

The Bell Ringer

Kent County Retired School Personnel Association

Volume 33 Number 4 May 2012

Message From The President

I thank everyone who has worked to make this year a rewarding year for our association. Our June luncheon will be our last until we meet in October.

We thank Billie Lynn Roberts and her committee for time and thoughts in selecting two Kent County High School seniors to receive scholarships from our association this year. Billie Lynn will present these at the senior awards evening at the high school.

Seven members of our association attended the MRSPA's annual business meeting at Michaels Eighth avenue in Glen Burnie on Tuesdays, May 8. Included in the meeting was a memorial service for all members who had passed away during the past year. Kent has lost four of our members. We received a certificate for participation in the state association. Also, included were certificates of awards for three of our members, which will be presented at our June luncheon. We hope to see you there.

As you can see our membership is down with the loss of four members. We need to be encouraging our fellow retirees to join us, as well as any new ones.

Some of our members will be helping at Cliff School this summer. If you are interested in this project, please call Jean Foreman.

I hope everyone has a great summer.

President

Jean Wright



Medicare

Medicare is covering more screening tests with the idea of preventing diseases and conditions that cost more to treat. They include mammograms, and Pap smears for women and PSA tests for men. A free annual colonoscopy for all. Additional free screenings are available for people whose doctors consider them at risk for aortic aneurysms, diabetes and some other conditions.

Kent County Retired School Personnel Association 3/08'12-

The KCRSPA met at Molly's Inn on Mar. 08,2012. There were 27 members and guests present. President Jean Wright welcomed everyone at 11:30 a.m.followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Area Director, Dorothy Palmer, was our program speaker. She enlightened us on various issues concerning our association e.g. ; the status of future conventions is questionable due to lack of interest; the Legislative Workshop in Easton was well attended; the Annual Business Meeting is scheduled for May 8th in Glen Burnie; MRSPA is encouraging Websites for all associations; incentives for recruiting new members is in place with an offering of \$100.00 for new memberships received by May 1st; nominations are needed for Vice .president, Secretary, and Treasurer. however, Fay Miller is the leading nominee for Treasurer. Other issues concerned Insurance coverage and Legislative matters. For special recognition purposes, an evaluation form on Dorothy Palmer's job performance is requested by Bonnie Brose.

Ann Sutton distributed folders designed by The Consumer Education Committee on Health and Medical information to be filled out and easily displayed for Emergency Personnel. In addition, a folder on Financial Information, Legislative Documents, and Investments and Insurance was also available for the purpose of providing valuable information for survivors. Ann announced that a special Insurance Meeting is scheduled for Tues., Apr. 10th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Odenton. Reservations are due Apr. 2nd.

Fay Miller summarized Legislative News of interest. She pointed out that Health Benefits are funded by local jurisdictions and not the state. Fay discussed the comparison between last year's budget and the budget that Superintendent Wheeler presented to the Board recently. Of special note, she praised Pam Ward, the bus driver, who managed to get all 45 of her children safely off the bus when a fire broke out on Mar.5th,which totaled the bus.

Winnie Walters delighted us with St. Patrick Holiday bags filled with goodies and also the Door Prize Tickets. There were two ticket drawings. Christine Hackett and Peggy Smith won the Door Prizes. Each one received a Gift Certificate for lunch at Molly's.

The Raffle Ticket drawing was won by Jean Wright who received \$41.00 leaving an equal amount for the Scholarship Fund.

President Jean Wright announced that the Annual Business Meeting will be held on May 8th at Michaels in Glen Burnie - cost is \$25.00/person. If interested, contact Jean for details.

Meeting adjourned 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Freeman
Secretary

Kent County Retired School Personnel Association 5/03/12

The KCRSPA Ex. Committee met at the Library Annex on May 3, 2012 with 12 members present. President Jean Wright called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Minutes of the last meeting, held Mar. 8th, were approved as read by Secretary, Betty Freeman. Treasurer, Jean Foreman, reviewed the Treasurer's Report which showed a current balance of \$4,417.92 in the Regular Account and a current balance of \$3,056.14 in the Savings/Scholarship Fund. The report was approved for audit.

Committee reports as follows:

Archives

Album up to date.

Cliff School

Chair, Jean Foreman, works diligently overseeing Cliff School projects, maintenance, and tour schedules in conjunction with the Port of Chester Questers, aiming to keep the history of Cliff School alive for visual and educational purposes. Jean's complete report is in this Newsletter

Community Service

Chair, Billie-Lynne Roberts, nominated Ann Sutton for the MRSPA Service Award to be presented at the Annual Meeting. Her resume of volunteer service is quite impressive. Billie-Lynne has outlined Ann's agenda in her Newsletter report.

Consumer Education

Ann Sutton, Fay Miller, Nancy Harrington, and Jean Foreman attended the Insurance Meeting in Odenton on April 10th and left with positive results.

Hospitality

Chairpersons, Winnie Walters and Fay Miller, indicated that favors for the June meeting are in the planning stage.

Membership

Chair Lynne Stokes led a discussion on potential membership status.

Newsletter

Terri Mullikin set a deadline of May 17th for Newsletter items.

Pre-retirement

Chair Ruth Wilson attended a pre-retirement meeting and will keep in touch with Marsha Miller on pre-retirement procedures.

Program/Luncheon

Chairpersons, Barbara Gillen and Donna Mills, have submitted the Luncheon menu and

Reservation forms in this Newsletter. The cost is \$16.00 due by May 30th, payable to KCRSPA, and mailed with your form to Donna Mills. Guest speakers to be announced.

Scholarship

Billie-Lynne and her committee have evaluated the 6 applications for the \$1200.00 Scholarship to be awarded to a qualified senior entering the field of education. Joanna Michelle Lopez of Locust Grove was chosen to be the scholarship recipient. Billie-Lynne will be at the Award Ceremony on May 23rd to make the presentation

Sunshine

Chair Lynne Stokes has sent Get Well Cards to Florence Dorsey and Grace Ann Beckwith.

Trips/Social Activities

Terri Mullikin announced that June 8th is the date scheduled for the KCTA at Waterman's. Cash Bar available. Food will be served at 5 o'clock. No invitation needed - just go.

President's Report

Jean Wright's full report is in this Newsletter.

New Business

Ann Sutton reported a total of 29 applications were received for the MRSPA teaching scholarship. Election of officers will take place at the Annual Business Meeting. Janette Windrow is the favorite contender for secretary. Travel Committee is getting good response.

Meeting adjourned 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Freeman
Secretary

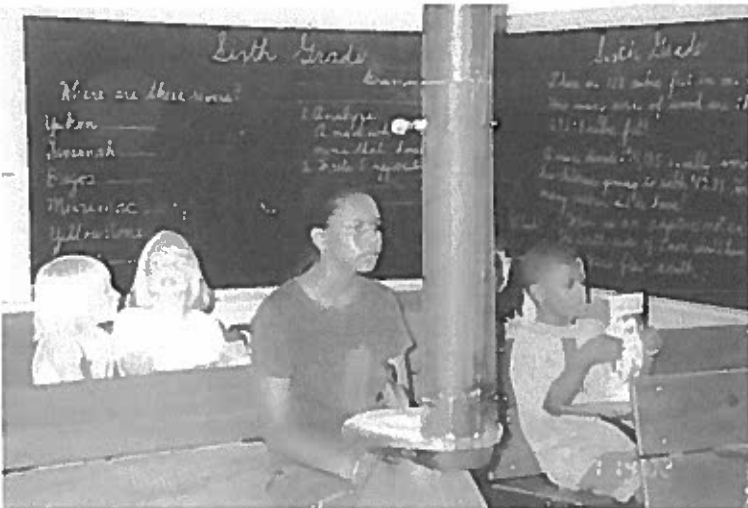
CLIFF SCHOOL MUSEUM

Cliffs Schoolhouse is the last remaining one-room schoolhouse in Kent County. It was erected in 1878 to serve a watermen's and farming community and was so used until 1939. The building has been preserved in its original condition and is well equipped with many of its original furnishings.



The Questers and Retired Teachers enjoy showing visiting school groups what school was like in bygone days.

Restoration and preservation of the schoolhouse is a current project of the Port of Chester Questers, with assistance from the Retired Teachers Association and is overseen by Preservation Inc. The Port of Chester Questers and the Retired School Teachers are available to open the schoolhouse to visiting tour groups and school groups during the school year and for summer school programs. For information, or to make arrangements call Mrs. Carol Cordes at 410 778-9173, Mrs. Margaret Smith at 410-778-2529. or Mrs. Jean Foreman at 410 778-3098.



Cliffs School Museum is open for visitors on the third Saturday of the month from May through October. Hours are 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM

Maryland Retired School Personnel Association
Community Service Committee
Individual Nomination Form

Name: **Ann W. Sutton**

Local: **Kent County, MD Retired School Personnel (KCRSPA)**

Project Title: **Volunteer Service in Kent County**

Description:

Ann worked for 29.5 years as a dedicated teaching assistant in the public schools. After retiring in 1996 she continued serving the community in many ways.

She quickly joined the Retired Teachers Association and soon took on the position of recording secretary for KCRSPA. Before long Ann was asked to take the position of association president which she did faithfully for two different terms. Now Ann is our Legislative representative, attending many meetings and reporting back to us. Most recently, Ann serves on the MRSPA State Board of Directors where she is the state Chairperson for consumer education. At the state level Ann works on the membership committee. After the State convention she was part of an ad hoc study committee. All of this involves considerable time, energy, travel and commitment.

Volunteerism has become an important part of her life. Ann has served on the boards of many community based service organizations such as the Maryland Agricultural Council. An active member of the Board of directors for this council she advocates the mission to educate the public on the importance of viable agriculture in MD. She is very involved in organizing the yearly dinner held to acquaint legislators with agricultural issues in MD. In addition, Ann is involved with procuring funds for 4-H grants and other youth programs. Also, Ann is a member of Relay for Life and a docent for the Cliff SchoolHouse. She is a presenter on the history of the schoolhouse to children's groups. Ann still seems to find time and energy to help our local churches. She is on the administrative council and chairperson of the outreach ministries who work closely with projects that help the needy members of the community.

For many years Ann has donated to the Kent County Food Pantry which feeds about 10% of the county population. Most recently she is working with the schools on a new program called "Food Packs". This program identifies and supplies needy children with food for the weekends. Each week the backpacks must be picked up from the schools, taken to local churches, filled with donated food and then returned to the schools. For the past year Ann has volunteered many hours on the organization and implementation of this program. She feels that it is so important for these children to feel secure. "Children who are hungry cannot concentrate on school work."

Ann has been faithful to her commitments to the community for many years. Her work benefits countless people each year. That includes 100s of children. The population served is diverse, including all ages and ethnic groups. Ann feels very grateful that she is able to help these families. We are very proud of our colleague for her efforts to help others and make a difference in the community.

Credit Cards

A credit card that has not been activated still affects your credit score. Credit scores treat activated and unactivated cards the same way – which means that canceling a card that you never activated is considered an account closure. This can hurt your credit score. Apply only for credit cards that you intend to activate and use.

Sunscreen

Most Americans think the best way to prevent skin cancer is the higher the product's sun factor (SPF) the better. Not necessarily so. Shade and/or protective clothing provide better protection