

KCRSPA General Membership Meeting Minutes  
March 2, 2017

The March general membership meeting was held in the Culinary Arts room at Kent County High School. 18 members and 3 guests attended.

The meeting was called to order by President Barbara Wheeler at 11:30 am. We said the Pledge of Allegiance.

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

The minutes were reviewed and approved.

Committee Reports:

Membership - Nancy Harrington reported that MRSPA dues will go up to \$45 per year. She has contacted members who have not renewed their membership.

Nancy reviewed some of the suggestions made by members for future programs and for activities that may be of interest to members and may attract new members.

Program – Nancy Harrington reported that the Trifold and written report that she and Kathy Clark compiled for our June 2016 meeting has been used by students at Cliff School for a presentation and display that will be at the Garfield Center for First Friday on March 3, 2016 from 5 – 8 pm.

The display and written report will also be used during the Smithsonian event, “The Way We Worked” on April 8 and April 22. The display will be at Cliff School on those dates from 10 am to 4 pm.

Cliffs School – Jean Foreman passed around a signup sheet for Cliffs School docents. Clean up day will be on April 5 at 10 am. Rain date is April 7.

Terri Bostic reported that Preservation, Inc., which owns Cliffs School, is requesting that the Kent County Commissioners accept Cliffs School to be managed by Kent County. This request will be made on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 6 pm at the Commissioners meeting. There is a group which has formed called “The Friends of Cliffs School” which supports the management of Cliffs School by Kent County and which will continue to support Cliffs School with docents and in other ways. If anyone would like to be a member of “The Friends of Cliffs School”, let Terri Bostic know. [tbostic@live.com](mailto:tbostic@live.com) Also, you are encouraged to attend the Commissioners Meeting on March 21.

Scholarship – Terri Bostic reported that the scholarship forms have been delivered to the guidance department at KCHS. The forms have been modified this year to reflect that members

of the Teachers Academy at KCHS will be given priority, although other students will be considered and should apply. In addition to our traditional scholarship, a separate scholarship in the name of Lorraine Costella will be awarded. There have been many donations to this separate scholarship and these donations have been acknowledged in letters from our President Barbara Wheeler. The selection of all recipients will be processed by the scholarship committee whose members are Billie Lynne Roberts, Lauretta Freeman, Brenda Shorter, and Terri Bostic.

Community Service – Terri Bostic reported for Billie Lynn Roberts. Betty Barbe has been nominated for the AARP Volunteer Service Award. Fay Miller brought the form for the Maryland Senior Citizen Hall of Fame and we asked Betty to also apply for that. We are excited that Betty Barbe will be our nominee for both of these awards. She volunteers in many organizations.

Terri also distributed a job description for the Nominating Committee for the AARP Volunteer Service Award and the Maryland Senior Citizen Hall of Fame. Volunteers are needed to serve on this committee. Please consider serving.

Legislative – Fay Miller presented disturbing information about the future of our health insurance. Any financial support of our health insurance is provided by KCPS and is part of the KCPS budget. In these times, when there are budget shortages, that financial support is in danger. Recently, the Talbot County BOE proposed that it would no longer include retiree health care costs in its budget. As always, we need to contact our County Commissioners and our BOE members to let them know that we want the financial support for our health insurance continued. This is an important benefit that attracts new teachers and retains teachers. It would be a great hardship to retirees if this benefit were discontinued.

Fay Miller and Barbara Wheeler also commented on the present political climate on the state and national levels. Governor Hogan, President Trump and Education Secretary Betsy DeVos all favor Charter Schools. As always, we need to pay attention to state legislation and oversight to protect out pensions. We, as retirees, are an important part of our local economy and society and if we did not have our pensions and health insurance it would surely be a detriment to the local economy.

Nominating Committee – Margie Baker reported that she has contacted many people to fill the open positions. So far, no one has volunteered, although every person contacted did return her call. All members are encouraged to volunteer to serve. The positions open are program committee, secretary, and vice president.

Discounts for Senior Citizens – Margie Baker distributed new Senior Citizen Discount booklets which listed senior citizen discounts from local businesses.

Meetings – Barbara Wheeler reported that there will be a Presidents Meeting in Odenton on March 15. Jean Wright, Barbara Wheeler, and Fay Miller will attend. The annual meeting will be on May 9 in Turf Valley. Lea Hunley, Winnie Walters, Jean Wright, and Betty Barbe will attend.

Program and lunch:

Kathy Clark decorated tables with Dr. Seuss notebooks, pens and books. For St. Patrick's Day and Easter, she provided leprechaun hats filled with jelly beans.

A delicious lunch of chicken alfredo, shepherd's pie, salad, strawberry shortcake, coffee and iced tea was prepared and served by the Culinary Arts Program students. The food and service were excellent.

John Keller, the director and teacher in the Culinary Arts Department, welcomed us and spoke to us about the Culinary Arts Program. He referred to the Dr. Seuss poster he uses.

Caren Saunders spoke to us about the Teacher Academy Program at KCHS. She included information about the internships, the portfolios, and the courses offered.

President Wheeler adjourned the meeting at 3:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Bostic, Recording Secretary

