



CarrollCountyrspa@gmail.com

### Co-Presidents' Letter April 2025

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### Membership Meetings

May 21, 2025

Hello Friends,  
Spring has sprung in Maryland with the usual roller-coaster weather! Just as seasons change, we have decided to vary our meeting locations. **Oscar's Alehouse in Eldersburg** will be the site of our luncheon **Wednesday, May 21**. A future meeting will be held in the northern area of the county.

Stephanie Rauen was a dynamic speaker in March, sharing information and answering questions. See the minutes for more information.

Our delegation to MRSPA's Annual Business Meeting May 6: Susan Miller, Jean Crowl, Karen Kotarski, Naudine Pheobus and Bonnie McElroy.

At the March meeting we voted to support the **MRSPA Scholarship** with a \$50 donation. We are pleased that a Carroll County teacher, Ashley Fisher of Westminster Elementary, is the recipient of a \$2,000 scholarship to earn her Master's degree in Special Education.

If you attend the luncheon, remember to bring a donation for **Shepherd's Staff's Backpack Project**. They need backpacks, clothing, and school supplies to prepare students in need for the 2025-26 school year.

MRSPA President Betty Weller, Executive Director Wanda Twigg, and Area I East Director Sally Smith will attend our May meeting. They will share pertinent information, including the latest legislation affecting retirees. Join us to socialize and hear their comments.

Remember our motto: **Each One Bring One!** Find friends retired from CCPS to treat to a lunch with fellow retirees; they may become members.

*Sincerely,  
Naudine Pheobus and  
Bonnie McElroy, Co-Presidents*



**Special thanks** to all who donated Easter Baskets and money to Shephards Staff in support of our local children.



# Minutes for March 19, 2025

The (last day of) Winter CCRSPA meeting was held at Bullock's Family Restaurant in Westminster, starting at 11am. Everyone had an opportunity to enjoy their meal and socialize before **Co-Presidents Naudine Pheobus** and **Bonnie McElroy** welcomed the group, led the Pledge of Allegiance at 11:55am and then introduced the "illustrious" guest speaker, *Stephanie Rauen*, CCPS Employee Benefits and Insurance Administrator.

*Stephanie* thanked everyone for including her—she's not retiring, although she could, and has already trained 2 others to work with retiree benefits! She emphasized that teachers' drug coverage has not changed—the change of prescription plan was only for state government employees. *Stephanie* is hopeful the government will not touch retiree insurance subsidies with its 5% annual increase, although it probably will look at active employees. Carroll County does contribute to the retiree pension system.

As of January 1, 2025 retirees are offered dental and vision, which is the same coverage added in 2016 for active employees. There were approximately 600 enrollment forms submitted. Dental rates will be adjusted in October, and vision rates will remain the same. The Medicare D drug plan has been modified with a co-pay to reach \$2,000. There is a Medicare Advantage rate increase due to the federal rate change—the plan can be used anywhere as long as Medicare is accepted. Aetna does have a discount to help with hearing aids.

*Stephanie* commented there are currently 150 under 65 retirees, 800 retirees and spouses enrolled in traditional Medicare and 800 retirees and spouses enrolled with Medicare Advantage. She also spoke about the confusion and frustration with the letters sent from LifeBridge Health—group plan is accepted, and hopefully all issues

have been resolved.

Everyone is grateful for *Stephanie's* expertise, so *Bonnie* presented her with a \$10 Bullock's gift card in appreciation!

*Naudine* started the business meeting at 12:30pm with the following reports:

**Treasurer**—The October 16, 2024 Minutes prepared by *Susan Miller* were approved as published in the newsletter. *Susan M.* stated that the current balance in the checking account is \$3,253.33. Thank you letters were received from each of the 5 community organizations for November 2024 donations.

**Membership and Necrology**—*Jean Crowl* lit the memorial candle and led the remembrance in honor of *Lisa DiMasilek, Ruth Warfield, Ann Durham, Larry Tyree, Terry Crushong, Ann Woodie, Marilyn Eyley, Dorothy Bauerlein, George Arnold, Jr., Garnett Suddath, Martha Browning and Maizie Bell.*

**Communications**—*Susan Christenbury's* efforts of coordinating the mailings, plus maintaining the website and sending out email reminders to the group are greatly appreciated!

**Consumer Education**—*Dixie Elmes* shared information from Consumer Reports regarding product dates—Sell by, Use by, Best by used date. She also commented on the confusion and guilt around tipping. There is tip-flation for higher amounts, and not knowing who is receiving the tip. Tipping used to be a bonus, but now is more of a subsidy for a low wage.

**Scholarship**—*Zeenie Burns* said there are no applications yet for the CCRSPA \$1,000 scholarship, open to all CCPS employees. Deadline is April 1. She contacted the CCEA President to share information with employees.

**Old Business**—*Bonnie* made phone calls to unpaid members, and she recognized 5 new attendees at today's meeting. From March 1-May 31 MRSPA has a special offer of \$10 state membership. Refer new members, encouraging them to choose dues deduction, and receive \$10 Walmart gift card.

**New Business**—*Bonnie* requested that the group support the MRSPA Foundation for scholarships \$50 and insurance for officers \$25.

*Bonnie* shared information from a Zoom MRSPA Presidents' meeting. There are 10,900 MRSPA members! As retired school personnel, we are fortunate to have legislative representation and advocacy in Annapolis. Topics of concern include ER wait times, eldercare and the preservation of benefits/pension. *Bonnie* shared about sending a MRSPA letter to state legislators regarding House Bill 0350.

The MRSPA Annual Business Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 6 at Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City. *Bonnie* collected money for the MRSPA Foundation Raffle—\$10 per ticket, 3 for \$25. Carroll County had 2 winners last year—*Jean Crowl*, generously filled cooking basket and *Mike Hoover* \$300!

Contact *Bonnie* or *Naudine*, if interested in serving as the Recording Secretary, Program, Nominations or Legislative Chairpersons. More members are needed who are willing to participate in leadership roles. Consider filling a position, which can be shared with a friend. Remember our goal "**Each One Bring One!**" A listing of bus trips with *Eyre* and *Rill's* was included on the back of the agenda—consider joining together with others for a fun outing!

**MRS**PA continues to offer a variety of benefits and discounts to members. Take advantage of your membership with your member card number on the state website <https://www.mrspa.org>, access with your member number and click on Member Benefits.

There was discussion concerning the upcoming proposed staffing cuts at CCPS, including media specialists, athletic directors and eliminating Outdoor School.

*Kathie Tromble* suggested sending a letter from the group to the Carroll County Commissioners.

Thanks to everyone who contributed filled Easter Baskets for Shepherd's Staff. We appreciate *Dixie's* willingness to deliver the baskets plus \$80 collected in extra donations. Names for door prizes were selected at the end of the meeting: *Jean* received a \$10 Walmart gift card and chocolate for *Irene Hildebrand* and *Ronda Robinson*. *Bonnie* also presented a chocolate treat to each of the members of the Executive Board.

The next **CCR**SPA meeting will be on Wednesday, May 21, 2025. Locations suggested were Fairhaven in Sykesville

and Calvary Lutheran in Woodbine. The **CCR**SPA Executive Board will make a decision and inform the group in the upcoming newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Susan H. Miller*, Treasurer

**Reservation Form for Luncheon Wednesday, May 21, 2025**



**CCR**SPA **1438 Liberty Road, Eldersburg**  
**Wednesday,**

**Luncheon**  
**May 21, 2025**

11:00-11:15 Social Time – be seated, place entrée order

11:15 a.m. – Business Meeting

Luncheon \$24 per person

Appetizers: Coconut Shrimp, House Salad, Pretzel Bites (served family style)

Entrées: Roast Beef Sandwich, Bacon Cheddar Burger, or Wood Grilled Salmon

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed \$24.00 for each luncheon reservation.

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please detach and return with your payment no later than Wednesday, May 14 to:**  
**CCR**SPA Luncheon – P.O. Box 1864 -- Westminster, MD 21158