9:30 a.m., prior to the official business meeting. Lunch will be served following the meeting.

The meeting agenda will include approval of the 2018-2019 budget, proposed changes to the bylaws, election of officers, local association and state committee reports, and awards.

**Slate of Officers**

Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary positions will be filled during the meeting.

Running for the Vice President position is Charles Gable, Anne Arundel County. Alicia Hardisky, Anne Arundel County, and Nancy Gordon, Frederick County, are running for re-election as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively.

In addition, two non-board members (Anne Twigg, Allegany County, and Velma C. Hicks, Baltimore City) will be elected to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2018-2019.

Assuming office will be Ann Marie Downey as President. Frances Miller, who has served above and beyond the call of duty, will become Past President.

**Scholarship Raffle Drawing**

Drawings will be held for the MRSPA Scholarship Raffle during the luncheon program.

Prizes include the following: Grand prize – $300 cash, second prize - a Maryland Themed gift basket, ($150 value), and third prize - assorted themed gift baskets ($75 value). Tickets - $2 for one or $5 for three – are available from MRSPA Executive Board and Committee Chairs and also will be available the day of the meeting. You do not need to be present to win. All proceeds go directly to the Scholarship Fund.

**Membership Awards**

Membership Awards will also be presented. The new categories for local memberships are as follows:

- 0-199 Members (now 10 locals)
- 200-899 Members (now 9 locals)
- 900+ Members (now 5 locals)

The new alignment will allow for more equitable recognition and distribution of awards. The new groupings will be used for the first time at the meeting.

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**Emeritus Membership?**

If you turn 90 on or before June 30, 2018, you are eligible for Emeritus membership, beginning July 1, 2018. **CONGRATULATIONS! NO MORE DUES!**

MRSPA must know your birthdate in order to award your Emeritus designation. You would be surprised how many birthdates we do not have. Do we have yours?

Please contact Barbara Catron in the MRSPA office to verify that we have your birthdate. If you are over 90 and are not yet Emeritus, contact her to get your status changed for the 2018-2019 year.

Unfortunately, no refund will be made so please call now or wait until 2019.
The seasons have changed, and we all look forward to the blossoming of flowers and the warmth of summer.

It indicates that we are busy planning the Annual Business Meeting of MRSPA on May 8. Delegates will gather from across the state to conduct the business of the Association, while celebrating the successes of the past year. We will also take time to remember those dear friends we have lost during the year.

This year, we ask that each of our delegates bring to the meeting nonperishable food items that will be collected and donated to the MD Food Bank. This activity was suggested by the Community Service Committee as a statewide community service project. A representative from the Maryland Food Bank will attend and accept the donations. The donations will support a summer school nutrition program.

The MRSPA Bylaws Committee accomplished a complete review of the governance documents of the Association. Delegates will vote on the proposed changes to the bylaws.

We will celebrate the efforts of the Local and State Membership Committees, as they have supported the mantra of Membership Matters… Especially Yours! The committee members used a variety of efforts related to Each One Reach One, as they worked to sustain and grow our membership numbers.

With the installation of new officers, we will be welcoming a new President, Ann Marie Downey from Washington County. We offer our congratulations and wish her a successful and rewarding two years at the helm of MRSPA.

Since this will be my last newsletter message as your president, I thank the many wonderful members of the local associations I have met during my visitations for their support, their activism, their membership, and their history lessons.

A special thank you goes to those who have volunteered to serve on the Board of Directors and the various MRSPA committees. Your commitment and support are a daily reminder and living example of the Vision and Mission of this Association. I am proud to have had the opportunity to serve as your President. The dedication, loyalty, and skills the office staff bring to the work of the Association is priceless and makes everything we do come together. I commend and thank Wanda Twigg, Shirl Scanlon, Barb Catron, and Frankie McDonnell for everything they do for the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association and our members.

**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 members 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.
**Article XV – Ethics Review Council**

**Section 1. Composition**

b. May serve two consecutive 2-year terms.

b. May serve two consecutive 2-year terms. (delete)

To clarify that this is an ad hoc committee that is not appointed annually or bi-annually by the president, but rather appointed only as needed for as long as needed, to address a specific complaint brought to the Board.

**Section 2. Duties**

Shall investigate complaints as directed by the Executive Committee and as outlined in the Policies and Procedures of the Association.

Shall investigate complaints as directed by the Executive Committee and as outlined in the Board (add) Policies and Procedures (delete) of the Association.

To maintain consistency with the proposed name of the Board Policy document.

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**READY TO VOTE? It’s More Important Now than Ever!**

*By Tish Raff, Legislative Chair*

June 26 will be here before we know it! That’s the date of Maryland’s primary election where participation counts. You can register for either party or change your party affiliation until June 5. If you do not choose a party, you CANNOT vote in ANY party's primary in Maryland. However, school board elections are NON-PARTISAN, so everyone, regardless of any party affiliation, can vote for board of education candidates. Going to be out of town on June 26 or just don’t feel like the potential hassle of lining up at the polls? You have several choices. All 23 counties and Baltimore City offer at least one Early Voting location. These are open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. from June 14 through June 21. Your second choice is to vote by absentee ballot by request online, by mail, or in person by June 22 and return it prior to June 26.

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**Calling All MRSPA Members!**

Who? YOU and New MRSPA Members

What? New Member Recruitment

When? Now through October 1, 2018

Where? Anywhere you find a new member

Why? There is strength in our numbers and

1. Earn a $10 gift card for recruiting a new member who signs up for dues deduction
2. Save $10 (one-time) for the new member when they sign up for dues deduction
3. Renewing automatically, so no membership interruption
4. Saving time and money: 1 less bill to pay & no stamps or checks needed
5. Using less paper helps to save our environment

$10

MRSPA offers a time-limited opportunity for you to earn a $10 gift card for each new member you bring in who signs up as a dues deduction member.

FAQs:

Is there a limit to the number of new members I can recruit? No. You’ll receive a $10 gift card for each new member you recruit, who signs up via dues deduction.

How do I sign them up? Give them the newest membership application with your name inserted as recruiter. Return the completed application to MRSPA.

To be eligible, does a new member have to join my local? Not in most cases, but there are a few locals that stipulate state and local membership. You are encouraged to bring new dues deduction members into the local of their choice.

Questions: Judy I. Thompson, Membership Chair, 301-371-5729 or mymrspa@gmail.com or call MRSPA at 410-551-1517.
## MARYLAND RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

### PROPOSED BUDGET 2018-2019

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### Notes on Proposed Budget

- **Note 1**: Income - Membership Dues
  - Pg 1, Ln 3 Current membership minus emeritus + modest growth = 13,250 x $45. Decrease of 200 net members.

- **Note 2**: Expenses – Ad Hoc Committees
  - Pg 2, Ln 34 Decrease to $0 as no current Ad Hoc Committees

- **Note 3**: Expenses – MRSPA Newsletter
  - Pg 3, Ln 5 Decrease request to actual expense projected in FY 2019 & more electronic publication

- **Note 4**: Expense Local Association Postage Reimbursement
  - Pg 3, Ln 5 Eliminated due to electronic distribution of Local Newsletters to MRSPA officials

- **Note 5**: Expense Leadership Training
  - Pg 3, Ln 10 Expanded Leadership Training/Emphasis Program

- **Note 6**: Expense Salary and Wages
  - Pg 3, Ln 15 Includes a 4.0 percent salary increase for staff

- **Note 7**: Expense Staff Development
  - Pg 3, Ln 17 Emphasis Program

- **Note 8**: Expenses – Retiree Health Trust
  - Pg 3, Ln 34 Required Triennial Actuarial Review

### FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dr. Stephen Raucher, Chair, Montgomery County
Dr. Debra M. Chance, Talbot County
Ann Marie Downey, Washington County
Alicia Hardisky, Anne Arundel County
Henrietta Lease, Garrett County
Harold Siskind, St. Mary's County
Eugene Streagle, Howard County
Janet Williams, Baltimore City
Bev Yurek, Wicomico County

### FY 2018-2019 Proposed Budget Notes

- **General Philosophy**: Develop a responsible, competitive and conservative budget that reflects the plans and programs of MRSPA for the year July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019.

- **Guiding Principles**:
  - All budgeted items should reflect previous actual amounts achieved or projected, realization of goals and targets from previous years, and the projections of program needs from responsible committee chairs/account managers.
  - Expectations must always be defined and more manageable than projected Income.
  - Income projections must be overly conservative to avoid over projection.
  - Recognition that a 100 percent increase in a $250 item is only 0.0329 percent increase in the $758,420 Budget.
2018 Proposed Bylaw Amendments

ARTICLE XII – Elections
Section 1. Nominating Committee

a. Shall be composed of the six Area Directors, the President, and two non-board members elected at the Annual Business Meeting each year, and the Immediate Past President, who shall serve as chair of the committee.

Add: Section 6

With the exception of the Nominating Committee, no member shall simultaneously hold more than one position on the Board of Directors.

Bylaws Committee Members:

Sally W. Smith, Frederick County, Chair;
Nancy Harrington, Kent County;
Dr. Stephen M. Rauch, Montgomery County;
George T. Sparks Jr., Baltimore County;
Jay A. Stevens, Allegany County.

2018 Proposed Bylaw Amendments

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS
Section 4.

Current Language Proposed Change Rationale

Duties of the Officers b. The Vice President

3) Shall perform such duties as are prescribed by the President and/or the Board of Directors and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees, except the Nominating Committee.

3) Shall perform such duties as are prescribed by the President and/or the Board of Directors, and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees, except the Nominating Committee.

To clarify the duties of the Vice President.

4) Shall serve as a member of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee and Finance Committee.

4) Shall serve as a member of Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Finance and Nominating Committee and as an ex officio member of all other standing committees.

Historically, MRSPA has allowed ex officio members of committees to be full voting members of committees while not counting toward the number needed for a quorum. This amendment clarifies that the Vice President will now be a full member of the Nominating Committee and will be counted as a member toward the quorum for the Nominating and Finance Committees.

ARTICLE IX – BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Section 2. Duties


d. Shall approve Board Policies and Board Procedures.

These changes provide consistency with the suggested new titles given to our guiding documents. It also specifies the procedures that will require Board approval to be included or changed in the Standard Operating Procedures Manual.

ARTICLE XII – ELECTIONS
Section 1 Nominating Committee

b. Shall prepare a slate of candidates for each office and submit to the Board at the December meeting.

e. Shall prepare a slate of candidates for each office and submit to the Board at the December meeting for approval.

f. Shall prepare a slate of candidates for the non-board member Nominating Committee positions and submit to the Board of Directors at the March meeting for approval.

Clarify the Board’s role in the nominations process.
Maryland Retired School Personnel Association
8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A
Odenton, MD 21113-1508

MRSPA CALENDAR

March 30 & April 2………………Office Closed
for Spring Break
April 1 …………………Community Service Award
Nominations Due
April 9…………………………………….Sine Die
End of Maryland General Assembly Session
April 15 ……………Local Delegation Member Lists
for Annual Business Meeting Due
May 8………………2018 MRSPA Annual Meeting
Bowie Comfort Inn
June 6………………Executive Committee Meeting
Check MRSPA website for committee
meeting dates at www.mrspa.org.

MRSPA 2018 TRIPS AT A GLANCE

British Landscapes featuring England, Scotland and Wales – June 2018 for 10 days
Call Collette – 800-581-8942

Columbia & Snake Rivers Paddlewheel Cruise –
July 27 – August 4, 2018
Accent on Travel – 302-278-6100

Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta – October 3 – 8, 2018
Call Collette – 800-581-8942

Undiscovered Italy!
See the architecture, villages and historic sites –
October 17 – 25, 2018
Call AHI Travel – 800-323-7373 or visit website at www.ahitravel.com