

Montgomery County Public Schools Retirees Association, Inc.



P.O. Box 4367 Rockville, MD 20849-4367

www.mcpsra.org

Volume 2023-24, Issue #2

December 2023



PRESIDENT'S

MESSAGE

Dr. Debra Munk
President - MCPSRA

With the Holiday season now upon us, it is time to reflect on the past year. MCPSRA has had a banner year, with the resumption of quarterly luncheons and the Board's

pursuit of benefit parity. On October 12, 2023, Marti Gray, Membership Chairperson, and I testified before the Board of Education (BOE). We sent the BOE a report compiled by Chris Sutter, Marti Gray and Steve Raucher, that compared active-employee benefits with retiree benefits. We look forward to working with the BOE on resolving disparities they uncovered. Stay tuned for developments. The MCPSRA Board is happy to represent retirees in this effort. But although we represent all retirees our membership is a small fraction of MCPS retirees. For our voice to matter, we need more retirees to join our/your organization. The benefit gap is a BIG DEAL, and most retirees are not even aware of the problem. PLEASE... if you have friends who are not members, spread the word of the urgency of joining. For only \$60/year, this is cheap insurance to protect their pensions and benefits.

We want to welcome Judy Mills to the MCPSRA Board as Chair of the Community Service Committee. As you will see in her article in this newsletter on page 8, Judy is full of good ideas and opportunities for retirees to contribute to the community. Please check out these opportunities and consider volunteering for one of them. Not only will you be helping others, but you will also expand your friendship base.

As you consider end-of-the year donations to charitable institutions please remember our partnership with InterFaith Works (IW), a non-profit organization addressing poverty and homelessness in our county. MCPSRA will match your donation up to a total of \$1000. So, once you make your



donation to IW (<https://www.iworksmc.org>), contact Steve Raucher, MCPSRA treasurer, and he will send IW the matching funds. Furthermore, it's important to remember our Toolkits Project, which has been in continuous operation since 2003, marking two decades of support for needy young people! We rely on your donations and compassion to enrich the lives of children who have few or no school supplies at home to support their learning.

Congratulations to all MCPSRA officers. They are shown below being sworn in at the October luncheon by Nancy Gordon (MRSPA Vice President.).

At this time of thankfulness and reflection, I want to express



From left to right: Nancy Gordon MRSPA, Debra Munk (President), Reggie Ott (Vice President), Marla Caplon (Recording Secretary), Steve Raucher (Treasurer)

my tremendous gratitude to the MCPSRA Board members who give of their time and expertise to serve you, their fellow retirees. Unlike MCEA, SEIU, or MCAAP, our dedicated professionals are working on your behalf without compensation.

A special thank you to Bill Mills for his luncheon photos shown above and on page 2.

(Continued on page 5)

MCPSRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD)

Officers:

President	Dr. Debra Munk Debra.munk@yahoo.com	240-426-8407
Vice President	Reginald J. Ott regjott1@verizon.net	301-452-5449
Immediate Past President	Dr. Carol M. Dahlberg john.dahlberg234@gmail.com	301-253-2212
Recording Secretary	Marla Caplon marlacaplon@yahoo.com	240-793-8288
Treasurer	Dr. Stephen M. Raucher sraucher@comcast.net	301-318-4969

Committee Chairs:

Archives	Marti Gray graymm0322@gmail.com	301-641-8896
Budget Development	Dr. Stephen M. Raucher sraucher@comcast.net	301-318-4969
Community Service	Judy Mills judy.mills549@gmail.com	240-223-7271
Consumer Education	Deb Berner iudab@verizon.net	301-455-8608
Facebook Page	Christina Sutter christina.p.sutter@gmail.com	301-471-3637
--- Co-Chair	Sandra Filippi sfilippi@verizon.net	301-237-7748
Financial Review	Bill Gregory wmg.md82@yahoo.com	410-241-8731
Hospitality/Luncheons	LeeAnn Kaye geolakaye@gmail.com	301-598-5480
--- Co-Chair	Trish Bendler patriciabendler0@gmail.com	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 jcdonovan@aol.com	301-253-6099
--- Co-Chair	Trish Bendler patriciabendler0@gmail.com	301-540-5160
Membership	Marti Gray graymm0322@gmail.com	301-641-8896
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Political Action	Dr. Darlene Simmons simmonsdarlene5@gmail.com	301-474-8125
Public Relations	Barbara Woodward GBWoodward93@verizon.net	240-550-0286
Recognition	Joan Donovan jcdonovan@aol.com	301-253-6099
Scholarships (MCPSRA)	Bill Stief William_A_Stief@mcpsmd.org	301-956-5891
---Louise S. Walker	Margaret Brown margdell@gmail.com	301-910-2305
Trips	Bernadette Rager bg.rager@verizon.net	301-774-0345

BUSINESS MEETING/LUNCHEON

Business meetings/luncheons are held four times a year at Montgomery Country Club, 20908 Golf View Dr., Laytonsville, MD 20882.



Shawn Simmons thanks MCPSRA for his scholarship at the October luncheon. (See 2023 Scholarship Recipients on page 10.)

LEAP DAY, 2024

Where will you be February 29, 2024, Leap Day? Make it a memorable day by joining your colleagues at the Montgomery County Public Schools Retirees Association luncheon! Not only will you have fun, enjoy good food, meet fellow retirees, but you will be updated on the many things that the Association is doing to protect and advance your retiree health benefits!

Over seventy retirees attended our first luncheon of the new year. One member (the editor of this newsletter) traveled from Florida *just* to be here. It was a beautiful day, and a great time was had by all. Marcie Liebowitz and Judy Reiff had us playing a special Bingo that gave us a chance to move around and find out interesting things about each other. Word has it that they have another exciting activity planned for us.

If you have not yet attended an MCPSRA luncheon, I encourage you to do so. If you're worried about food allergies, we can accommodate you. If you think you won't know anyone, you might be surprised at who will be there. Or bring along one or more of your friends.

Mark your calendar for the next three luncheons:

February 29, 2024

April 25, 2024

June 13, 2024

I hope to see you soon!!

LeeAnn Kaye



TWO DECADES OF OUR PROJECT OF HOPE



Hope is a word that has appeared frequently on the front pages of newspapers. The word *hope* appears in campaign slogans, and projections of future financial markets. It is a word that was probably uttered numerous times by all of us in the last few months: *I hope I can get my shopping done in time to be able to enjoy the Holidays; I hope I get all my packages mailed on time; I hope my tax sheltered annuity doesn't lose any more money; I hope our country's leaders can work together to keep our county's economy sound and all people safe.* At the most difficult times in our lives, we describe some situations as seemingly *hopeless*. But once the crisis passes, we realize that we hoped *more* during that time, not *less*.

When a product called "Hope in a Jar" appeared on a popular television shopping channel recently, it immediately invoked a response from me. No, I did not immediately pick up the telephone and order it! But I did start thinking of *hope* and what the word really means. A dictionary defines it as "...to wish for something with some expectation, belief, and confidence of fulfillment." I realized just how often I used the word *hope* in the past year and continue to use it when thinking and talking about our **Toolkits Project**: *I hope we can raise enough money so we can provide a toolkit for each kindergartner that needs one; I hope we can get corporate sponsors to donate items for the kits; I hope MCPSRA members believe in this project as much as our committee members do and will step forward and sponsor the toolkits; I hope everyone realizes what these toolkits mean to the children and their families.* The word that is often overlooked in that dictionary definition of hope is *belief*. Frank Lloyd Wright once said, "The thing always happens that you really believe in; and the belief in a thing makes it happen." "In any project, the important factor is your belief. Without belief there can be no successful outcome," is how William James said it.

For the past 20 years MCPSRA members have believed in this project and brought hope to so many needy children. Do the toolkits make a difference and are they really appreciated? Here's what a parent of a kindergartner wrote to us: *I just wanted to say thank you to the members of MCPSRA for putting together these wonderful toolkits. I received one of these kits today for my son who is entering kindergarten... I can't wait to get him started with some of the activities included in this kit. This is such a wonderful idea and a great way to get a jump start on learning. The time and money spent on putting these together is greatly appreciated and will benefit so many children, mine included.*

It is often said that the hope for the future of our nation lies in the youth of today. Therefore, we will continue to hope that you will answer our plea and sponsor toolkits for our county's needy children with a TAX-DEDUCTIBLE donation. We find hope in something Ann Landers once said: *To those who need encouragement, remember this: Beware of quitting too soon. Dr. Seuss' first children's book was rejected by 23 publishers. The 24th publisher sold 6 million copies.* We will never quit asking for your help because we know that we can't truly purchase *Hope in a Jar*, but we can provide it in a toolkit for a needy child. Join the hundreds and hundreds of members who have donated thousands of dollars over the 20 years of our project's existence and invest in the hope of a better future for our youth and our nation.

Joan Donovan

-----detach here-----

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 _____

Select one: _____ e-mail me a receipt at _____

_____ mail me a receipt _____ no receipt is necessary

_____ Do **NOT** include my name on the toolkits labels

Welcome New Members

Joined in June 2023 (Accidentally omitted from the New-Member Welcome list in our October Newsletter.)

Rebecca Hubbard	504 Denham Rd., Rockville, MD 20851-1007	240-643-8610
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Joined in September 2023

Anita J. Anderson	15105 Manor Lake Dr., Rockville, MD 20853	301-655-9325
Katherine T. Andrie	120 Hutton St., Gaithersburg, MD 20877	301-980-1538
Ellen L. Bakalar	14314 Rich Branch Dr., Gaithersburg, MD 20878	301-340-0657
Shelia L. Bell	10903 Amherst Ave., Apt. 234, Silver Spring, MD 20902	240-463-1602
Sylvia A. Buie	10853 Amherst Ave., #1, Silver Spring, MD 20902	240-676-7457
Maria Teresa Foderaro-Guertin	1621 Brookside Road McLean, VA 22101	703-533-3334
Ranona Heller	10800 Antigua Ter., Apt. 202, Rockville, MD 20852	301-770-1921
Francisco Marconi	5023 38 th Ave., Hyattsville, MD 20782	240-781-8131
Deborah A. Messier	10600 Radstock Court Damascus, MD 20872-1856	301-253-6023
Kevin E. Pope	1570 Dominion Hill Ct., Mclean, VA 22101	301-442-6564
Barbara A. Woodward	12409 Saint James Road, Rockville, MD 20850	240-550-0286

Joined in October 2023

Susan B. Barranger	22713 Robin Ct., Laytonsville, MD 20882	301-253-0331
Gary T. Dorr	2417 Countryside Dr., Silver Spring, MD 20905	301-946-8301 ext. 1
Melissa A. Fean	14832 Silver Ash Court, Burtonsville, MD 20866	301-367-4511
Jodie L. Friedman	3108 Fairweather Court, Olney, MD 20833	301-774-7041
Maura A. Hinkle	17104 Fitzroy Way, Olney, MD 20832	301-570-0762
Susan K. Kelly	25209 Woodfield School Rd., Gaithersburg, MD 20882	301-788-0895
Wendy W. Kleiner	6013 Conway Rd., Bethesda, MD 20817	301-537-3339
Barbara J. Marchwicki	9125 Eton Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20901	301-589-6580
Jill A. Martinez	1217 Highland Dr., Silver Spring, MD 20910	301-585-9282
Louis R. Persic	2029 Bloomingdale Ct., NW, Washington, DC 20001	301-908-8351
Marilyn I. Powell	550 Russell Ave., Gaithersburg, MD 20877	301-984-1067
Alfred Sklarew	23329 Torre Cir., BOCA Raton, FL 33433	561-414-1398
Denise Bracalilly Stultz	7018 Flintfeet Ln., Columbia, MD 21045	240-535-5182
Ernestine I. Bivins	10206 Chautauqua Ave., Lanham, MD 20706	
Charlena S. Carney	1666 Varnum Place, NE, Washington, DC 20017	202-368-5796
Cassie L. Gabriel	9905 Renfrew Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20901	301-512-3428
Earnest Hawkins Jr.	PO Box 43, Denton, MD 21629	202-327-0611
Carolyn J.B. Howard	3706 Baskerville Dr., Mitchellville, MD 20721	301-806-1090
Audrey D. James	304 Hidden Gate Ct., Upper Marlboro, MD 20774	301-883-8712
Janice Lohr Sheppard	117 Summer Village Dr., Annapolis, MD 21401	301-509-4487

MCPSRA Consumer Education by Deb Berner

Dec 2023-Jan 2024

Welcome to winter and time for family gatherings, travel, and other holiday fun! The National Safety Council (NSC) says we should keep safety at the top of our minds, especially during the holidays.



Although they share many tips for the holiday season, here are some of the more important and often forgotten ones:

- Prepare your home. Check your heating systems, smoke, and CO detectors, and inspect/clean your fireplace and chimneys.

- When decorating for the holidays, follow the directions when using indoor/outdoor lights. Turn off all lights and decorations when going to bed or leaving the house. Keep plants and other decor that might be poisonous out of reach of children and pets.
- Keep an up-to-date emergency kit that includes a NOAA radio, flashlight, first aid kit, and extra batteries, etc. in your home.
- If traveling by car, be prepared by ensuring that your vehicle and tires are in good running condition, that you have access to an emergency kit, and that you are familiar with how to get roadside assistance if necessary. Avoid travel if the weather service has issued warnings.
- If spending time outdoors, watch for icy patches, ensure you are wearing appropriate clothing, and carry your cell phone.



The mission of the NSC is to save lives and prevent injuries at home, work and in the community. You can find more safety tips at <https://nsc.org>

****Holiday Dates**

We have many holidays to celebrate during December and January. It is indeed the time to share and enjoy with family and friends! Have a Happy New Year!



Hannukah begins at sundown, Sunday, December 7th and ends in the evening of December 15th.

Christmas is Monday, December 25th.

Kwanza begins December 26th and ends January 1st.

New Year's Day is Monday, January 1st.

Martin Luther King Holiday Monday, January 15th

And finally, here is a little trivia for the new year: The month of “January” is named for **Janus**, the ancient Roman god. Janus was the god of beginnings and endings, doors and gates, passageways and transitions and often described as having two faces—one looking forward and one looking back. So, as you head into the new year, remember that the past cannot be changed... it is just that, the past. Look ahead to the future and don't compare your journey to others but fully embrace your own!

*Please check out the November/December **Consumer Connection** newsletter on the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association site at <https://mrspa.org> for more updates and information.

(President's Message continued from page 1)

Please support the MCPSRA Board in any way you can... by giving to the Toolkits Project, by attending luncheons, by participating in community service opportunities, and most importantly... by recruiting your retiree friends to join us.

On behalf of the Board and myself, I want to wish you a safe and rewarding holiday season, celebrating with family and friends.

Warm regards,
Debra Munk

Paid advertisement:

Johns Hopkins Is Quality Education. Its Value Might Surprise You.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Johns Hopkins is a noncredit educational program for curious adults. Come explore history, the humanities, and the sciences with passionate faculty and interesting fellow members. Choose your membership for a semester or a full year.

Annual: \$600, 12 courses per year.
That's just \$50 per class—our best value.

Don't want to commit for a year? Try the semi-annual membership for \$325 and take four courses per semester.

Or, our memberships at area retirement communities are \$150 for two classes a semester—another great value.

Classes are offered in-person and online. For information on membership visit osher.jhu.edu or call 301-294-7058.

**THE QUALITY YOU EXPECT
—AND A GREAT VALUE, TOO.**



Caregiver Support Group Available to MCPS Retirees

Did you know that the MCPS Employee Assistance Program (EAP) has a Caregiver Support Group that is available to retirees?

The Caregiver Support Group is designed to provide helpful resources and establish connections among caregivers within our MCPS community. The support group meetings are held virtually on the second Wednesday of every other month. In addition, speaker presentations are held virtually every month. Speakers present important educational topics related to caring for a loved one. This group is open to MCPS employees and retirees, and their adult household members. Interested in receiving emails about the Caregiver Support Group? Go here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSestGoJE1_x2nPxg9FLyLkg6PDNy6zpCdZdePcKEsFN6LNGg/view/form to complete the Google Form.



You may also telephone the EAP at 240-740-6500 or email EAP at eap@mcpsmd.org for more assistance or information regarding these events.

MCPSRA VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



Girls on the Run, a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is a physical activity-based positive youth development (PA-PYD) program designed to enhance girls' social, emotional, and physical skills and behaviors to successfully navigate life experiences. The program's intentional curriculum places an emphasis on developing competence, confidence, connection, character, caring and contribution in young girls through lessons that incorporate running and other physical activities. The life skills curriculum is delivered by caring and competent coaches who are trained to teach lessons as intended.

Girls on the Run was established in 1996 in Charlotte NC. In 2000, *Girls on the Run* International, was incorporated. With the help of over 100,000 volunteers, 200 local councils serve more than 200,000 girls annually in all 50 states and DC. *Girls on the Run* hosts more than 350 end-of-season 5K events across the United States, making the *GOTR* 5K series the largest in the country.

Girls on the Run of Montgomery County is asking the Montgomery County Public School Retirees Association (MCPSRA) members to consider becoming a new community coach to advance the *GOTR* core values of an inclusive, diverse, equitable and accessible (IDEA) organization. You can read more about *GOTR* here <https://www.girlsontherun.org/>

GOTR of Montgomery County needs coaches each spring (mid-March until late May) and fall (mid-September until late November) season. Coaches need not be runners; they just need to be individuals who want to be a positive influence and who are committed to developing and celebrating our youth. Retirees make excellent coaches. A volunteer trained as a community coach commits to attending one practice weekly for 10 weeks at a *GOTR* team near them. There are 62 elementary and middle school locations from down-county through up-county. Training is provided for programs for girls in 3rd to 5th grade (*GOTR*) and 6th to 8th grade (Heart & Sole). The Montgomery County locations can be found here <https://www.girlsontherunofmoco.org/locations>. A full description of coach volunteer job descriptions can be found here <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fiTDg3xfBM9NW77arWikh6tplwk3ROLp14eL3FZjDg/edit>

Sample lessons can be found here

https://gotrwebsite.s3.amazonaws.com/common/OurPrograms/V2/GOTR_Sample-Lesson.pdf and here https://gotrwebsite.s3.amazonaws.com/common/OurPrograms/V2/HS_Sample-Lesson.pdf

Each season comes to an end with a celebratory 5K. This closing event gives program participants of all abilities a tangible sense of accomplishment. Crossing the finish line instills confidence through completion and is a joyful moment program participants always remember!

You can get further information about *GOTR* Montgomery County by visiting

<https://www.girlsontherunofmoco.org/> Catherine Smith will gladly answer your questions about *GOTR* of Montgomery County. You can reach her at catherine@girlsontherunofmoco.org or 301-881-3801 x103.

Please consider volunteering as a *Girls on the Run* coach for the Spring 2024 season.

In Memoriam

The following MCPSRA members have passed away:

SEPTEMBER

Thelma M. Best
Mary E. Boehm-Riedlin
Elizabeth A. Dadpay
Lois Frick
Ruth M. Leffler
Barbara A. Liston
Gladys Remy
James P. Rouleau
Judy M. Sagall
Warfield Wilson

OCTOBER

Charles P. Dusterhoff
Jack D. Hill*
Rita E. Saunders
Henry T. Shetterly

***The family has requested that those of you who wish to donate in memory of Jack do so by supporting our Toolkits Project. Make checks payable to: "MCPS Educational Foundation" with "In memory of Jack Hill" on the Memo line. Mail your donation to: Mrs. Joan Donovan, 13 Hilton Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20882. Jack's family will be notified of your memorial contribution.**

Community Service by Judy Mills

WANTED: Volunteers - On-going and Flexible Hrs. Local and Out of Area

Nationwide — **Just Serve:** <https://www.justserve.org/>
— this site offers a myriad of volunteer opportunities from well-known and lesser-known organizations across the US. Type in your zip code and the opportunities will populate.

Locally — Montgomery County, MD:
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter/> — this site offers opportunities across the county offered by lesser-known non-profits and government agencies. Out of County opportunities appear on this site, too.

Locally — Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC):
<https://www.mncppc.org/197/Volunteer-Opportunities>

— this site is for those who prefer outdoor volunteer experiences across the region.

SAVE the DATE — Monday, January 15, 2024 - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day and National Day of Service - "A Day On, Not a Day Off" Read the history and take the pledge: <https://americorps.gov/serve/volunteer/mlk-day>
<https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eeo/mlk-day-service> (dated 2021 but timely)

STAY TUNED.—. More ways to Serve and Participate will appear in this section of future MCPSRA newsletters!

Feel free to reach out to Judy Mills, MCPSRA
Community Service Chair, MCPSRA -
judy.mills549@gmail.com

Gift Card Incentive for Members:

The \$10 Gift Card incentive continues! Recruit a NEW member and have them pay by DUES DEDUCTION and **you** will receive a \$10 Walmart gift card, and they will receive a one-time \$10 reduction in their state dues. Please make sure that you (the member-recruiter) write your name on the new member application form before it is returned to the MRSPA Office. If you need new membership applications, please contact the MRSPA Office or print them from the MRSPA website or cut and paste this link into your browser:



mrspa.org/files/ugd/640edf_33eedcfe7846bca9632aff1c6c9d51.pdf

MRSPA can be reached at 410-551-1517, toll-free 877-625-6782, or mrspa@mrspa.org.

Please help us grow our membership!!

A screenshot of a newsletter page for the Montgomery County Public Schools Retirees Association, Inc. The page features a header with the organization's name and logo, a volume and issue number, and a "PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE" by Dr. Debra Munk. The message discusses the holiday season, the organization's history, and upcoming events. There is also a photo of a group of people at a luncheon and a photo of a woman speaking at a podium. The page includes contact information and a website link.

Do We Have Your Email Address?

We send our newsletter to you and other MCPSRA members by USMail five times a year. Many members also receive their newsletters by email. The email version offers notable advantages, including full-color content and swifter delivery compared to the postal service.

Furthermore, providing us with your email address has an additional benefit. On certain occasions, we have information of utmost importance that cannot wait for the next scheduled newsletter. Sometimes, it pertains to matters requiring immediate action. In such instances, we promptly send what we refer to as an "email blast." If we do not have your current email address, you will miss out on these critical messages.

If you are not currently receiving our newsletter by email, please send your current email address to me at

russwright408@gmail.com to ensure that you receive the newsletter and valuable updates.

MCPS Retirement Reception 2023

By Donna Shimoda Hollingshead, Immediate Past MCPSRA Secretary

On June 8, 2023, MCPS conducted a Retirement Event to recognize over 2,600 MCPS employees for their combined total of over 16,000 years of dedication and service to the MCPS community. This event was held at Richard Montgomery High School and celebrated the retirement of employees from the years 2020-2023. The previous three years were not held due to COVID restrictions and social distancing precautions.



The celebration was kicked off by the Presentation of the Colors by the Gaithersburg Naval JROTC with musical selections provided by the Richard Montgomery Madrigals. Opening congratulatory remarks and messages of appreciation were delivered to the retirees by Dr. Monifa McKnight, Superintendent; Dr. Patrick Murphy, Deputy Superintendent; and Mrs. Brenda Wolff and Ms. Grace Rivera Oven, Board of Education. Also present to share their gratitude and best wishes with the retirees were three Employee Association leaders: Dr. Christine Handy, MCAAP; Ms. Jennifer Martin, MCEA; and Ms. Pia Morrison, SEIU Local 500.

Prior to announcing each retiree by name, Dr. Donna Shimoda Hollingshead, MCPSRA Board Member; shared information gathered by the Office of Human Resources regarding the four years of retirees.



Dr. Shimoda Hollingshead

- 817 of the 2,600 retirees (2020-2023) had more than 30 years of MCPS service; 132 had 40 or more years.
- Four MCPS retirees were recognized for having the most years of service for each of the years in which they retired:
 - 2020 Mrs. Virginia Bumblis, paraeducator, New Hampshire Estates ES: 49.6 yrs.
 - 2021 Mrs. Connie Pokress, teacher, Walter Johnson HS: 54.0 yrs.
 - 2022 Mr. David Love, building service manager, Gaithersburg MS: 56.3 yrs.
 - 2023 Mr. Elmore Holland, maintenance electrician, Division of Maintenance and Operation: 51.6 yrs.
- 376 retirees attended the celebration and had a combined total of 10,369.9 years of dedication to MCPS.

MCPSRA Board Members were present throughout the reception to urge the newly retired to join our organization. We are currently 2,191 members strong and continue to work on increasing our membership. We are the voice for all MCPS retirees with local, state, and national legislatures to assure continuing and improved retiree benefits. And the more members we have the stronger is our voice. We also highlighted some of our current activities and service to the community:

- Collaborating with the Superintendent and Board of Education to gain optimal benefits for retirees. Also advocating for members' interests, for example meeting with the Superintendent to share the great interest of retirees in reinstating this Retirees' Celebration!

2023 Scholarship Recipients

Tyiesha Bailey
Aldo Cardoza
Yvanamaria Mingia
Sabrina Moxley
Liliana Nativy
Rebecca Reister
Zachary Rettig
Shaun Simmons
Ange Treore

- Supporting active MCPS employees by offering approximately \$12,000 annually in scholarships to professional and supporting services personnel for staff development opportunities to better serve students. (See this year’s winners on the previous page.)
- Supporting students by providing and funding Toolkits to ELO-SAIL Summer Program students. This year we provided 1,500 toolkits to students in 32 elementary schools at a cost of approximately \$25,000.
- Supporting the greater Montgomery County Community by engaging in community service projects, most recently sorting clothing for families in need at the InterFaith Works clothing center in Rockville.
- Having Fun! Attending luncheons, monthly day trips, and sightseeing excursions designed for retirees.

MCPSRA is grateful to Dr. McKnight and her staff for the many hours of planning and hard work spent holding a very successful Retirement Reception and for their great demonstration of gratitude and thanks to all MCPS Retirees.

EdTerp Luncheon



On November 8, 2023, twenty-four MCPS retirees gathered for a luncheon hosted by the College of Education at the Universities of Shady Grove. The purpose of this event was to reconnect UMD alumni who are also MCPS retirees with the College of Education. It was coordinated in partnership with the MCPS Retirees Association.

Dr. Kimberly Griffin, Dean of the College of Education, spoke and presented the Distinguished Alumni Partner Award to Superintendent Monifa McKnight, who was unable to attend because of illness. Brian Stockton, MCPS Chief of Staff, accepted the award on her behalf. Alums shared highlights of their careers in MCPS, as well as their



Dr. Kimberly Griffin, Dean of the College of Education.



Donna Hollingshead and her sister Dale Horos enjoying the first EdTerp Luncheon.

connections to the University. In addition to attending the University themselves, many noted that their children, and even grandchildren had attended UMD.

Barbara Friedlander, President of the College of Education Alumni Network, shared opportunities for retirees to reconnect with the College and support students pursuing education degrees. The luncheon program concluded with a trivia game, with tables competing against each other for prizes. The College of Education and MCPSRA hope to host

future luncheons for MCPS retirees who are UMD alums. Watch for an announcement.

Montgomery County Public Schools
MCPS Retirees Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 4367
Rockville, MD 20849

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Suburban, MD

DATED MATERIAL



**MCPSRA Luncheon/Business Meeting
MONTGOMERY COUNTRY CLUB**

**Gathering: 11:00 a.m.; Business Meeting: 11:30 am.
Luncheon: 12:00 Noon; Program 1:00 pm.**

Next Luncheon Date February 29, 2024

**The MCPSRA Newsletter is published in
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This is the December 2023 issue.**