

# The Bell Ringer

## Kent County Retired School Personnel Association

Volume 39 Number 1 September 2017

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to all of our members as we begin our fall activities. I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable summer.

Our executive committee meeting was held on September 7. Please read the minutes, which are in this newsletter, and be informed about what is happening in our Association. Some of our members spent time helping teachers who were moved organizing and getting their rooms ready for the beginning of school.

Our membership committee was busy this summer recruiting new members. We have several new members, and are hoping for more. If you have a friend, or know someone who worked in Kent County Public Schools, please encourage them to join our Association.

Many of us have volunteered at Cliff School starting in May and continuing through October. It is a learning experience to see how school was in the past. Many people visited the school this year.

Our October luncheon will be October 5 at the Harbor House in Chesapeake Landing. Hope to see all of you there.

President,  
Jean Wright.



### MEET and GREET

**Come and enjoy a delicious lunch, visit with friends, and meet our newly retired KC personnel, Kent County Teacher of the Year, and Support Person of the Year.**

**The “Teacher of the Year” is Jedina Frazier and the “Support Person of the Year” is Sue Nickerson.**

## Minutes of the KCRSPA General Meeting on June 1, 2017

At 11:30 am Vice President Jean Wright called the meeting to order in the Chesapeake Room of the Granary and we said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ruth Wilson read two memorial poems in memory of Art Engle and Clarence Hawkins. We will be remembering Betty Cooper and Miriam Cronshaw in a future meeting.

Jean Wright distributed a summary of the accomplishments of KCRSPA this year. That summary will appear in the newsletter.

### Program:

In 2016, KCRSPA members Kathy Clark and Nancy Harrington started working on the project of writing and presenting the history of schools, especially the small, one-room schools, that have existed in Kent County. In previous meetings Nancy and Kathy have presented their interesting tri-fold display which maps the location of all of these schools in Kent County. On another tri-fold display are both vintage and current photos of these schools. These tri-folds have been displayed at all of our meetings since June 2016 and have been used in various activities and games at the meetings. In addition, the trifolds have been on display at Cliffs School open houses. Cliffs School is a restored one room school house near Cliffs City in Kent County. KCRSPA has been actively involved in the school's restoration since the 1980's and our members have served as docents from that time until the present. The tri-fold displays have added an additional interesting element for Cliffs School visitors. These have also been used by students at Radcliff School for their project on one-room school houses in Kent County. During the year, one of our programs covered the schools themselves. Another program included recollections by teachers in the old schools. At this program, Kathy and Nancy distributed a book of the recollections of Kent County teachers from 1900 to 1976.

During our June 1, 2017 KCRSPA meeting, our members were treated to in-person recollections from former students in the schools of the past in Kent County. First, James "Goop" Saunders and Olythea Hunley spoke about attending Coleman School near Still Pond Neck. Both James Saunders and Lea Hunley started attending Coleman School in the early 1950's. They both fondly remembered their teachers who were Emmaline Walley in first and second grades, Florence Dorsey in third and fourth grades and Irving Hamilton in 5<sup>th</sup> and sixth grades. Mr. Hamilton was also the principal. These teachers were credited with giving their students the academic skills and moral guidance on which they would draw for the rest of their lives. James and Lea spoke of how the school and community, including the church, worked together to participate in the education of their children which included not only the three R's but also music and drama and the celebration of holidays. At the time, corporal punishment was used and was

supported and reinforced by parents for infractions of the behavioral codes. They recalled that Gwen Swinson also taught at Coleman School and also cooked lunch.

Members Jean Foreman and Ruth Wilson recounted their tales of attending Rock Hall Elementary School. Jean attended the school from 1943 until 1949 and Ruth began attending in 1945. At this school there were six grades and five classrooms. They recalled that Hilda Hill, who had a reputation for running a tight ship right up until her retirement in the late 1960's, was the principal. Jean remembered air raid drills during the WWII years when student had to go run and hide in the woods. Siblings were required to look after each other during these drills and students were sometimes required to lie flat on the ground. Teachers that were remembered were Louise Kendall, Maude Middleton, Minnie Kelly, Nannie Strong, Eden Bryden, Emily Bryden, Catherine Barnes and Lois Crouch. Reading was taught by sight using the *Dick and Jane* reading books. Lunch was prepared each day by a woman who lived across the street from the school. Jean and Ruth both remember being in drama productions such as *Rip Van Winkle* (Jean played an elderly Mrs. Van Winkle), *Pandora's Box*, *A Christmas Carol* (Jean played Mrs. Cratchit) and *Snow White* (Ruth played the witch). Recess games were the traditional ones of catch, hopscotch, and jump rope. After Piney Neck and Skinners Neck Schools closed, those students came to Rock Hall Elementary, but some students were not picked up at their houses because the bus would not go where there were not paved roads. Once a year, Rock Hall Elementary students traveled to Chestertown for a field day and competitive games. Ruth remembered a time that one of the teachers took the students to Chestertown to go to the movies and then took them to Bud Hubbard's restaurant for lunch. Both Jean and Ruth praised their teachers for providing them with such a good foundation through so many experiences and lessons.

Member Charlotte Potts started school at age five at the Sandfield School near Millington. She had a photo of the school, the bell that was used to announce opening and closing, as well as one of her report cards, all of which she shared with us. When she attended Sandfield School, there were 36 students who were taught by Amanda Gould, Eva Moore, and Mrs. Mitchell. Teachers at Sandfield were required to rent a room in the same community as the school. Annie B. Love was the principal as well as a teacher. Students were required to contribute to the school by oiling the floors, beating the erasers, and washing the blackboards. There were two outhouses, one for boys and one for girls. Students were within walking distance of the school and they walked home for lunch. A pot-bellied stove provided heat in the winter and community men stoked the stove and banked the fire in the evening so that the school would be warm in the morning. Charlotte remembered that she and another student with good handwriting would copy handouts for the younger students since there were no copy machines. The reading books used were the *Alice and Jerry* series and although Sandfield was an African American school, the

illustrations in the reading series were of children with white complexions. At recess the students ran relays, and played dodgeball and softball. Charlotte credited her teachers for really caring about their students and helping her achieve success in life. She said that in the one room school house, children often learned from each other.

At the conclusion of the memories of these former students of schools in Kent County, we were served a delicious lunch in the Chesapeake Room overlooking the beautiful Sassafras River.

#### Membership:

Nancy Harrington and Sue Crooks reported that there are eleven retirees this year so far. They are: Larry Adams, Susan Bedwell, Paul Blumberh, Patricia Gallahan, George Dudek, Bunny Grussing, Joan Kelley, Linda Porter, Nina Newlin, Dianne Reynolds and Debbie Smith. Nancy encouraged all of our members to contact these retirees as well as any retirees we know to join KCRSPA and MRSPA. These organizations are a positive force in our community and the dues are very inexpensive insurance for our pensions and our health insurance. MRSPA works tirelessly to defend and protect out insurance and to support legislation that helps retirees in Maryland. All retired school personnel should be encouraged to join us. Faye Miller reminded us of our slogan "Each One, Reach One" to encourage us to reach out to potential members.

#### Scholarship:

Billie Lynne Roberts reported that Meaghan Doyle was awarded the \$2000 KCRSPA Scholarship this year. She plans to attend Frostburg. The Lorraine Costella Scholarship of \$800 was awarded to Lily Willis who will be attending Wesley College in Dover, DE.

#### Community Service:

Billie Lynne Roberts reported that Betty Barbe was a Finalist for the MRSPA Community Service Award and that she received a certificate for that honor. She also will be inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizen Hall of Fame. The induction will be at Michaels in Glen Burnie, MD on October 26, 2017.

#### Nominating:

Margie Baker reported that Jean Wright will be President for the next year, Barbara Wheeler will be Vice President, Terri Bostic will be Secretary, and Jean Foreman will be Treasurer. Members of the Scholarship Committee will be Billie Lynne Roberts, Charlotte Potts, Sue Crooks, and Brenda Shorter. Nancy Harrington will be in charge of activities and trips. Carol Lupis and Lea

Hunley will be in charge of programs and Carol Lupis will be the chairman of the Nominating Committee.

**Cliffs School:**

Jean Foreman reported that she will be reminding docents of their shifts by phone or e-mail.

**Legislative:**

Betty Barbe reported that the next state legislative meeting will be in August. If a member would like legislative reports by e-mail, please let Betty know and she will see that you receive these.

MRSPA President and KCRSPA member, Fay Miller spoke about her visits to the associations in all of the counties and in Baltimore City. She reminded us to reach out to potential members to encourage them to join.

Trish McGee, President of the Kent County Board of Education spoke to us about the importance of teachers as the foundation of the school system. She praised many of the teachers she had as a student in Kent County, including Mrs. Kieffer, Mrs. Rodney, Lorraine Willimas, Frances Gill, Patsy Reihl, and Terri Bostic. She commended Mrs. Harrington on the excellent teaching she observed in her classroom. Trish hopes that the BOE will be able to concentrate more on what goes on in the classroom in the future. For the last several years, the BOE has been concentrating on budget-related decisions and she hopes that the results of those decisions will be positive.

MRSPA President Fay Miller installed the officers.

Proceeds from the 50/50 raffle were \$43.50 which will be donated to the scholarship fund.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Bostic,

Secretary

## Minutes from the September 7, 2017 KCRSPA Executive Committee Meeting

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 10 am at the Kent County Public Library Annex Building.

Jean Wright, Kathy Clark, Sue Crooks, Nancy Harrington, Charlotte Potts, Carol Lupis, Lee Hunley, Betty Barbe, Terri Bostic and Jean Foreman attended.

Minutes: The minutes were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jean Foreman reported that there is a balance of \$7312.24 as of 09/01/17. The scholarship fund balance is \$3477.65. Of that balance, \$100 is part of the Lorraine Costella Scholarship Fund. Jean Foreman also presented the 2017 – 2018 budget which was \$10,065 income and \$10,065 expenses.

### Old Business

The next general meeting will be held at the Harbor House in Chesapeake Landing. Because the Harbor House is not usually open for lunch, there is extra expense involved with this luncheon. It will cost \$22 instead of the usual \$20. There will be an excellent menu, including a crab cake option.

Jean Wright reported that there will be a Full Leadership Workshop in Easton on Tues, Sept. 19, 2017. Registration will be at 9 am and the conference will be from 9:30 am – 2 pm. Attending from KCRSPA will be Jean Wright, Nancy Harrington, Sue Crooks, and Barbara Wheeler. If Barbara Wheeler is unable to attend, Kathy Clark will attend in her place.

The Maryland Senior Citizen Hall of Fame Annual Awards Luncheon will be held on Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 11 am. The cost for a reservation is \$23. Betty Barbe from KCRSPA will be awarded membership in the Maryland Senior Citizen Hall of Fame at this meeting. We hope that many of us will be able to attend to enjoy the day with Betty. Sign up will be at the KCRSPA general meeting on October 5, 2017.

Cliff School: Jean Foreman reported that the Kent County Commissioners have authorized the county grounds crew to provide upkeep of the grounds of Cliffs School. She reported that, as a result, the Cliffs School property looks beautiful. An email from Carol Cordes included the following: Thanks to Jean Wright, Ruth Wilson, Terri Mullikin, Emily Massey, Lee Hunley, Jean Foreman, Nancy Harrington, Fay Miller, and Barbara Wheeler for volunteering to be docents from June – October. There have been 84 visitors since April. The ceiling around the stovepipe has been repaired and painted thanks to Rick Austen. Ken Milton has almost finished the

blackboards and his area is cleaned up. There may be a fundraiser this fall. Ralph Dowling, President of Peoples Bank, is working on this.

Terri Bostic, who attended the Kent County Commissioners meeting when County ownership was considered, reported that Kent County will not take ownership of the property, but will consider fund requests in the future. Kathy Clark asked if there was a written commitment from the commissioners to help with upkeep.

Nancy Harrington volunteered to help thin out the lilac bushes on the Cliffs School property. Kathy Clark volunteered to bring the tri-fold display about Kent County small schoolhouses to Cliffs School for display.

Community Service: Carol Lupis suggested that instead of bringing things for the Food Pantry at the October meeting/luncheon, that we bring cleaning items for hurricane victims. There will be a list of items needed in the newsletter this month.

Billie Lynne Roberts sent in a report and request for volunteers to help with the community service awards. She also inquired about the status of the volunteer report forms that used to appear in the newsletter.

Membership: Nancy Harrington ecstatically reported that we have 93 members for a 6.9% increase – the highest increase in the state. We are also the first chapter in the state to achieve our membership goal. We have 3 Emeritus members and 7 new members. Carole Coleman became a unified member, Marleen Vosburg has rejoined and Dale Atkinson transferred to KCRSPA from AA County. New members are: Larry Adams, Sue Bedwell, Paul Blumberh, Nina Newlin, and Debbie Smith. The following new retirees should be encouraged to join: Patricia Callahan, Dorothy Grussing, Jo Ann Keeley, Linda Porter, Diane Reynolds, Kathy Seip, Kathleen Jones, and Donna Bedwell. Each retiree will be invited to the October luncheon in addition to the Kent County Teacher and Support Person of the Year.

Legislative: Betty Barbe reported that there will be a Legislative Workshop on Nov. 14, 2017 at the Miller Senate Office Building in Annapolis. This meeting will concentrate on retirement and pensions and on how to access the MRSPA website. Members of the state legislative committee are invited as are the chapter presidents and legislative chairs. Others may attend for a nominal fee. Starting in January, Betty will be attending regular state legislative meetings. Kathy Clark suggested that members go to the AARP website to get information on how to protect Medicare and Medicaid which are in danger of being changed.

Scholarship: Billie Lynne Roberts sent a report on the scholarships. Meaghan Doyle's KCRSPA scholarship of \$2000 was sent to Frostburg. Lily Willis' Lorraine Costella scholarship

of \$800 was sent to Wesley College. Members are encouraged to continue to contribute to the scholarship funds.

Sunshine: Please let Jean Wright know if there is anyone who should receive a card.

Trips/Social Events: Nancy Harrington thanked Ruth Wilson for her help in getting the 2017 trip together. The trip will be on Nov. 8, 2017 to the American Music Theater. Dinner will be at Hershey Farms. There are 4 seats available. Seats cost \$82. The date for the 2018 trip is Wed., Nov. 7, 2018.

Nancy needs volunteers to help with social events and trips.

Lee Hunley asked if we may still use the parking lot in front of JBK's for pickup for our trips.

Newsletter: Deadline for submissions for the newsletter is Sept 13. The newsletter will be sent out on Sept. 15.

Program/Hospitality: Nancy McCloy will help Kathy Clark with the centerpieces and favors at the October general meeting/luncheon at the Harbor Shack. There will be a gift for the Teacher of the Year and the Support person of the Year. Celebration of our membership will be the program. Lee Hunley will be the welcomer at the meeting. In December, Fay Miller and the new MRSPA Executive Director will be the program. There will also be a Chinese Auction.

Nominating: Carol Lupis reported that Terri Mullikin has agreed to be secretary next year if someone else will do the newsletter. At this point, she is looking for someone to be the apprentice newsletter compiler. This apprentice would learn how to do the newsletter and then take over the job next year.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Terri Bostic, Secretary



## **Scholarship 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.

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## **AMERICAN MUSIC THEATRE TRIP**

**Once again KCRSPA will be enjoying the beautiful holiday music at the American Music Theatre in Lancaster, Pa. Our trip is WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>. The cost of the trip is \$82.00 which includes the cost of the bus ride, lunch, and the theatre. We have, at this time, 3 available seats. If you are interested in going on this trip contact Nancy Harrington at 410 928 3273.**

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## **MEMBERSHIP MATTERS.....**

### **ESPECIALLY YOURS!**

**Let's celebrate! We have reached our goal of recruiting 6 new unified members. We are 93 strong and have the highest rate of growth at 6.90% in the state. YEAH! Thanks to all our new members. And thanks President Fay Miller for a great slogan!**



**RESERVATIONS FOR THE MARYLAND SENIOR CITIZENS HALL OF  
FAME ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON**

Our KCRSPA member, Betty Barbe, will be inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizen Hall of Fame at the Annual Awards Luncheon. We hope that many of us will be able to attend to enjoy the day with Betty. The luncheon will be held on Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 11 am at Michaels's Eighth Avenue, 7220 Grayburn Drive, Glen Burnie, MD. The cost for a reservation is \$23. If you would like to attend, please bring a check to the October General Meeting and sign up. Requests for reservations should be submitted by October 13, 2017. For further information, please contact Terri Bostic at 410-778-1650.

**Hurricane Harvey/Irma Do  
At our first luncheon of  
member to consider donatin  
will help UMCOR {the Unit  
Relief} make FLOOD CLEA  
cleanup schools, churches, st**

- \*pair of gloves{cotton w/leathe**
- \*2 pairs dishwashing gloves \***
- \*24 roll heavy-duty trash bags**
- \*Clothesline \*50 clothespins**
- \*7 sponges {not cellulose} \* 18**
- \*1 scrub brush \*1 insect repel**
- \* 1 can air freshener \*dish so:**

**Delegate, Jay Jacobs**

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