

The Bell Ringer

Kent County Retired School Personnel Association

Volume 39 Number 2 December 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all Kent County Retired School Personnel. Hope you have enjoyed the delightful fall days and are ready for the cooler weather. Those who attended our fall luncheon at The Harbor House enjoyed the delicious food and being with friends. Cleaning items were brought to be sent to the hurricane victims. Nancy Harrington took them to her church to be sent on their way.

Sue Coleman will be our new Sunshine Chairman. Please notify Sue if someone is in need of a kind thought, a get well wish or has lost a family member. Sue will also be sending birthday cards to our members. Thank you Sue for volunteering your time to do this.

Our membership committee has been very busy trying to recruit new members. We have met our goal for new members, but would like for all retired county school personnel to join us. We encourage you to join us at the next luncheon at The Country Club on December 7 and bring a friend. There will be a Chinese Auction, which is always fun. Please come and meet our new Executive Director, Wanda Twigg, who will be our guest. Faye Miller, our MRSPA President, will also attend as our guest.



Our bus trip to the American Music Theater was November 8 to see the show "Home For The Holidays". It was a wonderful show. Then we had lunch at Hershey Farms. It was an enjoyable day together.

Hope to see you in December.

Sending wishes for a wonderful Thanksgiving and a Joyous Christmas.

Jean Wright

Here are 4 great reasons why you joined MRSPA:

- The top priority of MRSPA is to ensure and protect the full actuarial funding of the Maryland defined educator pension/retirement trust fund
- Communicates with state legislatures making decisions about pensions, retirement, and other issues important to members
- Joining your local association as it monitors and interacts with local Boards of Education

READ ACROSS AMERICA

Dr. Seuss Day will be on Friday, March 2nd this coming year. Our next luncheon will be the day before---Thursday, March 1st. Therefore, we are asking you to sign up at the December luncheon if you are willing to read in one of the elementary schools on Dr. Seuss Day. We read for pre-K through 2nd students, and coordinate with the teachers for the most convenient times. Please consider volunteering a small portion of your time to this most fulfilling project. There will be a sign-up sheet available at lunch on Dec. 7th.

Save money this holiday season!

Visit freeshipping.org if you're shopping online. You can get free shipping codes or percent off coupon codes at many retailers.

Do you have a price-comparison app on your phone? RedLaser or ShopSavvy will allow you to scan the barcode of an item and see if another retailer is offering it at a lower price. If you find it at a lower price, ask the retailer if they will match the price.

“Black Friday” won’t always have the best deals! Some retailers are starting weeks before the actual shopping day. Some merchandise, including toys, brand-name TVs and jewelry may

Delegate, Jay Jacobs

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State Senator, Stephen Hershey

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steve.hershey@senate.state.md.us

Scholarship Fund

In the past, KCRSPA has asked members to contribute a gift of \$25 each year to help support the scholarship fund. Last year we received some generous donations. Many thanks to those who made a contribution. Your gifts make it possible for our group to support students entering the field of education. **Please think about supporting our fund this school year and use the form provided.** Educators need to be in the forefront of supporting education.

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:

Jean Foreman

8531 Broadneck Rd.

Chestertown, MD 2162

OUR Annual CHINESE AUCTION

Once again KCRSPA will hold their "CHINESE AUCTION" at the December 7th luncheon. It is always such a fun event and a great way to raise money for our scholarship fund. We encourage you to bring a newly purchased gift for our auction. We would also like to discourage lotion/perfume because of possible allergic reaction.

Come and participate in our joyful holiday luncheon and bring a retired personnel friend we haven't seen in awhile. HO! HO! HO!

Please remember to bring books, mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, and food for the "COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY."

New Medicare cards are coming in 2018...

Medicare is preparing to stop using Social Security numbers for identification next year and will send new cards to patients with Medicare ID numbers. The move is required by a law enacted two years ago to discourage identity theft. The agency plans to begin mailing the new cards with Medicare beneficiary identifiers (MBIs) in April 2018.

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. Laretta 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

11/02/17 KCRSPA Executive Committee Meeting

Attending were Lee Hunley, Charlotte Potts, Billie Lynne Roberts, Margie Baker, Betty Barbe, Terri Mulliken, Barbara Wheeler, Jean Wright, Jean Foreman, Nancy Harrington, Carol Lupis, Sue Crooks, Kathy Clark and Terri Bostic.

The meeting was convened at 10 a.m. by President Jean Wright. We said the Pledge of Allegiance.

We read the minutes and Margie Baker added her name to those who have volunteered at Cliffs School since May.2017.

Jean Foreman gave the Treasurer's Report. There is a balance of \$8456.90 in the KCRSPA Treasury. The balance in the Scholarship Fund is \$3769.24 including \$100.00 in the 2018 Lorraine Costella Scholarship Fund.

OLD BUSINESS

There was a Leadership Workshop in Easton, MD on September 19, 2017. Jean Wright, Kathy Clark, and Nancy Harrington attended.

Betty Barbe was inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizen Hall of Fame. In addition to Betty, Jean Foreman, Jean Wright, Ruth Wilson, Lee Hunley, Margie Baker and Fay Miller attended the induction luncheon in Glen Burnie.

Wanda Twigg, the new Executive Director of MRSPA, has offered to help us maintain our own website. There was no interest in setting up our own website. Barbara Wheeler suggested that we offer a stipend to a member who will maintain our present website. There was no action on this suggestion.

NEW BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Carol Lupis, Nominating Committee chairperson, reported that Terri Mullikin has agreed to be secretary of KCRSPA if someone will take over the job of doing the newsletter.

Membership Committee members, Nancy Harrington and Sue Crooks, reported that they will invite the new retirees to the Christmas meeting. The Teacher of the Year in KCPS will also be invited, since she was unable to attend the October meeting. We hope that the new retirees will join the KCRSPA. Barbara Wheeler suggested that we make sure that our programs appeal to all of our members and our potential members. KCRSPA was congratulated by Nancy Martin at MRSPA for reaching our membership goal. Everyone can help recruit members by inviting new members, encouraging all members to come to the general meeting and welcoming all members

at the meetings. Nancy Harrington will invite the Kent County BOE members to the Dec. 7th luncheon. Nancy Harrington reported that a new membership directory will be distributed at the Dec. 7th meeting.

Trips Committee chairperson, Nancy Harrington, reported that the bus trip to Lancaster is filled. Parking will be at the Kent Plaza movie theater.

Terri Mullikin reported that the newsletter will be sent out on November 10, 2017.

Legislative chairperson, Betty Barbe, reported that the Maryland State Legislative Workshop will be held on November 14, 2017 at the Senate office Building in Annapolis, MD. This is the kickoff meeting before the commencement of the regular legislative meetings in Annapolis.

Cliffs School Committee chairperson, Jean Foreman, thanked everyone who had volunteered as a docent this year. There were 103 visitors this year. We anticipate that docents will be needed next year. Carole Cordes has not yet heard from Preservation, Inc. about the proposed new entity which would own Cliffs School.

Community Service Chairperson, Billie Lynne Roberts, suggested that KCRSPA contribute \$50 to the Lions Club Christmas Food Basket project. The suggested contribution was approved by those present.

Billie Lynne also reported that she is looking for someone to assist in the nominating process for Maryland Senior Citizen Hall of Fame, the MRSPA Service Award, and the AARP Service Award. She is also looking for nominees for this award. Billie Lynne will include a reminder about keeping track of community service in the newsletter. Billie Lynne also mentioned that it is possible to be recognized for a KCRSPA group project. A possible project would be the maintenance of the Robert A. Crooks Memorial Garden at KCHS. Billie Lynne will present this idea at the Christmas Luncheon on December 7, 2017.

Program Committee co-chairperson, Carol Lupis, reported about the December 7th luncheon. There will be holiday decorations and a Chinese auction. Nancy Harrington will publish a description of the Chinese auction in the newsletter.

Hospitality Committee chairperson, Kathy Clark, reported on the December 7th luncheon menu. Nancy McCloy will help Kathy Clark with the centerpieces.

Scholarship Committee chairperson, Billie Lynne Roberts, reported that the requirements for the scholarship will be revised. After considerable discussion it was moved and seconded and passed that the scholarship qualification be a 3.0 GPA, but that the membership in the Teacher Academy requirement be dropped.

Sue Coleman has agreed to be the new Sunshine Committee chairperson.

Kathy Clark announced that Dr. Seuss Day will be on March 2, 2018. There will be a signup sheet for volunteer participants at the December luncheon meeting.

Food Pantry chairperson, Margie Baker, reported that our donations from the October meeting for hurricane victims were delivered to UMICOR. There will be a reminder about donations to the Food Pantry in the newsletter. Food, books and winter clothing donations are encouraged and appreciated.

President Jean Wright adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Bostic,

Secretary

DECEMBER
 Elaine Holden 12/1
 Ray Clarke 12/7
 Eileen Hahn 12/7
 Doreen Schively 12/16
 Richard Walters 12/17

JANUARY
 Jacqueline Scout 1/11
 John Wilson 1/11
 Carole Coleman 1/12 (L)
 Catherine McCall 1/13 (L)
 Ann Thomas 1/27

FEBRUARY
 Thelma O'Grady 2/5
 Edwina Walters 2/7
 Ellen VanCullin 2/12
 Terri Bostic 2/21
 Betty Cooper 2/28
 Cheryl Saunders 2/28



KCRSPA
 DECEMBER LUNCHEON
 THURSDAY 12/7/17
 CRYCC

MENU:

