

Maryland Retired School Personnel Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Hybrid
August 6, 2024

Members Present: Betty Weller, President; Carla Duls, Past President/Nomination Chair; Tillie Barckley, Vice President; George Sparks, Jr., Parliamentarian; Sally Smith, Area I East Director; Christine Doucette, Area I West Director; Harold Siskind, Travel Chair; Dr. Debbie Chance, Area III North Director; John Sisson, Area III South Director; Wanda Twigg, Executive Director; Dr. John Bowman Bylaws Chair; Kathy Campagnoli, Community Service Chair; Alicia Hardisky, Finance Chair; Leslie Heiderman Schell, Member Benefits Chair; Mary Holden, Membership Chair; Dr. Stephen Raucher, Treasurer; Deb Ahalt, Public Relations Chair; Dr. Caroll Visintainer, Scholarship Chair; Ayana English-Brown, MSRPS Trustee; Tom Slater, Legislative Committee Chair; Virginia Crespo, Legislative Aide; and Sharyn Doyle, Secretary

Members Absent: Phyllis Cherry, Consumer Education Chair; Debbie Hance, Newsletter Editor

Guests: Brenda Barnes, substituting for prospective Area II South Director Liz Brown; Patrycia Pickett, Past Bylaws Chair; Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms, Past Member Benefits Chair;

1. Call to Order: A quorum being present, President Weller called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Welcome and Introductions: Members were welcomed and new members introduced themselves.

3. Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as written without objections.

4. Minutes from March 12, 2024, Board Meeting: The minutes were approved as written on a motion by Dr. John Bowman, seconded by Harold Siskind, with all in favor.

5. Minutes from May 7, 2024, ABM: The minutes were approved as written on a motion by Dr. Stephen Raucher, seconded by Tillie Barckley, with all in favor.

6. Treasurer's Report: Dr. Stephen Raucher, Treasurer, reviewed the June 30, 2024 Treasurer's Report and highlighted several budget figures.

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- Line 4: Membership Dues lower due to an absence of about 204 members (projected \$513,000 and \$505,023 earned).
- Line 24: Total Gain (Loss) on Investment Funds: Good gains of \$27,507.19.
- Line 32: Total revenue gains of \$60,723.36.

We are in good financial condition. We never overspent nor had the need to transfer any funds from our investment account as had been budgeted.

The report was filed for audit. Wanda was thanked for her efforts keeping us within budget.

7. President's Report: President Weller commented that her report was written when she wasn't officially President yet and all is going well so far.

8. Vice President's Report: No report was submitted prior to the meeting. Vice President Barckley reported she has met with President Weller, and she promises her full support. She will also attend several committees' meetings such as Consumer Education and will serve as ex officio on all other committees.

9. Past President's Report: In addition to her written report, Past President Duls reported she was unable to attend the July 23rd Presidents' Meeting and did attend the July 26th membership Committee meeting.

10. Executive Director's Report: In addition to her written report, Wanda Twigg reported that she is working closely with the Membership Subcommittee in reviewing possible media campaigns. An administrative assistant has been hired to start work in September.

11. Area Director Reports:

- *Area I West:* No report was submitted prior to the meeting. Christine Doucette reported she met with Henrietta and is learning her new role. She is eager to get started.
- *Area I East:* No report was submitted prior to the meeting. Sally Smith reported she has been attending several of her local's meeting and luncheons. Just for fun, she also shared the old logo for Frederick County that included a "tire" helping to emphasize the "retiree" group.
- *Area II North:* Vacant
- *Area II South:* Vacant. Guest Brenda Barnes will transition with new Director, Liz Brown position should Liz accept the position.
- *Area III North:* Dr. Debbie Chance referred to her written report. She also reported attending the 50th anniversary celebration for Talbot County
- *Area III South:* No report submitted prior to the meeting. John Sisson emphasized we need to provide more services to our local associations with "hot" ideas for increasing membership.

12. Standing Committee Reports:

- *Bylaws:* Dr. Bowman reported he will meet with his committee in September and they will assist the membership committee by reviewing any bylaw modifications needed to support membership growth.
- *Community Service:* Kathy Campagnoli reported \$7000 was earned with the raffle. Currently, the committee is asking for donations of Back-to-School supplies or monetary donations. Information is available on the flyer. The committee will meet on August 14th. Prior to this meeting, the committee approved and is requesting that the MRSPA Board of Directors approve that each of the 6 classroom grants be increased from \$300-\$400. Discussion ensued and John Sisson made a motion to increase the 6 grants (one per area) from \$300 to \$500 each only in the years when the Foundation has the funds available. If the

Foundation does not have the funds available, the grant amount will revert to \$300 or \$400 as supported by the available funds. The motion passed with all in favor. Kathy Campagnoli, Community Service Committee Chair will ask the MRSPA Foundation Board of Directors to approve by the increase as approved by the MRSPA Board of Directors and on behalf of the Community Service Committee.

- *Consumer Education:* Report submitted. Phyllis Cherry absent.
- *Finance:* No report submitted prior to the meeting. Alicia Hardisky reported the committee will meet in January to develop budget for FY'26.
- *Legislative:* No report submitted prior to the meeting. Tom Slater reported the new session will begin in January and run through April. Virginia Crespo has reported very well on the past session's activities. The committee will meet on August 27th and develop their calendar for addressing the activities of the new session. Virginia Crespo, Legislative Aide reminded us to get out and vote in November.
- *Member Benefits:* No report submitted prior to the meeting. Leslie Heiderman Schell is new to this position and submitted the Membership report in our handouts.
- *Membership:* In addition to a written report submitted by Leslie Heiderman Schell, former Chair, Mary Holden reported she has met with Leslie Schell, Wanda Twigg and President Weller. The focus is on a possible media campaign for increasing awareness of MRSPA and increasing membership.
- *Nominating:* No report submitted prior to the meeting. Past President Duls reported she will start her search in September for a President- Elect. She welcomed suggestions from all attending members.
- *Public Relations:* No report submitted prior to the meeting. Deb Ahalt is new to the position and reported she will be working closely with the Membership Committee. Meeting is scheduled for September 3rd to further discuss a new media campaign. President Weller then briefly reviewed the current Media Campaign proposals.
- *Scholarship:* Dr. Caroll Visintainer reported the committee met and will again use the tier system developed last year for screening applications. She also thanked Heidi for all of her help during the review period. Committee is requesting Board approval for further clarifying qualifications for the scholarship:
 - Colleges must be non-profit colleges only versus profit colleges
 - Recipient not eligible for 3 years to apply again
 - Must not be in the last semester of study

Caroll reminded everyone the monies are given to the school and not to the student. Discussion ensued about the FAQ's and needed modifications on the application itself. Board agreed unanimously with the committee to make the above-mentioned changes in eligibility.

- *Travel:* No report submitted prior to the meeting. Harold Siskind reported that the website has all the information on the upcoming trips. He encouraged members to sign up for a trip.

13. Other Reports:

Retirement and Pension System Trustee: Ayana English – Brown reported on the recent COLAs were received and likely enjoyed and next meeting is August 20th. MSRA Board Chairs were recently re-elected.

Newsletter Editor: No report submitted prior to the meeting. Debbie Hance absent.

14. Unfinished Business: None

President Weller reminded us her mantra is Membership. Our goal is 1200 new members, and she challenged each Board member to bring in one new member.

Dr. Raucher began a discussion on the payroll deduction process and members afraid of providing their social security number on the form. Wanda Twigg reassured Board members the software used is encrypted and the social security number must be used for the state software. Members also have the opportunity to call in the number to the office. An article about why SSNs are needed for dues deduction will be included in a future MRSPA News. Local associations will also be asked to share the information in their newsletters. Auto renewal via credit card was also suggested and once further explained on processes involved, it is an option not possible with current staff. Further outreach to school support staff was discussed. Having a poster in every school and school system office in multiple locations in each building was shared as a strategy that AARSPA and other locals are using. The Membership Committee continues their work to increase membership.

15. New Business: None

16. Announcements: President Weller reminded all Board members to:

- Return signed Code of Ethics document, if not yet completed.
- Enter the meeting dates on your personal calendar
- Notify Wanda if you have not received your Board packet
- Respond in a very timely manner when emails sent out requesting information
- Complete the green mileage sheet at least quarterly

Members were also thanked for their school supply donations.

Door prizes were awarded with Dr. Raucher and Deb Ahalt winners.

17. Adjournment: President Weller thanked everyone at home and in person for their attendance. She adjourned the meeting at 11:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharyn Doyle
Secretary