



HRSPA Newsletter

A Newsletter for the Henrico Retired School Personnel Association

October 2023

October Luncheon

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Recreation Center, Deep Run Park

9900 Ridgefield Parkway

Richmond, VA 23233

11:15 am – Registration and Social Time

11:45 – Luncheon followed by Program and Business Meeting

Luncheon catered by Deep Run Roadhouse

Pork Barbecue, Brisket, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Cole Slaw, Sweet Potatoes, Rolls,

Key Lime Pie, Chocolate Mousse Pie, Tea, Lemonade, Water

Program: FAMILIES FIRST

We have HENRICO CHRISTMAS MOTHER, CASA, FACE, and HEF

(Cost \$25.00. Reservations due Monday, October 16, 2023. Reservation form on page 5.)

President's Message

As we wind our way through the third quarter of the year, our thoughts move through the coming of fall with its beautiful foliage, pumpkin spice everything, goblins, and or turkeys and family. From there it is a short skip to the December holidays and a new year. For most of us, it is a joyous time of year. However, there are so many in our Henrico County community who have so little to celebrate. With this in mind, we have set up a program that highlights how we can help our community. We will have speakers from the Henrico Education foundation (HEF), the Henrico Christmas Mother, Henrico Schools' Family and Community Engagement (FACE), and Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). Each of these will explain their mission and their needs.

Please continue to support the Christmas Mother with your annual donations. At our luncheon we will be collecting school supplies for the HEF and canned or boxed food for our schools' food banks. It may surprise you to know there are on-site food banks in many of the Henrico schools. In the spring we donated food items to Godwin High School.

Thank you for your continued contributions to the needs of our students. Your time, money, and moral support mean so much.

Jackie Warren, President



MEMBERSHIP

Membership is at 96! This is a tremendous drop dating back to the pandemic. Please consider renewing your membership at only \$10/yr. or \$25/3yrs (tax deductible). New retirees: we would love to welcome you to our group.

Benefits include new updates for the Virginia Retirement webpage which always add new resources and ways to manage your money (<https://varetire.org/>). Our HRSPA newsletter shares websites that keep you informed of money management tips. (<https://hrspa.org/>).

Our spring and fall luncheons are opportunities to meet with former colleagues and guest speakers who share their knowledge of great opportunities for us. This fall we will hear from CASA, FACE, Christmas Mother, and HEF.

If a membership form is included in this newsletter, it is time to renew or join if you are a new retiree!

Please join us!!!

Susan Howe
Membership Chair



TREASURY

The account balances as of 9/6/23 are \$8,297.39 in the HRSPA general fund and \$100.93 in the Scholarship fund resulting in a total balance of \$8,398.32.

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

All monies for membership and/or scholarship should be sent to me at 2222 Oak Bay Lane, Henrico, VA 23233. Please make sure you indicate what the money is for in the memo section of your check.



SCHOLARSHIP

This year we will be able to offer a \$1000 scholarship to a graduate of Henrico County Schools who is planning to pursue a career in education. We will be able to give a \$500 scholarship to an employee who is upgrading their credentials. If you have been an HRSPA member for a while, you will remember that we have been offering a \$2000 scholarship for students and multiple \$500-\$1000 scholarships for employees. There was even one year that we were able to offer a \$3000 scholarship for students. Sadly, our membership is down and our coffers being somewhat depleted has forced this downgrade. Scholarship materials will go out to the schools in January. If you know of a student who is eligible for this scholarship, please encourage him/her to talk to their counselors and apply for this scholarship. The same holds true for an employee who can profit from this tuition assistance. If you, like members of the scholarship committee, are disappointed by this downgrade in funding, won't you donate to the scholarship fund? This is a special part of our mission as an organization.

Pat Rollison
Scholarship Chair

Scholarship Donations

<u>Donor</u>	<u>In Memory/Honor of</u>
Lee Reynolds	Becky Goshorn, Cris Chilton, Maripat Hyatt, Swift Williams
Bruce Bowen	Al Dudley
Bonnie Clatterbough	Becky Goshorn Cris Chilton
Beth Metcalf	Pearl Clark
Bonnie Thompson	Pearl Clark
Shirley Uzel	Bev Parsley
Patricia Rollison	Becky Goshorn
Dianne Hughs Shuler	Swift Williams

Becky Miller used her raffle winnings to renew her membership and donated the rest to the scholarship fund during the March luncheon.

REMEMBRANCE



Since our last newsletter, there were 22 obituary notices of HCPS colleagues. Of those 22, 4 were active HRSPA members, 5 were inactive members, 4 had never joined HRSPA, and 9 were not in our database or were not yet retired or may not have retired from HCPS. HRSPA acknowledgements are made to funeral home online services (11) or with cards by postal service (8). Because so many deaths are now not being serviced by funeral homes or because the family or address information we have is outdated or unavailable (3), we often do not have a place to send HRSPA condolences, and sometimes the ones mailed are often returned to us.

Sympathy or get-well cards were sent to 2 HRSPA members and again we rarely receive information about a colleague's surgery or illness. So, a card is not sent. We really would like to acknowledge more get-well situations and/or family deaths of colleagues, which makes your assistance very important. If you have information regarding a colleague, please be sure and contact us. Your donations to our HRSPA Scholarship Fund are a special way to honor a colleague who has passed from us. Remembrances can be made in honor of any colleague from the past, not just this year.

Below is a list of active and inactive HRSPA members who are in the deceased list for the past 6 months and prior to the printing of this newsletter. I make special note of 3 of our colleagues whom many of you would have known. Two were from Central Office, one was Dr. Lloyd Jackson, and another was Melissa Baker, who with Dr. Sellers and A.P. Hall was instrumental in hiring many of us. I take personal privilege to acknowledge our loss of HRSPA's 2nd President, Swift Williams from whom I took the reins in 2003 and was the quintessential southern gentleman and my dear mentor and support.

Dianne Hughs Shuler
Remembrance Chair

IN MEMORY

Tamara Ambrose	Swift Williams	Margaret Sadler
Ray Wallace	Jeanne Hening	Edward Altman
Melissa Baker	Lloyd Jackson	Barbara Nichols
Beverly Parsley	Michael Runyan	

BOOK AWARD



Every spring HRSPA recognizes a junior in each high school who has shown outstanding service to other students by mentoring enhancing and encouraging their learning. We get help with the nominations from the school librarians, class sponsors, and guidance counselors. The award is the book by Pat Conroy entitled ***The Water is Wide*** (documenting Conroy's year of teaching on Daufuskie Island, SC), and a gift card to Barnes and Noble. We presented this to seven students at sever of Henrico's high schools during the Junior Awards' Assembly. Congratulations to these students. Maybe they will be encouraged to join the teaching profession.

Jackie Warren
President

VRTA

The VARTA Fall Conference was held September 26-27, 2023 at the Double Tree Hotel by Hilton in Midlothian VA. Always an informative and interesting event. For more information visit **vrta.com**.

Our own **Tina Whitaker**, our Vice President and a member of the VRTA Legislative Committee, attended the Conference on our behalf.

Jackie Warren
HRSPA President



LEGISLATIVE NEWS

The 2023 elections are coming! Each one of us has the power to make a difference. We have the power to vote. These elections include school boards, supervisors, and many other local positions. This year all 140 seats in the General Assembly are up for election. Every vote counts and voting is one of the best ways for your voice to be heard!

With early in-person voting, mail-in voting, and curbside voting, Virginia has made voting convenient for everyone. Virginia also has checks and balances and procedures to assure that all votes are safe and secure. So pick a candidate that you feel will best represent you and **VOTE!** It is your right and privilege.

Important dates to remember:

Sept. 22 – Nov. 4 – Early in person voting
 Mon. – Fri 8 to 5 at your local registrar and some Saturdays
 Oct. 16 – Last day to register to vote or update your address
 Oct. 27 – Last day to request a ballot by mail
 Nov 7 – Election Day and last day to return a mail-in ballot.

In the mean time, the legislative committee is busy working for you. We will soon finalize our legislative priorities to send to our legislators and these priorities will be presented at the fall luncheon. We will reach out to all elected officials that represent Henrico County: local, state, and Congressional, if there are any issues that you feel need to be addressed, please email me at lucy7232@aol.com.

Tina Whitaker
 Legislative Committee Chairman



HENRICO RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION
 (Website: hrspa.org)

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2024

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.
- Reduce future costs for retirement by "buying down" VRS unfunded liabilities.

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.
- Increase funds directed towards Virginia's most at-risk students and English Learners.
- Relieve the school infrastructure backlog.
- Ensure equitable access to high speed Internet and technology for all students, communities, and school staff.
- Continue to increase salaries of teachers and staff to meet the national average.
- Support legislation and funding to increase mental health professionals in schools.
- Revise funding formula per student.
- Use accurate, up-to-date staffing ratios.

Community Concerns

- Guarantee safe and secure voting for every citizen.
- Actively support anti-racism and all non-discrimination policies.

PHILANTHROPY

As you may know, our philanthropy projects are a big part of our mission to support our community. Knowing this, the BOD has decided that instead of just honoring one of our projects, we will give everyone an opportunity to participate in one or all three at each luncheon. Donations may be placed in the clearly marked areas at the entrance table. Below are our projects:



HENRICO CHRISTMAS MOTHER

Monetary donations are greatly appreciated and can be placed in the Christmas Mother box. There will also be an opportunity to volunteer your time to help. If you can't attend the luncheon you may make your donation directly to **Henrico Christmas Mother, PO Box 70338, Henrico, VA 23225.** (Please put HRSPA in the memo section of your check.)



HENRICO EDUCATION FOUNDATION SS CHALLENGE

School supplies are needed in our schools. You may donate school supplies or make a monetary donation so that the foundation can buy supplies in bulk. If you can't attend the luncheon, you can donate directly to **Henrico Education Foundation, PO Box 31413, Henrico, VA 23294.** (Please put HRSPA in the memo section of your check.)



FOOD BANK

Many of Henrico County Public Schools have their own food bank to help provide their students with proper nutrition. Please bring some canned or boxed goods or nonperishable foods to the luncheon so that we may support the schools' Food Banks.

LUNCH RESERVATION

Fill out the form below and return it with your check made payable to HRSPA Luncheon by Monday, October 16, 2023.

Mail to Beth Metcalf, 7602 Cheshire Road, Henrico, VA 23229.

PLEASE PRINT

Name you want printed on your name tag: _____

Names of Guest(s): _____

Number attending the Luncheon: _____ @ \$25 = _____ (total amount sent)

This is my first luncheon: _____ yes _____ no

_____ Check here if you are interested in volunteering for a position on the board or serving on a committee.

-----cut along the dotted line-----



Becky Miller was the lucky winner at our April luncheon. She used part of her winnings to renew her membership and part to donate to the Scholarship Fund. Congrats and Thanks Becky.

Questions???



DATES TO REMEMBER

October 26, 2023

Fall Luncheon

January 11, 2024

Executive Board meeting

February 15, 2024

Board of Directors Meeting

March 25, 2024

HRSPA Newsletter mailing

April 15-17, 2024

VRTA spring conference

April 25, 2024

Spring Luncheon



Membership cards are issued only once, however, if you have lost your card or you have never received one, please let Lee Reynolds know and she will issue you one.

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. Please also send us any changes in your information so that we can keep our database up to date.

Jackie Warren, President – 804-363-1173

Tina Whitaker, Vice President – 804-347-0295

Bonnie Thompson, Treasurer – 804-901-3576

Susan Howe, Membership – 804-512-4970

Lee Reynolds, Newsletter Editor – 804-273-0216

HAPPY
FALL
YALL!