

# Retirees Association, Inc.

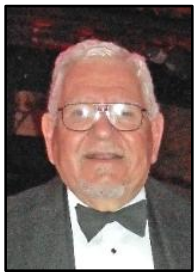


P.O. Box 4367 Rockville, MD 20849-4367

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/mcpsretirees/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/mcpsretirees/)

Volume 2016-17, Issue #4

April, 2017



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Dr. Stephen M. Raucher**  
*President - MCPSRA*

As we have discussed many times, I consider protecting your pension and benefits as the key mission of our association. As such, I have been working on behalf of the Montgomery County Public Schools Retirees Association to defeat County Council Bill 44-16. If passed, this bill would require our Retirees Health Benefit Trust Fund to divest all holdings in companies in the fossil fuel business. Whether or not you or I agree with the moral/philosophical position of this bill, its passage could cost the Fund \$30,000,000 per year and lead to higher health insurance premiums or reduced benefits for us.

The sample letter below was distributed at our February Luncheon. Based on the responses received so far, no hearing date has yet been scheduled. There is still time to write to the council.

If you wish to help in our efforts to defeat Bill 44-16 please consider personalizing this letter and sending it to the Montgomery County Council.

*If you don't want to retype the letter please request a digital copy of the sample letter from our editor: (russwright408@gmail.com). Just put **Bill 44-16** in the subject line.*

Sample letter:

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I am a retiree from the Montgomery County Public Schools. I served the children of this county for \_\_\_ years. In retirement, my health care is provided through Medicare and the school system's participation in the Consolidated Retiree Health

Benefits Trust (CRHBT). For every sixty five cents the school system puts into that trust, I pay in an additional thirty five cents. That money, together with the county's annual contribution, funds my health care. The wise investment of the money in that trust, together with contributions by retirees, agencies, and the county at large pay for my health care.

Bill 44-16 now before the council, while well-meaning and socially responsible, threatens my future health care. The impact of directing our skilled investment managers to divest from any specific category of potential investment limits their ability to maximize the return on our money. The County's own Office of Management and Budget (OMB) estimates a potential annual loss of as much as \$30,000,000 should this be allowed to occur. Neither the county nor the retirees are in a financial position to make that up.

The need for social responsibility in investing is already addressed by the Board of Trustees of the Fund, which is required to consider Environmental, Social and Governance factors (ESG) in making investment decisions. There is no need to make a symbolic gesture such as 44-16.

Please remember your pledge!... When you responded to our MCPS Retirees Association Political Action Committee, you professed to consider retiree benefits as a 'sacred trust.' Don't betray that trust now for the endorsement of environmental advocacy groups at the expense of those who served this county for decades and ask nothing more in return than a dignified and secure retirement.

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Email your letter to:

Councilmember.Berliner@montgomerycountymd.gov

Thank you for helping us protect you,  
Steve

# MCPSRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Officers

President	Dr. Stephen M. Raucher sraucher@comcast.net	301-460-9092
Vice President	Dr. Carol M. Dahlberg john.dahlberg234@gmail.com	301-253-2212
Immediate Past President	Joy G. Schwab joyschw35@verizon.net	301-253-3294
Recording Secretary	Mary D'Ovidio ldovidio01@comcast.net	240-246-7818
Treasurer	Dr. Kenneth K. Muir kkmuir@aol.com	301-598-3649

## Committee Chairs

Archives	Elizabeth P. Doyle edoyle3233@aol.com	301-947-0733
Auditing	VACANT	
Budget Development	Kenneth E. Huff kenandmarylou@gmail.com	301-622-2161
Community Service	Mary D'Ovidio ldovidio01@comcast.net	240-246-7818
Consumer Education	Elizabeth P. Doyle edoyle3233@aol.com	301-947-0733
Hospitality/Luncheons	LeeAnn Kaye geolakaye@gmail.com	301-598-5480
--- Co-Chair	Trish Bendler patricia_bendler09@comcast.net	301-540-5160
Insurance and Benefits	J. Thomas Hickman CTMAR28@yahoo.com	301-929-9660
---Co-Chair	Gerald W. Johnson jsilverspring5@aol.com	301-466-1714
Legislative	Fred S. Evans fredevans1970@gmail.com	301-706-3993
MCPSRA Projects	Joan Donovan jcdonovan@aol.com	301-253-6099
---Co-Chair	Trish Bendler patricia_bendler09@comcast.net	301-540-5160
Membership	Juliette Trevino jgtrevino@comcast.net	301-460-9670
Newsletter Editor	Dr. Russell G. Wright russwright408@gmail.com	301-806-7252
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--- Co-Chair	Harvey Strine strineah@verizon.net	301-251-0478
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Political Action	LeeAnn Kaye geolakaye@gmail.com	301-598-5480
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---Co-Chair	Bruce McKay bmckay303@gmail.com	
Recognition	Joan Donovan jcdonovan@aol.com	301-253-6099
Scholarship	Joy G. Schwab joyschw35@verizon.net	301-253-3294
Trips	Frieda J. Price fjprice@verizon.net	301-926-2286
---Co-Chair	Mary Ann Davis giddygam@verizon.net	301-253-6256

Louise S. Walker Scholarship      Kenneth E. Huff      301-622-2161  
kenandmarylou@gmail.com

## 2016-17 LUNCHEON/REUNION DATES

Business meetings, luncheons, and *reunions* are held four times a year at Normandie Farm, 10710 Falls Road, Potomac, MD 20854. Please join your fellow MCPS Retirees for an afternoon of food, conversation and learning.

Only two luncheons are left:

Thursday, April 20, 2017

Thursday, June 15, 2017



Normandie Farm Restaurant

**Organize a reunion for our next luncheon.** (See article on page 10.)

## ELECTIONS AGAIN??

If you haven't grown tired of elections yet, we have another one for you. The two-year terms of our current MCPSRA officers end in June 2017.

Our nominating committee has proposed the following slate of officers:

President	Carol Dahlberg
Vice President	Russ Wright
Secretary	Mary D'Ovidio
Treasurer	Ken Muir

The election will be held at the April 20 luncheon/business meeting. Those elected will be installed at the June 15 luncheon/business meeting and they will begin their terms July 1, 2017.

Although nominations will also be accepted from the floor anyone being nominated must first agree to serve.

If you wish to nominate someone or are yourself interested in serving a two-year term as President, Vice President, or Secretary, please contact Betsy Doyle at 301-947-0733 before the April 20, meeting.



**TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS TODAY**

When did you retire? Has it been 10 or more years ago? How have Montgomery County Public Schools changed since then? Let's test your knowledge using excerpts from "Update on Student Enrollment and Facilities" presented at the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year on October 10, 2016 at a meeting of the Board of Education: 1) What is the total number of schools, including learning centers, special education centers, and alternative programs centers in MCPS? 2) How many of them are elementary schools? 3) How many schools comprised MCPS in 1985? 4) How many students were enrolled in MCPS schools at the beginning of the 2016-17 school year? 5) How many of these are kindergartners? 6) How many students attended MCPS schools in 2007? 7) What is the percentage of white students currently enrolled in MCPS? of Hispanic students? of African American students? 8) What does ESOL stand for? 9) What does FARMS stand for? 10) What is the current percentage of enrolled students receiving FARMS?

Were you able the answer most of these questions? Let's see how you did. 1) There are a total of 204 MCPS schools; including 133 elementary schools, 39 middle schools, 25 high schools, 1 career and technology high school, 5 special education centers, and 1 alternative program center. 2) There are 133 elementary schools. 3) In 1985 there were 182 schools. 4) The total student enrollment for 2016-2017 is 159,242. 5) Of this total 11,324 are kindergartners. 6) The total enrollment of students in MCPS schools in 2007 was 137,745. 7) There are approximately 29% white students, 30% Hispanic students, and 22% African American students currently enrolled in MCPS. 8) ESOL stands for English for Speakers of Other Languages. 9) FARMS stands for Free And Reduced priced Meals Services. 10) 34% of MCPS currently enrolled students receive FARMS.

Why test you on your knowledge of our school system today? Well, sometimes we don't notice or keep up with changes that occur over time. But when the statistics finally stare us in the face, they can be shocking. The demographics of MCPS classrooms and the needs of our students today are quite different than when we started our careers in education and even since many of us retired. Who would have predicted that since 2000 the number of white students enrolled would drop from 65,849 to 46,604 in 2016, and that the Hispanic student population in that same time period would increase from 21,731 to 47,962, thus emphasizing the increased need for ESOL teachers in our schools. And look at the number of students enrolled in the FARMS program because their families are economically challenged. In 2007, some 35,654 students received free and reduced price meals, in 2015 the number increased to 54,542.

Why is all this important? The simple answer is to show just how vital it is that our association continue to provide needy Title I kindergartners with toolkits of school supplies they need at home to support their learning from the very beginning of their educational years in MCPS. The need has never been greater in the 14 years of our project's existence. PLEASE complete the sponsorship form below and mail it in with as generous of a donation as you can. Make checks payable to: **MCPS Educational Foundation** with "Toolkits Project" on the memo line. All contributions are tax-deductible. Thank you!

Joan Donovan, Co-chair of the Special Projects Committee

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please do **NOT** include my name on the toolkit's label

## EMAIL ONLY?

If you're like me, you want to hold a paper copy of anything you're reading... at least if it's longer than a paragraph. But I know there are some MCPSRA members who are perfectly comfortable reading from a screen. (A few *youngins* may even prefer it that way.) I know this because 75 members have told me to send their Newsletter by email only.

Although I like to hold my newsletter, I admit there are advantages to the email version:

- it's in color
- it arrives (beginning with this edition) earlier than the print version, and
- it saves our organization money... (Although our annual dues are only \$10, perhaps if more of us forego receiving the print version we can stave off the inevitable dues increase.)

We are sending this issue of the Newsletter as an email attachment to all members for whom we have a valid email address. (Those getting this Newsletter by email received it more than a week before those of you who only get it in the mail.)

**If you are one of the 1300 members who are only getting the print version, it's because we don't have your correct email address. If you are one of these people, and if you would like to receive the color version of the Newsletter please send an email to [MCPSRA.Newsletter@ebsinstitute.com](mailto:MCPSRA.Newsletter@ebsinstitute.com).**

## MCPSRA TRAVEL 2017 -- 2018

### 2017

<b>May</b> 9	Hillwood Estates and Gardens (Due April 7)
<b>June</b> 21-22	Richmond, VA
<b>July</b> 18	African American Museum
<b>August</b> 27-31	Pigeon Forge
<b>September</b> 7-16	Canada & New England Cruise*

*Note: Cruises need to be booked early because of cabin selection. The best locations and /or prices are the first to go.*

### 2018

<b>February</b> 1-10	Southeast Coast & Bahamas Cruise*
<b>March</b> 3-15	Southern Caribbean Cruise * ***

\*Detailed information on the 3 cruises above was published in the December, 2016, newsletter. You can find it on our web site (see footer below).

\*\*\* NOTE: Prices have changed on the Southern Caribbean Cruise.

The new prices are:

Inside Cabin Category	N	\$972
Outside Cabin Category	H	\$1,169
Balcony Cabin Category	D2	\$1,957

**SPECIAL NOTICE: PLEASE READ:** All trips require some walking, some much more than others. Theatre trips usually have less walking, overnight trips with lots of tours and sightseeing require more walking. Trips like the Biltmore, a large home, with steps and gardens much more walking is required. **HOWEVER:** You may do as much or little as you see fit. Study each itinerary to help you understand and judge the physical activities involved.

**PLEASE MAKE SEPARATE CHECKS FOR EACH TRIP.**

**PLEASE OBSERVE THE DEADLINES FOR RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT.**

We must make commitments by the deadlines indicated so it is very important that we hear from you in time.  
**THANK YOU.**

**SPECIAL NOTICE:** On popular trips, to ensure members have preferred opportunity to secure reservations, guests may be limited to 3 per member. However, depending on the trip, feel free to check on numbers and availability. More could be allowed.

**NOTICE – PARKING FOR OVERNIGHT TRIPS.** Pickup for overnight trips will be at the Park-and-Ride, Georgia Ave. – same lot where we pick up for day trips.

People coming from out of the area and in the vicinity of the Eyre Bus terminal can arrange to park and board the coach the Eyre location in Glenelg, MD.  
Rt. 70 to Rt. 32 S. 5 miles to terminal at 13600 Triadelphia Rd. For arrangements, timing and information call Ellen at Eyre. 1-800-321-3973 x 325

## TRAVEL QUESTIONS ???

**Please check our website:**

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/mcpsretirees/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/mcpsretirees/)  
or call our Travel Committee Co-Chairs:

**Frieda J. Price**  
**301- 926-2286**

**Mary Ann Davis**  
**301-253-6256**

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## HILLWOOD ESTATE AND GARDENS

**MAY 9, 2017**

9:00am – Depart Park and Ride, Ga. Ave.

10:00am – Arrive Hillwood House. – Begin at 10:00 with orientation film, (15 min.)

This is a wonderful introduction to Marjorie Merriweather Post's life and the legacy she left at Hillwood. Following the film you have the audio tour (go at your own pace)

Tour estate, museum and gardens

12:00pm -- Lunch in the café.

Tour gardens

2:00pm – Depart for Park and Ride. 3pm. Arrival time to Park and Ride.

Includes: Transportation by Eyre motor coach, taxes, tolls, gratuity, admission, tours, lunch.

Not included: Gratuity for coach operator

COST: \$78.00

DATE DUE: April 7th, 2017

LUNCH SELECTION: Please indicate choice on reservation form.

1,2,3,4,5,6.

1 -- Turkey sandwich w/salad

2 -- Turkey sandwich w/soup

3 -- Ham sandwich w/salad

4 -- Ham sandwich w/soup

5 -- Veggie wrap w/salad

6 --Veggie wrap w/soup

All served with cookies and choice of beverage (water, tea, soft drinks)

Mail completed reservation form, with check made to MCPSRA, to  
Frieda J. Price 105 N. Summit Ave. #4 Gaithersburg, MD 29877

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## RICHMOND, VA.

**JUNE 21-22- 2017**

Day 1

6:30am – Depart Ga. Ave Park and Ride (rest stop en-route)

10:00 am. Arrive at Maymont Estate for a guided tour of mansion, gardens on own.

12:30 noon Lunch on own –

Visit the Va. Museum of Fine Arts/ self guided tour. Ancient to contemporary art is represented in collections of paintings, jewelry, decorative arts and sculpture at the museum, one of the largest in the South. Among highlights are a collection of Faberge jeweled objects including five Russian Imperial Easter Eggs. Also featured is a sculpture Garden.

4:00pm Depart for hotel

6:00pm Depart for Dinner

Return to hotel.

Day 2 Breakfast at hotel

8:30am Depart with local guide, for a city tour of Richmond.

Seeing many historical sites in the city, including memorials, and Monument Avenue, featuring rows of magnificent mansions lining one of America's most beautiful streets. Also, see monuments to include Lee, Stuart, Jackson

Tour of State Capitol which is the oldest state capitol, with a wealth of interesting history. Designed by Thomas Jefferson and features the famous statue of George Washington which stands under the interior dome of the two story rotunda surrounded by marble busts of seven other Va. Born presidents.

12:00pm We will continue on to Shockoe slip for lunch(on own) and shopping.

2:00pm We will enjoy a narrated sightseeing excursion canal boat ride on the James and Kanawha River.

3:00pm Depart for home.

. Dinner en-route home (on own).

7:30pm Approximate return time.

INCLUDED: Transportation by Eyre motor coach, with rest room.

Admission to all attractions, 1 dinner. One night hotel accommodation, continental breakfast, baggage handling, Taxes, tolls, gratuities.

NOT INCLUDED.: Gratuity for coach operator and local guides, lunches

COST: Dbl. per person \$ 340.00 Single: \$390.00

Payment Due: May 4, 2017

Send check, with completed reservation form to:

Frieda J. Price 105 N Summit Ave. #4 Gaithersburg, Md. 20877

If paying by CC to Eyre please send reservation form to Frieda.

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## NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

July 18, 2017

9:00AM Depart Park and Ride—Ga. Ave.

10:00am -- Arr. At Museum

Tour Museum at your leisure Lunch on own.

2:00pm Depart for home.

3:00pm -- Return time to P&R

Included: Transportation by Eyre Bus

Gratuity for Driver -- Not included.

COST: \$36.00 pp

Date Due: June 13, 2017

Mail completed reservation form, with check made to MCPSRA, to

Frieda J. Price 105 N. Summit Ave. #4 Gaithersburg, MD 29877

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## PIGEON FORGE – GATLINBURG, TN

August 27-31 – 2017

We have been invited to join Eyre and other loyal customers on a Smoky Mountain adventure to help celebrate their 70th Anniversary. They're offering the lowest price possible to make this trip the best value ever.

Sunday, August 27

Depart 7:00AM , from Park and Ride, Silver Spring.

Rest stops and lunch, on own, en-route.

Check into Country Cascades Hotel, Pigeon Forge, TN.

Monday, August 28

Enjoy a delicious deluxe continental breakfast at the hotel.

Board coach for a guided tour of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Enjoy lunch and shopping on your own in downtown historic Gatlinburg.

Take a tour of the Ole' Smoky Moonshine Distillery.

Enjoy the Hatfield and McCoy Dinner Show.

Tuesday, August 29

Breakfast at hotel.

The Smith Morning Variety Show at the Smoky Mountain Opry with Eyre's Anniversary Celebration after the show.

Lunch and shopping on your own at The Island Pigeon Forge.

Enjoy a delicious dinner at The Applewood Farmhouse Restaurant.

Lots of laughs tonight at the Comedy Barn.

Wednesday, August 30

Breakfast at hotel.

Visit Dollywood Theme Park for lunch, shows and shopping on your own.

Guided tour of the Titanic Museum and dinner in the 3rd floor Secret Dining Room.

Celebrate the evening at the Smoky Mountain Opry

Thursday, August 31

Breakfast at hotel.

Check out and depart for home.

Rest stops and lunch on own en-route.

8:00pm -- Return time to Ga. Ave.

INCLUDED: Eyre motor coach with rest room, 4 night stay, 4 shows, visit Dollywood,  
Dinners, breakfasts, tours and more.

Not included: Lunches, gratuity for local guide and coach operator.

COST: \$569 pp double Single \$710.00

Payment Due: \$200 deposit -- April 20th 2017

Balance: June 15th 2017

Send check, with completed reservation form to

Frieda J. Price 105 N Summit Ave. #4 Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2935

If paying by CC to Eyre please send reservation form to Frieda with the necessary information. Ellen at Eyre, 1 800 321-3973 x 3252

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For additional information about the three cruises listed on page 4 please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to  
Frieda J. Price 105 N. Summit Ave. #4 Gaithersburg, MD 20877

**FOR CRUISE RESERVATIONS OR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT GRAND AMERICAN TOURS  
1-800-423-0247**

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## **REMINDERS ABOUT THE MCPSRA TRAVEL PROGRAM**

1. We all travel at our own risk. When signing up for one of the sponsored trips, participants accept all liability for any loss, damage or personal injury related to that trip and hold MCPSRA, its Officers and Board harmless should any accident, injury or loss occur.
2. Itineraries, times and details are approximate. Changes are sometimes necessary and unavoidable.
3. Trips are open to members, their families and adult friends (with limitations).
4. Smoking and drinking of alcoholic beverages are not permitted on the coach.
5. **PLEASE OBSERVE THE DEADLINES FOR RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT.** We have to make commitments by the dates indicated so this is very important in making a trip go or having to cancel for lack of participation.
6. About three to five days before a day trip, participants are called to remind them of the day and departure time of the trip. For overnight coach trips, about two weeks prior to the date of departure, participants will get a letter with up-to-date information, including parking details. One baggage tag per person will be mailed to each participant.
7. Write a separate check, payable to MCPSRA, for each trip. Include the name and date of the trip on each check.
8. Send your check with your completed reservation form. Your reservation will be definite upon receipt of your deposit/full payment, whichever is required. If a trip has to be cancelled because of insufficient numbers of participants needed by the published deadline, your check will be returned to you. Please feel free to call to find out if your reservation and payment were received.
9. Refunds are made only when your space can be filled.
10. Gratuities for driver and local guides are not included in the price of the trip.
11. **We do not provide transportation to and from the airport for trips that require flying.**
12. **If you will be traveling with guests that you have invited, please make sure they read this list of reminders.**

# TRIP RESERVATION FORMS

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## HILLWOOD ESTATE and GARDENS - MAY 9, 2017

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Member of MCPSRA –Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If not, guest of \_\_\_\_\_.

Total number \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Paid by Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_ (Yes/No)

SELECTION FOR LUNCH \_\_\_\_\_ JUST PUT NUMBER OF YOUR SELECTION

SELECTION FOR LUNCH \_\_\_\_\_

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## RICHMOND, VA - June 21-22, 2017

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_,

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_,

Member of MCPSRA –Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If not, guest of \_\_\_\_\_.

Total number \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

I am paying by CC to Eyre. \_\_\_\_\_ Call Ellen at 1-800-321-3973 x 3252 Also send the reservation form to Frieda.

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## AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM, JULY 18, 2017

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Member of MCPSRA –Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If not, guest of \_\_\_\_\_.

Total number \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

I am paying by CC to Eyre. \_\_\_\_\_ Call Ellen at 1-800-321-3973 x 3252 Also send the reservation form to Frieda.

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## PIGEON FORGE, GATLINBURG, TN - AUGUST 27-31, 2017

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_,

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_,

Member of MCPSRA –Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If not, guest of \_\_\_\_\_.

Total number \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

I am paying by CC to Eyre. \_\_\_\_\_ Call Ellen at 1-800-321-3973 x 3252 Also send the reservation form to Frieda.

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*Make travel checks payable to MCPSRA—Send with reservation form to:*

*Frieda J. Price, 105 N. Summit Ave. #4; Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2935*

*To use credit card, call Ellen at Eyre, 1-800 321-3973 X 3252, and also send Reservation Form to Frieda.*



Those interested in purchasing travel insurance for overnight trips should call Ellen at *Eyre Tour and Travel* at: 301-854-6600/ext. 3252, or 410-442-1330/ext. 3252, or 1-800-321-3973/ext. 3252.

**TRAVEL CO-CHAIRS**

Frieda J. Price  
105 N. Summit Ave. #4  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2935

Mary Ann Davis  
23509 Woodfield Rd.  
Gaithersburg, MD 20882-3017

Please visit our website: [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/mcpsretirees/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/mcpsretirees/)

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## CONTEST

### Deadline May 3, 2017

### Help us name our newsletter and win a free lunch at the June MCPSRA Luncheon.

The Baltimore County Retired School Personnel Association calls their newsletter "Update." Kent County calls theirs "The Bell Ringer," and Allegany County has the "ACRSP Record." Perhaps(?) it's time for our newsletter to have a name too. Or maybe not?

Send your suggested name for our Newsletter to: [MCPSRA.Newsletter@ebsinstitute.com](mailto:MCPSRA.Newsletter@ebsinstitute.com) by midnight May 3. The MCPSRA Board of Directors will select a winner at our May 4, Board Meeting. The winner will be announced in the June Newsletter and will be invited to attend as our guest to the MCPSRA Luncheon on Thursday June 15.

Rules:

- One entry per member.
- MCPSRA Officers and Board Members are ineligible.
- There will be one winner. (If more than one member submits the winning name, the free-luncheon prize will be awarded to the member with the first submission.)
- Although a winner will be declared, and free a luncheon will be awarded, the MCPSRA Board of Directors may decide not to rename the newsletter after all.



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### The Following Bylaw Change was Accepted by a Vote of Members at our February Luncheon/Business Meeting

#### Article IX Duties of Officers

##### Former Wording

**Section 1.** The Immediate Past President shall act in an advisory capacity to the President and to the Board of Directors.

#### Newly Accepted Wording

**Section 1.** The Immediate Past President shall serve as the Chair of the Nominating Committee as specified in Article VI Section 1; and shall also act in an advisory capacity to the President and to the Board of Directors.

## **CONTRIBUTE TO THE JOSIAH HENSON PARK AND MCPSRA WILL MATCH IT**

MCPSRA has resolved to help support the establishment of the Josiah Henson Park in Bethesda. You can help too. Write your tax deductible contribution check to Montgomery Parks Foundation and mail it to our Treasurer, Dr. Ken Muir, 3100 North Leisure World Blvd # 508, Silver Spring, Maryland 20906. We'll match it, and send it on to help the Josiah Henson Park - Museum and Educational Facility Project.

## **SCAM ALERT!!!**

**IF YOU ANSWER, DON'T SAY YES!**

**BETTER YET, DON'T ANSWER AT ALL!**

**THE "CAN YOU HEAR ME?" PHONE SCAM CAN MAKE YOU A VICTIM. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SAY THE WORD "YES."**

According to the Better Business Bureau (BBB) an automated call provides an introduction and identifies a business or agency. After the intro, the recording will ask you if you can hear clearly. If you answer yes, the scammer behind the call has probably recorded your answer. If so, they can use your affirmation to sign you up for a product or service you never knew about. Don't be surprised when you are billed. If you refuse to pay, the scammer can produce your recorded "yes" response to confirm your purchase agreement.

The advice from the BBB: Hang up on any unsolicited robocall. If you are on the Federal *Do Not Call List* and a company calls out of the blue to ask questions, it's likely a scam. Avoid responding with "yes," "sure," or "OK."

Just hang up! Doing anything else could help scammers identify an active phone number.

A better strategy... never answer a call from a number you don't recognize. If it's important, the caller will leave a Voice Mail message.

## **Our February Luncheon/Business Meeting was a Huge Success. Poolesville ES Retirees Lead the Way.**

We had a record turnout at our February Luncheon/Business meeting. There were 100 people in attendance. Perhaps it was the weather? (After all the high at Normandie Farm that day was 77°F.) But we think the record attendance was due to the efforts of Grace Sheppard who retired last July after 51 years of teaching (32 years for MCPS). Grace, and 7 of her fellow retirees from Poolesville ES used the February 23, MCPSRA Luncheon/Business meeting as their gathering point for a reunion. They filled an 8-person table! We thank Grace for organizing such an event and using our luncheon as its venue.

Follow Grace's lead and organize your own reunion for retirees from your school or office. Just be sure to contact LeeAnn Kaye (301-598-5480) or Trish Bendler (301-540-5160) and let them know that you need to reserve a table for your group.

## ***IN MEMORIAM***

**MCPSRA is saddened to report the passing of the following members:**

Edward H. Blockowicz  
Glenore H. Detwiler  
Dr. Fred L. Dunn, Jr.  
Vivian G. Durell  
Shirley S. Grant  
David R. Hearn  
Dorothy B. Hunter  
Sylvia P. Levenson  
Margaret M. Longo  
Viola S. Musher  
Francine M. Pivinski  
Billy P. Slater  
Eileen F. Wilson  
John R. Yates, Jr.

## **We Will All Miss Dr. Thomas**

As we reported in our February Newsletter, Dr. George B. Thomas, Sr., founder of The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy's Saturday School, passed away on December 25, 2016. He was 87.

Dr. Thomas was a pillar in the Montgomery County community who dedicated his professional life to closing achievement and opportunity gaps in education. An educator, leader and innovator, he founded Saturday School in 1986 to help level the education playing field for students in Montgomery County.

In addition to Saturday School, Dr. Thomas served students as a teacher, administrator, professor and college president. Dr. Thomas was a member in good standing of the MCPSRA, and a member of our Board of Directors where he was Chair of the Auditing Committee.



(If you are interested in serving on the Auditing Committee please contact Dr. Stephen Raucher:  
sraucher@comcast.net .)

## MCPS Retirees Visit New England

The photos below are from The MCPSRA New England Trip Oct. 10-15, 2016. The trip included Mystic Seaport, Bar Harbor, Arcadia National Park, Cap'n Fish Cruise ferry/tour boat, Newport, RI Vanderbilt Mansion Breakers, and two lobster dinners. Thanks to Ann Strine (wife of Harvey Strine) for the great pictures shown below.

### Nubble Lighthouse, York, Maine

In 1874 President Rutherford B. Hayes appropriated the sum of \$15,000 to build a lighthouse on this “Nub” of land. On July 1, 1879 construction was completed on what, at the time, was known as the Knubble Lighthouse with a 4th order light began to protect men and women on the sea. The men and women serving in the Lighthouse Service were the first guardians who provided great care for the light and its surrounding buildings. Nubble Light was automated in July, 1987. And today, the Parks Department of The Town of York are its permanent guardians.



*If you are not seeing these pictures in color it's because we don't have your email address. See page 4 for more information.*



### Bar Harbor Lobster Bakes, Bar Harbor, Maine

For over 30 years, this family-run business has been preparing traditional *downeast* lobster bakes with an emphasis on quality food and service. This is not a restaurant where your “lobster bake” is boiled in separate pots in the kitchen while cooks prepare a variety of other meals. Lobster bakes are what they specialize in! They prepare the freshest ingredients in large stainless steel steamers. When the covers were lifted and the cloud of steam had cleared it was a sight to behold---a colorful blend of lobsters, mussels, corn on the cob and red potatoes. This place offered delicious food and lots of fun.



## Lobster Pots at Boothbay Harbor, Maine

First called Townsend in 1730, then renamed Boothbay in 1842, this harbor was center of the fishing industry. By 1881, it had a fishery and fish oil company, an ice company, two marine railways, a fertilizer manufacturer, and a factory for canning lobsters. On February 16, 1889, the community was set off from Boothbay and incorporated as the town of Boothbay Harbor. Frank L. Sample shipyard at Boothbay Harbor built minesweepers for the United States Navy during World War II and into the 1950s. Some location filming for the 1956 movie version of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Carousel*. The "June Is Bustin' Out All Over" sequence, was filmed there.

## The Pier Restaurant, Newport, Rhode Island

The second lobster dinner on the trip was served in a the more formal atmosphere of The Pier Restaurant, one of the only true waterfront restaurants in Newport today. The Pier is situated directly on Howard's Wharf and boasts beautiful views of Newport Harbor.

MCPSRA travelers enjoyed the scenery, while savoring the culinary talents of The Pier's Master Chef.

Don't you wish you were there for the corn too? Or, was it the lobster?



If you have pictures from MCPSRA luncheons or trips that you want to see published in our newsletter, please send them to [MCPSRA.Newsletter@ebsinstitute.com](mailto:MCPSRA.Newsletter@ebsinstitute.com) . We will try to include them if space becomes available.



## **Difficulty hearing on the phone?**

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# MCPSRA Luncheon and Business Meeting

Thursday, April 20, 2017

Normandie Farm 10710 Falls Road, Potomac, MD 20854

301-983-8838

www.popovers.com

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

**Gathering: 11:00 a.m. Business Meeting: 11:30 a.m. Luncheon: 12:00 Noon Program**

## **Menu Choices:**

Chicken Piccata w/citrus drizzle	\$23.50
Roast sirloin of Beef, mushroom au jus	\$23.50
Grilled Filet of Salmon w/Béarnaise	\$23.50
Vegetable Lasagna w/ Portobello mushroom Marinara	\$20.00

All entrees include wedge salad,  
popovers, vegetable of the day,  
strawberry shortcake, tea, coffee,  
soda. Cash bar available.

-----Cut Here-----

**Thursday, April 20, 2017**

## **Circle Entrée Choice**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Beef

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ Fish Vegetarian

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Beef

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ Fish Vegetarian

Total amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**RESERVATION FORM AND CHECK MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, April 14, 2017.**

**Make check payable to MCPSRA. 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 PATRICIA\_BENDLER09@COMCAST.NET**

**ANY FOOD ALLERGIES?? PLEASE LET ME KNOW. THANKS.**

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

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## **MCPSRA Luncheon/Business Meeting NORMANDIE FARM**

**Gathering: 11:00 a.m. Business Meeting: 11:30 a.m.  
Luncheon: 12:00 noon Program**

Next Luncheon Date  
April 20, 2017

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

**This is the April, 2017 issue.**