

# Montgomery County Public Schools Retirees Association, Inc.



P.O. Box 4367 Rockville, MD 20849-4367  
www.mcpsra.org

Volume 2022-23, Issue #2

December, 2022



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Dr. Debra Munk**  
*President - MCPSRA*

As we head into this holiday season, it is hard to believe that 2022 is almost behind us. It is certainly an improvement on the past two years! We are thrilled that we have been able to resume our in-person luncheons. And most of our Board of Director meetings are now in-person. Zoom may be convenient, but there's nothing like being together.

We welcome two new members to the Board of Directors: Christina Sutter, former Rockville High School English teacher, and Bill Gregory, former Sherwood High School principal. Christina will be monitoring our new Facebook group (see article) and Bill will be co-chairing the Finance Committee.

Membership in MRSPA and MCPSRA has many benefits, but first and foremost is the cheap insurance they provide to protect your pension and benefits. When you were working, you always had the option to find another, better job. But as a retiree, your pension and benefits are not replaceable. That is why MCPSRA and MRSPA are so critical to you as a retiree. Your \$60 annual membership dues support the employment of MRSPA's full-time lobbyist who works to protect your pension. And, members of the MCPSRA Board sit on the Joint Employee Benefits Committee ( JEBC) monitoring our benefits (See page 4). This important committee includes representatives from MCCAP, SEIU, MCEA and MCPSRA, as well as staff from ERSC and Association Relations. Given the gravity of our work, it's a mystery to me why every MCPS retiree isn't a member. You might want to spread the word among your colleagues. There is strength in our numbers.

On November 10, Donna Hollingshead, recording secretary, Reggie Ott, vice president, and I presented before

the Board of Education. Our goal was to inform them of the work of our organization and to solicit their collaboration and support. One positive outcome is that MCPS will be resuming the end of the year Retirees Celebration at Richard Montgomery High School this June. Retirees from 2021, 2022 and 2023 will be honored. You will be hearing more about this in the future.

At the October MCPSRA Luncheon at Montgomery Country Club, members voted unanimously to ratify a change in the bylaws related to financial oversight. The rationale for this change was explained in the October newsletter. Thus, the bylaw wording for Article X – Committees Section 3.b was changed:

from: "The Auditing Committee shall insure the Corporation's financial records are audited each year by an independent auditor."  
to: "The Financial Review Committee shall ensure that the Corporation's financial records are reviewed each year."



October MCPSRA Luncheon  
Photograph by Bill Mills  
(More photos on page 11.)

(Continued on page 5)

## MCPSRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD)

### Officers:

President	Dr. Debra Munk debramunk@yahoo.com	240-426-8407
Vice President	Reginald J. Ott Regjott1@verizon.net	301-452-5449
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Recording Secretary	Dr. Donna Hollingshead DonnaShimodaHollingshead@gmail.com	301-385-2147
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Community Service	VACANT	
Consumer Education	Deb Berner <a href="mailto:iudab@verizon.net">iudab@verizon.net</a>	301-455-8608
Facebook Page	Christina Sutter christina.p.sutter@gmail.com	
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--- Co-Chair	Bill Gregory	
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Legislative	Fred S. Evans fredevans1970@gmail.com	301-706-3993
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---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 meeting/luncheons are held four times a year at Montgomery Country Club, 20908 Golf View Dr., Laytonsville, MD 20882.



### October Luncheon

Seventy Montgomery County Public Schools retirees attended our first luncheon/business meeting at our new venue, the Montgomery Country Club. It was a beautiful day and a delightful luncheon—delicious food, a chance to make new friends and renew old friendships.

There was one glitch and that was totally my error. In the newsletter I listed a menu that I *thought* I ordered, but I hadn't. So instead of chicken cordon bleu we had chicken parmesan. It was delicious and enjoyed by all. So, at our February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, luncheon we'll have chicken cordon bleu.

If you have not yet attended an MCPSRA luncheon, I encourage you to do so. It is a fun time. If you're worried about food allergies, not a problem, we can accommodate you. If you think you won't know anyone, you might be surprised at who you will meet. Or bring along one of your previous colleagues who is also retired.

Mark your calendar for the next three luncheons:

February 23, 2023

April 27, 2023

June 15, 2023

Hope to see you soon!!

LeeAnn Kaye



## THE JOY OF GIFT-GIVING

As the holiday season comes around each year we look forward to the festive and joyful time we spend with family and close friends. We enjoy all the decorations, the delicious meals and decadent sweets, and yes, the gifts so thoughtfully selected and given to one another. Many long hours of hard work are spent on assuring that everything turns out perfectly. Therefore, most of us will agree that the holiday season can also be a very stressful and harried time as we plan and prepare all the food for the many meals and gatherings, as well as try to budget for, shop, and wrap the ideal gift for each person on our list.

In times past, it was the custom to work all year to hand make each gift we gave one another. With much thought and care we hand-stitched quilts, hand-knitted sweaters, scarfs, and mittens. We made cookies, breads, and candies, or even home canned goods produced from the harvest from our own gardens. "Honestly," you say, "when was the last time you heard of anyone having the time to do that?!" In recent years, a different approach to gift-giving has bombarded us with terms and options that were here-to-for unheard of: *infomercials, QVC, Black Friday, Cyber Monday, in-stock, out-of-stock, wait list, wish list, on-line shopping cart, express next day delivery, delivery confirmation, bill-to-ship-to, Pay Pal, easy pay, shipping and handling fees, return policies and deadline dates*, and the list goes on. It could make anyone's head swim, spur panic attacks, and/or destroy the warmth and spirit of gift-giving altogether.

In recent years people have begun to rethink the whole idea of gift-giving, not just during the holidays, but throughout the year. The new strategy is to put more meaning and effort into the gifts we give while saving time and money, too. How many of you have received a gift that you know you will never use or wear but did not return it for fear of hurting someone's feelings? *Re-gifting* has become a common practice in such cases. Here is a suggestion that you may want to consider as you approach this season of gift-giving that may make your life much easier and add new meaning to what you receive or give as gifts, and I guarantee such a gift WILL be re-gifted! "Please don't get me anything! There isn't a thing I really need or want," I tell my children and friends. But when they insist that I give them an idea of what to get, I have requested that they donate in my name to a few of the local and national charities and organizations that I have particularly selected for the good work they do for the neediest of the poor and helpless. I would like you to consider doing the same by selecting and donating to our own association's **Toolkits Project**. Your donation WILL be re-gifted in the form of a kit of much needed school supplies for needy kindergartners who will be attending Title I's Extended Learning Opportunities Summer Adventures In Learning Program next July.

Many of you have donated to this much needed and highly successful project during the eighteen years of its existence because you know it benefits needy children right here in Montgomery County. More and more individuals have been choosing to send their donations in honor of, or in memory of, loved ones. If the donor provides the name and address of the person to whom an acknowledgement should be sent, we are more than happy to do so. Frequently we receive a heart-felt note of appreciation back from the individual or family when they hear of the sponsorship of toolkits made in their name or the name of their loved one.

Now is the time to consider making truly meaningful holiday gifts to those on your list who have everything... as they say. Sponsor one or more toolkits in their names. Toolkits are a gift that keep on giving and there are no shipping-and-handling charges, no 30-day return policy, no deadline date, and no gift-wrapping needed. We do all that for you and guarantee free delivery of a gift that is a joy to give as well as for the children to receive. And all donations are TAX-DEDUCTIBLE too. Thank you for your spirit of generosity during this holiday season and throughout the year in supporting our project.

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### **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 September 2022

Beverly N. Berman	11400 Strand Dr., Unit 314 Rockville, MD 20852	757-574-5206
Lori Bunns	1849 Foxwood Cir., Mitchellville, MD 20721	301-755-8665
Don DeMember	4975 Lingamore Woods Dr., Monrovia, MD 21770	301-325-4818
Linda M. Friday	730 Maryland Ave., Hagerstown, MD 21740	301-525-2254
Amy L. Gahagen	8943 Rosewood Way, Jessup, MD 20794	301-483-6597
Carol A. Gough-Alonso	7004 Brickyard Rd., Potomac, MD 20854	240-506-1228
Kenneth Halperin	619 McNeill Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20910	301-650-4021
Nina Y. Khouri	13105 Ideal Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20906	301-929-8816
Kimberly Klass	13225 Glenhill Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20904	301-675-6837
Nancy A. Lucas	8331 East Beach Dr., NW, Washington, DC 20012	202-841-1452
Carla M Ramdat	21008 Brooke Knolls Rd., Gaithersburg, MD 20882	301-651-8645
Carole A. Sample	1360 Hardison Ln., McLean, VA 22102	703-304-1320
Mary R. Sherburne	141 Winsome Cir., Bethesda, MD 20814	240-432-9671
Julie C. Stewart	37405 903 Elinor St., Chattanooga, TN 37405	
Isabel M. Vidal	19700 Grayhaven Manor Rd., Olney, MD 20832	301-570-5698
Heidi Walker	419 W. Franklin St., Tipton, PA 19562	240-498-2001
Mary T. Ward	1470 Ashland Dr., Charlottesville, VA 22911	240-678-3546
Ann F. Warren	12328 Overpond Way, Potomac, MD 20854	301-518-9599

## Joined in October 2022

Nancy L. Easley	13229 Country Ridge Dr., Germantown, MD 20874	301-351-4988
Clara Ely	11817 Silent Valley Lane, North Potomac, MD 20878	301-279-5645
William M. Gregory	6471 Jack Linton Dr. S, Frederick, MD 21703	410-241-8731
Judith L. Segal	20690 Golden Ridge Dr., Ashburn, VA 20147	301-814-3141

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### KEEP OUR BENEFITS

As your retirement organization, MCPSRA provides: Social Activities (Luncheons, Local and International trips), Community Service and Volunteer Opportunities (Learning Materials for Title 1 Students, Scholarships for MCPS Employees, Josiah Henson Museum and Education Center), and Communication and Information (Newsletters, Emergency email blasts, Website, Membership Directory, Luncheon Speakers).

But the most important thing we do for our members is provide Advocacy and Protection. Topping the list is our work to maintain and improve our retirement, insurance, and health benefits. To do so, we are members of the MCPS JEBC (Joint Employees Benefits Committee), which is composed of central office administrators and representatives from each of the employee unions.

Meeting with county and state elected officials, we are constantly reminded of the importance of having a large membership. Elected officials often ask us, "...and how many members do you have in your association?" Such a question implies that those elected officials are probably counting votes and future support. It also implies that our requests are more likely to be supported if we have the membership size worthy of their support. Joining MCPSRA is one of the best insurance policies you can have to protect your retirement income and all your other benefits.

Remember too that MCPSRA represents every area of employment within MCPS: supporting services, teaching staff, and administrators. Dare I say, it is a MUST, that every MCPS retiree join MCPSRA for their own personal benefit.

We will continue to be a positive voice for all retirees.

Tom Hickman

## President's Message Continued from page 1

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. Additionally, don't forget our Toolkits Project – ongoing since 2003. 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. This past summer we distributed over 2100 kits to kindergarteners in the Title I Extended Learning Opportunities Summer Adventures in Learning Program in 32 elementary schools.

A reminder that Montgomery County Recreation Department Trips & Tours offers Day Trips with your interests in mind. SOAR – (designed for active Senior Adults 55+ and older), and Day Trippers. These trips travel to a variety of destinations and travel is by motorcoach unless otherwise specified. All trips depart and return to Olney Manor Recreation Park, Olney Maryland. For more info on upcoming trips and registration, visit [WWW.MOCOREC.COM](http://WWW.MOCOREC.COM) or Call 240-777-4933.

Lastly, all members of the MCPSRA Board of Directors join me in wishing you a safe and rewarding holiday season with opportunities to celebrate with family and friends.

Warm regards,  
Debra Munk

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## MCPSRA Consumer Education by Deb Berner

### **\*\*Senior Discounts and Other Savings**

In a recent conversation with a few other retirees, they shared some insight into senior discounts that I was unaware of—perhaps you may learn something here too! Because of the current rising inflation and the approaching season of holiday shopping, check out this website for some awesome savings on leisure activities, restaurants, grocery stores and more. Just a note... not all companies classify senior citizens in the same way and therefore, some of the discounts may be offered prior to turning 65.

<https://www.seniorliving.org/finance/senior-discounts/>



### **\*\*End of the year “Giving”**

It is that time of the year when many of us begin thinking about our “End of the Year Tax Savings” giving. How do you know that your money is going to a worthy charity and that more of your donation is going to the cause and not to administrative expenses? Here are some tips to guide you from the Consumer Connection and Fidelity websites.

- Make sure it's a legitimate, reputable charity. Nonprofits do invaluable work domestically and around the world, supporting communities affected by natural disasters, war, and economic instability. Giving

to charity strategically is important: there are ways to help the causes you care about that also make sense for your finances... even through the ups and downs in the market.

- Verify that it's a tax-exempt organization, registered with the Internal Revenue Service by reviewing its Form 990. You can type in the charity's name with IRS Form 990 and it will tell you if they are required to file this form.
- Determine how your donation will be used. GuideStar, CharityNavigator, and CharityWatch are a few websites that will give you an overview of an organization's financial health and budget breakdown. Be sure to assess the impact of the charity's work.



- The deadline for making a charitable contribution is December 31, 2022, with overnight or mail by check postmarked by December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Before undertaking any strategy, consult your legal, tax, or financial professional.

### **\*\*Tis the Season to be Alert**

We are approaching the season of giving and taking. For example, mail and package theft has been on the rise but there are ways to protect your mail or other deliveries from thieves.

- Use the letter slots inside your Post Office for your mail, or hand it to a letter carrier.
- Pick up your mail promptly after delivery.
- Do not leave it in your mailbox overnight. If you are expecting checks, credit cards, or other negotiable items, ask a trusted friend or neighbor to pick up your mail.
- If you are expecting and did not receive a check or other valuable mail, contact the issuing agency immediately.
- If you change your address, immediately notify your Post Office and anyone with whom you do business via the mail.
- Do not send cash in the mail.
- Tell your Post Office when you will be out of town, so they can hold your mail until you return.
- Report all suspected mail theft to your local police and Postal Inspector.
- Consider starting a neighborhood watch program. By exchanging work and vacation schedules with trusted friends and neighbors, you can watch each other's mailboxes (as well as homes).
- Consult with your local Postmaster for the most up-to-date regulations on mailboxes, including the availability of locked centralized or curbside mailboxes.
- Losses are documented by the US Postal Inspection Service to identify problem areas and assist Inspectors in tracking down thieves. Report suspected mail losses to Postal Inspectors by calling 877-876-2455 or at [www.uspis.gov](http://www.uspis.gov).

### **\*\*Happy Holidays!**

There are many holidays to be celebrated during December and January. Please enjoy these special times with family and friends...and have a prosperous and Happy New Year!

Hannukah, Begins sundown, Sunday, December 18 ends in the evening of Dec. 26

Christmas, Sunday, December 25, 2022

Kwanza, Begins December 26 and ends January 1, 2023

New Year's Day: January 1, 2023

Martin Luther King Holiday: Monday, January 16, 2023

\*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.

## *In Memoriam*

The following MCPSRA members have passed away:

### AUGUST

Louis R. Berlin  
Elizabeth M. Fellows  
Evangeline Leontsinis  
Robert F. Merrell  
Robert F. Redmond

### SEPTEMBER

Madalean B. Darby  
Gail S. Scott-Parizer  
Abbye G. Sheltzer  
Robert L. Tucker

### OCTOBER

Catherine Cahnmann  
Frank S. Weisel III

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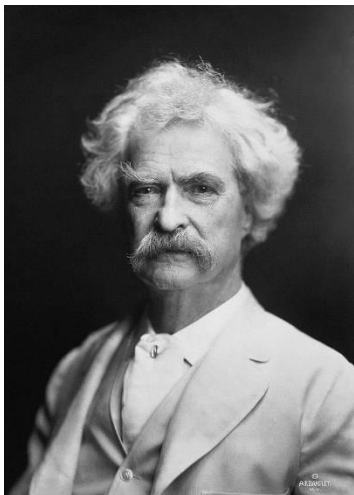
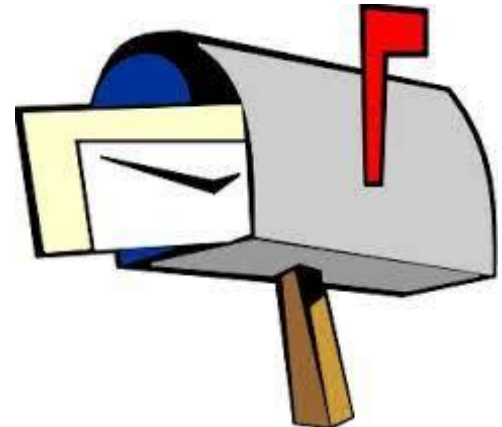
## Humor from Skip Rideout

The location of your mailbox shows you how far away from your house you can be in a bathrobe before you start looking like a mental patient.

Money can't buy happiness, but it keeps the kids in touch!  
"To get back to my youth I would do anything in the world, except exercise, get up early, or be respectable." - Oscar Wilde

"The older we get; the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for." – Will Rogers

"We must recognize that, as we grow older, we become like old cars – more and more repairs and replacements are necessary." - C.S. Lewis



"Inside every older person is a younger person wondering what happened." - Jennifer Yane

"I'm so old that my blood type is discontinued." - Bill Dane

"The older I get, the more clearly I remember things that never happened." - Mark Twain

"Wisdom doesn't necessarily come with age. Sometimes, age just shows up all by itself." - Tom Wilson

"Old age is like a plane flying through a storm. Once you are aboard there is nothing you can do about it." - Golda Meir

"I don't plan to grow old gracefully. I plan to have face-lifts until my ears meet." - Rita Rudner

"I'm at that age where my back goes out more than I do." - Phyllis Diller

"Birthdays are good for you. Statistics show that the people who have the most live the longest." - Larry Lorenzon

"Nice to be here? At my age it's nice to be anywhere." – George Burns

"Don't let aging get you down. It's too hard to get back up." - John Wagner



"Aging seems to be the only available way to live a long life." - Kitty O'Neill Collins

"Old people shouldn't eat health foods. They need all the preservatives they can get." – Robert Orben

"Middle age is when you're sitting at home on a Saturday night and the telephone rings, and you hope it isn't for you." - Ogden Nash

"It's important to have a twinkle in your wrinkle." – Unknown

"I have successfully completed the thirty-year transition from wanting to stay up late to just wanting to go to bed." – Unknown

"At age 20, we worry about what others think of us... at age 40, we don't care what they think of us... at age 60, we discover they haven't been thinking of us at all." - Ann Landers

"When I was young, I was called a rugged individualist. When I was in my fifties, I was considered eccentric. Here I am doing and saying the same things I did then, and I'm labeled senile." - George Burns

"I complain that the years fly past, but then I look in a mirror and see that very few of them actually got past." - Robert Brault

"The older I get, the better I used to be." – Lee Trevino

"You know you're getting old when you can pinch an inch on your forehead." - John Mendoza



"I was thinking about how people seem to read the bible a lot more as they get older, and then it dawned on me—they're cramming for their final exam."- George Carlin

"Getting older. I used to be able to run a 4-minute mile, bench press 380 pounds, and tell the truth." - Conan O'Brien



"I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap." - Bob Hope

"I'm 59 and people call me middle-aged. How many 118-year-old men do you know?"- Barry Cryer

"All men are the same age." - Dorothy Parker

"I don't do alcohol anymore—I get the same effect just standing up fast." – Anonymous

"By the time you're 80 years old you've learned everything. You only have to remember it." - George Burns

"Old age isn't so bad when you consider the alternative." – Maurice Chevalier

"I have reached an age when, if someone tells me to wear socks, I don't have to." - Albert Einstein

"Grandchildren don't make a man feel old, it's the knowledge that he's married to a grandmother that does."  
- J. Norman Collie



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### **MCPSRA has a new FACEBOOK presence!**

We have two new ways to interact on Facebook.

The **Maryland MCPS Retirees Association** Facebook page is our outward facing page where our board of directors can share information about what is going on with the organization. You can find it at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100088256853359>.

The **MCPSRA Private Group** is a place where we can interact with each other, share information, ask and answer questions, and form a closer community. This private group, open only to MCPSRA members, is a place where members can communicate with each other. You can ask to join the group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/672901020970305>.

We look forward to seeing you on Facebook!

Christina Sutter

**Photos from the October Luncheon  
by Bill Mills**



Montgomery County Public Schools  
MCPS Retirees Association, Inc.  
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Rockville, MD 20849

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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 23, 2023

**The MCPSRA Newsletter is published in  
October, December, February, April, and June.**

**This is the December 2022 issue.**