



# The Bell Ringer

## Kent County Retired School Personnel Association

Volume 42 Number 4 June 2021

**H**ello members. I am sitting on my screened porch watching the sun glistening off the Chester River as I write this newsletter message!

My heart is smiling because I am finally returning to a reasonably normal life. Seeing family and friends in person is medicine for the soul. Feeling family hugs and having grandchild sleep overs is so much more precious now. One thing the experiences of the past year or so has taught me is to not take little things for granted but rather to take them for gratitude! I now purposely try to live life with my cup half full! I pray all of you feel the same way!

*Continued on page 2*



### **The Clapper**

*(What's Inside the Bell)*

President's Message -cont.	2
Editor Comments	2
Legislative Report	2
Birthdays	3
Treasurer's Report	3
Executive Comm. Minutes	4
Little Library	6
American Music Theater	6
Memorial	6
Scholarship Report	7
Scholarship Donation Form	7
Membership Report	8
June Luncheon Info	8



*Photo by President Sue Crooks*

Continued from page 1

Kent County Retired School Personnel Association has had a successful year. We adjusted to our new normal and have held Executive Committee meetings, chosen scholarship recipients, had members attend all Maryland Retired School Personnel Association official meetings, had active committees, and, thanks to the guidance of Terri Mullikin, had a scout troop make and put up two Little Libraries in Rock Hall. As most of you know, I am a Title One reading tutor at Rock Hall Elementary School so making sure all of this was carried through took a dedicated group of people. Many thanks to our executive committee and, especially, Glenn Michael for keeping me on track and being so supportive as I mulled my way through taking over President of our association when Fay Miller had to resign. (On a side note, Fay is doing well. She just celebrated a birthday complete with strawberry shortcake, and even has her pool open for the season!)

I wish everyone a wonderful summer full of all of the things you missed out on last year and more!  
Thanks again for all of your support during the last year. You all rock!

### **Editorial Comments - Glenn Michael, Editor**

Welcome to another issue of *The Bell Ringer*! This issue is a bit later than usual to provide a notice of the June meeting. The Executive Committee was trying to decide if we could go for an in person meeting and the decision was affirmative. It is a 'bring your own picnic' and outside in open air, so we figure it can be safe enough to meet and see each other. Hopefully all are vaccinated as that makes for more safety too.

In this issue you will find the usual reports. Even with all the disruptions of Covid, the KCRSPA has been active and doing the business of the organization. This organization is fortunate to have members that step up to the tasks and do the job well. If you want to see who they are, a copy of the Executive Committee is attached in a separate PDF. Also, in a separate PDF is the Phone Tree list.

President Sue, being back to in-school work was unable to attend the MRSPA Annual Business Meeting. It was Zoom and I attended. I'm not sure what to report. It was the customary Committee Reports. I will bring the packet to the next couple of KCRSPA Meetings and you can read as you wish.

We are in the need of a Vice President. Under normal circumstances this position really isn't that time consuming. Except, that is, that the VP moves up to President. However, that isn't all that much work either as the Committee Chairs are very supportive. Consider helping out. Remember too, that there are only four General meetings a year and four Executive Committee meetings a year. So, not so much.

## **WANTED - Candidate for Vice President**

No prerequisites other than being able to fog a mirror.

Will train.

Call President Sue Crooks or VP. Glenn Michael

---

## **Legislative Report**

"It was a pretty good session for us." Betty Weller

*Ed Note - Betty sent her report and it is both complete and extensive. Ten pages extensive. I must be hitting the old age block, but try though I might, I can not find the way to get a PDF to carry over in InDesign, nor to get it separate to send to you. I also do not feel the least qualified, regardless of past experience, to decide what bills I could summarize for all. Consequently I am going to say that I can email a PDF, but not get it into this program. So, if you want the whole ten page report, send Betty an email. She does a wonderful job and I applaud her. Can't say as I would want the job, not could I do that job.*

# HAPPY 2021 BIRTHDAY TO OUR SUMMER AND FALL MEMBERS



## JUNE

Nancy Harrington 6/7  
 Carole Lupis 6/11  
 Larry Adams 6/18  
 Bud Jastram 6/20  
 Peggy Brown 6/28  
 Mary Sieman 6/29

## JULY

Robert Tyson 7/1  
 Ruth Jackl 7/4  
 Jean Foreman 7/9  
 Marlene Vosberg 7/12  
 Emily Massey 7/12  
 Sue Schaubert 7/17  
 Marsha Miller 7/19  
 Bonnie Rose 7/23  
 Sharon Steward 7/24  
 Nancy McCloy 7/26

## AUGUST

Libby Knapp 8/5  
 Pete Ames 8/7  
 Donna Mills 8/8  
 Bess Engle 8/9  
 Lee Loller 8/11  
 Sandy Emory 8/11  
 Flossie Johnson 8/22  
 Joanne Clarke 8/25  
 Tom Groce 8/28  
 Debbie Smith 8/28  
 Mary Metzger 8/30  
 Margie Baker 8/30  
 Margaret Smith 8/31

## SEPTEMBER

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

## OCTOBER

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

### KCRSPA Treasurers report April 2021

Checking balance	\$7,667.63
Checks	180.00 (AMT deposit)
	100.00 (Miller deposit)
Deposits	0
	End balance 7,362.63
Savings (scholarship) balance	\$6,897.55
Deposits	25.00
Expenses	.00
Interest	0.34
End balance	\$6,922.89

**Kent County Retired School Personnel Association Executive Comm. Meeting  
May 13, 2021**

Call to Order: 10:10 am by our Vice President Glenn Michael  
We met at Wilbur Park.

Pledge of Allegiance

Those Present: Lee Hunley, Nancy Harrington, Nancy McCloy, Kathy Clark, Jean Wright,  
Glenn Michael, Billie Lynn Roberts, Emily Massey, Margie Baker, Edwina Walters.

Minutes: Edwina Walters passed out copies of the report. Approved by Jean Wright and second  
By Nancy Harrington and approved by all.

Treasure's Report: Emily Massey reported the Checking balance as \$7,667.63

Checks: 180.00 {ATM deposit}  
100.00 {Miller deposit}

Deposit: 0  
End Balance \$ 7362.63

Savings [scholarship] balance \$ 6,897.55

Deposits 25.00

Expenses .00

Interest 0.34

Ending Balance \$6,922.89

KCRSPA Budget 2021-2022 Treasures Report / April 2021

Revenue: Dues {94 members x \$15.00} \$1,410.00

Luncheons

American Music Theatre 44x?? [reserve 2010 bus and tickets 2021]

Expenses Total

Audit 50.00

Archives 50.00

Gifts/Memorials 50.00

Hospitality 250.00

Postage 61.25 x 4 245.00

Printing 200.00

MRSPA Contribution to Annual Meeting 50.00

Insurance 25.00

Website maintenance 18.00

Lions Club Christmas 50.00

Dr. Suess 250.00

Sunshine 100.00

Little Library 70.00

Subtotal \$1408.00

Unbudgeted \$2.00

This will be voted on a general meeting. A motion was made by Glenn Michael to increase Lions Club Christmas Basket to \$100.00, it was voted on accepted Billie Lynn Roberts and seconded by Nancy Harrington and approved by all. Nancy Harrington made a motion to increase Gifts and Memorials to \$100.00 Kathy Clark Seconded and approved by all.

Presidents Report: Vice President Glenn Michaels thanked all for coming.



## Committee Reports

Archives: Lee Hunley {NR}

Bylaws/ Policies: Margie Baker {NR}

Community Service: Billie Lynn Roberts. She reported that our Hall of Fame winner Jean Wright, will be celebrated next year due to Pandemic. Lee Hunley reported that she had had been helping at the Kent Center with the giving of shots for the virus.

Hospitality: Kathy Clark reported that it was a general consensus that we not have a General Meeting or Luncheon until October. After discussion by the group a motion was made by Kathy Clark that we increase the price of our luncheons to \$25.00 it was seconded by Nancy Harrington and approved by all. Kathy also said that "Phone Tree" needed up dating.

Membership: Nancy Harrington reported we had 93 members, 9 local members and we have had three deaths.

I have sent our fall retirees membership info at Christmas, but got no response. At this time I know of 4 retirees and will contact HR to see if there are anymore. I have contacted MRSPA for updated material and will hopefully visit the retirees in their schools. KCRSPA will also invite last years and this years to our fall Luncheon. It is every member's job to bring in new members. Nancy told us we would be getting new membership cards. She also reported we now have 3 LL in the county. Two will be in Rock Hall thanks to Terri Mullikin and her Girl Scout Troop and one in Worton Park needs painting. We are in need of books. A letter has been sent to Millington Town Council asking permission to place one in Millington, have not heard back from them.

Trips/Social: Nancy Harrington reported that we have plans to attend "Winter Wonderland" at The American Music Theater on November 17, 10:30 show and we have reservation for Millers for Lunch. We need to fill the bus, there are 46 seats

Scholarship: Billie Lynn Roberts, she reported that we had 10 applicants for scholarships, three have been chosen and because we have money we will add one more. Those names are Thomas Goldsborough, Kaitlin Beck, Jordyn Cox-Pemberton and Rachel Jones, they will each receive \$1200.00 award from our association. Cecilia Llamas will receive \$1000 from the Costella fund. Billie Lynn will be doing a video presentation of the award at KCHS. There is a virtual awards planned for June 2 on the KCHS website.

Newsletter: Glenn Michael will be preparing a news letter to go out before the end of May, if you have anything to add please get it to Glenn by May 21st.

New Business: We need a Vice President. It was decided we would meet on June 17th at Wilbur Park For lunch, everyone bring a bag lunch, drink and a chair, and we could socialize and Visit because we haven't been able to for a year. Hope to see you all then.

Adjournment: 11:45 am

Respectfully Submitted:

Edwina W. Walters, Secretary



## LITTLE LIBRARY UPDATE

The Little Free Library at Worton Park is being enjoyed by many folks in the community. By this summer, there will be two more Little Libraries in Rock Hall. We want to thank Terri Mullikin and her Girl Scout Troop for building the libraries. We are in great need of books and custodians for these libraries. Contact Nancy Harrington if you would like to make some book donations or help take care of the libraries.

## AMERICAN MUSIC THEATRE

KCRSPA will once again enjoy the Christmas show "WINTER WONDERLAND" at the American Music Theatre on Wednesday, November 17th. After the 10:30 show, we will have lunch at Miller's Smorgasbord.

The cost of the trip will be has now been calculated that -

- the cost of the trip would be \$110.00. Assuming we sell all 46 seats.



*Material excerpted from the well done funeral program by  
Bennie Smith Funeral Home*

John Elbert Wilson, Sr., age 88, was born on Wednesday, January 11, 1933, to John Hurlock Wilson and Margaret Jackson Wilson. To his family and friends, he was lovingly known as "Sunny". On Sunday, May 16, 2021, John departed this life to be with the Lord. He was raised in the home along with two loving sisters, Geraldine and May Anna.

John began his education at Coleman Elementary School, and then continued at Henry Highland Garnett High School in Chestertown, Maryland, where he excelled in music under the tutelage of Mr. Roy F. Knight. John graduated from Garnett, with the first class to complete twelve years, in 1951. Upon graduating, he was offered a full scholarship to Maryland State College in Princess Anne, Maryland (now University of Maryland Eastern Shore - UMES). In exchange for his education, John was asked to sing in the college choir for the four years he was there, from 1951 to 1955. He also pledged the Delta Nu Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., while in college.

After his formal education, John married the love of his life, Miss Grace Cole, of Still-Pond, Maryland, on May 10, 1956. Together they had and raised three handsome sons and one lovely daughter. During part of this time, he worked in construction in the Delaware area for Local 199.

From 1956 to 1958, John served two years in the Army, and continued his musical experience when he accompanied a five piece musical ensemble. He achieved the rank of Specialist 3rd Class (Technical) Headquarters and Service company 370th Armored Infantry Battalion. He earned the Good Conduct Medal, while serving overseas in Munich Germany as a Radio Operator, and later was honorably discharged from the Army.

John began his career of teaching music in Hurlock, Maryland, in Dorchester County, in 1960. While serving this student population, John created a full band and choir that was recognized for their excellence. From 1967 to 1969, he taught music at Cambridge High School in Cambridge, Maryland.

By 1970, John and his family had returned to Kent County where he taught at, the now integrated, Chestertown High School. Soon afterward, Kent County High School was built and John was assigned as the new music teacher. There he was able to inspire and train many singers and musicians with his gentle, yet steady and firm influence.

Meanwhile, on the home front, John founded the Coleman Gospel Singers and the Still Pond/ Coleman Charge Mass Choir. These groups blossomed under his leadership. The Mass Choir is still in existence this day and is now under the leadership of Mrs. Linda Wesley, who accompanied John on the piano while he conducted. Later, he organized the Men of Union and the Sanctuary Choir of Union United Methodist Church, where he has been a lifetime member and Lay Leader for many years. He also led a Bible study for the Men of Coleman.

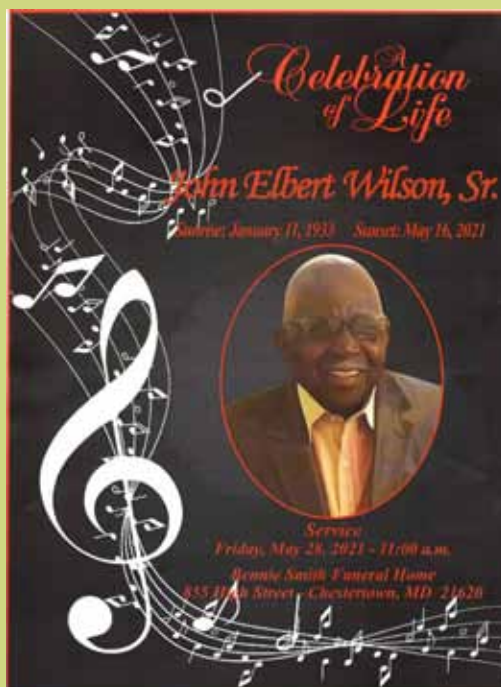
A tragic, severe, hearing loss began to affect John's ability to teach music. After transferring to Chestertown Middle School, John worked in a newly formed program named Child Find. This job offered him the opportunity to work with students and parents. After a few years, John decided it was time to retire from the field of education.

Despite his musical setback, John's spirit remained high and his influence widespread. Amazingly, though it was difficult, John was able to keep all the music he had ever learned in his long-term memory. He had "Perfect Pitch". As his former students and colleagues remember him, they have nothing but great things to say about his devotion to his profession and his outstanding traits as a Christian man.

Along with his parents, John and Margaret Wilson, John was preceded in death by his son, Reginald Lee Wilson, Sr. and his sister, Geraldine Fenwick.

John is survived by many and leaves to cherish beautiful, loving memories, his loving wife of 65 years, Grace Wilson; two sons, John and his wife, Yolanda and Melvin and his wife, Sheila; one daughter, Elaine; seven grandchildren, Melvin, Jr., Melody, Reginald, Jr., Lisa, Jasmine, Emmantel and Julianna; seven great-grandchildren, Justice, Messiah, Aliyah, Rymir, Logan, Micah and Isis; one sister, May Anna Phillips; one aunt, Florine Jackson; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and acquaintances.

Husband, father, uncle, cousin, friend, mentor and acquaintance - John was loved by all and will be truly missed and will remain in our hearts forever.



# Scholarship Committee Report

June 3, 2021

After many weeks of working with teachers and the guidance office at KCHS we received ten scholarship applications. All ten students have outstanding grades, positive teacher recommendations, and compelling personal essays. They are involved in serving the community and many school activities. These exceptional young people are our future leaders. Thank you for supporting them.

The committee carefully considered all applications and selected five for our scholarship award. Four students will receive a \$1200 award: Thomas Goldsborough, Kaitlin Beck, Rachel Jones, and Jordyn Cox-Pemberton. Cecilia Llamas will receive \$1000 from the Costella fund. Thomas lives in Kennedyville and will study sports management. Kaitlin lives in Millington and will major in secondary education. Rachel lives in Rock Hall and plans a future in environmental science. Jordyn lives in Betterton and will study civil engineering. Cecilia lives in Chestertown and plans a career in nursing. A virtual awards presentation is scheduled at KCHS on June 2.

*Billie Lynne Roberts*  
Chair, KCRSPA Scholarship Comm



## Scholarship Fund

Educators need to be in the forefront of supporting education. Please help us support high school students planning a career in education because scholarships mean a lot to students and their families. In a year unlike any other, the need is clear. Your gifts ensure opportunities for success. 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. This year we have received some generous donations, 29 from our members. 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 support a brighter future for our students.

One scholarship 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**

# MEMBERSHIP INFO

Nancy Harrington

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

MRSPA gained 104 new members at the fall recruitment. Unfortunately, KCRSPA did not gain any new members from their fall recruitment. At this time, we have 92 members and 8 local members. Sadly, we lost 5 incredible educators.

MRSPA is once again offering a \$10.00 gift card to any member who recruits a new member who signs up for "Dues Deduction." They are also offering "Switch and Save." It is a chance to receive a one-time \$10.00 dues reduction.

Be sure to read your MRSPA newsletter. It describes the new partnership with the Association Member Benefits Advisors. AMBA will provide new benefits for members and assist MRSPA with membership recruitment and retention.

## KCRSPA DIY PICNIC LUNCH THURSDAY, JUNE 17th 11:30 a.m. 'til ...? WILMER PARK, CHESTERTOWN

Although a formal luncheon will not take place until October, we thought everyone would be comfortable with a casual get-together outside. Hopefully, all have been vaccinated and are ready for a little normalcy. The executive committee invites all members to Wilmer Park in Chestertown on June 17th for socialization, camaraderie, and just plain relaxation. Bring your own bag lunch/picnic, a chair (there are benches in the pavilion but no tables), and enjoy the scenery and long over-due conversation with friends.

When our luncheons continue in the Fall, you will notice a change in the costs. For many years we have been fortunate in getting 3-course meals for only \$20. Due to price increases and Covid ramifications the new cost for lunch will be \$25. This will also help cover lunch costs for guests and speakers that attend.

Finally, you will find a new phone tree attached to the newsletter. PLEASE check your number to make sure it is correct. If it's not, then call Kathy Clark (410-778-2548) to correct it. We'll have another packet to distribute in October that includes the corrected phone tree.

HOPE TO SEE YOU ON THE 17th!  
(No rsvp required)

