

February 2, 2017 KCRSPA Executive Committee Meeting

President Barbara Wheeler, Jean Foreman, Nancy Harrington, Kathy Clark, Betty Barbe, Jean Wright, Ruth Wilson, Margie Baker and Terri Bostic were present.

The meeting was called to order at 10 am. We said the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

The minutes were read and there were several questions. 1. How will the Lorraine Costella Scholarship be organized? The answer will be addressed during the Treasurer's Report. 2. Have the minutes from the 11/10/16 Legislative Workshop been delivered to President Wheeler? Betty Barbe reported that those minutes are forthcoming. 3. Has any Kent County teacher applied for the MRSPA scholarship? No. The information was given to Superintendent Couch. President Wheeler suggested that in the future the scholarship information be given to principals.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jean Foreman gave the treasurer's report. As of February 1, 2017 the KCRSPA treasury balance was \$6608.97. The Scholarship Fund balance was \$5513.88. Of that total, \$725.00 was designated for the Dr. Lorraine Costella Scholarship Fund. The question of whether there would be a separate Dr. Lorraine Costella Scholarship was addressed. Based on correspondence from some of those who have donated to the Dr. Costella Scholarship Fund, we decided that the Dr. Costella Scholarship would be awarded each year that it is funded. Our scholarship committee will determine the recipient and will use the same criteria and process that we use to award the KCRSPA scholarship(s). President Wheeler will write a letter to those who have donated to the Dr. Costella Scholarship Fund to tell them about the structure of the new scholarship. All donations made in Dr. Costella's name on or after 11/01/2016 will be applied to the scholarship.

OLD BUSINESS

Survey

Nancy Harrington reported that one of the results of the survey of members was that members wanted to have a meeting at KCHS. In response, our March 2017 meeting will be hosted by the Culinary Arts Department at KCHS. Mark Buckel, Career and Tech Director, Caren Saunders, Director of the Teacher Academy, and John Keller, Director of the Culinary Arts Department will speak to us.

Dr. Seuss Day

Nancy Harrington and Kathy Clark reported that the following members have volunteered to visit schools on March 1, 2017: Nancy Harrington, Kathy Clark, Fay Miller, Winnie Walters, Sue Crooks, Jean Wright, Margie Baker and Betty Barbe. The actual Dr. Seuss Day is March 2, but our general meeting is that day, so we are going to schools on March 1 instead. Elementary

schools at Galena, Worton, Garnett, and Millington will have visitors. Rock Hall arrangements have not yet been made. Gifts will be given to the students.

NEW BUSINESS

Cliffs School

Terri Bostic reported on a meeting she attended regarding Cliffs School on January 20, 2017. At the meeting, Chris Havemeyer reported that Preservation, Inc. which owns Cliffs School, will ask the Kent County Commissioners to take over the school. Carol Cordes reported that the Port of Chester Questers, which is the major contributor to Cliffs School, is disbanding also. Several people who support the change in ownership will present information at the Tuesday, March 21, 2017 meeting of the Kent County Commissioners at 6 pm. A list of "Friends of Cliffs School" who support the change of ownership is being compiled and members of KCRSPA are encouraged to be on the list in the interest of preserving the school.

MRSPA Scholarship Ticket Sales

Many on the executive committee submitted raffle ticket sales for the MRSPA Scholarship.

Legislative Committee

Betty Barbe reported that she will be meeting with other members of the MRSPA Legislative Committee in Odenton, MD every other week through the end of the Maryland General Assembly legislative session. Each member of the committee is assigned to research a bill and inform the rest of the committee about it. Many of the bills of interest to the MRSPA concerned general issues for retirees such as the establishment of senior call and check services, an income tax credit for long term care insurance premiums, an independent living tax credit, and a moratorium on premium increases for long term care insurance. A bill on assisted suicide was seen to not be an issue that the MRSPA should address. Betty reported that a representative of Governor Hogan told the Legislative Committee said that there is enough money so that we will never lose our pensions and that the teachers starting now will also have enough money to never lose their pensions.

Community Service

Billie Lynne sent a report that the Lions Club and food pantries of Kent County organized the annual Christmas boxes. The huge effort was amazingly well-organized. KCRSPA made a \$50 donation to the Christmas Food Drive. Billie Lynne sent thanks to all of those who donated many hours of community service this past year. Please continue to record your community service hours on the form in the newsletter. Betty Barbe was nominated to receive the MRSPA Community Service Award and she accepted the nomination. Betty is tremendously involved in community activities and we wish her luck in the state competition. We do not have a nominee for the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. Since Billie Lynne is planning to be out of town

during the time when these awards are being applied for, she would like someone else or several other people to take over the job of nominating members for the Community Service Award and the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame Award. Barbara Wheeler asked Terri to ask Billie Lynne if she would write a job description that we would present at the March general meeting in an effort to recruit someone for the job. Over the years Billie Lynne Roberts has done a superb job of organizing the nominating procedure for both awards. Many of our nominees have received state recognition. Kudos to Billie Lynne.

Membership

Nancy Harrington reported that we have 87 unified members and 5 additional members who are members of the local KCRSPA only. Members who are KCRSPA members only are encouraged to become unified members and we are all encouraged to persuade friends to become members. Our group does much community service locally and MRSPA is the main advocate for our pensions. Our goal is 95 unified members. Nancy reported that so far, there will be three new retirees this year: Francis George III, James Freeman, and Sandra Emory. All three will be invited to our luncheon. Also, Diane Holmes, who is a retiree from another MD county who is moving to Kent County will be invited.

Program

Our March 2017 meeting will be hosted by the Culinary Arts Department at KCHS. Mark Buckel, Career and Tech Director, Caren Saunders, Director of the Teacher Academy, and John Keller, Director of the Culinary Arts Department will speak to us. Former Superintendent Lorraine Costella and current Superintendent Karen Couch will be invited to be our guests.

Newsletter

The newsletter will go out on February 10, 2017.

Nominating Committee

Margie Baker reported that the Nominating Committee has not been able to meet. The committee needs to have nominees for Vice President, Secretary, and Program Director. Please volunteer if you are willing to hold one of these positions.

Food Pantry

Margie Baker read a letter from Sue Basener, Director of the Community Food Pantry. Ms. Basener thanked the KCRSPA for our many donations of food, clothing books and other items. Contributions are welcome at all general meetings. Egg cartons with \$1 - \$2 inside are appreciated as well as any other items. Margie read an itemized list of the generous donations made at our December meeting: 40 pairs of gloves, 16 hats, 5 hat/glove sets, 1 hat/gloves/scarf set, 5 scarves, 5 pairs of socks, 3 scarf/gloves sets, 48 books, 4 games, 3 toys, 1 kitchen towel, 30 egg cartons containing \$29, 63 lbs. of food, and \$40 in donations.

Scholarship

The revised applications for the KCRSPA Scholarship(s) have been distributed to seniors in the Teacher Academy at KCHS as well as to the guidance department at KCHS. Although there will be preference given to members of the Teacher Academy, all students who are interested in a teaching career should apply. We are never sure how many scholarships there will be and there are only two seniors in the Teacher Academy this year. In addition to the scholarship(s) that we usually award, there will be an additional scholarship in honor of Dr. Lorraine Costella awarded this year. Members should encourage KCHS seniors they know to apply. The deadline is April 1, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Terri Bostic, Secretary