

Montgomery County Public Schools **Retirees Association, Inc.**



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

www.mcpsra.org

Volume 2024-25, Issue #1

October, 2024



PRESIDENT'S

MESSAGE

Dr. Debra Munk
President - MCPSRA

Dear MCPSRA Members:

BIG NEWS! After multiple meetings with MCPS Board of Education Members, the Finance Office, ERSC, and two superintendents over the past two years I am very happy to announce that as of January **2025 dental implants will be covered by our dental insurance** AND as of January 2026, **hearing aids will be available to retirees who haven't become Medicare eligible.**

This is a HUGE win for our members and demonstrates why retirees need MCPSRA to represent you. Additionally, we learned that we were overcharged by several percentage points for our health benefits in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 – partially due to the underutilization of benefits during COVID. That problem has been resolved moving forward, and retirees will pay no more than 36% of premium costs in the future.

Another major outcome of all this political wrangling is that MCPS is now committed to keeping MCPSRA in the loop with benefit negotiations and premium setting. That means we will be meeting several times a year with benefits decision-makers.

It is most fitting that I thank the MCPSPA Board of Directors and the following MCPS staff who were instrumental in bringing about the positive outcome:

- Thomas Taylor, Superintendent
- Robert Reilly, Asst. Deputy Chief, Finance
- Ivon Alfonso-Windsor, Acting Chief Finance Officer
- Gina Ripoli, Director, ERSC
- Richard Johnstone, Director, Benefits
- M.J. Bergstresser, Auditor

Finally, I have to give special recognition to Nicky Diamond, who made us aware of the financial discrepancies and helped us negotiate a favorable outcome.

Now current and future retirees will have access to these two additional health benefits in the years to come and will pay no more than the percentage agreed upon based on their number of years of service. (This percentage ranges from 36% to 60%.)

Come celebrate our victory with us at our next luncheon on Oct. 31!

Debra Munk
President, MCPSRA

Presenters at Our June Luncheon



Natalie Williams, and Sandi Williams spoke about the Sandy Spring Slave Museums and the growth of the museum and their growth as students of Sherwood HS, and their college work afterward.

(Photo by William Mills)

MCPSRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD)

Officers:

President	Dr. Debra Munk	240-426-8407
	Debra.munk@yahoo.com	
Vice President	Reginald J. Ott	301-452-5449
	regjott1@verizon.net	
Immediate Past President	Dr. Carol M. Dahlberg	301-253-2212
	john.dahlberg234@gmail.com	
Parliamentarian	Fred S. Evans	301-706-3993
	fredevans1970@gmail.com	
Recording Secretary	Marla Caplon	240-793-8288
	marlacaplon@yahoo.com	
Treasurer	Dr. Stephen M. Raucher	301-318-4969
	sraucher@comcast.net	

Committee Chairs:

Archives	Marti Gray	301-641-8896
	graymm0322@gmail.com	
Budget Development	Dr. Stephen M. Raucher	301-318-4969
	sraucher@comcast.net	
Community Service	Judy Mills	240-223-7271
	judy.mills549@gmail.com	
Consumer Education	Deb Berner	301-455-8608
	iudab@verizon.net	
Financial Review	Bill Gregory	410-241-8731
	wmg.md82@yahoo.com	
Hospitality/Luncheons	LeeAnn Kaye	301-598-5480
	geolakaye@gmail.com	
--- Co-Chair	Trish Bendler	301-540-5160
	patriciabendler0@gmail.com	
Insurance and Benefits	J. Thomas Hickman	301-929-9660
	CTMAR28@yahoo.com	
Legislative	Fred S. Evans	301-706-3993
	fredevans1970@gmail.com	
MCPSRA Projects	Joan Donovan	301-253-6099
	icdonovan@aol.com	
--- Co-Chair	Trish Bendler	301-540-5160
	patricia_bendler0@comcast.net	
Membership Recruitment	Becky Hubbard	240-643-8610
	rldh@aol.com	
Membership Record Keeping	Marti Gray	301-641-8896
	graymm0322@gmail.com	
Membership Marketing/Outreach	Galit Zolkower	301-706-9103
	zolkoweg@verizon.net	
Newsletter Editor	Dr. Russell G. Wright	301-806-7252
	russwright408@gmail.com	
Nominating	Dr. Carol M. Dahlberg	301-253-2212
	john.dahlberg234@gmail.com	
Political Action	VACANT	
Public Relations	Dick Lipsky	301-318-0613
	Dlip3938@gmail.com	
Recognition	Joan Donovan	301-253-6099
	icdonovan@aol.com	
Scholarships (MCPSRA)	Bill Stief	301-956-5891
	William_A_Stief@mcpsmd.org	
Social Media	Christina Sutter	301-471-3637
	christina.p.sutter@gmail.com	
Trips	Bernadette Rager	301-774-0345
	bg.rager@verizon.net	

MCPSRA Luncheons Resume at a New Venue!



Argyle Country Club Ballroom

I am delighted to announce that we have a new venue for our quarterly MCPSRA luncheons: the Argyle Country Club in Silver Spring. I'm excited about our new location and the wide variety of menu choices available. Prepare your taste buds for interesting and delicious options! Lunches will be plated and served, with a choice of three meal options. Each lunch includes an appetizer, your choice of entrée, dessert, tea/coffee, lemonade, rolls, and butter, all for \$40 per person. Check page 11 of this newsletter for the October 31st menu.

Argyle Country Club is located in the Bel Pre area of Silver Spring, near the Layhill Road exit on the ICC (Rte. 200). It is fully handicapped accessible, and parking is plentiful.

I'm eager to begin a new tradition and look forward to seeing you at our first luncheon of the year on Thursday, October 31, where we can renew friendships, make new friends, enjoy wonderful conversations, and watch informative programs. If you haven't yet attended an MCPSRA luncheon, I encourage you to join us — they are great! If you have food allergies, you will be accommodated. And if you think you won't know anyone, you might be surprised. Or, you can bring a former colleague with you!

Save the following dates for future luncheons:

October 31, 2024
 February 27, 2025
 April 24, 2025
 June 12, 2025

If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-598-5480 or geolakaye@gmail.com

LeeAnn Kaye

TWO DECADES OF DEDICATION AND SUCCESS



Have you ever truly committed to a cause that lasted 20 years and was still going strong? We, as the members of the MCPS Retirees Association, are entitled to brag a bit about our **Toolkits Project** and its remarkable success every year since 2004. For 20 years, our dedication has provided thousands of needy children in Montgomery County with the essential school supplies they need each summer to support their learning at home and school. Although we paused the Toolkits Project when the COVID pandemic prevented Title I from holding their summer ELO SAIL Program. After a one-year hiatus, assembling and distributing Toolkits began again and is still going.

It would be nearly impossible to acknowledge and thank each and every person who has contributed time, talents, and money to keep our project solvent and successful year after year. You know who you are and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. But we want to highlight those who ensured the success of this past summer's project. Pam Grant and Diane Wells (above) immediately stepped up to plan, coordinate, and see to it that kits were completed. They did this with remarkable efficiency and the help of a team of volunteers who worked each week from January until July when the kits went out to the Title I summer-school sites. Kevin Soisson (above), at the MCPS Department of Materials Management, has been invaluable to our project. Each summer Kevin supports our project by ordering and acquiring all the items included in the kits as well as giving us warehouse space to assemble them. He and his team then make sure that the correct number of kits get to each of the participating schools. And thanks to everyone who has donated bottle caps for us to put in the kits for use with math activities. Please continue to save small to medium size **CLEAN** plastic caps... especially small clear water bottle caps (our reserve of these caps was depleted this summer). We need over 60,000 small clear caps as well as at least 50,000 caps of different colors and sizes. Collected caps can be brought to us at a luncheon or by calling or texting me (301-980-1512) to pick up large numbers of them.

(Continued on page 10.)

SUPPORT FOR THE MCPSRA TOOLKITS PROJECT

Please provide 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: _____

Donation enclosed: \$ _____

Optional: In memory of _____ In honor of _____

Send acknowledgement to _____

Select one: _____ *email me a receipt at _____

(*preferred)

_____ mail me a receipt (only if necessary) _____ no receipt is necessary

Welcome New Members

Joined in May 2024

Sherry A. Isom 5 Leafy Overlook Ct., Gaithersburg, MD 20878 301-990-0683

Joined in June 2024

Victoria Bernardo-Hill 788 Kimberly Ct. East, Gaithersburg, MD 20678 301-325-3051
Angelique Bosse 11700 Stonewood Ln., Rockville, MD 20852 240-205-5509
Colleen J. Callis 25933 Largo Ct., Damascus, MD 20872 301-717-3735
Clarissa L. Cangelosi 14777 Carriage Mill Rd., Woodbine, MD 21797 443-917-8892
Michael S. Cangelosi 14777 Carriage Mill Rd., Woodbine, MD 21797 443-917-8891
Lynn E. Cavanaugh 1750 Castle Rock Rd., Frederick, MD 21701 301-573-3252
Mark E. Craemer 193 Hampstead Blvd., Falling Waters, WV 25419 301-514-3695
David Michael Diggs 392 Quality Ter., Martinsburg, WV 25403 240-285-0117
Denise J. Galbo 8707 Brierly Ct., Chevy Chase, MD 20815 301-717-5293
Holly A. Gilbertson 13883 Foggy Bottom Ct., Mt. Airy, MD 21771 301-471-4990
Martha A. Greenleaf 11712 Leesborough Circle, Silver Spring, MD 20902 301-946-6254
Barbara W. Harral 1316 Summerfield Dr., Herndon, VA 20170 703-927-5389
Carin Marie Hawkins 204 Troon Circle, Mount Airy, MD 21771 301-466-9310
Beth Hester 3921 Springarden St., Olney, MD 20832 240-388-0554
Marilyn E. Hoobler 9 Warrenton Dr., Silver Spring, MD 20904 301-625-1749
Carlette Y. Jameson 15311 Sir Edwards Dr., Upper Marlboro, MD 20772 301-780-7690
Renay C Johnson 8960 Artisan Way, Sarasota, FL 34240 410-493-9774
Antonios G. Kalargyros 12620 Laurie Dr., Silver Spring, MD 20904 240-274-9625
Fabiola Katz 11507 Danville Dr., North Bethesda, MD 20852 301-675-2604
Fred I. Langsam 1104 Churchview Place, Potomac, MD 20854 301-922-0916
James R. Mogge 9319 Wire Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20901 301-452-9233
Sheila R. Myers 19235 Warrior Brook Dr., Germantown, MD 20874 301-452-3923
Katherine Savage 94 Sumac Ln., Harpers Ferry, WV 25425 301-509-5600
Michele M. Thompson 20227 Waterside Dr., Germantown, MD 20874 240-602-1548
Louise E. Tolin 6060 California Circle, #601 Rockville, MD 20852 202-997-5725
Linda C. Waters 7116 Cypress Hill Dr., Gaithersburg, MD 20879 301-275-4022
Ashley Weissenburger 15001 Good Meadow Ct., North Potomac, MD 20878 301-785-5976
Kevin D. Yates 18801 Breeze Way Cir., Olney, MD 20832 301-466-4019

Joined in July 2024

Mary T. Baker 4 Burgundy Ct., Rockville, MD 20850 301-325-0877
Nancy S. Barry 7522 Cayuga Ave., Bethesda, MD 20817 301-351-2066
Suzanne R. Borenzweig 9307 Sudbury Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20901 301-802-4245
Elsa M Bridgwater 10109 Grant Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910 410-279-2793
Antonio M Carrillo 11513 Piney Lodge Rd., N. Potomac, MD 20878 240-731-1182
Martha L. Cohen 3605 Taylor St., Brentwood, MD 20722 240-672-2087
Maryann Delaney 24205 Cadillac Dr, Gaithersburg, MD 20882 301-233-6557
Erica Edelman 11412 Monticello Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20902 301-257-8959
Annette M. Folkes 7504 Ashby Ln., Unit L, Alexandria, VA 22315 703-509-6971
Cynthia M. Gleason 6105 Golf Estates Ct., Laytonsville, MD 20882 240-506-9259
William (Bill) David Gregory 2700 Willow Oak Dr., Apt. 208, Cambridge, MD 21613 301-221-2742
Jennifer A. Hallmark 17308 Donora Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20905 240-751-2944
Gina Snowden Harrell 14947 Ladymeade Circle, Silver Spring, MD 20906 301-598-3122
Scott M. Hughes 7716 Baederwood Ter., Rockville, MD 20855 240-483-2072
Mary Hawkins Jones 1815 Manet Ct., Severn, MD 21144 443-848-6878
David Potasznik 7 McCormick Ct., Rockville, MD 20850 301-529-0374
Katie Shah 14 Flints Grove Dr., North Potomac, MD 20878 240-858-2008
Tracy Threefoot 12011 Old Bridge Rd., Rockville, MD 20852 301-881-7833

Joined in August 2024

Jennifer A. Baker	11209 Schuylkill Rd., Rockville, MD 20852	301-467-2276
Betsy Bruning	13506 Sanderling Place, Germantown, MD 20874	240-308-0608
John G. Bunch	6717 Willis Ln., Frederick, MD 21702	301-639-6608
Jennifer Lynn D'Asto	6840 Guilford Rd., Clarksville, MD 21029	301-257-5367
Patricia A. East	20456 Sunbright Ln., Germantown, MD 20874	301-523-0265
Kathryn AC. Ehrlich	5380 Mad River Ln., Columbia, MD 21044	410-884-0552
Lisa Graffen	9039 Sligo Creek Pkwy., Apt 1116 Silver Spring, MD 20901	301-996-9378
Brian D. Hinkle	17104 Fitzroy Way Olney, MD 20832	301-570-0762
Johanna W. Imbesi	4545 Kingscup Ct., Ellicott City, MD 21042	443-988-3667
Mary L. Joseph	8101 Chester St., Takoma Park, MD 20912	301-431-2188
Elizabeth A. Kind	15021 Timberlake Dr., Silver Spring, MD 20905	301-526-0982
Marion K. Larkin	4830 Broom Dr., Olney, MD 20832	301-742-0139
Kulsum Malik	18061 Cottage Garden Dr., # 101 Germantown, MD 20874	240-603-9466
Salma Y. Moretta	12431 Littleton St., Silver Spring, MD 20906	240-505-8499
Cecilia L. Natoli	16612 Roundabout Dr., Gaithersburg, MD 20878	301-212-9050
Lorie Quinn	15617 Linden Grove Ln., Woodbine, MD 21797	301-606-1807
Lisa Rager	28712 Greenberry Dr., Laytonsville, MD 20882	240-381-1275
Ann Dolan Rindner	7548 Heartherton Ln., Potomac, MD 20854	240-876-1168
Stacye Steele-Yue	16053 Copen Meadow Dr., Gaithersburg, MD 20878	240-477-0384
Lara Tucker	7000 Pyle Rd., Bethesda, MD 20817	301-564-9240
Sandra C. West	10101 Brunett Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20901	301-593-3727
Galit Zolkower	16616 Winterwoods Ct., Rockville, MD 20853	301-570-6424

MCPSRA Consumer Education by Deb Berner October-November 2024

Happy Fall! Welcome back to another year of Consumer Education!

“Falling leaves are nature’s way of showing us how beautiful it is to let things go.” – Unknown

**Healthy Habits for Older Adults

As we age, it is extremely important that seniors get regular health screenings and preventive care. Early detection of conditions like hypertension, diabetes, or osteoporosis can significantly improve outcomes. Here are some tips for staying healthy:

- **Keep Hydrated**—Drinking enough water improves sleep quality, cognition, mood and also helps regulate body temperature, keep joints lubricated, and helps prevent infections.
- **Regular Exercise**—Exercise also improves your sleep and mood as well as helping you maintain a healthy weight, build healthier bones, and think more clearly.
- **Sleep**—Sleeping between 7-8 hours every night on a regular basis when possible, will have a positive effect on your mood, memory, longevity, as well as your cognitive and physical performance.
- **Healthy Eating**—Studies have demonstrated that 70-80% of staying healthy is all about eating the right food at the right time. Limit eating foods that are processed, high in sugar, fat and sodium.
- **Stress Management**—Following a good diet and getting proper rest during the day can reduce stress levels.



- **Hand Washing**—Washing hands with soap and clean, warm, running water for 20 seconds is the best way to keep you healthy and prevent the spread of respiratory and diarrheal infections

For additional information follow [@HealthGov](#) and [@FitnessGov](#)

****Frauds and Scams:**

Fraudulent activity and scamming are hot topics we cannot afford to ignore. And, as we approach the holiday season where we may be doing more online shopping, it is important to remember that we must protect ourselves and our identities.

The FBI began launching a nationwide effort recently to share information with the public on the different types of fraud and scams, tips for identifying them and preventing losses, and how victims can report to protect others. Elder Fraud is also on the rise because seniors are often targeted as they tend to be trusting and may be less inclined to report fraud because they either don't know how, or they may be too ashamed at having been scammed. They also usually have financial savings, own a home, and have good credit—all of which make them attractive to scammers.

Here are a few ways you can protect yourself and your information:

- Contact your financial institutions to place protections on your accounts and monitor for suspicious activity. Definitely contact them if you find something out-of-the-ordinary.
- Monitor and be cautious of unsolicited phone calls, mailings, and door-to-door service offers
- Check out and verify businesses on websites to ensure their legitimacy.
- Do not send personally identifiable information, money, checks, gift cards, or wire information to unverified people or businesses.
- Check out this website for additional information. It is an excellent resource for protection as well as support if you have been a victim or know of someone who has been scammed. <https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/scams-and-safety>

The collage features several digital assets for MCPSRA:

- Top left: QR code linking to the Facebook Public Page.
- Top center: Facebook Public Page for MCPSRA (Maryland MCPS Retirees Association).
- Top right: Text "Check out MCPSRA on the internet!"
- Middle left: MCPSRA logo and "Facebook Private Members Group" with a QR code.
- Middle right: Text "Stay Connected!"
- Bottom left: QR code linking to the MCPS Web Page.
- Bottom center: MCPS website URL (montgomeryschoolsmd.org) and MCPS RETIREES ASSOCIATION (MCPSRA) logo.
- Bottom right: Text "Like Join And Follow" and a QR code linking to the Instagram profile.

****Fall Home Maintenance Reminders:**

1. Clean leaves from gutters and downspouts.
2. Make exterior repairs.
3. Seal gaps where cold air (or pests) can enter.
4. Shut off/drain exterior faucets and hoses.
5. Install/replace weatherstripping on doors and windows.
6. Check indoor safety detectors and replace batteries.
7. Inspect caulking around windows, doors and entry points for electrical, cable, phone and gas... replace if needed.
8. Inspect and repair damaged driveways, walkways and/or steps.

Have a fun and safe Halloween and wonderful Thanksgiving holiday! Just a reminder, Thanksgiving falls late this year (Nov 28) so you will only have 27 days left for holiday shopping once it is over!

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

In Memoriam

The following MCPSRA Members have passed away:

MAY

**Nancy C. Adler
Anna S. Colosi
E. Jean Ehlman
Alan P. Keeny
Ramarion W. King**

AUGUST

**Judith E. Docca
Bernice V. Kisliuk
Barron L. Stroud
Margaret L. Williams**

JUNE

**Priscilla E. DeLong
Sandra Goldstein
Kenneth R. Krohn
Barbara P. Ondrasik
Bernice S. Ryder
Marjorie E. Sanguinetti
Maira M. Stone**

JULY

**Zoltan K. Bay
Zora Camp
Mary E. D'Ovidio
June Eylene Freden
Leslie E. McCartney**

Coming in October: Why MCPSRA?

A Virtual Meet and Greet

It was great to see many of you at Lone Oak Brewery for our "Not" Back to School Meet and Greet on September 25. We plan to host regular opportunities to visit with each other.

Based on your feedback and suggestions, our next get together will be a virtual event: Why MCPSRA? This will be an information session-you'll hear from

MCPSRA president Debra Munk and will again be provided an opportunity to ask questions and share ideas - we want to hear from you!

We'll meet via Zoom on Wednesday, October 23 at 4:00 p.m. (link below)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84474452058?pwd=9a99UkBXu0WlIdunajnStX6VuMwbKT.1>

Meeting ID: 844 7445 2058

Passcode: 076285

Community Service Update by Judy Mills

We hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing summer creating new memories with family and friends! We also hope you were able to find a volunteer opportunity that suited you. Our community, and other communities across the country, continue to experience needs that aren't easily fulfilled by contributions alone. Many organizations need volunteers. They especially appreciate the knowledge and skills provided by retirees.

Many new volunteer opportunities are listed below. Please take the time to find one that suites you.

The Truancy Prevention Program (<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/sao/other/truancyprogram.html>)

Fall Semester recruiting underway! As a part of the crime prevention initiatives established by the State's Attorney's Office, TPP works to improve MCPS school attendance by discovering the root causes of truancy, assisting students and their families to increase school attendance. Volunteers meet with students who are chronically absent helping students set goals to improve their attendance. A 10-week commitment, 2-3 hours weekly is required. For information, please contact Rebecca Marcolini at 240-777-7370, Rebecca.Marcolini@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov

The National Capital Trolley Museum, (dctrolley.org) Silver Spring, MD seeks a Teacher Coordinator and Volunteers to facilitate Field Trip Programs for school-age children. A Coordinator's salary is available to the right candidate. Volunteers assist in weekday or Saturday activities and tours. Hours vary up to 4-6 hours 2 days/wk. or 5-7 hours/Saturdays. Training and Orientation provided and requires fingerprinting and background check. For information, please contact Marsha Kaiser at 410-422-2742, Email: marshakaiser0404@gmail.com

Empowering the Ages (ETA), Rockville, MD, a non-profit organization that facilitates intergenerational programming. ETA facilitates school readiness programming between adults ages 50+ and pre-k students. Volunteers build a relationship with a local 4-year-old and their parent/caregiver for 18-20 months. We provide training and materials for your weekly sessions of reading, playing, and learning with the child as well as conversations with the parent/caregiver. You'll receive support from ETA staff and fellow volunteers in weekly peer group check-ins. Day/time is flexible; commitment is 1-2 hrs./wk.; primarily online/location flexible. **Spanish-speaking volunteers are especially encouraged!** Email volunteer@empoweringtheages.org.

Junior Achievement Finance Park is a collaboration between DMV-area schools, businesses, educators and volunteer mentors to teach students to be financially capable. Volunteers help guide small groups of middle-school students through a personal budgeting experience, from goal-setting to saving, shopping and bill paying. For a list of individual volunteer opportunities visit myja.org/volunteer.

AARP Maryland state office has a team of volunteers who monitor legislative and other government activity in Annapolis. To get involved, go to aarp.org/md and scroll down to find About AARP Maryland; click on the contact information link, where you can find a volunteer interest form. Among the volunteering categories are "Influencing Lawmakers & Others." Tasks taken up by volunteers vary, from writing hearing testimony to meeting with local lawmakers, to attending virtual strategy meetings, to testifying in Annapolis. The time commitment is up to you. On The Agenda: KEY STATEHOUSE ISSUES: Energy Utilities; Health Care; Long-term Care; Livable Communities; Consumer Protection and Housing. (Summary of June AARP.org Bulletin, Maryland State News, p.37)

Volunteers Sought for Maryland Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division –The Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division is looking for volunteer mediators. Volunteers provide an invaluable service to Maryland consumers, resolving consumer complaints against businesses and health care providers and assisting consumers on our hotline. Volunteers work two days per week, 10 hours total in Baltimore or

Largo offices. Training, free parking, and a \$20 per day stipend provided. For information, please contact volunteer@oag.state.md.us (Summary of July 2024, Retiree News & Notes, sra.org, p.6).

Local Volunteer Opportunities:

[League of Women Voters \(https://www.lwv.org/\)](https://www.lwv.org/) - The League's success depends on the good work and financial support of its volunteers. All volunteer opportunities are time limited and project oriented so you can let us know what works for you. Check out [Volunteering \(https://www.lwvmocomd.org/content.aspx?page_id=2664&club_id=513039\)](https://www.lwvmocomd.org/content.aspx?page_id=2664&club_id=513039) or contact Ralph Watkins, Chair of the Making Democracy Committee, mdw@lwvmocomd.org.

[Montgomery County, MD Public Libraries \(https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library\)](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library)- scroll to the bottom of the homepage to the Support Us section and click on Volunteer Opportunities. Also visit the Resources by Age drop-down for an Older Adults Resources section to read about services and opportunities just for you. Next time you visit your Library, be sure to ask about Library Advisory Committees which Advocates for Local Libraries!

[Interfaith Works \(https://www.iworksmc.org/\)](https://www.iworksmc.org/) - Interfaith Works (IW) provides emergency shelter, supportive housing, essential needs, and employment programs to over 35,000 residents of Montgomery County, MD, every year. Currently accepting donations and volunteers are always appreciated.

[A Wider Circle \(https://awidercircle.org/\)](https://awidercircle.org/) is dedicated to “fostering the exchange of goods, skills, and connections from neighbor to neighbor, and by engaging in advocacy to address the root causes of poverty.” [Short-Term Volunteer Opportunities for Adults \(https://awidercircle.org/get-involved/#volunteer\)](https://awidercircle.org/get-involved/#volunteer) available. Currently accepting donations and volunteers are always appreciated.

[Manna Food Center \(https://www.mannafood.org/\)](https://www.mannafood.org/) - “By increasing access to nutritious food for all those experiencing hunger and food insecurity...Ending hunger in Montgomery County is within our reach. Every day, our staff, volunteers, fellow providers and community members move us closer to this reality.” Currently accepting donations and volunteers are always appreciated.

[Montgomery County, MD Public Libraries \(https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library\)](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library) - scroll to the bottom of the homepage to the Support Us section and click on Volunteer Opportunities. Also visit the Resources by Age drop-down for an Older Adults Resources section to read about services and opportunities just for you.

[Montgomery County, MD: \(https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter/Discover\)](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter/Discover) opportunities to serve in MoCo. Out of County opportunities appear on this site, too. Maryland: Help out at local parks across the DMV.

Nationwide Volunteer Opportunities:

[Just Serve \(https://www.justserve.org/\)](https://www.justserve.org/): Volunteer with organizations across the US.

[The Smithsonian Institution \(https://www.si.edu/volunteer\)](https://www.si.edu/volunteer) Discover *countless volunteer opportunities in nearly every one of the Smithsonian's museums, gardens, research centers, and the National Zoo.* [Digital opportunities \(https://transcription.si.edu/\)](https://transcription.si.edu/) are also available.

[National Park Service \(https://www.nps.gov/subjects/volunteer/index.htm\)](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/volunteer/index.htm) and [DC Area National Parks \(https://www.nps.gov/locations/dc/volunteer.htm\)](https://www.nps.gov/locations/dc/volunteer.htm) Discover the great outdoors in a new way by volunteering while taking in the beauty of our National Parks!

Scholarship Winners by William Stief

We evaluated 107 applications during May and are pleased to announce that we are awarding MCPSRA scholarships to the following employees:

YOLANDA ANDERSON
TATIANNA HERRERA
ASHLEE HEWETT
MICHELE MCCAGG
MARIAH MCCULLAUGH
LAURA SHONBERG
ALICIA WAITSMAN
VANNESSA WILSON



In addition to those names, we have awarded a LOUISE WALKER SCHOLARSHIP to

JUDUAN MILES

I would like to thank Margaret Brown, Marla Caplon, Judy Mills, Debra Munk, Reggie Ott, and Steve Raucher for their assistance in reading the applications. Special thanks to John and Carol Dahlberg who received the applications and set up the viewing as well as the scoring procedure. Kudos to Steve who, in addition to reading the applications, also crunched the numbers and took care of issuing checks for our recipients. We plan on inviting them to our October 31 luncheon.

(TWO DECADES OF DEDICATION AND SUCCESS – Continued from page 3)

As you must know, our project is only possible because of those of you who contribute the money needed to continue assembling toolkits. This year 157 donations totaling \$18,760 were received. This was considerably short of our fundraising goal minimum of \$25,000. In 2023, 231 people contributed \$24,245. The only way we were able to meet this summer's need was because we had a reserve in our MCPS Educational Foundation account from the year we didn't deliver kits because of COVID. Now the reserve is depleted and the need is growing. We anticipate that the cost next summer will exceed \$29,000. We need every MCPSRA member to consider making a generous donation in support of our project.



For 20 years we have asked for a donation of \$10 to sponsor a kit. But each kit assembled this summer cost around \$20. Therefore, we are asking for you to make a contribution to our project rather than sponsoring a specific number of kits. We suggest \$20 per kit but any amount will be gratefully accepted and appreciated. Also, we will no longer put donors' names on the kits. Many of our past donors indicated on the sponsorship form that they did not want their names included on the labels on the kits. And now donors will not be sponsoring individual kits.

PLEASE make checks payable to: **MCPS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION** with "Toolkits Project" on the memo line. Complete the form at the bottom of page 3 and mail it with your check to the address provided. Be part of the team to keep our project going!

Thank you SO much!
Joan Donovan

MCPSTRA LUNCHEON AND BUSINESS MEETING

Thursday, October 31, 2024

Argyle Country Club
14600 Argyle Club Road
Silver Spring, MD 20906

If MCPS is closed, luncheon is cancelled. Delayed opening, luncheon is held.

Gathering: 11:00 a.m. Business Meeting: 11:30 a.m. Luncheon: Noon Program: 1:00 p.m.

Menu Choices

Baked Chicken Breast, Roasted Root Vegetables
Brussels Sprouts and Dijon Mustard Jus \$40.00

OR

Mirin Soy Marinated Salmon, Vegetable Fried Rice
Ginger Chive Butter Sauce, Crispy Noodles \$40.00

OR

Penne Pasta Tossed in Creamy Pesto w/Fresh
Vegetables and Parmesan Cheese \$40.00

Entrees include: Appetizer, Dessert,
Rolls and Butter, Coffee, Hot and
Iced Tea, Lemonade

-----Cut here-----

Thursday, October 31, 2024

Circle Entrée Choice

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Chicken Fish

Email address: _____ Vegetarian

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Chicken Fish

Email address: _____ Vegetarian

Total amount enclosed: _____

Reservation form and check must be received by Wednesday, October 23, 2024. Make check payable to

MCPSTRA. Mail to:

LeeAnn Kaye

3210 N. Leisure World Blvd. #306

Silver Spring, MD 20906

For information: LeeAnn Kaye 301-598-5480 or Trish Bendler 301-540-5160

geolakaye@gmail.com

ANY FOOD ALLERGIES? PLEASE LET ME KNOW!!!

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
ARGYLE COUNTRY CLUB**

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

Next Luncheon Date October 31, 2024

The MCPSRA Newsletter is published in October, December, February, April, and June.
This is the October 2024 issue.