

The Bell Ringer

Kent County Retired School Personnel Association

Volume 340 Number 2 November 2018

President's Letter

Hello Friends,

2018 is quickly approaching with many activities taking place for all of us. Our annual trip to the American Music Theater was November 7. Many of us look forward to the Christmas show each year. The show is always wonderful and puts us a Christmas mood.

The October luncheon was at the Granary with beautiful scenery and delicious food. We welcomed new retirees as our guests. The Kent County teacher of the year was one of our guest speakers. She spoke of things that were happening in Chestertown Middle School and how much she enjoys teaching in Kent County. Airlee Johnson gave a talk on Legacy Day in Kent County, which was very informative.

AS you all know Barbara Wheeler, our vice president, passed away in September.



Fay Miller has accepted the office of vice president, with the approval of the executive committee on November 1. We know she is a very dedicated retiree of Kent County.

Mark your calendars and make your reservations for our Christmas luncheon December 6 at Heron Point. We are asked to bring books we have read and would like to donate to be sold for \$1.00 a book. Tickets will be available for purchase and drawing for some gift baskets. The money from these activities will go to the scholarship fund. See Page 2

Please remember items for the Community Food Bank also. This will be a wonderful start for the Christmas season. Hope to see you there.

We have much to be thankful for as we gather with family and friends for Thanksgiving. Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Jean Wright

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.
Chestertown, MD 21620

DR. SEUSS CELEBRATION

The birthday celebration again comes before our March luncheon, and falls on a Saturday. Therefore, our volunteer reading will take place on Friday, March 1, 2019. A sign-up sheet will be available at our December lunch for those who wish to participate. As in the past, we will be reading to pre-K through 2nd grade classes at all three elementary schools. Final details and a schedule will be available in February. Come join the fun!

KENT COUNTY NEW HEALTH INSURANCE:EFF 1/1/19

NEW insurance plan for all over 65 KCPS retirees and spouses. All under 65 will see no change in their rates and /or coverage. Supposedly designed for lower rates both for retiree and the school system. No rate schedules have been distributed at this time. There have been different savings amounts discussed with no \$\$ amount for either the Retiree or the BOE shared at this time.

During the meeting on Tuesday, October 9th the following was shared by Labor First.

1. Medical portion of the supplemental will be provided thru TRANSAMERICA- including a 0 Co-pay. If a claim is approved by Medicare then Transamerica will pay the balance with no co-pay passed on to retiree.
2. There will be separate mailings from both Transamerica and Humana. Humana will be the new provider of the prescription drug program (meets the requirements of Medicare Part D)
 - a. Retiree will receive a welcome kit in mid-October
 - b. An acceptance letter should be received in November
 - c. New cards will be distributed in mid-December from both Transamerica and Humana
 - d. Vision and dental will continue to be provided by Blue Cross/Blue Shield Care First. The current Dental Card will not change. A new card will be issued for Vision.
 - e. The recently received Medicare Health Insurance card **will not change.**
3. Retirees currently utilizing the savings from mail order may continue, however, new prescriptions must be gotten from the doctor and submitted to Humana. We understand that the physician may transmit them electronically. Based on the information distributed the retiree will see tremendous savings if they use mail order for their maintenance drugs. A local pharmacy may still be used.
4. Air ambulance is not covered.
Wellness type programs are covered by Medicare.
Rehabilitation services follow Medicare guidelines

10/04/2018 General Meeting Minutes

The meeting was convened at 11:30 a.m. at The Granary in Georgetown, Maryland. We said the Pledge of Allegiance. Twenty-eight people attended, including guests.

KCPS Teacher of the Year, Amelia Markosian, attended the luncheon as our guest. She teaches 6th grade science and ELA.

Fay Miller explained the upcoming changes in the health insurance and prescription coverage for retired school personnel over the age of 65. These changes will take effect on January 1, 2019. The vision and dental plans will not change. There will be an informational meeting at the B.O.E. at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, October 9, 2018.

Nancy Harrington and Sue Crooks welcomed the new members attending: Betty Weller, Nancy Howard, and Amy Crowding.

Brenda Shorter informed us that there are plans to start a KCRSPA book club.

There will be a different scholarship fundraiser at the December luncheon this year.

The American Music Theater trip will be on Nov. 7, 2018. The cost is \$85 and there is a wait list.

Nancy Harrington reported that we need three more members to reach our membership goal for the year.

Brenda Shorter won the 50/50 raffle.

After a delicious lunch, Airlee Ringgold Johnson was our guest speaker. After graduating from Garnet High School, Mrs. Johnson earned a B.S. in business administration. She lived in New York, Atlanta, Germany and Montgomery County Maryland. She had several professional careers, including in the fashion industry and real estate. After returning to Kent County in 2002, Mrs. Johnson became active in the Kent County Historical Society, as the Legacy Day chair, in the Social Action Committee, and in other community organizations. Her engaging and profound presentation was about the desegregation of Kent County Schools in the 1960's and included many references to interviews of students and teachers who were in the schools at the time. She distributed a Historical Society of Kent County publication: Integrating Kent County Public Schools: The Early Years. We are grateful to Airlee Johnson for this, her second presentation to our group. We hope she will return in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

11/01/18 Minutes of the KCRSPA Executive Committee Meeting

The meeting was convened at 10:00 a.m. in the Annex Building of the Kent County Public Library. We said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attending were: Winnie Walters, Terri Mullikin, Jean Foreman, Jean Wright, Sue Crooks, Nancy Harrington, Kathy Clark, Nancy McCloy, Betty Barbe, Brenda Shorter, Charlotte Potts, Billie Lynne Roberts, Fay Miller, and Terri Bostic.

The Minutes of the 09/06/2018 Executive Committee Meeting were read and approved.

Jean Foreman presented the Treasurer's Report. The KCRSPA treasury balance as of Nov. 1, 2018 was \$8499.00. The Scholarship Fund balance was \$2395.93 as of Nov. 1, 2018.

A letter regarding Thelma O'Grady "Miss Nick" was read. She is now living in Elkton, MD.

Jean Foreman showed us her Senior Citizen Hall of Fame certificate and booklet. Terri Bostic read the thank you note that Jean Foreman wrote to KCRSPA.

Old Business

Billie Lynne suggested that there be a phone tree or e-mail tree so that members will be quickly brought up to date about issues or events. Kathy Clark, Terri Mullikin, and Jean Wright will be working on constructing this.

Barbara Catron, MRSPA Administrative Assistant, has resigned. Before her resignation, she handled the membership records and, although a volunteer is helping during the transition, there may be delays in membership information coming to local organizations.

Nominations for our executive board were discussed. Nominees are: Fay Miller for President, Betty Barbe for V.P., and Winnie Walters for Secretary. So far, there is not a nominee for Treasurer. Pat Clarke, who is the auditor of our books, has volunteered to assist and mentor whomever becomes the new treasurer. The Hospitality Committee will take over the responsibilities of the Program Committee. Nancy McCloy, Kathy Clark, and Bonnie Smith will continue on the Hospitality/Program Committee.

New Business/Committee Reports

The new insurance plan was discussed. Fay Miller will be posting an informational article in the newsletter. We expressed our thanks to Sharon Gordon and Marsha Miller for their help at the informational meeting at the B.O.E. Fay noted that the only thing that has been dropped out of

our insurance plan is the air ambulance service. A policy to cover this, however, is offered by MRSPA.

Legislative

Betty Barbe reported that the state legislature is not in session. There will be a MRSPA Legislative Workshop on Nov. 14, 2018. Jean Wright, Betty Barbe, and Fay Miller will be attending.

Membership

We do not yet know if we have met our membership goal.

Community Service

Billie Lynne reported that we need nominees for the Maryland Senior Citizen Hall of Fame and for the MRSPA Community Service Award for next year. Nomination sheets will be available at the December general meeting.

Nancy Harrington reported that she is doing background work for the Little Libraries project.

Trips

The 2019 holiday season trip will be on November 6, 2019. This year's trip will be on November 7, 2018. The bus will be leaving from the Tractor Supply Co. parking lot, which is different from previous years. Nancy Harrington suggested that we write a public letter of thanks to the Tractor Supply Co. for being so generous and gracious in allowing our bus to meet us there.

Scholarship

Billie Lynne encouraged members to continue to give donations to the scholarship fund. The amount that the KCRSPA will donate to the fund was changed by a vote to \$50 in memory of a member and \$25 for the spouse of a member.

Constitutions/By-Laws

We are looking for the record of when the current by-laws were ratified.

All officers' terms will begin on July 1 after the elections.

After a report from Fay Miller there was a unanimous vote to create a 510 c 3 corporation under which KCRSPA will operate. Oren Saltzman, a lawyer used by MRSPA, has agreed to help us and other local organizations to apply for 501 c 3 pro bono. There will be a one-time \$250 state

SCHOLARSHIP FUND RAISER

At our December luncheon we will once again be raising money for our Scholarship Fund.

This year we will make several "gift baskets" for you to take a chance on winning.

There will also be an opportunity for you to buy "A BOOK for a BUCK!"

First, you will need to bring your unwanted books to the luncheon.

Then, we will display them for you to peruse and make a selection... for a \$1.00.

This fundraiser will "kick off" our **BOOK CLUB**, which is being organized by Brenda Shorter. Thanks Brenda for bringing leadership to this event. More information will be shared at a later date. Can't wait to start reading!

Turn Around Don't Drown® Each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other thunderstorm related hazard. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that over half of all flood-related drownings occur when a vehicle is driven into hazardous flood water.

Don't take chances. Don't guess and think that you can make it! This is true when walking or driving.

At night, when visibility is limited, drowning hazards become higher. Don't take chances with your life.

If you're traveling and not sure about road conditions, contact MD 511 or online at www.MD511.org

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The KCRSPA will be donating children's books not only to the Community Food Pantry in **Chestertown** but also **Millington's Food Pantry**. **So please bring non-perishable food items, hats, mittens, glove, and scarves to the luncheon. Let's remember to support this project.**

NEW OFFICERS WILL BE NEEDED FOR THE 2019 – 2021 TERM.

PLEASE STEP-UP and be a part of a great group of retirees! We work as a TEAM!

MEMBERSHIP

Reach out to a member we haven't seen in awhile and invite them to our holiday luncheon. Or bring a perspective member to our holiday fun. The more the merrier!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

DECEMBER

Elaine Holden 12/1
Linda Porter 12/5
Ray Clarke 12/7
Eileen Hahn 12/7
Doreen Schivley 12/16
Richard Walters 12/17
Charlotte Potts 12/30



JANUARY

Jacqueline Scout 1/11
John Wilson 1/11
Carole Coleman 1/12
Carol Lupis 1/12
Ann Thomas 1/27
Christine Hackett 1/31

FEBRUARY

Paul Blumberth 2/3
Susan Crooks 2/4
Thelma O'Grady 2/5
Edwin Walters 2/7
Ellen Van Culin 2/12
Terri Bostic 2/28
Cheryl Saunders 2/28

**Election Results- Kent County- Unofficial.
Absentee and Provisional Ballots still need
to be counted.**

County Commissioner

Bob Jacob

Tom Mason

Ron Fithian

School Board

Trish McGee

Wendy Costa

Nivek Johnson

Congressman

Andy Harris