



newsletter

2020-2021 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.

January 11, 2021
No Meeting

February 8, 2021
Meeting/Conference Call

March 8, 2021
Meeting/Conference Call

April 12, 2021
Meeting/Conference Call

May 4, 2021 (TENTATIVE)
ABCPSR Spring Luncheon/
Business Meeting
The Forum Caterers

May, 2021
MRSPA Annual Spring Luncheon
TBA

June, 2021
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.

President's Message

Happy Holidays,

2020 is about to fizzle out. May she take all the bad, sad and miserable feelings with her. Let's prepare to welcome a new year with hope, peace and prayers for each other, family, and friends abound. It is a good time to echo what we are thankful for and make resolutions for new beginnings.



All of us on the Board are trying to come up with ways to help each other and you. Staying safe has a whole new meaning. Keep up with the notifications on closings/changes in the community through local news reports, newspapers, online ... etc.

Please ask family, friends, neighbors and/or religious affiliations for assistance, if needed. No man is an island. Call and talk. Music you like can be a great get away or a new book. Many libraries are practicing drive up pick-ups for called in or online requests.

We are going to try some Zoom online activities once a month so get help putting zoom on your computers. We will also try allowing call in participation for those who may not have a computer. If you have some ideas, let us know. How about a sing-along? We could use an art teacher to volunteer for an Artsy sip. You can pick up supplies at your local dollar store (Sip is BYO). Coloring books for adults (I like the ones for kids, like us) are a booming option, I hear.

It is more important to stay safe, wash hands, wear a mask, and socially distance than ever. We want to see you again. Hopefully, continue to stay in touch with those in and outside of your circle.

Hope to see you soon,

Patricia E. Pickett

STAY SAFE!

STAY HOME!

STAY STRONG!

CALLING ALL ABCPSR MEMBERS

Let's stay connected in 2021. Join ABCPSR on the second Tuesday of each month beginning January 12, 2021, from 2:00 - 2:30 p.m., for fun activities using Zoom. We are suggesting you have the materials needed on hand to make these activities more fun. The meeting ID# is: **884 9444 0644**. The password is: **abc**. You can join us by: (1) using your zoom account; (2) going to "zoom.us" on your device; OR (3) the email link which can be sent to your email address or cell phone. For more information contact Patricia Pickett, President, on 410-900-6781 or pepmxz1971@aol.com.

Schedule of Zoom Activities for 2021		
Month/Date	Topic	Materials Needed
January 12	Welcome in and Celebrate 2021	Horns, Hats, Noise Maker, Resolutions
February 9	Black History/Show Your Love Month	Favorite Quote/Poem, Balloon(s), Stuffed Animal
March 9	Women's History Month, Trivia Time	Wear Green, Thinking Cap
April 13	Brain Teasers	Jokes, Questions
May 11	Tribute to Mothers/Paint & Sip	Paper, Crayons, Pencils, Paint, Easel Libation
June 8	Culminating Celebration	Picnic Lunch, Cake, Punch

* * * * *

Complete the requested information and send to: Angela Hill, Membership Chair, 3320 W. Rogers Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215. **Deadline: December 31, 2020.**

I will participate in the ABCPSR Monthly Zoom Activities.

Name _____

Phone (h) (____) _____ (c) (____) _____

Email _____

BCPSS BOARD MEETINGS

Baltimore City Public School buildings remain closed due to the continuing fight to stop the spread of COVID-19. In the interim, all Board and committee meetings are being held remotely. Baltimore City Public Schools' Board Meetings are held usually on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. The public business meeting starts at 5:00 p.m. These meetings can be viewed live on Education Channel 77 and YouTube. For more information and the meeting schedule, log on to: baltimorecityschools.org.

Catherine Moore-Deford, Liaison to BCPSS

ABCPSR MEMBERSHIP

The Association of Baltimore City Public School Retirees, (ABCPSR), currently has 736 members and 112 emeritus members, aged 90 and over. We welcome our new members: Yvonne D. Oliver, Andrea R. Bowden, Nelson Cabatac, Walter Cole, Patrick L. Watkins, Terry Williams, Vernice Williams, Nathan K. Anstin, Arnetta Boyd, Denise A. Foster-Rosado, Theresa Joann Holly, Dyane Jones-Munford, and Freddie A. Bullock.

The ABCPSR Membership Committee is committed to continuing the work of recruiting members. An ongoing membership 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 reduction on the cost of dues (\$50). The NEW member must complete an application form signing up for dues deduction, with your name written on the application before it is sent to MRSPA.

For current CASH paying members, there is an invitation to switch to dues deduction. This member is eligible for a one time reduction in the cost of dues (\$50). Members need to complete and return a DUES DEDUCTION AUTHORIZATION FORM found on the MRSPA website under Switch and Save.

Please feel free to contact Angela Hill, ABCPSR Membership Chair, if you need applications or have any questions at: hill21214@gmail.com. Happy Holidays!

GENERAL MEETINGS/LUNCHEON

ABCPSR is planning its Annual Spring Business/Luncheon Meeting for Tuesday, May 4, 2021, at The Forum Caterers, 4210 Primrose Avenue, 21215. As you know, due to COVID-19, this could change. If we are able to meet in-person by May, luncheon details will be provided in the Spring newsletter. Thank you for your patience. Stay safe. We hope to be able to see you soon.

FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE

Prayers and well wishes are being sent to Clifford Rosenberg, Assistant Treasurer, ABCPSR. Mr. Rosenberg suffered a serious injury due to a fall.



Sympathy Cards were sent to Patricia Pickett for the loss of her sister, and Angela Hill for the loss of her sister-in-law. A Get Well Card was sent to Herbert Miller, and a Thinking of You Card was sent to Patricia Pickett.

Sympathy Cards were sent to the families of departed members: Anne O. Emery, Mary McGhee, Mentora E. Thompson, Robert Palumbi, and Thomasina Bowie.

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

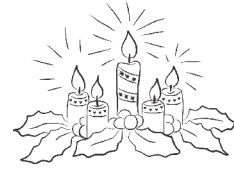
SAD NEWS



It is with profound sadness that we inform you of the sudden death of ABCPSR Past President, Robert (Bob) Palumbi on November 15, 2020. Mr. Palumbi served as President from 1999-2000, and served on several committees. Mr. Palumbi was our financial guru and kept us abreast of financial issues concerning BCPSS. He will be greatly missed.

HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY

The top three days of the year for home candle fires are Christmas, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day.



1. Only use decorations that are flame-retardant or not flammable.
2. Check holiday lights each year for frayed wires or excessive wear.
3. Don't link more than three strands of holiday lights.
4. Never leave a burning candle unattended. Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that burns. Consider using battery-operated flameless candles.
5. Keep your live Christmas tree at least 3 feet away from heat sources and room exits.
6. Water your live Christmas tree daily to keep it from becoming dry.
7. Get rid of your live Christmas tree after Christmas or when it is dry.

usfa.fema.gov

MORTGAGE RELIEF AND FORECLOSURE PREVENTION

Financial Regulation

The State of Maryland has emergency orders in place to protect homeowners facing foreclosure. **The residential foreclosure process cannot be initiated until January 4, 2021**, pursuant to [Governor Hogan's executive order 20-10-16-01](#).

If you are unable to pay your mortgage, or facing foreclosure because of COVID-19 related circumstances, notify your mortgage lender or servicer (the company where you send your monthly payments) as soon as possible to find out if you qualify for a COVID-19 mortgage relief program. You may be able to request a temporary suspension of loan payments, called "forbearance". The federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides assistance to some mortgage borrowers experiencing financial hardships directly or indirectly related to COVID-19.

If there was already a foreclosure action filed in court or you received a Notice of Intent to Foreclose prior to April 3, 2020, then the foreclosure case may proceed.

For more information and resources that are available visit:

<https://www.dllr.state.md.us/finance/consumers/frmortgagecovid.shtml>.

UTILITIES ASSISTANCE

BGE Updates

BGE reminds its customers there are many payment and billing options and energy assistance programs available for those having difficulty keeping their accounts up to date. Service terminations can be avoided if customers contact BGE before their accounts are in arrears to discuss options.

Following guidance from the Maryland Public Service Commission, BGE has expanded billing and payment options to include:

- Elimination of down payment/security deposit requirements to secure a payment arrangement
- Extension of payment periods for balances for a minimum of 12 months for residential customers or 24 months for customers receiving energy assistance from the state's Office Home Energy Programs (OHEP)
- BGE will also connect customers to agency energy assistance funds

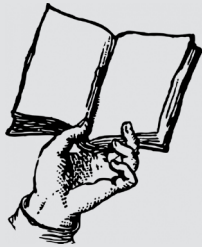
The most important step that residential customers who are not current on their BGE bill can take is to contact BGE at 1-800-685-1023 and **BGE.com/assistance** as soon as possible. BGE customers can apply for energy assistance through the Maryland Department of Human Services, by contacting their **Local Energy Assistance Office**, or by calling the Office of Home Energy Programs at 1-800-332-6347. BGE customers who have completed the energy assistance process with the State can also apply for further assistance with the **Fuel Fund of Maryland**.

WATER BILLING

County Executive Olszewski and Mayor Young have announced joint efforts that neither jurisdiction will turn off water service for failure to pay while Maryland is under a State of Emergency. County residents should contact the City of Baltimore at <https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/Water-Billing-Questions> or call 410-396-5398 with questions about their water bill.

ELECTION RESULTS

ABCPSR would like to congratulate all winners of Election 2020. We celebrate the historic wins for diversity across the nation. Thank you to all election workers and volunteers, and especially every one of you who voted!



Suggested Reading: For those of you who have some time on your hands, or just like reading good books, Mary Gaskins is recommending “We’re Better Than This”, by Elijah Cummings with James Dale. Publisher: HarperCollins. This book is available for purchase as an ebook on Audible, Google Play Books, and Kindle.

It is also available to borrow from Maryland’s Digital Library as an ebook.

IN-PERSON HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

- Wash your hands.
- Wear a mask.
- Stay 6 ft. apart.
- If indoors, open a window if possible.
- Have one person serve food.
- Don’t play loud music. (Singing and talking loud may cause spew.)
- Don't drink alcohol. (Drinking may disinhibit you and cause hugging.)



VIRTUAL CELEBRATIONS

- Use Zoom, Facetime, make phone calls
- Connect with people before or after dinner
- Search for recipes on-line

After Dinner: Play games (virtual or in person)

ABCPSR would like to wish everyone a Safe, Healthy, Joyful Holiday!

ASSOCIATION of BALTIMORE CITY

PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREES, Inc.



ABC

PSR

1400 WEST COLD SPRING LANE • ROOM 111
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21209

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Save the Date!

ABCPSR Luncheon - (Tentative) May 4, 2021
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**

