

06/04/15      KCRSPA General Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Nancy Harrington at 11:22 at Luisa's Restaurant in Chestertown, MD.

Nancy welcomed our guests: Max Muller, President of MRSPA; Judith Zahren, Executive Director of MRSPA; and Flo Terrell 2014-2015 KC Teacher of the Year.

Two of our members who have recently passed away, Doris Lill and Sue Quinn, were remembered and honored by the presentation of individual roses.

#### Committee Reports:

##### Cliff School:

Jean Foreman asked for volunteer docents for Cliff School and for volunteers to sell chances on an "Italian Basket" at the Farmers Market in Chestertown on July 18, 2015. Proceeds will go to Cliff School.

##### Scholarship:

Billie Lynne Roberts reported that KCRSPA awarded 4 scholarships for \$1000 each this year. The recipients were Casey Roberts, Savannah Hague, Ray Gill, and Sawyer Cornelius.

##### Service:

Billie Lynne Roberts asked that we keep a record of our service to the community.

##### Membership

Fay Miller visited 5 schools to invite people who are retiring to become members. We had a 6.02% increase in membership this year and received Honorable Mention for membership growth at the MRSPA Annual Meeting in May.

##### Legislative:

Betty Barbe reported. The Administration through the Speaker of the House has introduced legislation supporting Charter Schools - The Public Charter School Expansion and Improvement Act. MRSPA recommended opposing this legislation with a letter.

There was legislation which replaced "corridor funding" of state pensions with an "actuarial" method. "Corridor funding" was adopted under the Glendenning administration and resulted in years of insufficient state contributions to the pension fund. The O'Malley administration pledged to reinvest money back into the system with the goal of restoring it to 80% funding by 2023 and to 100% funding by 2038. Unfortunately, legislators siphoned off some of this money that was intended to restore the integrity of the pension to balance the state books. That

happened 2 years in a row. Because of recent strong stock market performance, an immediate shift back to full actuarial funding has been recommended by the Department of Legislative Services. The extra “make-up” payments used under “corridor funding” would be abandoned.

Gov. Hogan recently pulled \$68 million from education appropriations and used some of that money to contribute to the state pension as part of the “make-up” money that started under the O’Malley Administration. These funds were badly needed by the school systems to prevent teacher lay-offs and programs for the students, including pre-K programs. The districts most hurt by the diversion of education funds were Baltimore City, PG County and Montgomery County, but the schools systems of all counties will be affected. Please note that the state’s required \$1.8 billion pension contribution was made this year and that the pension funds are safe from any “raiding” by the legislature or the governor. The funds in question are those that were supposed to be contributed in addition to the required funding since the shortfall caused by “corridor funding” under Gov. Glendenning. There are assertions that this denial of funds to the school districts and the diversion of those funds to the pension system are illegal actions.

There has been a commission established to study testing and assessments.

There has been a commission established to study pre-school.

Our guest speaker, Flo Terrell, spoke about her experiences as the Kent County Teacher of the Year.

MRSPA Max Muller spoke about the importance of membership. Numbers are important as we go into Annapolis to protect our pensions.

MRSPA Executive Director Judith Zahren spoke about her experiences with KCRSPA.

MRSPA President-elect Fay Miller reminded us that this year’s theme is “The best is yet to come.” She congratulated KCRSPA on reaching its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and commented that our pension is secure at present, but we must always pay attention to what the state government is doing regarding the pension and other funding since our health benefits are funded by Kent County and cuts in state funding could affect the county’s ability to fund our insurance.

Incoming President, Dr. Barbara Wheeler greeted the members. She made positive comments about the Cliff School. She said that if any of us wants to be a chairperson or co-chairperson of a committee, we should contact her.

The officers of the KCRSPA this year are:

President:	Dr. Barbara Wheeler
Vice President:	Jean Wright
Secretary:	Terri Bostic
Treasurer:	Jean Foreman

To celebrate the KCRSPA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 3 trifold displays were on view to our members. Also, all members present received souvenir bags containing treats and gifts. Thanks go to Nancy Harrington for getting those together.

Congratulations to Fay Miller who will be inducted into the Senior Citizen Hall of Fame this year in October. She was the KCRSPA's nominee.

A beautiful flowering astilbe plant was presented to Nancy Harrington as a token of our appreciation for her service as KCRSPA president.

Many thanks to Cathy Clark and Eileen Hahn for arranging our luncheon meeting at Luisa's. The space was accommodating and the lunch was delicious.

Many thanks to Bonnie Smith and Emily Massey for arranging for the program.

After closing remarks by outgoing president Nancy Harrington the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Bostic,

Secretary