



# Reflections

ST. MARY'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
RETIREES ASSOCIATION, INC.

## 2024-2025 OFFICERS

**President:** Leslie Roberts  
robertss2@verizon.net

**Vice-President:** Karen Richardson  
kgr15@me.com

**Recording Secretary:**  
Cynthia Stahr  
cyndistahr@gmail.com

**Corresponding Secretary:**  
Vacant

**Treasurer:** Carolyn Nelson  
carolyn.sam@verizon.net

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	1
Committee Reports Brunches & Lunches	2
June Lunch Flyer	3
Remembrances	4
MRSPA News	5
Contact List Calendar, Links	6
Travel Information	7
Views of the Past	8

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

### May 2025 President's Message



May, one of the busiest months of the year after December. From Mothers' Day to Memorial Day with lots of showers, weddings, graduations and end of school activities to attend. Please add our June 10 luncheon at St. Andrews Church Hall to your list of things to do. This month we will be honoring our Emeritus Members, those turning 90 this year, meeting our scholarship winners, and installing new officers for the next 2-year term. Doors open at 10:30, the meeting begins at 11 and if I keep things moving, lunch is served at noon.

We will be honoring 4 Emeritus members: Ellen Laurel who is currently residing in the Philippines, James McCleaf who is here in Leonardtown and will be attending, Ann Schumaker who is living in Virginia and Sue Watters who lives in Texas. It is interesting to see where people end up in retirement. Someone asked me why people who no longer live in Maryland still belong to our organization. I answered that no matter where retirees live, their pensions and benefits still reside in Maryland and our job as an association is to protect them. They also enjoy keeping in touch with fellow retirees through our newsletter and email updates.

There will be lots of information to share at the June meeting. Robert Abell, Carolyn Nelson, Karen Richardson, Karol Wolgemuth and I attended the MRSPA Annual Business Meeting on May 6 at the Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City. Our own Lonna Siskind was hard at work manning the computer for the presentations and Harold Siskind, who is on the Board of Directors as head of the Travel Committee, was working the Travel Table. Harold is also a member of the Legislative Committee. I am always proud to see our members involved at the state level. The Annual Business Meeting is inspiring as we hear about the hard work our association does working with the state legislature, providing thousands of hours of community service, awarding scholarships and grants, and providing opportunities for socializing and fun.

May 14<sup>th</sup>, I attended the BECA Scholarship Awards ceremony and watched our scholarship chair, Josie Graham, present our award to Benjamin Hoffman. Benjamin attends Chopticon High School and is planning on attending St. Mary's College of Maryland, majoring in Psychology and minoring in Special Education. Josie and her scholarship committee members Joyce Cuffley, Jennifer Gilman, Nancy Lewis, and Judy Stokes read through many applications to decide on our college scholarship winner and our para-educator scholarship winner. Thanks to them for all they do. I'd also like to thank Myra Raspa, a past scholarship committee member, for the abundance of donations we received for the scholarship fund in memory of her husband Dr. Sal Raspa.

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Susan Gagliardi, our scholarship chair, Karen Richardson, and I will be attending the new retirees' ceremony to inspire those retirees to join SMCPSPRA. The good news is that at least 2 new retirees have already decided to join us! SMCPSPRA administrative team are so gracious to our association, making sure we have space and a table to set up our display and giving us a few minutes at the end of the ceremony to introduce SMCPSPRA to the new retirees and to explain how joining us would benefit them. Looking forward to seeing you all at our June luncheon. This will be our last chance to get together before we reconvene in September. Have a safe and happy summer!

~Leslie Roberts



## C O M M I T T E E   R E P O R T S

### Treasurer's Report

As of April 30, 2025

Checking Account— \$10,060.61

Savings Account— \$9,096.52

Certificate of Deposit — \$5,352.38

GRAND TOTAL — \$24,509.51

~Carolyn Nelson



### New Members

We are happy to welcome our most recent new member: Adrienne Mathis.

We look forward to seeing you at future events.

suegag1913@gmail.com

Sue Gagliardi

### Upcoming Trips

#### Overnight & Cruise Trips

None at this time

**Day Trips:** Register now to reserve your spot. Spaces filling fast. See page 7 for details

<https://smcpsra.wixsite.com/smcpsra/travel>

### Email from Mary Washington, School Board member.

From Mary Washington,

Hello,

Thank you very much for the newsletter. I enjoy hearing from the retirees. You are doing mighty work and having fun doing it. Thank you for all you do to support students, community, and others.

### June 10—next Lunch and General Meeting.



**Reservations:** Contact Karol Wolgemuth.

**Cancellation:** Contact Karol Wolgemuth by 5:00 PM on deadline date.

301-481-3760, [karolwolgemuth@aol.com](mailto:karolwolgemuth@aol.com)

If you do not cancel by the deadline date on the flyer—June 2, you will be billed.

Come join us for a fun time!

[Editor: Bring a retired friend.]

~Karol Wolgemuth



## June General Meeting and Lunch

### June Lunch Meeting

You can sign up online to attend [HERE](#) Or notify Karol Wolgemuth-contact in form below. See flyer on page 3.

**Program:** Scholarship and Grant winners. New Emeritus members.



### June Lunch Meeting

**St Andrews Episcopal Church, Social Hall**

44078 St Andrews Church Rd

California, MD 20619

**DATE:** June 10

**TIME:** 10:30 am

Please arrive early to pay for your meal and socialize. Meeting/Program will be held first at 11am; Lunch at 12pm

**COST:** \$23. + a Food Pantry Item

Complete the **Lunch Reservation** Form below if you plan to attend/eat. Or call **Karol Wolgemuth** at 301-481- 3760, or email to [karolwolgemuth@aol.com](mailto:karolwolgemuth@aol.com) Or register online [here](#). Please, no walk-ins. We may not have food or a seat for you.

<b>Member Name:</b>	<b>Number of Reservations for Lunch:</b>
<b>Guest Name:</b>	<b>Number attending but NOT eating lunch. (we need to save you a seat)</b>
<b>Phone #</b>	<b>Email:</b>
<b>Mail to:</b> Karol Wolgemuth <b>OR call:</b> 301-481-3760 23115 Hickory Nut Drive <a href="mailto:karolwolgemuth@aol.com">karolwolgemuth@aol.com</a> California, MD 20619	<b>This is a confirmed reservation. If not cancelled you will be obligated to pay for the meal if you do not attend.</b>

*Please come to join in the fun and fellowship!*



- To:** St. Mary's County Public Schools' Retirees
- Re:** Retirees' June General Meeting & Luncheon
- Date:** Tuesday, June 10, 2025
- Time:** **11:00 AM** – Please arrive 30 minutes early to pay for your meal & socialize. Meeting will be held first, meal to follow.
- Where:** **St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**, 44078 Saint Andrews Church Rd, California, MD
- Price:** **\$23.00** + a suggested **Donation** of non-perishable food items for a local food pantry
- Menu:** St. Andrew's Episcopal members will prepare Quiche, Fresh Fruit, Garden Salad, Dessert, Coffee, Tea, & Water
- Program:** Remembrance Ceremony for Recently Deceased Members  
Celebration of Emeritus Members  
Scholarship Recipients  
Installation of Officers (with Carla Duls from MRSPA)
- Reservations:** Karol Wolgemuth, 301-481-3760 [karolwolgemuth@aol.com](mailto:karolwolgemuth@aol.com), by 5:00 PM on Tuesday, June 3
- Parking:** Please leave parking spaces near the door for those with mobility issues.
- Cancellations:** If you must cancel your reservation, please call Karol Wolgemuth, 301-481-3760 [karolwolgemuth@aol.com](mailto:karolwolgemuth@aol.com), by 5:00 PM on Tuesday, June 3. If you do not cancel by this date, you will be billed.



di

### Remembrances

**Pinky Morgan** (member, not pictured) of Avenue, MD, lost her husband, Dr. Garner "Butch" Morgan, 6/3/1948-5/2/2025. Butch built a successful dental practice that continues to serve the county, having started it in 1980. In 2009 he was proud to transition the practice to his son, Luke.



**Glenn Larnerd** (member, pictured) 80, of Great Mills, MD. 3/19/1945-5/6/2025. He was member, Patty Larnerd's husband, also a member. After completing ROTC at Montana, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, Military Police Corps. He was stationed in Stuttgart, Germany and then Vietnam. He was decorated with a Bronze Star and was honorably discharged as a Captain in 1970. Following his military service, Glenn worked for the St. Mary's County Public Schools for 44 years at both Chopticon High School and then Leonardtown High School as a teacher, Athletic Director, and coach. He retired in 2009. Glenn's wishes were to have all services private. He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

<https://www.brinsfieldfuneral.com/obituary/glenn-larnerd>

**Peggy Wade** (non-member, not pictured) 76, of Great Mills, MD. 6/14/1948-5/9/2025. She retired after 30 years in 2015 as a Cafeteria Manager at Fairlead Academy and Great Mills HS.

### SCHOLARSHIP EXCITEMENT

We have a winner! Benjamin Hoffman, a senior at Chopticon High School will receive our \$1500 scholarship (renewable for 4 years) to pursue a teaching degree at St. Mary's College of Maryland. His area of study is Psychology with focus on Special Education. A straight "A" student, Benjamin also finds time to volunteer with Best Buddies and Greenwell Therapeutic Riding Program! He was recognized at the BECA Scholarship Awards evening in mid-May.

The Scholarship Committee has also determined a winner for the Para educator \$500 scholarship! Crystal Leon is a Special Education Para at Leonardtown High School and is taking online courses at Grand Canyon University towards teacher certification. With 16 credits to go Crystal eyes graduation by December, 2025. Our association will award and renew scholarships for \$5,500 this year!

We remember several fellow educators and appreciate donations to our scholarships in their memory. Rotary Club of Lexington Park sent several donations in memory of Dr. Sal Raspa. He was remembered by many of our members too.

**Ellyne Davis, Barbara Kable, Edward and Donna Fitzgerald, Linda and Jerry Himmelheber, Ruth Dixon, and Josie Graham.** In memory of Dr. Sal Raspa.



Donations for other members were made by:

**Glenn Richards** in memory of Patty Kuzmick

**Josie Graham and Linda and Jerry Himmelheber** in memory of Eleanor Ripple.

**Edward and Donna Fitzgerald** in memory of John Felicitas.

Our association also honored **Sal Raspa, Eleanor Ripple,** and **Glenn Larnerd** with donations.



**St. Mary's County Public Schools Retirees Associatonn Scholarship Fund Donation**  
**Make checks payable to SMCPsRA"**  
**Indicate Scholarship Fund in memo line.**

**Name:**

**Phone #:**

**Date:**

**Amount:**

☐ **General Donation**

☐ **Memorial Contribution:**

**Mail to: Josie Graham**  
**48808 Curley's Road**  
**Ridge, MD 20680**

**If memorial, please give name of individual/s**



## MRSPA News

### New Logo

MRSPA announced a new logo on May 6, 2025 at the Annual Business Meeting. You will gradually see the new logo in the MRSPA applications/files/correspondence, and newsletters. The website is updated already.



### Annual Business Meeting—May 6, 2025

We had 6 delegate members attend. Harold Siskind is the MRSPA Travel Committee Chairmen and helped man the Travel Committee table. The meeting was full of surprises. The breakfast snacks and lunch food were good. The vendor tables were fun to visit and talk to vendors. Turf Valley was a beautiful area, especially if you like to golf.

The 80 year anniversary slide show that was shown at the meeting is on the MRSPA YouTube page. A lot of history in the show. Watch it at: <https://youtu.be/etnEpcE4sN4>

The YouTube channel also has all the trip previews for 2025 and 2026. Check out a trip for 2026. The next live preview is Aug 21. The current one online is on Iceland. It is a very popular trip and is suggested to at least make a down payment if you want to go.

<https://youtu.be/fKMqztHWRy8>



Travel Committee Table (above)

St. Mary's Co members attending the meeting (left)

### Member Change Form

Provide any changes to your data below. Email changes to: [smcpsra@gmail.com](mailto:smcpsra@gmail.com) or Sue Gagliardi. You'll get up-to-the-minute news and newsletters in color, if emailed. This form is also on-line at <https://smcpsra.wixsite.com/smcpsra/forms>, both in paper and an on-line form.

Name:	Date of change:
New Email:	
New Address:	<input type="checkbox"/> Do not publish email in Directory <input type="checkbox"/> Send me newsletter/notices by email
New Phone:	<input type="checkbox"/> Dropped Land line
Signature:	Birthdate:

## Officers and Committee Chairpersons

### Officers

President .....	Leslie Roberts
Vice President .....	Karen Richardson
Recording Secretary .....	Cynthia Stahr
Corresponding Secretary .....	vacant
Treasurer .....	Carolyn Nelson

### Committee Chairs

Archives .....	VACANT
Bylaws/Legislative .....	Harold Siskind
Communications/Publications .....	Lonna Siskind
Community Service .....	VACANT
Consumer Education/Health .....	Anna Moseley
Finance .....	George Kirby
Membership .....	Susan Gagliardi
Nominating .....	Board of Directors
Social/Program .....	Susie Fowler and
Luncheon .....	Karol Wolgemuth
Remembrance .....	Robert Abell
Scholarship .....	Josie Graham
Activities/Travel .....	Ernestine Pence

### Committee Members Still Needed!

Contact Leslie Roberts at [patrickroberts406@gmail.com](mailto:patrickroberts406@gmail.com)  
or  
Email: [smcpsra@gmail.com](mailto:smcpsra@gmail.com)

Why wait for the mail? Receive this Newsletter at least a week earlier with email delivery! And it's in **color**!

### Keep your email address up-to-date

If you are NOT receiving emails and expect them from us, contact Susan Gagliardi or Lonna Siskind at [smcpsra@gmail.com](mailto:smcpsra@gmail.com)



Directors email: [directors@smcpsra.org](mailto:directors@smcpsra.org)  
Regular email: [smcpsra@gmail.com](mailto:smcpsra@gmail.com)

If you want up-to-date news, get it on email.

## Stay Informed

### Pictures of Events

Pictures will be posted from our events in our newsletters and on our Facebook page. Use links in column to the right entitled "Links" to find web pages.

**Reflections** is published quarterly, plus additional ones as needed. You may have it emailed or mailed. Email is encouraged to save mailing costs and labor, and you will receive it more quickly in color.

You can submit articles & pictures for *Reflections*, web-site, or Facebook to: [smcpsra@gmail.com](mailto:smcpsra@gmail.com)  
Lonna Siskind, editor. phone #: 301-862-1315. Newsletters are published: September, November, March, June.

## CALENDAR

### General Business Meetings-2025-2026



June 10                      Lunch meeting  
September 8              Lunch meeting

**Board of Directors** meetings: 8/12/2025



**Moving? Keep in touch.** Let us know. Fill out the Member Change Form on page 3. Don't be left out or lost! Do you know of a member that has passed away? Please email/call us with the name and date information at: [smcpsra@gmail.com](mailto:smcpsra@gmail.com). Or fill out online form at <https://www.mrspa.org/member-changes> or <https://smcpsra.wixsite.com/smcpsra/forms>

### Not a Member?

If you are getting this newsletter from a friend, why not join and get all the benefits & pension protection? Go to [www.mrspa.org](http://www.mrspa.org) to join (can mail, or use credit card), <https://smcpsra.wixsite.com/smcpsra/join-us> to download the membership form, or contact an officer or committee chairman. Dues deduction once/yr is the best way to go. No more writing checks and remembering to submit dues.

### Positions Open

Positions are open in SMCPSPRA. Please say YES if asked, or volunteer to help. Elections are held in June.

Committee members are always needed. We have several vacant spots open right now for chairman.



### Links



Website: [smcpsra.org](http://smcpsra.org) (will point to WIX site)  
Point phone camera at QR code below. Hit the yellow link button that pops up.



Like us: <https://www.facebook.com/SMCPSPRA>



The St. Mary's County Public Schools web site has a link to our retiree website: <http://www.smcps.org/staff>. The link is found under Human Resources, within the "Staff" page.



MRSPA-State retiree's web site: <https://www.mrspa.org/> SMCPSPRA is a part of this organization.

[\[smcpsra.org\]](http://smcpsra.org)-forwards to:

<https://smcpsra.wixsite.com/smcpsra>



OPEN 24/7



## Day Trips for 2025

**Toby's Dinner Theater trip to see:**

***Saturday Night Live  
Featuring the Hits of the Bee Gees***

October 29, 2025

Registration is open NOW! Cost is \$135 and covers bus, bus driver gratuity, buffet dinner and show. There are only a few spaces left. Hurry and reserve your space. Money is due by July 30.

Tony Manero, a Brooklynite paint store clerk, spends his weekends at a local disco, where he moonlights as the king of the dance floor. When he and mesmerizing dancer Stephanie enter a dance competition, the pair's professional partnership blossoms and challenges both to reflect on what's important in life amidst rising social tensions and disillusionment. SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER transports you back to the era of disco balls, platform boots, and white suits. Burn, baby, burn!

More info and registration on our travel web page.

<https://smcpsra.wixsite.com/smcpsra/day-trip>

Or go to smcpsra.org and go to the Travel menu item

For more info contact: email: [smcpsra@gmail.com](mailto:smcpsra@gmail.com)



### Longwood Gardens; Kennett Square, PA

December 1-5, 2025 Date TBD when they open reservations. We plan to go in the evening to see the lights and indoor displays. Registration is open NOW! Longwood Gardens informed us they would be open for dates in August/September.

More info and registration on our travel web page.

<https://smcpsra.wixsite.com/smcpsra/day-trip>

Or go to smcpsra.org and go to the Travel menu item

### Washington DC Trees and US Navy Holiday Concert

December 20, 2025



Registration is now open on line. Go to the [smcpsra.org](https://smcpsra.org) webpage and click on the Travel menu item. Trip returns around midnight since concert starts at 8pm. See the National Christmas tree and other displays in President's Park—front of the White House. See the Zero Milestone in the park-the official starting point for measurement of highway distances from Washington, D.C.

See a YouTube show of past trips [Here](#)

Cost \$40 and includes bus, driver gratuity, snack.





Views of the Past—April General Meeting



St. Mary's County Public Schools Retirees Association, Inc.  
PO Box 1037  
Leonardtown, MD 20650