



HRSPA Newsletter

A Newsletter for the Henrico Retired School Personnel Association

March 2019



Luncheon Meeting
Thursday, April 25, 2019
Willow Oaks Country Club

11:15 a.m. Registration & Social Time

11:45 a.m. Luncheon followed by Program and Business Meeting

Menu: House Salad, freshly baked rolls and butter, Greek Marinated Chicken Breast, Lemon and Herb Roasted Potatoes, Squash and Zucchini with Roasted Red Peppers and Feta, Greek Baklava and Dark Chocolate Full Sized Cupcakes

Program/Entertainment: Dr. Amy Cashwell, Superintendent of Henrico County Public Schools
2019 HRSPA Scholarship Winners

(Cost \$22.00. Reservations due by Friday, April 18, 2019. Form and directions to Willow Oaks on p.5)



President's Message

Welcome spring! Oh how I've missed you. To me spring is a rebirth of beauty and vitality. The vivid colors of nature surpass an artist's palette. I also think that this feeling of a coming rebirth applies to those who are getting ready to retire and those who will graduate. These occasions are their own sort of commencement for new adventures and challenges. It is with great excitement and pride that HRSPA can play a part in these life events. Our scholarship program benefits a high school senior seeking a teaching degree and two Henrico County Public Schools employees furthering their education. It is because of our member's continuing support that we are able to provide money for these deserving people. Attending our luncheons and contributing to the scholarship fund are what sustains this mission. We would like to continually add to this program monetarily, but this depends on our membership and their support. Let's hope all of the new retirees will join and that we pick up more people who have retired in the past. More members means more scholarship help. More members also means a renewal of friendships and comradery. I hope to see you at our next luncheon.

Jackie Warren



Who is looking out for you?

by Bill Pike

I can see it now--Henrico legislators credit the diligence of the Henrico Retired School Personnel Association (HRSPA) for changing their minds and votes to protect retiree assets.

When I retired from Henrico Country Public Schools, one of the first things I did was join HRSPA. I had many reasons for joining-----friendships, quality programs during their twice a year luncheons, volunteer opportunities, philanthropy (student and teacher scholarships), inclusiveness, and their capacity to be a **"watch dog"** for monitoring all things legislative.

In truth, this group's monitoring of all things legislative was the key reason for my joining. My homework told me that HRSPA had established itself as being thorough and effective in understanding bills that potentially could benefit or hurt retired school personnel. Woven into this was their ability to interact with our politicians on a personal basis. In turn, HRSPA is good in their communication with its members by letting us know when we need to reach out to our elected officials on key pieces of legislation.

One of my favorite characters from The Andy Griffith Show was Ernest T. Bass. Quite simply, when Mr. Bass came into Mayberry from the mountains, he was a nuisance and a pest for Sheriff Taylor and Deputy Fife. Now none of us with HRSPA wants to be a pest, but we do need your help with a tiny concern--**membership!!!**

Over the last few years, we have been challenged in sustaining our membership, and that's where we need you. If you know a fellow Henrico retiree who isn't a member, we would really appreciate you encouraging your retired friend(s) to join HRSPA. We are certain that you can convey to your friend(s) why he or she should join, but knowing that HRSPA is going to be a legislative **"watch dog"** for all members is really important for every member's future.

Our board is committed to growing our membership. We have some new ideas, but we are happy to consider your suggestions too. If you have some, just send us an e-mail at hrspa@hotmail.com.

Thanks for your time and consideration. Enjoy the days of spring.

MEMBERSHIP

Our current membership totals 351. If you have not yet joined, now is a good opportunity to join us. Check out this newsletter to see all the benefits that are offered to our members. If your membership date is **highlighted** on the address label, it is time for you to renew. A form and return envelope are enclosed in this newsletter. We don't want to lose touch!

In May we will be contacting 2019 retirees via the pony. Once everything is compiled an updated list will be emailed to the membership.

Changes to your email or address? Please update us so that you can stay informed. Questions? You may reach me at susanhaw@comcast.net or 804-730-3162 and leave a message.

Susan Howe,
Membership Chair



Help
Boost our
Membership

Pay for a new retiree's membership and/or invite and pay for a potential member's luncheon. We need to keep our organization strong and vibrant!!!

Visit our website:
<http://hrspa.org>





SCHOLARSHIP

This year HRSPA is giving one scholarship in the amount of \$2000 to a graduating senior in Henrico County Public Schools who is planning to pursue a degree in the field of education. In addition, two scholarships in the amount of \$1000 each will be given to present personnel who are taking classes to pursue another degree or obtain recertification. The information was sent out to schools in early January, with a deadline for submission for all three scholarships of March 15, 2019. Please encourage friends and family members to apply for these scholarships in the future as this year's deadline will have already passed for this year.

In addition, we encourage you to honor former colleagues or mentors that you had in the field of education with a donation to our scholarship fund. You may always donate money in memory of a deceased member or friend. This is one of our most important activities each year, and we are all enriched by hearing from our scholarship winners at our spring luncheon.

Pat Rollison
Scholarship Chair



Scholarship Donations October, 2018---March, 2019

Donor	In Memory of
Dave Chilton	Cris Chilton
Lee Reynolds	Carol Townes

VRTA



Please consider joining the Virginia Retired Teachers Association. As you know, there is legislative clout in numbers. VRTA pays a lobbyist, Bonnie Atwood, for the General Assembly who helps all statewide locals including HRSPA prepare and stay abreast of legislative concerns. They also sponsor VRTA Day at the GA which is organized and spearheaded by Bea Morris, VRTA Legislative Chair. Bea has affectionately become known as the retired teacher mouthpiece and is highly respected by legislators. She provides a very valuable service to all of us and receives only expenses for her hard work on our behalf. Tina Whitaker, HRSPA legislative chair, has visited with every legislator who represents Henrico County and took our concerns directly to each one. Tina, Bea, and Bonnie are part of the reason that the Tebow Law was not enacted and that the Kings Dominion Law was finally changed to give more flexibility to school district scheduling. All three and others continue to work toward medical credit funding fairness for support personnel. Your members in VRTA and HRSPA will ensure that the voices of retired personnel continue to be heard. Please join! Visit VRTA.org or HRSPA.org for more information.

Becky Goshorn
VRTA Liaison

TREASURY REPORT



Personal dues, gifts and scholarship donations for 2019 should be mailed to **Becky Goshorn, 2600 Southbay Drive, Henrico, VA 23233.**

Current balances:

HRSPA - \$10,665.90

Scholarship - \$4,642.06

Total Bank Accounts - \$15,307.96

Reminder: All members whose label has the date of 6/30/19 at the top need to pay dues no later than 6/30/19 in order to remain an active member.

Becky Goshorn
Treasurer



REMEMBRANCE

Since Our last HRSPA newsletter, there have been 35 obituary notices of HCPS colleagues. HRSPA acknowledgements are made to funeral home online services or with a card by postal service. Of those 35, 3 were active members, 7 were inactive members, 8 had never joined HRSPA, and 17 were not in our database or were not yet retired. There were 8 sympathy or get-well cards sent, 7 of those were for HRSPA members. We rely on the newspaper for obit notices, but your assistance is always needed to avail us of deaths, surgeries, and illnesses, so please be sure and contact us with such information about any of our colleagues at (dianne4744@verizon.net). Below is the list of active and inactive members who were in the deceased list for the past 6 months.

Susan Brock	Carol Townes
Sarah Hoggard	Mary Varnier
Anita Booker	Esther Crisman
William Lyon	Phoebe Easley
Lila Bradford	Anne Southworth

Dianne Hughes Shuler
Remembrance Chair

Thoughts
by
Maya Angelou

I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision.

I've learned when I have pains, I don't have to be one.

I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone.

I've learned that I still have a lot to learn.

I've learned that people will forget what you said, forget when you did it, but will never forget how you made them feel.



LEGISLATIVE

The committee met in the fall to finalize our Legislative Priorities and plan our visits with legislators. Members of the committee were able to meet with almost all of the Henrico delegates and senators to discuss our 2019 priorities. Those representatives we did not meet with were sent letters and emails with our priorities.

Committee members also attended the **VRTA Lobby Day** at the Virginia General Assembly. That day we met with five Henrico delegates to discuss educational issues. Our State Legislative Chair, Bea Morris coordinated the events of the day. VRTA members were introduced and recognized in both the House and the Senate.

2019 Legislative Priorities

Safeguarding and improving the quality of life of retired school personnel

Any changes made to the current VRS retirement plans should be carefully studied to minimize their impact on the unfunded liability.

Provide the health insurance credit for all retired school support personnel.

Supporting and improving public education

Support local school boards authority of charter schools

Protect the SOQ and fully fund it

Fund salaries at a level that ensures teaching as a viable career

Fund salaries for all teachers at no less than the national average

Expand recruitment and retention of teachers

Respect local school boards authority to establish their own school calendars

Oppose vouchers and expansion of tuition tax credits

Reinstate funding for capital improvements of public schools

Pass an amendment to end gerrymandering

Ratify the ERA amendment

LEGISLATIVE (cont'd.)

So how did we do in the 2019 General Assembly?

As of this writing, the General Assembly had adjourned and bills are awaiting the governor's signature.

The bill that would have given health insurance credits to all school employees was tabled in the House Subcommittee on a 4-3 vote. We will continue to fight for this.

A bill to allow local school boards to determine their school calendar was passed.

A 5% raise for teachers was put in the state budget.

The legislators added \$26 million to the budget for at risk schools.

School discipline reform was passed to ensure students were in class.

Many school safety measures were passed, including added counselors, clarifying the role of law enforcement in school, and investing in school safety infrastructure.

ERA was voted down.

An independent group was appointed to end gerrymandering and draw new voting districts.

Tina Whitaker
Legislative Chair

PHILANTHROPY

HRSPA and its members donated hundreds of dollars and hours of volunteer service to the Henrico Christmas Mother. Many thanks to all of you who participated in this. **SS Challenge** is our charity this month. The **Henrico Education Foundation** welcomes donations of school supplies but especially needs monetary donations. You may bring your donations to the luncheon or send donations directly to the **Henrico Education Foundation** but please make checks payable to **Henrico Education Foundation** and designate **SS Challenge** in the memo section of your check.

As always, thank you for your support of our philanthropy projects.

Mary Brownfield
Philanthropy Chair



HRSPA CALENDAR

April 25, 2019

Spring Luncheon

April 29-May 1, 2019

VRTA Spring Conference

September 5, 2019

BOD Meeting

October, 2019

VRTA Conference

October 31, 2019

Fall Luncheon



LUNCH RESERVATION

Fill out the form below and return it with your check (made payable to HRSPA) by Friday, April 18, 2019. Mail to Bonnie Thompson, 2222 Oak Bay Lane, Henrico, VA 23233.

PLEASE PRINT PLAINLY

Name you want printed on your luncheon name tag: _____

Name(s) of Guest(s): _____

Number attending the luncheon: _____ @\$22.00= _____ (Total amount sent)

This is my first HRSPA luncheon: ____yes ____no

____Check here if you are interested in volunteering for a position on the board or serve on a committee.

------(cut along the dotted line)-----

Directions to Willow Oaks Country Club

From Northside: From I-95 heading South, take Exit 79 for 195 South-Powwhite Parkway exit. Follow 195 South across the James River to the first exit-Forest Hill Avenue. Bear right after passing through the \$.75 toll onto Forest Hill Avenue. Travel 100 yards to entrance on the right.

From Southside: Take Chippenham Parkway to Forest Hill Avenue East exit. Travel East on Forest Hill Avenue approximately 1 mile to the entrance on the left. If you cross the railroad tracks you have gone too far.

From West End: Take 195 South-Powwhite Parkway exit. Follow 195 South across the James River to the first exit - Forest Hill Avenue. Bear right after passing through the \$.75 toll onto Forrest Hill Avenue. Travel 100 yards to the entrance on the right.

From East End: Take I-64 West to Richmond. Follow signs to I-95 North/I-64 West (stay in far right land). Travel I-95 North approximately 1 mile and exit I-95 for Powwhite Parkway (195 South) and I-64 West. Exit to the left to 195 South. Follow 195 South to the first exit across the James River-Forest Hill Avenue. Bear right after passing through the \$.75 toll onto Forrest Hill Avenue. Travel 100 yards to the entrance on the right.



MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Membership cards are issued only once, however, if you have lost your card or you have never received one, please let Lee Reynolds know at lreynolds0413@aol.com or 804-273-0216 and she will issue you one.



STAPLES REWARDS

Please remember to use your Staples Reward number printed on the back of your membership card when making personal purchases and returning used ink cartridges. Not going to Staples any time soon....just bring or send your used ink cartridges to the luncheon and give them to Lee Reynolds and she will turn them in for HRSPA rewards.



Bonnie Nicholas was our raffle winner at the November luncheon winning \$55.00. **Congrats Bonnie!**

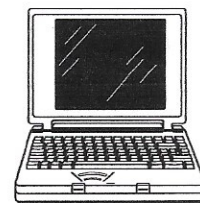


COUPON CLIPPERS

Our Clippers are busy clipping and collecting General Mills' Box Tops 4 Education all year long.

Please volunteer to become a member of this group. It only involves clipping these box tops and sending them to me at 403 Regina Drive, Richmond, Va 23238 or bring them to the luncheon.

Mary Brownfield,
Philanthropy Chair



EMAILS

If you have email and are not receiving emails from us, it's because we do not have your correct email address. Please send us an email at hrspa@hotmail.com so that we can add you to our electronic mailings.