



newsletter

2011 MEETING SCHEDULE

April 11, 2011
Meeting

May 5, 2011
Spring Luncheon

May 10, 2011
MRSPA Business Meeting

June 13, 2011
Exec./Advisory Closing Activity

With the exception of the September meeting, all meetings will be held on the second Monday of the month in the faculty lounge at Polytechnic High School.

Meetings will begin @ 10 a.m.

If needed, members will be advised by phone tree for a call meeting. Anyone unable to attend a meeting is asked to notify the president.

President's Message

Dear ABCPSR Members,

It's April already and spring is in the air. This has been a very busy year. It's almost time for our Spring Luncheon. Although we lost quite a few members, we have gained over 40 new members. Our committees are hard at work and can use some help.

Clifford Rosenberg and Gertrude Williams, legislative committee members, keep us current on legislative issues. We need to bombard our legislators with letters, phone calls, visits and/or emails. We have to let them know that we are the retired voters and we want our pension system to stay where it is.

The ABCPSR is working for all public school retired personnel including cafeteria workers, custodians, bus drivers, aides and secretaries. We are working for everyone, and we need the support of the retirees we are helping. If you know someone that retired from the public school system, tell them about us and invite them to our luncheon on May 5, 2011 at Martin's West. We are hoping to see you there.

Your President,

Phyllis Durnell

Eligible Retirees to Receive Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) in July 2011

Eligible retirees and beneficiaries of the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System will receive a COLA applied to their monthly retirement benefit in July 2011.

As you may recall, to avoid an unprecedented negative COLA and reduction in retirement benefits last July, Governor Martin O'Malley and the General Assembly moved to postpone last year's negative COLA and have benefits remain at their current level. It was determined that the negative cost-of-living adjustment, -.356%, would be deducted from the expected positive COLA for July 2011. The difference would then be applied to the retirees' monthly payment beginning this July.

This action creates two different COLA's for eligible retirees — one rate for eligible retirees and beneficiaries who would have received a negative COLA in July 2010 and a different, unreduced rate for those who were not eligible for a COLA in 2010 but are in 2011.

For those retirees who were retired on or before July 1, 2009, the COLA will be 1.284% (1.640% - 0.356% = 1.284%)

For those retirees who retired after July 1, 2009 and on or before July 1, 2010, the COLA will be 1.640%.

Members who retired after July 1, 2010 are not eligible for a COLA until they have been retired one full year as of July 1.

Submitted by Bob Palumbi

Time to Take Action Now

*by Tish Raft
Legislative Aide*

With the recommendations of the Pension Sustainability Commission, the numerous financial problems facing the state, and the many interest groups vying for attention, it is time for MRSPA members to act.

Doing so is simple:

Visit the MRSPA website, log in, and email your representatives. All the resources are there. You can send a direct message to your delegate(s) and senator to let them know that you want your retirement and health care benefits protected.

Rest assured that your state association is also taking action: contacting legislators, attending and testifying at hearings, and meeting regularly to respond to new legislation.

However, nothing works better than a constituent message.

That's where you come in. With the likelihood that some pension costs will be returned to local jurisdictions, it's important to let your legislators know where you stand.

- Check out the Maryland General Assembly website for additional details about bills and hearings.
- Consider a trip to Annapolis to meet with a legislator.
- Write a letter to committee leaders.
- And stay informed at www.mrspa.org!

Consumer Connections

The Fall Workshop is planned for November.

Date: Monday, November 7, 2011

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Place: Woodlawn Senior Center
2120 Gwynns Falls Parkway
Gwynn Oak, Maryland 21207
Phone: 410-887-6887

Chairperson: Mary F. Eastman
410-944-8965

ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND
AND PARTICIPATE. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED
TO WORK WITH MS. EASTMAN.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITY AT EMERALD ESTATES

On Thursday, April 24, 2011, Beverly Reid, Mary Gaskins and other members of ABCPSR will begin a community activity with the residents of Emerald Estates, 3855 Greenspring Avenue. Many of our retired teachers as well as our 2010 luncheon honoree, Mrs. Mary Allen, reside at Emerald Estates.

This program will be held on the second Thursday of the month from September to June from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Activities will vary. Gifts that can be purchased by members of ABCPSR for use as prizes during group activities include: lotion, powder, toilet tissue, facial tissue, nail polish, soap, toothpaste (no mouthwash) and head scarves.

ABCPSR members who are available, are invited to join the committee and residents on the second Thursday of each month from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. at the Emerald Estates.

Recent New Members

MRSPA, a nonprofit organization, serves as an advocate for its members in Annapolis and provides expanding services to enrich the quality of their lives. It is the only retirees association recognized by the State of Maryland and it is dedicated to excellence in education and life-long learning.

We are pleased to welcome the following members to MRSPA and ABCPSR:

Merrill Alterman	Rebecca R. Scott
Gwendolyn E. Cleage	Cascelia Spears
Piccola O. Etchison	Gary L. Thrift
Ethel G. Green	Eldon J. Thomas
Ella G. Hamilton	Paul H. Trash
S. Juanita Mickens	Merle Rawlings Venture
Kay E. Mied	Joan E. Williams
Pamela L. Mullen	Frances E. Wilson
Joyce Marie Rose	Kathleen B. Wilson

New members are always welcome, and we ask you to encourage new retirees to become a member of MRSPA.

Necrology

NORMA B. LAMBSON

LOUISE E. MURPHY



FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE

The following members received cards.

Louise G. Murphy - sympathy card to daughter
 Gloria F. Pruce - sympathy card (loss of husband)
 Norma Lambson - sympathy card to daughter
 Phyllis Purnell - sympathy card (loss of cousin)
 Gloria B. Carrington - sympathy card (loss of
 husband Joel)
 Emily Simmons - get well card

Submitted by Mary E. Gaskins 410-466-4939

FALL LUNCHEON – HIGHLIGHTS, KUDOS AND WINNERS

President Phyllis Purnell promised innovations, and she indeed initiated change by arranging for a Color Guard from the U.S. Army to open the patriotic moment, followed by recognition of guest veterans and words of thanks to Captain Boggs, United States Army.

Speaker Judith Zahren, Executive Director, Maryland Retired School Personnel Association, and Rawle Andrews, Jr., Senior State Director, AARP, gave insightful state and national information respectively.

The names of door prize winners are listed below.

President Purnell commended the luncheon committee members Marie Bessicks, Loretta Bryant and Mary Eastman.

DOOR PRIZE WINNERS

Fall Luncheon 2010

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. \$50 Bill - Mary Urquhart | 10. Plant - Anna Copeland |
| 2. Macy's Gift Card - Nell McKnight | 11. Scam-Proof Your Life - Clifford Rosenberg |
| 3. Plant - Barbara Buck | 12. The Buffalo Saga - Harriet Dunlap |
| 4. Wine - Frances Branch | 13. Scam-Proof Your Life - Hattye Jackson |
| 5. \$25 - Anna Boston | 14. Plant - Beverly Reid |
| 6. Plant - Gloria Campbell | |
| 7. 2 Books of Postage Stamps - Gloria Lane | 50/50 Raffle - Henry Philyaw \$80.25 |
| 8. Plant - Norma White | |
| 9. Wine - James Lane | |

Submitted by Betty Williams

NOMINATING COMMITTEE Report

The following slate of officers was presented to the Board of Directors. The election will take place at the Spring Luncheon on Thursday, May 5, 2011.

Slate of Officers July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2013

President: Phyllis Purnell
 President-Elect: Beverly Reid
 Secretary: Janet Williams
 Member-at-Large: Mary Eastman
 Member-at-Large: Mary Urquhart

Flora G. Johnson
Nominating Committee Chairperson

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE Report

The United Seniors of Maryland held their 34th Annual USM State Rally on March 9, 2011. Baltimore City was represented by Phyllis Purnell, Clifford Rosenberg and Gertrude Williams.

Agenda changes were made because the delegates were involved with equal rights marriage legislation. Consequently, the caucus with the local delegations were cancelled.

The most salient points were:

1. Seniors who are presently retired will see no changes in their pension.
2. New retirees will have changes according to a new formula.
3. The Department of Aging will receive two million dollars plus.

Submitted by Gertrude S. Williams
 and Clifford Rosenberg

Proposed Changes to ABCPSR ByLaws

Current Language

Definition

Article II. Section 1.

The purposes of this Association shall be to promote the improvement of education, to support activities and legislation serving the best interest of children and youth, and to promote and protect the interests of retired educational personnel.

Basic Eligibility

Article III. Membership, Section 1.

All personnel who have been concerned with the educational programs of the Baltimore City Public Schools and who were eligible for or who are receiving pensions from the Teachers Retirement System of the State of Maryland shall be eligible for active membership in the Association upon the payment of annual dues during a fiscal year.

Special Assessments

Article IV, Section 5.

Any special assessments recommended by the Executive Committee must be approved by majority vote of the membership.

Length of Service

Article VII. Election Process and Terms, Section 5.

Officers and Members at large shall begin their duties on the first day of July following their election and shall serve through the last day of June following the next election. The term of office of the President and for President Elect shall be one (1) year.

Except for the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, the term for all other officers shall be two (2) years. (see Section 6, below)

Re-election

Article VII. Section 6.

Officers and Members at Large may be re-elected but shall not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same elective position, except for the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer who shall serve a three (3) year term and may not be re-elected to one (1) additional three (3) year term.

Committees

Article VIII. Section 2.

Primary Committee Groups

There shall be three (3) groups of committees – Operations, Education and Protective Services, and Activities, into which Standing Committees shall be grouped according to function. Each Standing Committee, under its Chairperson, shall work in conjunction with its designated liaison representative

Proposed Change

The purpose of this Association shall be to promote the improvement of public education, to support activities and legislation serving the best interest of children and youth, and to promote and protect the interests of retired educational personnel of Baltimore City.

All retirees of the Baltimore City Public School System shall be eligible for active membership in the Association upon payment of the annual dues during a fiscal year.

Any special assessments recommended by the Executive Committee must be approved by a majority vote of the membership present at the Annual Business meeting of the Association.

Officers and Members at Large shall begin their duties on the first day of July following their election and shall serve through the last day of June following the next election. The term of office for President and President-Elect shall be two (2) years. The President and President-Elect shall serve corresponding lengths of service. Except for Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, the term of officers shall be two (2) years. (see Section 6, below)

The President and President-Elect may be re-elected but may not serve more than one (1) year in the same position. Other Officers and Members at Large may shall serve two (2) consecutive terms in the same position except for the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer who shall serve a three (3) year term and may be re-elected to one (1) additional three (3) year term.

Name change from Education and Protective Services to Consumer Services Group.

Rationale

The change to public education identifies specifically the level of Education interest. Baltimore City identifies a specific geographical location.

The change in the name of the organization's Baltimore City Personnel. Equitability opens eligibility to all without identifying special group.

There could be an exorbitant amount of money to be transacted and the Association should approve such a transaction.

One year may not be sufficient time in office for a President to successfully govern and manage the office and/or the membership.

A President may possibly be expected to serve in office at least 4-5 years.

Voted upon at Executive Committee meeting. Section 2 #5, change all text to Consumer Services Group wherever noted in By-laws.

Proposed Changes to ABCPSR ByLaws con't

Current Language

to carry out the business of that specific committee. The Chairperson of each Standing Committee shall be responsible for the selection of the members of that committee.

Duties of Officers

Article XII. Section 7.
Immediate Past President.
The Immediate Past President shall act in an advisory capacity to the President and the Executive Committee.

Indemnification

Article XVII. Section 1.
Directors and Officers. The corporation shall indemnify and advance expenses to a director or officer of the corporation in connection with a legal proceeding to the fullest extent permitted by and in accordance with the Indemnification Section of the annotated code of Maryland (as amended from time to time.

Section 2. Director's Personal Liability.
To the fullest extent permitted by Maryland statutory or decisional law, as amended or interpreted, no director or officer of this corporation shall be personally liable to the corporation or its members for money damages. No amendment of the Bylaws or repeal of its provisions shall limit or eliminate the limitation or liability provided to directors.

Dissolution

Article XVIII. Section 1.
Disposal of Assets by the Executive Committee. In the event or (1) upon the dissolution of The Association, The Board of Directors shall, after paying (2) or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of The Association (3) dispose of all of the assets of the corporation exclusively for purpose of (4) the corporation in such manner, or to such organizations organized and operated (5) exclusively for charitable educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organization under Section 501(c) [3] [4] (7) if the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future (8) United States Internal Revenue Law, as the Executive Committee shall determine (9).

Proposed Change

The Immediate Past President shall act in an advisory capacity to the President and shall serve as Chairman of the Activities Committee.

The Officers shall indemnify and advance expenses to the Executive Board of the Association in connection with a legal proceeding to the fullest extent permitted by and in accordance with the Indemnification Section of the annotated code of Maryland (as amended from time to time.)

Section 2. Director's Personal Liability.
To the fullest extent permitted by Maryland statutory or decisional law, as amended or interpreted, no officer of this association shall be personally liable to the association or its members for money damages. No amendment of the Bylaws or repeal of its provisions shall limit or eliminate the limitation or liability provided to directors.

Article XVIII. Section 1.
Disposal of Assets by the Executive Committee. In the event or (1) upon the dissolution of The Association, The Board of Directors shall, after paying (2) or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of The Association (3) dispose of all of the assets of the Association exclusively for the purpose of (4) the Association in such manner, or to such organizations organized and operated (5) for educational purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization under Section 501(c) [3] [4] if the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future (8) United States Internal Revenue Law, as the Executive Committee shall determine (9).


Rationale

The Immediate Past President is familiar with previous business of the Association and can possibly relate certain issues, etc.

The text should refer to the
1. Board of Directors of the Association
2. Omit all reference to Directors

Omit all references to directors and corporation. Change to Executive Board.
Change corporation to association.

Refer to article II Purposes Section 3

ASSOCIATION of BALTIMORE CITY		ABC
PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREES, Inc.		PSR

2011 Spring LUNCHEON
Thursday, May 5, 2011

Martin's West 6817 Dogwood Road Baltimore, Maryland 21244

11:00 MEET & GREET 11:30 PROGRAM 12:00 NOON LUNCH

Menu

Tri Salad Platter (Chicken, Shrimp, and Tuna), Dessert: Strawberry Shortcake & Hot & Cold Beverages

COST: \$37.00pp

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: April 28, 2011

SEND RESERVATIONS TO: Marie Bessicks, 2607 Queen Anne Rd. Baltimore, Md. 21216

ABSOLUTELY NO ON SITE REGISTRATION

Tear off and send with checks made payable to: ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREES, INC. or (ABCPSR)

TABLE ORGANIZER _____ PHONE _____

NAME	NAME
<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>

NOTE: TO BE SEATED TOGETHER CHECKS MUST BE SENT TOGETHER BY TABLE ORGANIZER

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS SHOULD BE NOTED ON RESERVATION

ASSOCIATION of BALTIMORE CITY

PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREES, Inc.



ABC

PSR

1400 WEST COLD SPRING LANE • ROOM 23
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21209

•• **HELP** ••

JOIN A COMMITTEE – SHARE YOUR IDEAS

LUNCHEON CHAIR

MARIE BESSICKS

NEWSLETTER CO-EDITORS THIS ISSUE

ANNA BOSTON

CAROLYN BOSTON

CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICE

(Please Print)

Your Name _____

Previous Address _____

New Address _____

Mail to:

Phyllis Purnell / 1 Orkney Ct. / Baltimore, MD 21212

*The March 15th Legislative Update
is now available
at the MRSPA webniste at
www.mrspa.org*

Once you log on into the website with your user ID and password, scroll down to the links on the left side of the Welcome Page.

Please be sure to check the MRSPA website often for important updates while the legislature is in session.

If you have any questions about being able to access the Legislative Update, or if you are unable to log into the website, contact the MRSPA Office by phone at 410-551-1517 or by email at mrspa@mrspa.org