



# The Bell Ringer

## Kent County Retired School Personnel Association

Volume 42 Number 1 August 2020

### ***Message from the President***

Hello all. As before, I am writing this while watching the water flow down the Chester River. This Long Island girl always draws strength and clarity from the natural beauties provided for us. I pray you are all adjusting to our new "normal!" It has been nice to finally feel safe enough to cautiously enter stores, meet with family and a few friends, have cookouts on the porch, enjoy grandchildren sleep overs, and feel like my life has some semblance to the old normal. Now... I wear a mask because that is the safe thing to do but, I must admit, foggy glasses and trouble being understood are a challenge. I realize you are receiving this newsletter off the regular schedule. Since our last meeting was in May, several questions and concerns that needed attention came up, and, after discussion with several members, we decided to have an unscheduled KCRSPA Executive Board meeting. This meeting was held Monday August 10. Following are a few important decisions and discussions that we had and would like to make you, our valued members, aware of.

- Executive Board Members: All executive board members that were present agreed to continue their jobs during the 2020 KCRSPA year. A HUGE thank you to everyone.
- Budget: We discussed adjustments and passed the budget which Emily presented (our old budget ended July 31, 2020). During the budget review, we discussed the concern about the large amount of treasury money spent on stamps used to send the newsletters. This was also a discussion during the zoom President's Meeting in July. Many Retired School Personnel Associations are successfully sending their newsletters via email. Our group has talked about this possibility before and discussed it again. Glenn Michael, our new vice president, told us about a format he uses for a newsletter he sends to one of his groups. In addition to that, he graciously offered to organize and email our KCRSPA newsletter. Emailing our newsletter will definitely help lower the amount spent on stamps, so it was decided that Glenn will now share newsletter responsibilities with Terri Mullikin, Glenn organizing and emailing and Terri printing, stamping, and sending hard copies to those members not having emails. This plan is starting with this newsletter.

If you are receiving this newsletter via paper copy and have an email, please let Glenn (fastaperture@gmail.com) and Nancy Harrington (nmhar@verizon.net) know. If there is some reason you do not want your newsletter via email, please let Glenn know.

MRSPA President's Meeting: This meeting was held via zoom on July 29, 2020. The MRSPA theme this year is The Three C's: We see you through Communication, Commitment, and Community. Each local president received a thumb drive that included some Public Relations Videos. These contain short clips that would be good for membership ideas. Nancy and I will review these and consider their use in a future general membership luncheon.

Concern was brought up about the lack of scholarship money being donated this year because of each local not holding general meetings etc. We also are facing this dilemma.

Please remember to make your \$25 dollar donation toward our scholarship for upcoming seniors. Send donations to Emily Massey 24704 Chestertown Road, Chestertown, Maryland 21620.

During the meeting there was a discussion about how each local is coping with the pandemic. I shared our Little Library located in Worton Park and our donations to the local food pantry.

George Denny, Jr., our new MRSPA president, discussed the vacancies that need to be filled at the state level. He would like people to consider filling them. Descriptions and expectations for each position are in the handbook and, if anyone is interested, I will be glad to share that information.

- Area Director III North: ((Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Talbot, Caroline) is open. This person is the connection between MRSPA and the locals listed. The main responsibility is to attend one meeting at each of the locals included in the area.

- Travel Committee Chairperson

- MRSPA Membership Chairperson

Fay update: I am very happy to report that Fay looks great and appears to be doing well. A wonderful indication of her progress is that Winnie let her drive them to our meeting! Now that says a lot! As Fay was giving her report, I was thinking how professional she is and how far I have to go to even come close her calmness and presentation abilities! Please do continue to pray that the fluid that was seen on the brain dissolves and is gone when Fay has her next scan.

- EIN #: Fay continues to work on getting things straight with our EIN number. Progress is being made and we are getting closer to having this accomplished.

- Website update: Fay noticed a section of our website called, Contacts. This section is not being used and, in fact, refers to email addresses that none of us use or were even aware of. It was suggested that this section be removed from the website and a section on membership replace it. Thanks to Fay this has already been taken care of.

- IRS: Thanks to Fay and Shelley at Speedy Tax Services, our annual report has been filed and all names are up to date.

As many of you probably know, Kent County Public Schools has decided to go virtual, at least for the first semester. Teachers and other personnel are being asked to return to their buildings which requires them to be in contact with others as they perform their job responsibilities. As virtual learning and teaching and this whole approach is still new, please keep the situation in your thoughts.

Once again I must apologize for the length of this report. As you can tell, KCRSPA continues to be active during the pandemic. Please read and enjoy the rest of the information contained in the newsletter. Stay safe and embrace your new normal.

***Sue Crooks, President***



## WEBSITE INFO -

Here are the Websites for both MRSPA - Maryland Retired School Personnel Association, and KCRSPA - Kent County Retired School Personnel, both of which are now active.

***Check them out! There is a lot of information there.***

Copies of the *Bell Ringer* are archived on the Kent County site dating back to 2005. New issues will be added as they come out.

You can access by directly clicking on the link below if you are receiving this newsletter in the email format. Or, you can copy and paste the link from this page into your browser. If you receive the newsletter via hard copy, then you will have to type the address into your browser exactly as it is written.

MRSPA - <https://www.mrspa.org/>

KCRSPA - <https://www.kcrspa.org/>

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

These are the celebrated KCRSPA members

## SEPTEMBER

Marie Fenner 9/1  
Stephanie Lindsey 9/2  
Leah Schlenker 9/6  
Catherine Swinson 9/9  
Dorothy Ringgold 9/16  
Rosemary Brown 9/11  
Dorothy Ringgold 9/16  
Linda Fry 9/19  
Lauretta Freeman 9/23  
Elizabeth Barbe 9/25  
Amy Crowding 9/25  
Cynthia Phillips 9/27

## OCTOBER

Douglas Walters 10/7  
Terri Mullikin 10/7  
Sue Coleman 10/12  
Tina Johnson 10/19  
Kathy Clark 10/21  
Ruth Wilson 10/26

## DECEMBER

Elaine Holden 12/1  
Linda Porter 12/5  
Ray Clarke 12/7  
Eileen Hahn 12/7  
Joan Wise 12/17  
Judy Gunter 12/8  
Doreen Schivley 12/16  
Richard Walters 12/17  
Joan Wise 12/17  
Charlotte Potts 12/30

## NOVEMBER

Bonnie Smith 11/3  
Herman Gay 11/4  
Sarah Jastram 11/15  
James Lupis 11/16  
Brenda Shorter 11/20  
Lloyd Taylor 11/24  
Susan Clark 11/25  
Helen Tyson 11/25  
Anna Hurd 11/26  
Becky Glenn 11/30

*If you notice anyone missing or incorrect information, contact Sue Coleman, magpiesuz@gmail.com or 410-648-5252. Also contact Sue if a get well, sympathy, or cheer card is needed. If your address changes, also let her know.*

**Maryland Retired School Personnel Association**  
**Good Afternoon MRSPA Members,**

It has come to our attention that there has been a mix-up of member names on a member benefit mailing from one of our approved Maryland Retired School Personnel Association member benefit providers. The return address on the mailing includes the MRSPA logo and our name followed by Association Member Benefits Advisors, 6034 West Courtyard Dr., Suite 300, Austin, TX 78730-5035. AMBA has been an MRSPA member benefit provider for many years. The contents of the mailing were approved by MRSPA, and it started to hit member mailboxes yesterday (August 11, 2020). This is what the return address looks like on the envelope.

The problem that has occurred is some kind of computer/technology glitch at AMBA's printing or mailing house that resulted in our member addresses being associated with an incorrect member name. AMBA has been informed and is continuing to investigate.

Please be advised that it is safe to open these mailings, the information in them is good and pertinent to MRSPA members. This mailing is NOT a scam and no one's identity has been stolen. There is no need to return to sender or be alarmed that the address on the envelope is yours, but the name is not. We have been assured by AMBA that nothing untoward has occurred.

MRSPA thanks the many members who called or emailed to bring this situation to our attention, so we could inform AMBA while attempting to see how widespread the inaccurate names were on the mailings. It looks like most if not all the names on the envelopes do not match the addresses.

Please accept our sincere apology for this error and any confusion or upset it may have caused, though it was not MRSPA's error. Please share this information with other MRSPA members who may not have email access, but who would have received the mailing.

Thank you again for letting us know of the inaccuracies and for your continued membership in MRSPA.

Please stay safe and well.

Sincerely,

Wanda Ruffo Twigg

Executive Director

MRSPA "Cs" You...through Communication, Commitment, Community

1-410-551-1517 | [mrspa@mrspa.org](mailto:mrspa@mrspa.org) | [www.MRSPA.org](http://www.MRSPA.org)

Connect with us Facebook

[www.facebook.com/MRSPA1945](https://www.facebook.com/MRSPA1945)

*"Such to me is the new image of aging; growth in self, and service for all mankind."*

- Ethel Percy Andrus

Maryland Retired School Personnel Association | 8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A,  
Odenton, MD 21113-1508

Good Afternoon Local Presidents,

Just wanted to ask your assistance in sharing this information with any members you know that may not be on our Constant Contact distribution list. Yesterday, members started receiving a mailing from AMBA (contents approved by MRSPA) at their home addresses, but with incorrect names on them. Because of the volume of calls and emails MRSPA received since then, we put this Constant Contact notice together in hopes it would calm some fears and allay some concerns. It will also be added to the MRSPA website and was posted to our Facebook page. If you hear from members that they are concerned about this, please let them know that we are aware, that they can open the mailing, that it was an error on AMBA's part, and that it is not a scam and no identities were stolen. AMBA is looking into how this happened at their mailing or printing house.

I am sharing with you in hopes you can share it with your members on your websites or via your telephone phone trees or other methods of communication you may have with your members. There is no need to return these mailings to sender. They may be opened or discarded as your members see fit. Please let us know if you have questions.

Thank you for any assistance you can provide.

Wanda

Tell me your thoughts. I am trying to write my president's part for the newsletter now.

#### **Note from George Denny, MRSPA President**

**H**ello--I hope that you are managing to cope with the current pandemic that is causing so many disruptions to our normal daily life. As a leader in the Kent County Retired School Personnel Association you have undoubtedly had to change or cancel meetings, curtail activities and adopt unusual and uncomfortable changes to your life style.

You may know that until July 1, 2020, Debbie Chance was the MRSPA Area II North Director representing your local and those of Caroline, Cecil, Queen Anne's and Talbot Counties. Debbie has become Vice President of MRSPA and no longer serves in the Director capacity.

So far we have not had anyone step up to take the Area II North Director duties. It is my hope that perhaps you may know someone who would like to serve in that position.

While the duties are important for the success of your local and MRSPA, the primary qualification is really not much different from what you already exhibit as a local leader--commitment to do the job to the best of your ability.

It is my sincere hope that you will put on your thinking cap and come up with at least one name to bring to my attention as soon as possible. Please call me if you would like to discuss this further. I would be happy to go over the duties with you.

Meanwhile, thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of your members. I look forward to working with you in the coming two years, and wish for you and yours a safe summer and fall, and a barrier between you and the virus.

Thanks and best wishes, George Denny, MRSPA President (301-641-3147)

# Kent County Retired School Personnel Association Executive Comm. Meeting

August 10, 2020, met in Fairlee Methodist Church Hall.

Call to order by our President Sue Crooks, she thanked everyone for coming.

We all rose for the Pledge Allegiance.

The agenda was presented and Emily Massey approved.

Those in attendance: Sue Crooks, Margie Baker, Nancy Harrington, Fay Miller, Jean Wright, Charlotte Potts, Emily Massey, Lee Hunley, Winnie Walters, Kathy Clark, Nancy McCloy, Glenn Micheal and Betty Weller.

Minutes from last meeting were presented by Winnie Walters.

Nancy McCloy's name was spelled wrong, that has been corrected.

Glenn Michael approved the minutes and Betty Weller seconded.

Treasures Report: Emily Massey presented her report with a balance as of July 30th \$6,758.75 and a balance in Savings \$9,254.65. This month she moved \$2,000.00 For Cynthia Fabers scholarship, and deposited \$435.00 from the state for dues for 29 members and \$50.00 to scholarship fund. We need to remind members to send their \$25.00 per year to the scholarship, we not hold 50/50s this year at our luncheons.

Budget for 2020-2021

Fund Balance as of June 30,2020	\$6,813.75
Revenue: Dues for 97 members	1,455.00
American Music Theatre [ on hold for 2020]	
Total:	\$1,455.00
Expenses	
Audit [not this year]	0
Archives	50.00
Gifts/Memorials	50.00
Hospitality	250.00
Postage 6125 x 4	249.00
Printing	200.00
Dr. Suess Reading Day	250.00
Sunshine	50.00
Lions Club Christmas Baskets	50.00
MRSPA Contribution for Annual Meeting	50.00
Insurance	25.00
Web Site maintenance	18.00
Total:	\$1,242.00
Unbudgeted [tax number]	[ 213.00]
Total	\$1,455.00

Budget was approved by Nancy Harrington and seconded by Charlotte Potts.

Kathy Clark returned the check she had for the Mini Grant we were giving to Cailley Cochran from H.H. Garnet Elem., because schools were closed before she could give it to her, because of the virus.

Continued on page 7.

President's Report: Sue Crooks

Committee members all agree to continue to serve on KCRSP committees they are on. Fay has also located old copies of the Bell Ringer. She has talked to Terri Smith at the board office and they will work together and put on the website. Fay continues to work on getting our EIN number. She is working to keep our web site up to date. The President Meeting via Zoom, the theme was We see you through Communication, Commitment and Community! MSRSPA has three positions in our area Area Director 3 North, Travel Comm. Chairperson and MSRSPA Membership Chairperson.

There was discussion about moving the leadership conference to OC., too far for some counties.

Vice Presidents Report: Glenn Micheal, nothing to report at this time.

Committee Reports:

Archives: Lee Hunley nothing at this time

Bylaws: Margie Baker nothing at this time.

Community Service. Billie Lynn not present. I received an email from Cynthia Faber on Aug. 6, 2020 and she will be taking on line classes at home and requested that her scholarship be sent to Augsburg University. Mirabella and Yasmine I have not heard from.

Nancy Harrington has set up the Little Library at Worton Park and it has been very successful.

Legislative : Betty Weller reported Legislatures are on break. The Governor vetoed the Kuran Bill.

Program/Hosp. Kathy Clark suggested we not meet for our Luncheons until at least March 2021. As a way to make money she suggested making the table arrangement and then have selection in the newsletter for folks to bid on, and then December have our gift baskets and do the same

Membership: Nancy Harrington, our trip to AMT in Lancaster has been canceled due to the CoVID Pandemic. I have tentatively scheduled for the Christmas Show for next year. At this time KCRSPA has 98 members. Sue and I sent out MRSPA/KCRSPA information to 10 new retirees and 10 applications to our local members. I sent congratulatory notes to our TOY, the SPY, and the Promising Educator Award. I also shared with them we would be inviting them to a future luncheon. I also sent congratulatory notes to our 3 scholarship recipients from KCRSP membership.

Newsletter: Terri Mullikin not present.

Sunshine: Sue Coleman sent her report, she has sent out more than 60 cards. She also said she will be needing stamps.

Unfinished Business: We are working on a mini newsletter.

Adjournment: 2:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Edwina W.Walters

## KCRSPA LUNCHEONS

Due to the uncertainty surrounding the covid-19 virus, the executive committee has unanimously decided to postpone luncheon meetings until further notice. Hopefully, by the spring of 2021 there will be a vaccine or at least a diminishing of the spread.

Meanwhile, the need to support our scholarship fund, the food pantry, and our "Little Library" at Worton Park continues. The scholarship fund especially is suffering from loss of 50-50 funds at our lunches. To help remedy this situation we WILL HAVE a 50-50 drawing on Thursday, October 1st—the date of our normal Fall luncheon. Instead of a menu choice, use the response sheet to identify how many "tickets" you would like to purchase. Your name will go on that many strips of paper to be put into "the hat." On the luncheon day the Hospitality committee, our treasurer, and our president will meet to draw out the winning name. Emily will then mail you a check for your share. We encourage everyone to think about using the \$20 you would have spent on lunch to support the 50-50 and the scholarship fund.

In December we will again have baskets to raffle off. More information on those will come in our next newsletter.

Remember, if you have donations for the Food Pantry, but are unable to deliver them, Nancy Harrington and Kathy Clark are available to pick up your donations and get them to the Church.

The "Little Library" at Worton park could use donated books on the middle school level. Just place them in the white box at the first parking area inside the entrance.

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### **50-50 RAFFLE TICKETS (\$1 each/ 6 for \$5)**

Fill out the information below and return your response and check to:

**Kathy Clark by Monday, Sept. 28th at:  
199 Rolling Rd. Chestertown, Md.21620.**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone No.**\_\_\_\_\_ **# of Tickets** \_\_\_\_\_

**Am't. Enclosed**\_\_\_\_\_



## **Scholarship Committee - Billie-Lynn Roberts**

This year there was a very positive response from KCHS seniors. We received eight outstanding applications for our scholarship award. Three very qualified students were selected by the committee and approved by the executive board. All three students have commendable grades, numerous curricular activities and glowing references. They all indicated an interest in education as well as financial need. Therefore, we are pleased to present a scholarship award to Cynthia Faber, Jasmine Jiggets, and Mirabella Hitzges. Each young lady will receive a scholarship of \$2000 to be sent to their chosen University or college.

Please continue to support our scholarship fund. These awards are only possible with your donations.



Cynthia Faber



Mirabella Hitzges



Yasmine Jiggets

## **Community Service - Billie-Lynn Roberts**

Thanks to our members for their many hours of volunteer service to the community. The Little lending library at Worton Park has shown considerable interest. Donations to the food pantry are ongoing and much needed at this time by our local families.

Jean Wright has been nominated and accepted into the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. The luncheon and ceremonies have been postponed until Spring.

## Scholarship Fund

Educators need to be in the forefront of supporting education. Help us support high school students planning a career in education. Scholarships mean a lot to students and their families. Our scholarships are funded by donations from our members. In the past 16 years our association has awarded more than \$30,000 in scholarships to deserving KCHS students. These awards are made possible by our members who are asked to contribute \$25 annually. We have received some generous donations. Many thanks to those who already made a contribution.

Member donations are expected and even more important this year as our fund raising opportunities are limited by the circumstances of the COVID virus.

**Remember: This is a major goal of our organization!** We look forward to future gifts that will allow us to continue the scholarship program.

**One student wrote : "Thank you for believing in me and my ability to succeed..." Please think about a donation to our fund for the next school year and use the form provided.**

Thank you for your consideration.  
Billie Lynne Roberts  
Chair, Scholarship committee

### Scholarship Donation Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_

In honor or memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your support. Checks may be made to:  
KCRSPA and mailed to :

Emily Massey  
24704 Chestertown Rd.  
Chestertown, MD 21620

## **AMERICAN MUSIC THEATRE TRIP**

Our trip to the American Music Theatre has been canceled for this year due to the COVID 19 pandemic. But, good news, I have reserved {hopefully} 47 tickets for the 2021 Christmas Show.

Our trip to the AMT is a fundraiser for our Scholarship fund. This is a perfect opportunity for you to send your yearly Scholarship donation of \$25.00.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT:**

“Little Library”

The community of Worton is still using the “Little Library.” Thank you to Jean Wright, Sue Coleman, and Debbie Smith for taking care of the library and replenishing it with new books. We are very fortunate to once again have a friend donating more books for our library. Hopefully, by this fall we will have another “Little Library” in Millington.

## **MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

Hopefully, everyone is staying safe and healthy during this time. Our membership numbers have not changed since last spring....98 MRSPA/KCRSPA members, 10 KCRSPA members, and 4 Emeritus members.

This year Kent County retired 9 employees who left the county serving a combined total of 238 years. The retirees are:

- Leon and Karen Frison
- Pat Newman
- Laurie Hogans
- Diana Kennedy-Milligan
- Kathy Cole
- Christine Austin
- Jackie Bramble
- Edna Phillips

If you know any of these retirees or if you see them around town invite them to join our lively group of retirees.

### ***Treasurers report -***

There is a balance of \$6,813.17 in checking as of the end of July. The savings balance is \$7,254.65 This is the scholarship money and most of it is for this year's scholarship winners and will be paid out as schools open. The budget was presented to the executive committee and approved. We have a working balance for \$1,455.00. If you would like to see the budget paperwork please contact me and I will get a copy to you.

***Editor's Notes*** - *I offered a suggestion at a meeting and wound up as editor. That's immediate education. Actually that is okay with me. I'm retired, I think totally and finally, and have some time. Besides I like to play with the program. I do a newsletter for another group and enjoy it as well. For information I am using Adobe CS5, with InDesign and PhotoShop.*

*I try not to make errors, but can't promise that I won't mess up now and then.*

*It was decided at the last Executive Meeting as a cost measure to go with email transmission, at least for those who receive email. Other members will continue to receive the newsletter as before. Hopefully we won't get too confused and all will receive the news equally.*

*I can be reached at [fastaperture@gmail.com](mailto:fastaperture@gmail.com) or 410-778-0062 - H or 410-708-2344 - C.*

*I also take texts to the cell. I don't answer phone calls that I don't recognize, but I take messages on both phones and will respond.*

*Happy to serve fellow education people.*

Mailing Coordinator  
Terri Millikin  
5885 Cottage Avenue  
Rock Hall, MD 21661

