

The Bell Ringer

Kent County Retired School Personnel Association

Volume 340 Number 4 May 2019

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Everyone,
Our June luncheon is coming soon. Wanda Twigg, MRSPA Executive director and Ann Marie Downy, the state President will be our guests. Our officers for the next two years will be installed at this time. The officers are Fay Miller, President; Sue Crooks, Vice-president; Winnie Walters, secretary; and Emily Massey as Treasurer. Please support and join in activities that help our children and communities.

Seven members of our group enjoyed the annual meeting at the Comfort Inn in Bowie on May 8. They were Fay Miller, Nancy Harrington, Lee Hunley, Margie Baker, Jean Foreman, Sue Crooks and myself. We were awarded a certificate for a 4.30% increase in our membership. This is wonderful, but we need to keep working to bring other retirees into the association. Thank you Nancy Harrington and Sue Crooks for your continued efforts.



Please plan to attend the June 6th luncheon at Luisa's to visit, chat with friends and find out what is happening with the group. Hopefully there is something you would enjoy helping with. Enjoy your summer.

Jean L. Wright, President

A CHANCE TO VOLUNTEER

Garnet Elementary is looking for a group of retired school personnel willing to read to students on a regular basis. We will be meeting with principal Brenda Rose over the summer to "iron out" the details and organize a schedule. If you have one (or more) morning/afternoon to share your storytelling skills, please sign up on the available form at the luncheon. One day a week, one day a month, or 5 days a week—any amount of time volunteered would be appreciated.

MEMBERSHIP INFO

Recruitment Incentive: MRSPA is offering a \$10 gift card to ANY member who recruits a NEW member who signs up for DUES DEDUCTION. All you have to do is get the NEW member to complete an application form, signing up for DUES DEDUCTION, and then WRITE YOUR NAME on the application before sending it to MRSPA. MRSPA will send you a gift card. You can recruit as many NEW DUES DEDUCTION members as you like! Just remember to put your name on each application! The NEW member who signs up for DUES DEDUCTION will also receive the ONE-TIME \$10 reduction in state dues, so their state dues will be \$35 for 2019-2020. Remember that local dues are additional. We are calling on ALL members to assist us in this recruitment effort!

Switch and Save Invitation: MRSPA has extended an invitation to cash members to switch to dues deduction for 2019-2020. If they make the change, they are eligible for a one-time \$10 reduction in state dues. They would pay \$35 for state dues for 2019-2020, plus their local dues amount. Members need to complete and return the 2019-2020 Dues Deduction Authorization Form, which is available on the MRSPA website under Switch and Save(<https://www.mrspa.org/switch-and-save>). Please encourage current cash dues payers to Switch and Save! We also need those changes before June 15, 2019 for the July dues deduction.

End of the year membership: As we end our 2018-2019 year, KCRSPA, Inc. has 97 members, 5 local members, and 5 Emeritus members. Have a great summer and always be ready to invite a retiree to join our happy group.

Welcome New Members
KCRSPA wants to welcome **Deborah Morris, Amy Crowding, and Dorothy Ringgold** to our group. Thanks so much for joining this very busy, fun, active group of retirees.

DIRECTORY INFO

At our holiday luncheon, a 2018-2019 directory was passed out. If you didn't get one, please let Sue Crooks or Nancy Harrington know and you will receive one.

There were several changes and corrections that needed to be made. Please add these corrections to your directory:

Suzanne Coleman
magpie@gmail.com

Lorraine Costella
costella@goucher.edu Birthdate:
4/25/36

Susan Crooks
26895 Mallard Rd.
Chestertown, MD 21620

Kathleen G. Jones
Birthdate: 4/28/56

Carole Lupis

410 778 6837
410 708 6837
Birthdate: 6/1/39

James Lupis jimlupis@yahoo.com

Emily Massey
443 480 3922

Billie Lynne Roberts
443 480 5583

Evelyn Schaubert
suzyschauber@gmail.com

Bonnie Smith
410 778 2628

Ruth Wilson
410 708 2027 {new number}

Deborah Morris
13019Goose Down RD.
Worton, MD 21678

Amy Crowding
25237 Porters grove RD
Worton, MD 21678

Dorothy Ringgold
13 Hengst Lane
Smyrna, DE 19977

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

At this time, KCRSPA has **97 members and 5 Emeritus members.** We also have **5 local**

members. Hope to see all of you at our next luncheon.

One of our dear members has moved away this past winter...
Betty Barbe. Betty was our Legislative Chair and also one of our MRSPA Maryland Senior Citizen Hall of Fame Honorees. She was a Character Count Coach at Galena Elem. School and a member of the Chorale. We will miss you Betty and hope you will enjoy your new home.

**Betty's new address:
4020 Milano Lane
Longmont, Colorado
80503**

Community Food Pantry

REMINDER

Please don't forget to bring your non-perishable food items and children's books to the luncheon. All the items will be donated to the food pantry.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

JUNE

Carol Lupis 6/1
Nancy Harrington 6/7
Larry Adams 6/18
George Jastram 6/20
Peggy Brown 6/28
Mary Sieman 6/29

JULY

Robert Tyson 7/1
Ruth Jackl 7/4
Barbara Wheeler 7/5
Jean Foreman 7/9
Marlene Vosberg 7/12
Emily Massey 7/12
Evelyn Schaubert 7/17
Marsha Miller 7/19
Bonnie Rose 7/23
Nancy McCloy 7/26

AUGUST

Elizabeth Knapp 8/5
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



THANK YOU

A very special thank you to
**Jean Wright, President, Jean
Foreman, Treasurer and Cliff
School Chairman, and Terri
Bostic, Secretary** for your
dedicated service to
KCRSPA, INC. We appreciate all
the hard work you did for us
retirees. **THANKS!**

Pension COLA:

The Maryland State Retirement and Pension System has announced a COLA of 2.443% for retirees on service earned prior to the 2011 reform and a 1% post reform service.

Medicare Card Scam: Scammers pretend to be Medicare representatives, who ask to verify your information over the telephone. In another scam, a scammer offers a plastic Medicare card for a fee— even though the real Medicare cards are paper and there are no legitimate plastic cards. Medicare doesn't ask for personal information by telephone or charge a fee for Medicare cards.

Don't be fooled by scammers trying to get information from you!

Again, report scams, or find out if anything could be a scam by calling:

Maryland Attorney General's Consumer Hotline at 410-528-8662 or toll-free 1-888- 743-0023.

Scholarshp 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.

OUR SCHOLARSHIP TRIP

to LANCASTER

Our trip to the American Music Theatre to enjoy the show called "JOY to the World" is

Wednesday, November 6th. After the show we will enjoy a

delicious meal at Hershey Farm Restaurant. The cost of our trip

is \$89. If you are interested in going on the trip contact Nancy Harrington.

**Maryland Retired School Personnel Association
Community Service Nomination**

Nominee: Nancy Harrington
Local : Kent County Retired School Personnel Association
Phone: 410-348-2281, 443-406-5462
Submitted by: Billie -Lynne Roberts

Nancy Harrington deserves special recognition for her dedicated and active service to our community of Kent County, Maryland. She has participated in many volunteer activities, giving of herself and time to people of all ages, making their lives happier and more comfortable. Since retirement from Kent County Public Schools in 2010, after 37 years of teaching, community service has been an integral part of her life.

Nancy is an important, contributing member to our retired school personnel organization. She has served as president, vice-president, program co-chair and co-chair of membership, dedicating many hours of creative energy. She and her partner researched one-room schoolhouses in Kent and organized a presentation to members. A book of memoirs of Kent County teachers, dating from 1900, was presented to each member. She also helps to organize trips to raise money for our scholarship program. This money helps us present scholarships to students entering the field of education. As membership co-chair Nancy visits and recruits new retirees, encouraging them to join MRSPA. Currently, Nancy is working on a project to create a Little Free Library.

Nancy has given many hours of volunteer service to the public schools. Several days each week she works with individual children and small groups in a Kindergarten class, focusing on basic reading skills. In addition, each week she works with a pre-K and 1st grade class on Character Counts lessons, stressing caring, responsibility, trustworthiness and the pillars of good character. Plus, Nancy meets once a month on the Board of Directors for Character Counts in Kent County where they evaluate and review the progress of the program. In March you will find Nancy reading Dr. Seuss books to different grades at various elementary schools. Her efforts impact the lives of many children where she is gifted in guidance, patience and love of learning.

For many years Nancy has been very involved with the Kent County Food Pantry which feeds about 10% of the county population. She is involved with many aspects of providing food for our "at risk" citizens, such as stocking shelves, filling carts and donating food, books, and winter clothes for families. At times Nancy works at the Community Table, where meals and support are offered for those in need.

An active member of her church, Nancy teaches Sunday School and is the Mission Chairwoman. She organizes, with other churches, and Washington College, a mission project called Rise Against Hunger. This project packaged and sent more than 20,000 meals to food starved areas in the world. To support this effort Nancy organizes Pancake suppers and yard sales with other churches. As co-chair of the Altar Guild, Nancy prepares the altar for each Sunday worship service. All of these efforts make a big difference in peoples lives. Nancy is always willing to give of her time, skills and energy to improve the quality of life for family, friends, and neighbors.

Minutes of the General Meeting, March 7, 2019

Jean Wright convened the meeting at 11:30 a.m. at Heron Point in Chestertown, Maryland. 28 members and 1 guest attended.

We said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Nancy Harrington welcomed new members, Dorothy Ringgold and Debbie Morris.

Fay Miller reported that MRSPA will be discontinuing the Abenity service because the use of it did not justify the cost.

Fay also reported that there have been some problems with the new health insurance. Members should call Labor First with health insurance questions.

President Jean Wright announced that KCRSPA needs nominees for Vice President and for Treasurer.

Fay Miller announced that the KCRSPA and MRSPA websites have been updated.

There was a discussion about the possibility of having a brunch instead of a lunch for our general meeting. A vote showed that members were open to the possibility of having a brunch, which could be arranged at Heron Point.

Dr. Seuss Day will be tomorrow and several of our members will be participating.

Carole Lupis introduced the speaker for the meeting, Madhu Sidhu. Over the years, Madhu has been a devoted member of the PTSA and a leader of that organization. She was the director of Character Counts and she was on the Maryland Board of Education. Her children, Sonny and Supreet, matriculated at Kent County Public Schools and went on to very successful college experiences and careers.

Mrs. Sidhu is now an advocate for the Community College Promise Scholarship which creates opportunities for students to attend one of Maryland's public community colleges by providing tuition assistance for any student eligible for in-state tuition.

Emily Massey won the 50/50 raffle and donated \$45.00 back to the scholarship fund. Total income for the scholarship fund was \$90.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Bostic

Trips:

The American Music Theater trip will be on November 6, 2019. The cost will be \$89. Nancy Harrington will be starting plans for the 2020 trip soon.

Scholarship:

Billie Lynne Roberts and Brenda Shorter reported on the KCHS student who will be awarded our scholarships this year. Her award will be announced at the May 22, 2019 KCHS Awards Assembly. She will receive the \$2000 KCRSPA Scholarship and the \$1025 Lorraine Costella Award. We will invite the recipient of our scholarships and her parents to our June 6, 2019 meeting.

Billie Lynn read a thank you note from Meaghan Doyle who received one of our scholarship awards in 2018.

Newsletter:

Articles for the newsletter are due on May 10, 2019.

Community Service:

Billie Lynne Roberts reported that Nancy Harrington is our nominee for both the 2019 AARP Community Service Award and the Senior Citizens Hall of Fame Award.

Billie Lynne read a thank you note from the Lions Club for the \$50 that KCRSPA contributed to the Christmas Food Basket project.

Nancy Harrington reported that our plans for 'The Little Library are ongoing.

HHGES is inviting our members to read to students on a scheduled basis. A signup sheet will be available at the June 2019 general meeting.

Legislative:

Betty Weller has volunteered to be the KCRSPA Legislative Chairman. She has also volunteered to serve on the MRSPA Legislative Committee.

Nominations:

Fay Miller, President

Winnie Walters, Secretary

Emily Massey, Treasurer

We still need a nominee for Vice President.

There was a discussion about the possibility of having co-presidents and co-vice presidents.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Bostic, Secretary

Executive Committee Meeting May 2, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Jean Wright.

We said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attending were: Fay Miller, Jean Foreman, Jean Wright, Nancy Harrington, Kathy Clark, Nancy McCloy, Lee Hunley, Charlotte Potts, Brenda Shorter, Billie Lynne Roberts, and Terri Bostic.

The minutes of the February 7, 2019 executive committee meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Jean Foreman reported that our treasury balance is \$5911.21 as of May 2, 2019. Our scholarship fund balance is \$5767.58, including \$1025 for the Lorraine Costella Scholarship Fund.

Old Business

The MRSPA Annual Meeting will be held on May 8, 2019. Fay Miller, Sue Crooks, Nancy Harrington, Jean Foreman and Margie Baker will be attending.

New Business

Jean Wright introduced a letter from Airlee Johnson about the Rural Education Initiative, the REI. This initiative has as its goal "to ensure that every child leaving rural school systems [is] college or career ready by taking advantage of new neurological insights into the key stages of brain development; early childhood and adolescence." Mrs. Johnson is inviting educators who have retired in the past five years to contact her at 410-708-7472 to volunteer to help with this project. There will be a meeting at the end of May.

Fay Miller presented information about and a demonstration of the use of the MRSPA and KCRSPA websites. The websites contain the minutes of our meetings, important information, such as the annual COLA, and photos of our members.

Committee Reports

Program/Hospitality:

Our June 6, 2019 general meeting will be at Luisa's in Chestertown. There will be the installation of our new officers. Fay Miller will present information about the MRSPA and KCRSPA websites. Kathy Clarke will be bringing a display of Dr. Seuss Day 2019. There will be a signup sheet for members who would like to volunteer to read to students at HHGES during the upcoming school year.

Membership:

We have 97 members, including 5 members of the local association only.

Sue Crooks and Nancy Harrington will have personal contact with the 2019 retirees to invite each of them to join KCRSPA. New retirees will be invited to be our guests at the October general meeting. All members are encouraged to contact other members and encourage them to attend out general meetings.

MRSPA will give a \$10 discount on annual dues for members who change from check payments to automatically deducted payments.

Members who pay dues by check will receive their bills on June 1, 2019.

