

Maryland Retired School Personnel Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Hybrid
August 8, 2023

Members Present: Carla Duls, President; Nancy Gordon, Vice President; George Sparks, Jr., Parliamentarian; Henrietta Lease, Area I West Director; Sally Smith, Area I East Director; Charlie Gable, Jr., Area II North Director; Brenda Barnes, Area II South Director; Dr. Debbie Chance, Area III North Director; John Sisson, Area III South Director; Wanda Twigg, Executive Director; Patrycia Pickett, Bylaws Chair; Kathy Campagnoli, Community Service Chair; Alicia Hardisky, Finance Chair; Thomas Slater, Legislative Chair; Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms, Member Benefits Chair; Lynn Cox, Public Relations Chair; Dr. Caroll Visintainer, Scholarship Chair; Debbie Hance, Newsletter Editor; Ayana English-Brown, MSRPS Trustee; Virginia Crespo, Legislative Aide; and Sharyn Doyle, Secretary

Members Absent: Phyllis Cherry, Consumer Education Chair; Leslie Heiderman Schell, Membership Chair; Dr. Stephen Raucher, Treasurer; Harold Siskind, Travel Chair

1. Call to Order: A quorum being present, President Carla Duls called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. Welcome and Introductions: Each Board member introduced themselves and reported the length of time they have been in their current position.

3. Approval of Agenda: President Carla Duls asked if there was any new business to be added. John Sisson requested the topic of open meetings be added. The agenda was approved as amended with all in favor on a motion by Alicia Hardisky, seconded by Dr. Debbie Chance.

4. Minutes from March 7, 2023 Board Meeting

The minutes were approved as written without objection.

5. Minutes from April 4, 2023 Emergency Board Meeting

The minutes were approved as amended on a motion by John Sisson, seconded by Dr. Debbie Chance, with all in favor. The language of Article II, Section 4 of the MRSPA Foundation Bylaws will be added, as will a correction to the maker of the motion to table.

6. Minutes from May 9, 2023 Annual Business Meeting

The minutes were approved as written without objection.

7. Treasurer's Report:

Dr. Stephen Raucher, Treasurer, was absent and Alicia Hardisky, Finance Chair reviewed the Treasurer Report. She highlighted several budget figures as recorded on the Unaudited Report. Page 2:

- Lines 2-3: Membership Dues significantly lower due to membership decrease (projected \$545,625 and \$517,838 earned)...death being one of the major reasons for the decrease.

- Line 7: Travel Commissions much higher than expected. (projected \$2000 and \$7644 earned)
- Line 26: Non-dues Revenue increase (projected \$4000 and \$12,004.91 earned)
- Line 27: Miscellaneous Income – Other increase due to ads in publications (projected \$2000 and \$3656.17 earned)

Alicia also reported Page 4 includes several over budget areas such as Annual Business Meeting which includes our reservation deposit for 2024. Administrative Expenses over budget due to increased cost such as telephone, postage, insurance, fees and salaries.

Upon finishing her report, Alicia asked for questions and discussion ensued about the MRSPA Foundation with detailed explanations provided.

The report was filed for audit with no objections.

8. President's Report: No additional information to report.

9. Vice President's Report: No additional information to report.

10. President-Elect's Report: No additional information to report.

11. Executive Director's Report: In addition to her written report, Wanda offered special thanks to Frankie who has been working 5 days a week, more than her usual 3-day work week. Her sister Sharon has also been helping out in the past month and she is present in the office today. Lonna has also been working additional hours to accomplish as much as possible before her vacation. Highlights of the Membership and Foundation sections of her report were shared. Troubles with the post office was also reported as affecting membership processing, record keeping, etc.

Dr. Debbie Chance requested confirmation about Turf Valley for the 2024 Annual Business Meeting.

12. Area Director Reports:

- *Area I West:* No report was submitted prior to the meeting. Henrietta reported she attended all meetings via zoom.
- *Area I East:* No report was submitted prior to the meeting. Sally reported she attended several meetings via zoom and assisted with officer installations.
- *Area II North:* Charlie referred to his written report and highlighted Harford County trying new initiatives for increasing membership. He will keep us posted on their success.
- *Area II South:* No report was submitted prior to the meeting. Brenda reported she has attended all meetings via zoom.
- *Area III North:* Dr. Debbie Chance is new to the position so she will update us at a later date.
- *Area III South:* No report submitted prior to the meeting. John reported it is summertime so there was nothing to report at this time. Visiting Worcester this week.

13. Standing Committee Reports:

- *Bylaws:* No report submitted prior to the meeting. Patrycia announced that she'd like her committee to meet on September 6, 2023.

- *Community Service*: Report was in the packet. Kathy also reported her committee will be meeting next week. John asked if we could accept cash donations for school supplies or other MRSPA activities and can we specify to which committee? Wanda replied that a few options are being discussed with Richard Craft for direct link from IRA's to MRSPA donations, that we did accept some cash donations for school supplies this year, and that there is nothing in the Foundation Bylaws that allows donations to the Foundation for the purpose of back to school supplies. John suggested solicitation of donations to the Foundation from businesses with a possible direct link online for donations.
- *Consumer Education*: Phyllis was absent and her report was included in the packet.
- *Finance*: The Treasurer's Report was in the packet which Alicia reviewed earlier in the meeting. She also reported the committee will work on the 2025 budget in January.
- *Legislative*: No report submitted prior to the meeting. Tom reported highlights of the Committee meeting held via Zoom on August 1. Fifteen people attended. A review of the past priorities was held with some edits made. The committee was successful in the 2023 session with bills which were opposed, dates were set for future meetings and the Legislative Workshop with focus areas for this new session on funding for Blueprint for Education, Assisted Living Facilities' regulations and legislation dealing with curriculum will continue to be monitored.
- *Member Benefits*: Oretha is new to the position so she will update us at a later date.
- *Membership*: Leslie was absent. Report was included in the packet. John shared his appreciation for the many ideas the committee has developed for increasing membership. He recommends even more programming be developed since membership is a problem across the state.
- *Nominating*: No report submitted prior to the meeting. Nancy shared nominations will be sought for the positions for Vice- President, Treasurer, Secretary and Non-Board Member of the Nominating Committee.
- *Public Relations*: No report submitted prior to the meeting. Lynn reported she set up and maintains the website for Calvert County. She noticed several counties have no website and she can set them up. She also needs to form a committee and asked for volunteers. She complimented AARSPA's website for their video on the Free School and for being updated. Wanda will share the current committee members' names with Lynn. President Carla Duls added that a Facebook page and group can also be helpful.
- *Scholarship*: Report was included in the packet from Dr. Chance, past committee chair. Caroll reminded Board members how important it is to focus on each applicant...even this past year when there were more than 330.
- *Travel*: Report was included in the packet. Harold was absent. Discussion ensued about Vantage Travel declaring bankruptcy, affecting our Spain and Portugal trip. Wanda further explained that messages about requesting funds back from Vantage are being sent out to possibly affected members. MRSPA is not in the travel business so all financial matters are between members and the company. Resources for handling this matter are being shared with members.

14. Other Reports:

Retirement and Pension System Trustee: Ayana is new to the role. She will attend all MSRPS Board meetings and the next one is scheduled for August 15, 2023. She will also join the Public Relations Committee of MRSPA.

Newsletter Editor: Debbie reported the deadline is September 1, 2023, for the next issue. The Summer edition was completed in June.

15. Unfinished Business:

Tabled MRSPA Foundation Bylaws Amendment, Article II, Section 2. John Sisson requested that the motion remain tabled until the December Board meeting, so he can complete his own research. His request was accepted by the Chair, so no action was taken.

16. New Business:

Attendance at MRSPA meetings was discussed as posed by John at the start of this meeting when the Agenda was being approved. John Sisson raised concern that all meetings be open to all MRSPA members. A motion was made by John, seconded by Tom that with the exception of times when staff personnel matters are under discussion, all MRSPA committee and governance meetings shall be open to any and all members in good standing. John withdrew the motion when George Sparks clarified that this was already the case according to Board policy.

Wanda shared the Foundation Bylaws would be sent to all Board members as approved on April 4, 2023.

!7. Announcements: Wanda reminded all Board members to turn in their signed Code of Ethics policy document, if not yet completed.

Adjournment: President Carla Duls thanked everyone at home and in person for their attendance. She adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m. Next meeting is December 6, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharyn Doyle
Secretary