



# HRSPA Newsletter

A Newsletter for the Henrico Retired School Personnel Association

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Luncheon Meeting  
Willow Oaks Country Club

October 2021

## Cancelled

Because of COVID-19, HRSPA must again cancel our October luncheon. We hope this health crisis will be over soon and that we will see you at our April 2022 luncheon/meeting. Please stay healthy, wash your hands frequently, wear a mask, get your vaccine and practice social distancing.

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### *President's Message*

*It's hard to believe that another year has passed without seeing our former colleagues and friends. Our luncheons were always a way to connect, learn, and be entertained. They also were the foundation for association's fiscal growth along with our membership dues. Needless to say, without these events many memberships have expired and haven't been renewed. We also have not gotten any of the new retirees from 2020 and 2021 to join. Our organization of over 500 members has drastically declined to about 135.*

*As spring approaches and hope of a return of the luncheons, let's push to encourage our colleagues and friends to "re-up" or join for the first time. Remind people of all we do for education and the community ....Henrico Christmas Mother, Henrico Education Foundation school supply challenge, high school senior scholarships, Henrico school personnel scholarships, high school junior's book award, and a myriad of volunteer activities. There is so much more we could do with more participation. These past two years have been hard on families, businesses, and organizations. Let's begin to focus on the future and build back our organization. Education has never needed more support, and we have a wealth of talent to offer in so many ways.*

*See you all in April (she said optimistically),  
Jackie Warren*

## **HRSPA CALENDAR**



The HRSPA Newsletter  
will again be sent via emails.

**January 27, 2022**

**VRTA Day**

**April 28, 2022**

Future calendar dates will be set  
by the BOD pending the situation with  
COVID-19



## **PHILANTHROPY**

Our philanthropy project for October is the **Henrico Christmas Mother**. Unusual times calls for unusual methods of dealing with things. Because we are not having our usual luncheon and are sending the newsletter by email blast, it is necessary for us to send our donations directly to the **Henrico Christmas Mother** at P.O. Box 70338, Henrico, VA 23225-0338 or online through the **Henrico Christmas Mother** website. Because of COVID-19, material donations cannot be accepted. If you send a check, please make sure you put HRSPA in the memo section of your check.

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

Mary Brownfield  
Philanthropy Chair

## **VRTA**



The fall conference has been CANCELED. However, there will be a one hour Zoom meeting on October 26 at 10:00 AM for the first 100 people in the state who sign up with Karen Whetzel, kswhetzel@gmail.com. Hopefully, the spring conference will take place in 2022.

This year VRTA is working with AARP to help get legislation standardized for nursing home staffing. Together they are also working on making prescription drugs affordable.

VRTA currently has 4,735 members. \$81,800 was given in scholarships and hundreds of awards were given by the Virginia chapter and districts this past year.

When you become a member of VRTA, you become eligible for all the benefits Creekside Insurance Advisors have to offer. These benefits include personalized choices for Medicare supplements, life, car, homeowners, and umbrella insurance. Financial advisors are available along with specialists for estate planning, wills, and trusts. The cost benefits to VRTA members are substantial. You should start to get a newsletter from Creekside around the 15th of each month.

Jackie Warren  
VRTA



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



## **TREASURY REPORT**

The account balances as of 10/15/2021 is \$8,810.02 in the HRSPA general fund and \$1,078.93 in the Scholarship fund giving us a total bank account balance of \$9,888.95.

Please use the Staples Reward number on the back of your membership card when making personal purchases at Staples to help us garner rewards points which help with our supply and printing expenses.

Bonnie Thompson  
Treasurer



## **BOOK AWARDS**

Each year HRSPA gives each high school the opportunity to recognize a junior who has contributed to another student or students in terms of tutoring, mentoring, etc. We award Pat Conroy's book **The Water is Wide** and a \$25 gift card to Barnes and Nobel. Because of COVID, we were unable to award it this year.



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!!!



## SCHOLARSHIP

The past year and a half have taken their toll on the HRSPA coffers. As a result, the board has made a tough decision to suspend our student and teacher scholarships for the 2021-2022 school year. We feel that our scholarships are a special signature of this organization. When we have awarded \$2000 to a deserving student pursuing a degree in education and \$1000 each to two Henrico educators who wish to further their education, we truly felt that their success was our success.

We hope that this will be a one-year suspension, and to a degree, that depends on you. There are two routes you can take to ensure that our scholarship program continues in the future: (1) renew your membership if it has lapsed (2) make a donation to the scholarship fund in memory or in honor of someone who has been important to you in your career or someone in which you wish to honor in this way.

**Pat Rollison**

**Scholarship Chair**

## Teachers

By Kevin William Huff  
Teachers

Paint their minds  
and guide their thoughts  
Share their achievements  
and advise their faults  
Inspire a Love  
of knowledge and truth  
As you light the path  
For our future brightens  
with each lesson you teach  
Each Smile you lengthen  
Each goal you help reach  
For the dawn of each poet  
each philosopher and king  
Begins with a Teacher  
And the wisdom they bring.

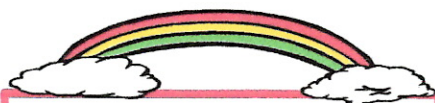
# In Memory

## SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

April 2021-October 2021

<u>Donor</u>	<u>In Memory of</u>
Bruce Bowen	Al Dudley
Mary Ann Cisne	Larkin Goshorn
Catherine Durvin	Larkin Goshorn Lois Martin
Rebecca Miller	Kathy Dixon Lois Martin
Lee Reynolds	Larkin Goshorn
Patricia Rollison	Larkin Goshorn
Bonnie Thompson	Kathy Dixon Larkin Goshorn Lois Martin
Jackie Warren	Larkin Goshorn Jean Halterman Adele Johnson Lois Martin Linda Mitchell Ann Wiltshire

The HRSPA Board has also donated to the Scholarship fund and to the Henrico Christmas Mother in memory of Larkin Goshorn.



*After the clouds, the sunshine;  
After the winter, the spring;  
After the shower, the rainbow,  
for life is a changeable thing.*

*After the night, the morning  
bidding all darkness cease.  
After life's cares and woes,  
the comfort and sweetness of peace.*

*Helen Steiner Rice.*



## REMEMBRANCE

Since our last HRSPA newsletter, there have been 31 obituary notices of HCPS colleagues. Of those 31, 3 were active members, 8 were inactive members, 9 had never joined HRSPA, and 11 were not in our database or were not yet retired. HRSPA acknowledgements are made to funeral home online services (14) or with a card by postal service (11), however because so many deaths are currently not being serviced by funeral homes and because the family or address information we have is outdated or unavailable (6), we often do not have a place to send HRSPA condolences, or when we do, those by mail are sometimes returned.

So often we do not receive information about a colleague's surgery or illness, so a card is not sent and we would like to acknowledge more get-well situations and/or family deaths of colleagues. All of this makes your assistance even more important, so if you have information regarding a colleague, please be sure and contact us.

Your donations to our HRSPA Scholarship Fund is a special way to honor a colleague who has passed. Remembrances can be made in honor of any colleague from the past, not just this year.

As for now, below is the list of active and inactive members who are in the deceased list for the past 7 months and prior to the printing of this newsletter.

**Shirley Baker**  
**Josephine Zitta**  
**Janice Reynolds**  
**Ann Tucker**  
**Carol Powers**

**Patty Marrow**  
**Susan O'Connor**  
**Evelyn Papa**  
**Geneva Webb**  
**Lois Martin**

**Dianne Hughs Shuler**  
**Remembrance Chair**



## MEMBERSHIP

Our paid membership is down to 108 with over 100 folks who have not renewed and no new members joining. You can readily see how dire it is to increase our membership to continue to function as a worthwhile and productive organization. PLEASE carefully read the letter from our membership chair below. We have also enclosed a membership form in this newsletter. Please encourage others to join our ranks. I look forward to when we can meet again to enjoy lunch and each others company.

Lee Reynolds

Newsletter Editor

### HRSPA Membership - \$10!!

Ten dollars goes a long way with membership in HRSPA. With the new school year now is a great time to renew/join us.



- Retirees from 2020 and 2021 have not been contacted as we do not have their email addresses. Within the next two weeks a flyer will be mailed to over 300 retirees to invite them to join us. If you know of a person who has retired in the last 2 years please reach out and ask them to become a part of

HRSPA.

- Retirees whose membership has lapsed will be receiving an email with details to renew. Be on the lookout for this email. Remember, WE REPRESENT ALL EMPLOYEES of HCPS.
- Retirees are also asked to consider joining VRTA (Virginia Retirement Teachers Association) when renewing. They have so much information to share with retirees as well as discounts on financial planning. It is well worth the membership fee to stay up-to-date with all aspects of retirement.
- Volunteers are always needed in any organization. Let us know if you would be interested in becoming more involved. We also volunteer for other agencies.
- HRSPA's newsletter will show many activities we support. You will be glad you spent the \$10. Our website contains the most recent newsletter(spring, 2021). Check it out!

<http://hrspa.org/welcome-to-hrspa/>

We look forward to hearing from you!

Susan Howe

Membership Chair

[susanhoe@comcast.net](mailto:susanhoe@comcast.net)

804-730-3162



join us

HRSPA

# Henrico Retired School Personnel Association

[hrspa.org](http://hrspa.org)

Welcome! Communication has been difficult, but we are focusing on you, our retirees for 2020 and 2021. We are a retiree organization for ALL HCPS retirees (custodians, C&M, support personnel, nurses, teaching assistants, teachers, administrators, and friends of education) and invite you to join us.

As a first line of defense we work to protect and encourage better retirement benefits for retirees and to support and advocate for good public school policies in Henrico County and the state of Virginia. We work with VRTA to lobby for education. We are involved with philanthropy for Henrico Schools. We work with VRA and AARP to provide you with updated news and opportunities to enhance your retirement.

Take a peek at our spring newsletter on our website at [hrspa.org](http://hrspa.org). Check out all we do. For just \$10 a year you can become a member and enjoy all the benefits you see on our website. All it takes is completing the form at the bottom of the page and sending it to us along with \$10.



## HENRICO RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION (HRSPA)

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION: ( ) NEW ( ) RENEWAL ( )

FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ NAME PREFERRED IF DIFFERENT: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

If spouse is also Henrico School retiree, both of you can join for price of one – PLEASE include spouse's name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

YEAR RETIRED: \_\_\_\_\_ LAST WORK LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_ POSITION: \_\_\_\_\_

(Teachers: Please indicate grade level and/or subject.)

HRSPA Membership Dues: (check one)  
(Couples count as one membership.)

( ) One year @ \$ 10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) Three years @ \$ 25.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

VRTA Membership Dues: (optional, check one)  
(VA Retired Teachers Assoc.)

( ) One year @ \$ 20.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) Three years @ \$ 60.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) Lifetime @ \$ 200.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

( Donor Name IF this is a gift membership \_\_\_\_\_ ) TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in information, make checks payable to HRSPA.

Visit our website: [www.hrspa.org](http://www.hrspa.org)

Interested in volunteering? ( ) Yes. ( ) No.

Mail to: Bonnie Thompson (HRSPA Treasurer)  
2222 Oak Bay Lane  
HENRICO, VA 23233

Questions: Susan Howe (Membership)  
[susanhowe@comcast.net](mailto:susanhowe@comcast.net)  
804-730-3162



**HENRICO RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION**  
(Website: [hrspa.org](http://hrspa.org))

**LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**  
**2022**

**Safeguarding and improving the quality of life of retired school personnel**

- Study carefully any changes made to the current VRS retirement plans to minimize their impact on the unfunded liability.
- Fully fund the VRS actuary's recommended contribution rate and oppose any rate holiday, etc. that would jeopardize working toward reducing the unfunded liability.

**Supporting and improving public education**

- Fully fund the revised Standards of Quality to accurately reflect what it costs to educate students and support their mental health needs.
- Protect per pupil funding by opposing vouchers and the expansion of tuition tax credit programs.
- Increase funds directed towards Virginia's most at-risk students.
- Adhere to all recommendations the scientific and medical communities deem necessary to provide for the safety and well being of students and staff. This includes ppe, masks, social distancing, etc.
- School and work environments for both students and public educational employees should be safe.
- Discipline policies should be developed, implemented, and applied in a non-discriminatory manner.
- Educational Support Personnel should be compensated at a level that provides no less than a living wage.
- Teacher salaries should be at or above the national average.

**Community Concerns**

- Guarantee safe and secure voting for every citizen.
- Protect citizens' rights to nonviolent expression of free speech and assembly.

**Tina Whitaker**  
**Vice-President, Legislative Chair**