

10/05/2017 KCRSPA General Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Jean Wright at 11:30 a.m. at The Harbor House Restaurant in Chesapeake Landing. We said the Pledge of Allegiance. 40 people attended, including guests Sue Nickerson, Support Person of the Year, and Airlee Ringgold Johnson, our guest speaker.

The Program Chairpersons, Sue Crooks and Nancy Harrington, prepared attractive “goody bags” for each member in attendance. These included an MRSPA information sheet about benefits and legislative concerns, a meeting magnet and a fall decoration.

Membership Chairman, Nancy Harrington, announced that we now have 93 members. We are the first in Maryland to make our goal of adding 6 new members. Many thanks to all those who have joined the KCRSPA and also those who have become unified members this year.

The Christmas Meeting was discussed. It will be held at the CRYCC on Thursday, December 7, 2017. There will be a Chinese Auction to raise money for the scholarship fund. Members are asked to bring a wrapped gift. At the meeting members will buy tickets with which to buy chances on each wrapped present.

Our nominee, Betty Barbe, will be inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizen Hall of Fall at a luncheon in Glen Burnie on October 26, 2017. Congratulations, Betty! Members are signing up to attend.

Carol Lupis introduced our speaker, Airlee Ringgold Johnson. Airlee is a member of the Board of the Kent County Historical Society and is a major organizer of the Legacy Day Celebration in August of each year in Chestertown. She gave a brief history of Legacy Day which has included a remembrance of Charlie Graves’ Uptown Club and its cultural significance, the history of African American businesses in Kent County and the honoring of teachers who once taught in African American schools in Kent County. The 2018 Legacy Day may include education as well. Lauretta Freeman expressed the gratitude of all of us when she thanked Airlee for attending and for telling us about this important and exciting Kent County celebration. We also thank her for her important work in celebrating Kent County culture and history.

Betty Barbe, our Legislative Chairman, reported that there will be a legislative workshop on November 14 in Annapolis, MD. The MRSPA carefully monitors legislation in Maryland and it has lobbyists who advocate for retired school personnel in Maryland. These roles are increasingly important in this time when the trend in the country is to reduce the benefits of the retired.

Jean Foreman reported that many of our members have participated as docents at Cliffs School this year. Terri Bostic reported that the Kent County Commissioners will not be buying the property for Kent County, but that they will be and already are contributing to the upkeep of the

property. A separate organization may be formed to take over ownership and preservation of the building and property.

Winnie Walters conducted the 50/50 raffle. New member, Trudy Anderson, won the raffle and generously contributed her winnings to the scholarship fund. A total of \$113 was generated for the scholarship fund.

After a delicious lunch overlooking beautiful Worton Creek, the meeting adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Bostic

Secretary