



# newsletter

## 2021-2022 MEETING SCHEDULE

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all ABCPSR, Inc. Executive/Advisory and Committee Meetings will be held via Conference Call until further notice. Meetings begin at 10:00 a.m.

**April 11, 2022**  
Meeting/Conference Call

**May 3, 2022**  
ABCPSR Luncheon  
The Forum Caterers

**May, 13 2022**  
MRSPA Annual Spring Luncheon  
Upper Marlboro

**June, 2022**  
ABCPSR Executive/Advisory  
Committee Closing Activity AND  
New Members Meeting, TBA

*Please call Patricia Pickett, President  
at 410-900-6781 if you have  
any questions.*

*If there are any changes,  
you will be notified.  
Check website for updates.*

## President's Message

Greetings,

I hope everyone has taken time to consider and choose what works best for you and your loved one's health, to vaccinate or not to vaccinate (and boost). Either way, Be Safe till we meet again. Hopefully, that will be on May 3, 2022, at the Forum Caterers for our Annual Spring Meeting. Bring a friend.



The Covid 19 situation has set a new paradigm for us all. We want you to continue to take care of you. Walk, even short distances when you can. Also, doing chores around the house can be beneficial. As we come into spring let us look out for another person. How many have received an old fashioned letter? Get a pen-pal, even if it is on the computer. Set up Zoom meetings, just to check-in. YouTube has tutorials.

ABCPSR, Inc. has partnered with Baltimore City Parks and Recreation to be able to share in their events. Look online to see if there is something we can do as a group. If we get at least 15 people responding, we can ask for free transportation to some events; others have transportation included. The schedule of events will be mailed to you, if requested.

Our ABCPSR, Inc. Scholarship information can be found on our website, abcpsr.org. The Deadline is April 8, 2022.

As always, please let us know of retiring persons you are aware of. They can become members on MRSPA.org. Our email address is ABCPSR1949@gmail.com.

Hoping to see you soon,

*Patricia E. Pickett*



## STATE EMERITUS MEMBERSHIP

**Any member** who will reach **90 years of age on or before June 30, 2022** will become **State Emeritus beginning 2022-2023**. You may **request Emeritus status by notifying MRSPA of your birthdate**. Once you become a State Emeritus member, you no longer have to pay dues and shall continue to be eligible for all privileges and benefits of MRSPA/ ABCPSR membership.

**The notification must be made on or before June 1**, so appropriate notice can be given to the Maryland State Retirement/Pension System.

Phone: (410)551-1517; Toll Free (877)625-6782;

Email: [mrspa@mrspa.org](mailto:mrspa@mrspa.org).

## **MRSPA/ABCPSR Membership**

MRSPA is continuing the **Switch and Save** incentive for cash members who choose **dues deduction** for 2021-2022. Members who switch to dues deduction as payment will get a **one-time \$10 reduction in the cost of state dues**. They would pay \$35 for state dues plus \$15 for local dues (totaling \$50) for 2021-2022. Members need to complete and return the Dues Deduction Authorization Form which is available on the MRSPA website under Switch and Save (<https://www.mrspa.org/switch-and-save>).

The on-going **Recruitment** incentive includes a **\$10 gift card for ANY member that recruits a NEW member who elects dues deduction as payment**. The NEW member will get a one-time \$10 reduction in the cost of state dues \$35, plus \$15 for local dues (totaling \$50) for 2022-2023. The NEW member must complete an application form signing up for dues deduction, then write your name on the application before it is sent to MRSPA.



**Annual Spring Luncheon**  
**Tuesday, May 3, 2022**

**THE FORUM CATERERS**  
**4210 PRIMROSE AVENUE, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21215**

11:00 REGISTRATION                      11:30 PROGRAM                      12:00 NOON LUNCH

**MENU.** Appetizer: Spinach Salad with Chopped Egg and Red Onion; Entree': Stuffed Chicken Breast with Wild Rice, Seasoned Collard Greens, Candied Sweet Potatoes; Dessert; Yellow Cake w/Vanilla Icing; Fresh baked Rolls and Butter; Hot and Cold Beverages. **COST: \$35 pp.** (\$30 pp for New Members and Choir Members.)

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREES, INC. or (ABCPSR). NO CASH OR CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE DOOR. DEADLINE: APRIL 22, 2022. NO EXCEPTIONS!!**

Send check(s) with Reservation Form to: **Joyce Wilson, 9314 Lyonswood Drive, Owings Mills, Maryland 21117 (410)581-2602.**

NOTE: TO BE SEATED TOGETHER, CHECKS MUST BE SENT TOGETHER.

Table Organizer \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s)	Name(s)
1.	5.
2.	6.
3.	7.
4.	8.

## MRSPA New Membership Cards

The new plastic MRSPA membership cards have been shipped. The new card is permanent, meaning you will not receive a new card each year. There is a cost to replace your card if it is lost or misplaced. If you did not receive your new plastic MRSPA membership card please contact the MRSPA office. Phone: 410-551-1517; Toll Free: 877-625-6782; Email: [mrspa@mrspa.org](mailto:mrspa@mrspa.org).

## FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE



The ABCPSR Friendship Committee sent a Get Well Card to Kathleen Cain. Ms. Cain also received a Sympathy Card for the loss of her sister. A Sympathy Card was sent to Bettye Fitzgerald for the loss of her husband.

Sympathy Cards were sent to the families of departed members: Shirley Hargrove, Bernice Beard, and Marie Bessick.

If you have information to share concerning someone in the ABCPSR family, please contact Mary Gaskins, Chair, Friendship Committee, (410)466-4939



**Human Trafficking – GET HELP** - Call the National Human Trafficking Hotline – 1-888-373-7888 from a phone; OR text 233733 from a cell phone. 24/7 Confidential

## Mary Gaskins: “Making ABCPSR Proud”



ABCPSR is pleased to announce that Mary Gaskins has been nominated for induction in the **Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, Inc.** Nominees for this award should be a Maryland resident, 65 years or older who has demonstrated outstanding contributions as a volunteer to improve the lives of others in their community.

Mary Gaskins is a member of the Association of Baltimore City Public School Retirees, Inc., and has served as Chair of the Friendship Committee since 2000. Mary was a teacher and Guidance Counselor for the Baltimore City Public School System, retiring in June, 1990. Mary, now 92, says that she is most proud of having received a scholarship to attend the Maryland Institute of Art, and, while in her late 50's, earning her Masters Degree in Guidance and Counseling from Loyola.

Mary volunteers two days a week at the Red Cross of Central Maryland chapter headquarters. She began her service there six years ago, at the age of 86. Mary loves to travel and has traveled extensively internationally. She is an avid reader and life-long learner. Mary loves to stay busy. She does her own cooking, and can sew and make her own clothes. Mary also designs and makes jewelry, and ceramics.

Mary is a member of the Pennsylvania Avenue AME Zion Church, a life-time member of the NAACP, a volunteer at the Lamplight Inn Assisted Living Facility, and a member of the Red Hat Ladies Society of Govans. “I’ve been blessed with good health, and I believe to whom much is given, much is required.”

Reminder: The statewide Primary Election date is July 19, 2022.

## ABCPSR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT 2021-2022

### TYLER E. LEWIS

Tyler Lewis is a student at Bowie State University. She enjoys singing and dancing, but her major will be Political Science. Tyler has always wondered about what happens in the penal system once someone is sentenced to prison. She says she would like to help the inmates turn their lives around after making a bad decision. "It starts with a good lawyer making sure they get the proper sentencing and work with them after that."



Tyler stated for an elective she may consider a music or drama class to keep in touch in with the fine arts. Tyler has several older cousins who all have college degrees, and she will not break the chain of becoming a college graduate. She would like to thank ABCPSR for helping defray the cost of her college expenses.

### Fanny Jackson Coppin Statue Unveiling



On February 11, 2022, the statue of Fanny Jackson Coppin was unveiled at Coppin State University. In 1926, the High and Training School of Baltimore was re-named the Fanny Jackson Coppin Normal School, to honor her. Frances (Fanny) Marion Jackson Coppin (1837-1913) was an educator, missionary, and lifelong advocate for higher education. "As a Coppin Alumni, class of 74, it gives us great pride to honor this gracious lady." "Women's Month gives us a moment to realize our past and present strengths and future stars." Patricia Pickett, President, ABCPSR.

Pictured are ABCPSR members: Catherine Moore-DeFord, Past President and BCPSS Liaison, and Florine (Peaches) Camphor.

## **HOME REPAIR SCAMS**



Spring will soon be here, and as the weather warms up beware of home repair scams. Avoid becoming a victim by taking important precautions before having home repairs done.

**Beware of roving con artists.** Don't hire contractors who come to your door unsolicited. **Warning signs:** An offer of a reduced price because they've just done a job nearby and have "left over" materials; Refuse to give you a written estimate; A demand for cash up front; No street address or telephone number, just a post office box or an answering service.

**Deal only with licensed contractors.** Get recommendations from satisfied friends and neighbors; Ask to see the worker's Home Improvement Commission license, and check the license number and expiration date; Go to the Home Improvement Commission's website ([www.dllr.state.md.us/license/mhic](http://www.dllr.state.md.us/license/mhic)) to verify a contractor's license. Call the Home Improvement Commission at 410-230-6309 to ask about complaints filed against a company. Also call the Consumer Protection Division (410-528-8662) to ask about complaints filed against the company.

**Don't pay for unnecessary repairs.** Get estimates from at least two companies and be sure to ask if you will be charged a fee for an estimate. Find out exactly what work the project requires.

**Maryland law requires** that: 1) you are given at least five days to cancel a signed home improvement contract in a door-to-door sale (seven days if you are aged 65 years or older), 2) the contract must advise you of this right to cancel, and 3) the contractor can only collect one-third of the cost of the job at the time the contract is signed.

For a more in-depth look, check out "Consumer's Edge, Home Repair Scams" at ([http://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/CPD%20 Documents/Tips-Publications/127.pdf](http://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/CPD%20Documents/Tips-Publications/127.pdf)).

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ASSOCIATION of BALTIMORE CITY

PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREES, Inc.



ABC

PSR

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BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21209

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### Save the Date!

ABCPSR Luncheon - May 3, 2022  
The Forum Caterers / 4210 Primrose Ave. / 21215

#### LUNCHEON CO-CHAIRS

DOROTHY GLASCO-JONES JOYCE WILSON

#### NEWSLETTER CO-EDITORS

ANNA BOSTON JOYCE WILSON

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICE

(Please Print)

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Address \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Angela Hill, 3320 W. Rogers Ave., Baltimore, MD 21215

### MRSPA

The only organization that works to preserve the pensions of Baltimore City Public School Retirees. Sixty dollars (\$60.00) covers your membership in MRSPA and ABCPSR.

You may join through dues deduction.

MRSPA: 8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Odenton, MD 21113  
410-551-1517

Current ABCPSR President's contact number: 410-900-6781



## RSVP – An Invitation to Serve

### Lead With Experience

The Corporation for National and Community Service provides grants to qualified agencies and organizations, including RSVP, for the dual purpose of engaging persons 55 and older in volunteer service to meet critical community needs; and to provide a high quality experience that will enrich the lives of volunteers.

#### Who Is Eligible for RSVP?

Individuals that are 55 and older, want to serve in Baltimore City and want to make a difference.

#### RSVP Volunteer Opportunities

Companionship and Outreach, Mentoring, Health and Other Education, Helping Seniors Living Independently, Senior Center Programs, Community Revitalization and Improvement, Disaster Preparedness, Serving Meals to Seniors, Delivery of Health Care Services, Food Collection and Distribution, and Marketing and Recruitment.

#### Benefits of Volunteering

Free volunteer placement, use your experience skills, gain new and marketable skills, supplemental accident and liability insurance, opportunity to meet new people, training opportunities, reimbursement for transportation, recognition and incentives, and the satisfaction of knowing you are making a difference.

**For More Information, Call RSVP 410-361-9400  
or Stephanie Ross 410-361-9401**

