



The Bell Ringer

Kent County Retired School Personnel Association

From Your President:

Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle all the way to our December 7, 2006 luncheon to be held at the Old Wharf Restaurant. Come for a social time beginning at 11:30 a.m. and enjoy a Christmas dinner served at noon, followed by a Christmas Musical given by Garnett Elementary School students.

Christmas is a time of Giving and Sharing. We are each asked to bring a canned goods item or non-perishable foods, to be given to the Community Food Pantry. Donations are greatly needed for this project, especially at holiday time. Let's help some family have a nicer dinner. You know that when we open our purses and hearts, it's the pleasures given to someone else that brings us peace and joy.

Carl Lancaster, Maryland Retired School Personnel Association's elected trustee to the State Retirement and Pension Systems of Maryland, is now in his twentieth year of service as a trustee. He believes time has come to move on...to retire. His term expires July 31, 2007. We have been able to depend on Carl's knowledge and his understanding of the needs of retirees. Please read the enclosed letter from our State President, Carol Webster, endorsing Don O'Neal. Also attached is Don's resume. I feel Don will represent us well. He has been invited to visit our Association in the spring.

I look forward to seeing each of you on Dec. 7, 2006, at 11:30 a.m.

May you have a Happy Holiday and a Joyous New Year!

Ann W. Sutton
President



Coming Events

Dec. 7, 2006 – KCRSPA Christmas Luncheon
11:30 a.m.
Old Wharf, Chestertown

Dec. 11, 12 - Chestertown Fire House
2006
Packing of the Lion's Club
Christmas Baskets (9 a.m.-4 p.m.)
Notify Jean Foreman if/when
you can help

Dec. 13, 2006 Kent County Board of Ed.
Christmas Breakfast for KCRSPA
members – Kent County High School,
at 8:30 a.m., followed by a tour of the
school.

Feb. 1, 2007 - KCRSPA Executive Mtg.
10 a.m., Bd. of Ed.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The KCRSPA Executive Committee met at the Board Office on Nov. 2, 2006 with 12 members present. President Ann Sutton opened the meeting at 10:08. She reported that Betty Cooper was undergoing heart surgery this morning in Washington.

Secretary Betty Freeman read the minutes of the Oct. meeting. Minutes were approved as read

Treasurer Jean Foreman reviewed the Treasurer's Report which showed a current balance of \$788.46 in the Regular Account and a balance of \$1846.62 in the Savings/Scholarship Fund. The bus trip to the American Music Theater netted \$238.90 for the Scholarship Fund. Ruth Wilson made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Jean Wright seconded. Motion carried. The report was approved for audit.

Committee Reports as follows:

Archives

Chair Nellie Greenwood reported album up to date. Pictures received today of the Memorial Garden Dedication will be inserted.

Cliffs School

Jean Foreman reported for Chair Dick Morlock. Volunteers are needed for school yard clean-up scheduled for Nov. 8, 2006 at 10:00a.m. Docents will be needed for Holiday Tours which begin on Dec. 9, 2006. Dick will contact prospective docents.

Trip-Social Activities

Chair Ruth Wilson reported that the Music Theater Trip went well. Forty-six have signed up for next year, including two today. She has already made seating reservations. At this point, there are seventeen interested in a spring trip to Mount Vernon. Check Newsletter for further information.

Community Service

Chair Jean Foreman reported that the VanSant Memorial Garden Dedication was a great success and thanked everyone who helped. Details are in her report. She received a "Thank You" note from the VanSant family for the loving tribute in memory of Thelma VanSant.

Jean reported 391 hours turned in so far and reminded us to set aside Dec. 14, 2006 for the

Lion's Christmas Basket Project at the Chestertown Firehouse. A sign-up sheet will be passed around later.

Special recognition was given to Elaine Holden for her work on the Newsletter and the Scholarship Award.

Constitution

No report at this time.

Education and Protective Services

No activity reported.

Program

Co-chairs Betty Simpers and Jean Wright stated that we will meet at the Old Wharf on Dec. 7, 2006, for our Christmas Party. Reservation forms with menu choices are in this Newsletter. Luncheon cost is \$15.00. In keeping with the spirit of Christmas, President Sutton led a discussion on a gift exchange or a worthy project. Canned goods for the needy were suggested. Jean Foreman made a motion for members to bring non-perishable food items or canned goods for the Food Pantry to the meeting. Elaine Holden seconded. Motion carried.

Hospitality

Co-chair Margie Baker will check sources of poinsettias for table decorations. The high school Horticultural Department was a suggestion. Miriam Cronshaw will donate the Door Prize for December.

Legislation

President Sutton and Dr. Ray Clarke will attend a Legislative Meeting in Annapolis on Nov. 14, 2006. Health Care Insurance issues are a primary concern.

Membership-Necrology

Chair Joe Massey was absent; however, President Sutton reported that Ann Thomas, a retired Rock Hall school secretary, seemed interested in becoming a member.

Newsletter

Chair Elaine Holden set a Nov. 10, 2006 deadline for news items.

Nominating

Co-chair Miriam Cronshaw reported that the committee will present a slate in March

Pre-Retirement

Due to health issues, Florence Dorsey is resigning as Chair. As a replacement, she recommended Margie Baker. Margie's decision is pending until further notice. Dr. Ray Clarke is willing to help the new Chair with committee procedures and objectives.

Scholarship

Chair Elaine Holden reported no activity to date.

Sunshine

Chair Frances Barrett was absent due to illness. We are sending her a card. President Sutton gave her report - 8 birthdays in Aug., 7 in Sept., 6 in Oct., 4 Get Well, and 2 Flowers.

President's Report

President Sutton's Report is included in this Newsletter.

New Business

Jean Foreman read a letter from MRSPA regarding donations to replenish their Scholarship Endowment Fund. They plan to award three scholarships this year to school system employees who are working on a teaching degree. Dr. Clarke made a motion to send a \$25.00 donation to the MRSPA Endowment Committee. Elaine Holden seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 11:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Freeman

Secretary

Address Updates

Jed Howell
411 Baxter Rd. Retired 2005
Sudlersville, MD 21669
410-438-3239

Dorothy R. Leap
203 Greenwood Ave.
Chestertown, MD 21620
410-778-3735

Mark Schivley
915 N. Meadowview Dr. Retired 2006
Chestertown, MD 21620 Birthday May 19
410-778-6675

Lynne Stokes
11589 St. James Rd. Retired 2006
Worton, MD 21678 Birthday March 6

With Deepest Sympathy

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to members who have lost loved ones this month.

To Cathy McCall, on the loss of her husband, Frederick (Fritz) McCall, November 1.

To Grace Ann Beckwith, on the loss of her mother, Lucy M. Beckwith, November 12.

MSRPA Legislative Workshop

On Tuesday, November 4, 2006, President Ann Sutton and Ray Clarke, KCRSPA Legislative Chair, attended the annual workshop in Annapolis. The program included presentations and comments from the MRSPA President and Legislative Chair, Delegate Charles Barkley and Senator John Astle and other speakers. The topics discussed were the Maryland Retirement and Pension Systems, MSTA Legislative Priorities, Update from Maryland AARP, Current Issues Confronting the Department of Aging, MSRPA Bills Proposed for the 2007 Session, and the Roles of Legislative Chairs. The speakers concurred that the greatest concern for retirees appears to be present and future health care and the cost. The need for long-term health care insurance was also addressed. Two speakers from the Pension System Board of Trustees shared their concern regarding the financial soundness of the system. They both stressed the importance of the state maintaining an appropriate funding ratio to prevent future problems. They stated that at the present time the system appears to be fiscally sound.

Do You Know Someone Who Wants Certification?

MRSPA is offering a limited number of \$1500.00 scholarships to public school employees in Maryland who are enrolled in a program leading to teacher certification. In the past seven years, 17 of these scholarships have been awarded.

Individuals who are eligible to apply for a scholarship shall be uncertified current employees of the Board of Education. They must hold a high school diploma or a GED certificate.

Applications for this scholarship have been sent to the Dept. of Human Resources at the Kent County Board of Education.

If you know someone in our schools who is deserving of this assistance, please call this scholarship to their attention.

KCRSPA Scholarship Update

As noted in the Exec. Comm. Minutes in this issue, the Scholarship Fund continues to replenish itself after each \$1200.00 award and to grow, thanks to your generous contributions, and to bus trips, raffles, etc. If you would like to make a voluntary contribution for 2006-2007, a form is provided below.

Also noted in Ruth Wilson's Exec. Comm. report, many members are interested in a spring bus trip to Mount Vernon, from which some of the proceeds would provide another contribution to the Scholarship Fund. If you have not visited Mount Vernon recently, a lot has happened in the past three years. There are two new state-of-the-art facilities – the Ford Orientation Center and the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center-- which will make a visit to Mount Vernon come alive as they illuminate chapters of Washington's life. They offer movies and exhibits that "introduce the real George Washington, a dynamic, fascinating hero," prior to touring the estate itself. Stay tuned... we hope to make this happen!



Mail to:
Mrs. Jean Foreman
8531 Broadneck Rd.
Chestertown, MD 21620

KCRSPA Scholarship Fund

I am enclosing my \$25.00 donation.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Make Check Payable to:
KCRSPA Scholarship Fund



Maryland Retired School Personnel Association

8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A • Odenton, Maryland 21113
Office: 410.551.1517 • Fax: 410.551.0874
www.mrspa.org

Donald L. O'Neal
PO Box 401
Leonardtown, MD 20650
301-994-0669
doneal43@verizon.net



Don O'Neal is asking for your support for the position of Trustee of the Maryland Retirement and Pension System Board.

Don is a native of Western Maryland. He spent his entire teaching career in St. Mary's County. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Mathematics Education (1965) and a Master of Education with a major in Administration from Frostburg State College (1970). He began teaching mathematics in 1965. Don became certificated in Counseling and Guidance with graduate studies from Johns Hopkins University and George Washington University.

Don has served in many roles in St. Mary's County Public Schools including counselor, Vocational Placement Counselor, Safety and Security Officer, Assistant Principal, and Local Accountability Coordinator with the title of Facilitator of Assessment. He retired in June of 2001 after 36 years in the field of education.

Don has served in the following positions:

- **President - Education Association of St. Mary's County (1970-1971)**
- **Member - MSTA Board of Directors (1971-1973)**
- **President - St. Mary's County Public Schools Retirees Association (2004-2006) (formerly St. Mary's County Retired Teachers Association)**
- **Area II South Director - Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (representing Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's Counties)**
- **Member - MRSPA Board of Directors**
- **Member - Lexington Park Lions Club**
- **Member - St. Mary's County Board of Elections**
- **Host - Don O'Neal And Company on Public Access Television.**

Don taught mathematics part-time for twenty years for the College of Southern Maryland and has been a part-time instructor for Towson University. For the past five years he has worked as a Jackson Hewitt Tax Preparer.

In Don's words:

Decisions that are made by the trustees will affect all school personnel now and in the future. Retirees depend on that retirement check and are tremendously affected by the cost of health care. Funds have to be invested wisely and the trustees need to be accountable to you and to all retirees.

I pledge to continue to provide effective representation that has been demonstrated by our current trustee.

I am committed to working with you and the MRSPA leadership to provide the best retirement program now and in the future. You can count on me to be part of our team. Thank you for your consideration.

Donald L. O'Neal



Maryland Retired School Personnel Association
8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A
Odenton, MD 21113
410-551-1517
410-551-0874

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 16, 2006
TO: Local Association Presidents
FROM: Carol Webster, MRSPA President
RE: DON O'NEAL - TRUSTEE CANDIDATE

The MRSPA Board of Directors held an emergency meeting in October. The purpose of the meeting was to endorse a candidate for the position on the Maryland Retirement and Pension Board vacated by Carl Lancaster on July 31, 2007.

The majority of those present voted for Don O'Neal from St. Mary's County. Don's entire career in education was in St. Mary's County. He has been very active with his local association and with MRSPA, and is presently serving as Area II South Director. He is also a member of MSTA-R and NEA-R.

Don made an attempt to get MSTA's endorsement at their October convention. Unfortunately he lost by seven votes. However, he now has name recognition with that group.

We are asking each local association to invite Don to one of their general membership meetings so people will get to know him, read his resumé, and vote for him in the June election.

Carl Lancaster did a great job representing us. We need to elect a person who is knowledgeable and who understands our needs. I believe Don is that person.

Carol H. Webster, President

The Thelma Vansant Memorial Garden is Dedicated

Saturday, October 14, 2006



Top left: Jean Foreman in Thelma Vansant's Memorial Garden.

Top right: Kent County teachers who helped Mrs. Vansant reopen the school – Nellie Greenwood, Frances Clendaniel, Peggy Smith, and Miriam Cronshaw.

At left: Frances Clendaniel and Richard Morlock greet our guests.

KCRSPA Community Service Report

Thanks to all who helped to make the dedication of Mrs. Thelma Vansant's Memorial Garden a success!! It was well-attended by former students of the Cliffs School, retired teachers, family and friends of Mrs. Thelma Vansant, 49 in all. Richard Morlock, KCRSP Cliffs School Representative, Frances Clendaniel and Nellie Greenwood, Retired Teachers, Charles Startt and Dorothy Hickman, former Cliffs School Students, Patsy Reihl Coworker, Joan Ford, Isabel Moffett and Ann Vansant, family members, made kind remarks about the Cliffs School, the Retired Teachers and Mrs. Vansant. A fitting tribute to a remarkable lady and teacher. Mrs. Vansant, the last teacher, taught in the Cliffs School from 1928 until it closed in 1939. After years of being closed Mrs. Vansant in 1983 worked hard with other retired teachers to get the Cliffs School refurbished and open for tours. Now all can enjoy her hard work. Due to lack of funds the one room school is now preserved by Preservation, INC and the Port of Questers. Cliffs School is the Community Service Project of the Retired Teachers, Port of Chester Questers and Preservation, INC. We enjoyed seeing the Garden and Plaque in Mrs. Vansant's Memory, a tour of the school and refreshments.

I have received 391 community service hours. Please mark *December 11th and 12th to help the Lion's Club fill Christmas Baskets in the Chestertown Fire House. It is a rewarding experience and will make Christmas for others.

We are recognizing Elaine Holden for all her hard work in publishing our Newsletter, The Bell Ringer, which we all enjoy. Elaine also chairs the scholarship committee who work hard to select a deserving student for the KCRSPA Scholarship. Elaine retired in 1999 and is actively involved in her church, the friends of the library, her sorority, and Washington College. Elaine enjoys traveling and recently returned from a trip with her family to Italy.

Please continue to volunteer and turn in your hours.

Name _____

What Did You Do?

How Many Hours?

Hours With Our youth?

April, 2006
May

June
July

August
September

October
November

December
January 2007

February
March 2007

Fill out and give or mail to Jean Foreman, 8531 Broadneck Road, Chestertown, MD.21620 or call 410 778 3098 or email jean@dmv.com. All Volunteer Time and Services must be in by March 1, 2007 in order to be recognized.

Jean A. Foreman, Community Service Chair

