

The Bell Ringer

Kent County Retired School Personnel Association

Volume 340 Number 1 September 2018

President's Letter

Greetings KCRSPA members and welcome to all new members as our fall activities begin. Our fall luncheon will be at The Granary in Georgetown on October 4. Information is found in this newsletter. Our program will be on Legacy in Kent County.

Please bring non-perishable food or children's books for the food pantry.

Our organization needs help from caring members since we have no nominating committee. Sadly our Vice president, Barbara Wheeler passed away Thursday, September 6, from cancer, which leaves an opening for a vice president for this year. The group will need a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and possibly someone to do the newsletter starting in June of 2019. PLEASE KEEP THIS IN MIND.

I appreciate the time and work of all our committee members.

Our trip to The American Music Theater in Lancaster, PA to see the Christmas Show is November 7 this year. It is always a wonderful show. Call Nancy Harrington if you are interested in going.

Cliff School has been sold, with settlement taking place the end of August. We will no longer be involved. Our health insurance is changing as of January 1, 2019. A meeting is planned for October 9, at 9 A.M. at the board office in Rock Hall. If you are 65 and on Medicare you

It is important for you to attend. Please mark it on your calendar and plan to be there

so you will be informed. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

Save these meeting dates:

October 4th, December 6th,

March 7th and June 6th.

Join KCRSPA for some good food and visit with

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our October luncheon.

Jean Wright

MINUTES FROM THE 06/07/2018 KCRSPA GENERAL MEETING

President Jean Wright called the meeting to order at 11:30 at the Granary Restaurant in Georgetown, Maryland. 13 members and seven guests attended. Among the guests were Ed Silver, Jennifer Martin, Cindy Quinn, Judi Gunter, and Valerie Anderson.

Nancy Harrington distributed a list of KCRSPA activities and services achieved during the 2017-2018 year.

Sue Crooks delivered the report on Cliffs School. There is a possibility that Cliffs School will be sold. If so, there may be easements enacted to protect the school as an historical property. On June 16th several members will take inventory of the items in the school. Many items will be returned to donors.

Billie Lynne Roberts reported that one KCRSPA Scholarship was awarded to Sarah Collins, who plans to teach agriculture as her career. She will be attending Washington College. A second scholarship consisting of \$600 from the Lorraine Costella Scholarship and \$1400 from the KCRSPA Scholarship was awarded to Drew Baker, who will be attending St. Mary's College. He plans to be a Phys Ed teacher.

We have had many donations to the scholarship fund in memory of members or others who have passed away. Members also sometimes ask family members and friends to contribute in honor of their birthdays. Both practiced are encouraged in addition to annual scholarship donations. Thank you notes are written to the contributors and to the person or families of people who are being honored.

Jean Foreman will be inducted into the Maryland AARP Senior Citizen Hall of Fame on October 25, 2018.

Nancy Harrington reported on the progress of establishing "Little Libraries".

Photos of the MRSP Annual Meeting were on display during this meeting.

Carole Lupis suggested that the tours of the new music facility and the remodeled WKHS facility at KCHS be considered as future programs. She also suggested that Madhu Sidhu be a future speaker. Madhu has always been active in Kent County Public Schools and she is now on the Maryland School Board.

Ed Silver gave us the list of retired school personnel for 2018: Martin Starks, Sue Dorsey, Sue Caswell, Janet Gorsuch, Sharon Woertz, Diana LeClair, Trustene Deaton, Tom Rickard, Lonese Gilley, Carol Jackson Smith, Tina Johnson, Joy Maine, and Betty Weller. Nancy Harrington and Sue Crooks of the Membership Committee contacted each of these retirees personally. Please

encourage these retirees to become unified members of MRSP and KCRSPA members. We serve the community and we work to protect our pensions and benefits.

Jennifer Martin and Ed Silver reported on our health-related benefits. This year, our Medicare supplemental insurance premiums will increase by \$.51 per month. This is a low amount due to the good health of our population. The move to Express Scripts for prescriptions has also lowered costs. The central office is considering other changes in our coverage. A report on these appears elsewhere in the Fall KCRSPA Newsletter.

Nancy McCloy won \$38.90 from the 50/50 raffle. She donated her winnings to the scholarship fund. Total proceeds to the Scholarship Fund were \$77.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Bostic,

Secretary

Minutes of the September 6, 2018 Executive Committee Meeting

Attending were Jean Wright, Sharon Gordon, Nancy Harrington, Sue Crooks, Brenda Shorter, Charlotte Potts, Lee Hunley, Margie Baker, Terri Bostic, Winnie Walters, Jean Foreman, Sharon Gordon and Carole Lupis.

President Jean Wright called the meeting to order at 10:00 at the Annex to the KCPL. We said the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the 05/03/2108 Executive Committee of the KCRSPA meeting were read and approved.

Jean Foreman presented the Treasurer's Report. The treasury account balance as of August 31, 2018 was \$7335.14. The balance of the Scholarship Fund was \$2236.56.

The 2018 – 2019 KCRSPA Budget was also presented and approved.

Jean reported that the KCRSPA accounting will be audited by Pat Clarke.

New Business

There was a long discussion about the BOE's proposed changes to the retiree's health package. (An explanation appears elsewhere in the newsletter.) As a result of the discussion, we decided that we should invite Ed Silver to attend the October meeting or that we should have a separate meeting where we could express our views about the proposed changes. We were concerned because the retired school personnel do not have a representative in the Eastern Shore Consortium which makes these decisions. Sharon Gordon wants to see who will receive the savings – the BOE or the retired school personnel. Sharon will contact Ed Silver to arrange a meeting or to get some of the questions answered. She will also contact Marsha Miller and Fay Miller. Terri Bostic reported that in a recent conversation with Ed Silver, he said that the less expensive plan may not be offered for fear that retirees may choose the less expensive plan and not be able to get back in the more expensive plan when they need to.

Jean Wright reported that Wanda Twigg, our executive director, recommended our support of Ballot Question 1 which guarantees that certain gambling revenue will go to education in Maryland. This question will appear on the Maryland ballot on the midterm election ballot on November 6, 2018.

There will be a KCRSPA Leadership Conference on September 26 and 27, 2018 in Linthicum, MD. Jean is unable to attend but Fay will be attending.

At the July 2018 Leadership meeting, there was a question of whether local retired school personnel's associations could be covered by the MRSPA liability insurance. The answer was no, but the MRSPA recommendation was that local organizations obtain their own liability insurance. Winnie Walters will ask Fay Miller about this.

Jean Wright announced that there was a movement by the Kent County Board of Education to encourage or require all students from grades 8 – 12 to read Tigerland by Wil Haygood. Donations are requested to help pay for books to be provided to the students.

Old Business

Nancy Harrington reported that, so far, a location for the Little Free Library has not been found.

Committee Reports

Archives

Jean Wright submitted a 1998 article about some of our members and the Cliffs School. Winnie Walters reported that the obituary of Sylvia Crews will be archived.

Membership

There were 8 retirees in 2018 and they all will be invited to our October 4 luncheon as our guests. We have two recent new members: Sud Deringer and Betty Weller. They also will be invited to our luncheon. We will also be inviting the KC Teacher of the Year and the KC Support Person of the Year. We had three former members who have not rejoined and we will be reaching out to them to remind them to join. Our goal this year is to increase our membership by 3 members. Please encourage any members you know to attend our meetings.

Cliffs School

Jean Wright gave a detailed report about the sale of Cliffs School. Her report, in its entirety, will appear in the Newsletter.

Scholarship

Billie Lynne Roberts sent in a report that she received letters of appreciation from both Drew Baker (St. Mary's College) and Sarah Collins (Washington College), who received \$2000 each from our scholarships in 2108. \$600 of Drew's scholarship was from the Lorraine Costella Scholarship Fund. We encourage everyone to make donations to the Scholarship Fund.

Community Service

Billie Lynne Roberts sent in a report which congratulated Jean Foreman for her dedicated service to our organization and the community. In recognition of her service, Jean will be inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizen Hall of Fame. The luncheon honoring the inductees will be held on October 25, 2018 at Michaels in Glen Burnie from 11 am until 2 pm. Tickets are \$28. Reservations may be made as late as October 5, 2018. If you would like to attend, please contact Jean Foreman.

Trips

Nancy Harrington reported that the Nov. 7, 2018 American Theater trip is full with a waiting list. Participants will be meeting in front of the Tractor Supply Store in Kent Plaza. PLEASE NOTE: This is a change of departure places from previous years. Return time will be at 5 pm.

Food Pantry

24 lbs. of food were donated to the food pantry at the June general meeting.

Program

The October 4th General Meeting will be at the Granary. The guest speaker has yet to be determined. Carole Lupis reported that possible future speakers at meetings are Airlee Ringgold Johnson, Madhu Sidhu, and Keith Wharton.

Nominating Committee

There are no members of the nominating committee. Among the offices which need volunteers for 2019 – 2021 are president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and nominating committee members.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Bostic, Secretary

George Washington's portrait is still there as is the large framed map of the USA. The owners offered to take them in case they decide to keep them or will find them a home.

Other items included the glass punch cups, some plastic containers, the doll-sized school desk, and the slide projector to WIN. The horseshoe toss game and leftover crafts items went to Hidden Treasures. The horseshoes which decorated the vestibule are still there, as are the old photos of the students and teachers of the 1920's which hang on the wall, and all of the photo albums. Also the Victor Victrola was left for the new owners.

Speaking of the slide projector-- we have never been contacted as to the whereabouts of the slides.

There were no carousels with slides in the schoolhouse.

If any of your members wish to know where an item is -- just ask them to call me at 410-441-9551.

The members of Port of Chester Questers have enjoyed their relationship with the Retired Teachers through keeping Cliffs School a viable and important place of history for the County of Kent. I am confident Vint and Amy will keep the integrity of the school's historical heritage intact.

With sincere gratitude to all of you for your participation and cooperation, my best regards,

Carol Cordes

Jean A. Foreman, Cliffs School Representative

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

SEPTEMBER

Stephanie Lindsey 9/2
Leah Schlenker 9/6
Catherine Swinson 9/9
Rosemary Brown 9/11
Lauretta Freeman 9/23
Elizabeth Barbe 9/25

OCTOBER

Douglas Walters 10/7
Terri Millikin 10/7
Sue Coleman 10/12
Kathy Clark 10/21
Ruth Wilson 10/26

NOVEMBER

Margaret Larson 11/2
Bonnie Smith 11/3
Herman Gay 11/4
Sarah Jastram 11/15
Nancy Miller 11/15
James Lupis 11/16
Brenda Shorter 11/20
Lloyd Taylor 11/24
Susan Clark 11/25
Helen Tyson 11/25



WELCOME

Betty Weller, Carol Lupis, and
Sydney Deringer to KCRSPA.
We are glad you joined our
Association.

NEW RETIREES

This year KCRSPA will invite the 2018 retirees to our first

luncheon. The retirees are:

Joy Maine, Carroll Jackson-Smith, Lonnie Gilley, Christina Johnson, Sue Dorsey
Nancy Howard, Marvin Starks, Sharon Wertz

If you see these folks before our luncheon encourage them to become a part of
our great group.

Sylvia Anita Irvis Crews, 78

Sylvia passed away on July 6, 2018, surrounded by her loving family. She was born in New York City, NY. She married Donald A. Crews on Nov. 2, 1958 and they were married for 59 1/2 years. They enjoyed traveling and cruises, and visited many countries. They raised three children, and had grandchildren and great grand children. She taught 4th and 5th grades in Millington and Galena Schools. After retirement of teaching 18 years in Kent County, she continued teaching as a substitute at Holy Cross School in Dover. Her Christian burial was in Holy Cross Cemetery in Dover, DE. Donation may be made to The American Cancer Society or St. Jude's Research.

Also **Dr. A. Barbara Wheeler** passed away on Thursday, Sept, 6th of Cancer . We do not have any more information.

Vote YES on Question 1

When Marylanders approved casino gaming, we thought the new revenue would increase education funding. While almost \$2 billion in casino revenue went into the Education Trust Fund - which can only be used for funding public education - nearly the same amount of existing funding was *shifted* from education to other parts of the state budget. The result? The new revenue from casinos *didn't add* to existing funding; it supplanted or simply maintained existing, minimum levels.

Passing (Constitutional Amendment) Question 1, which will be on the General Election ballot on November 6, will Fix the Fund, stop this budget gimmick, and ensure that casino revenues go to *increasing* or supplementing school funding over current levels. This could be an influx of \$500 million dollars within 4 years to education funding.

Because local school systems would benefit from this additional revenue, it could mean better protection for the health benefits you enjoy as a retired educator.

To learn more, go to www.fixthefund.org and please VOTE YES on Question 1 this November!

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.

LET'S GROW OUR MEMBERSHIP

Welcome back membership! This year our goal is to increase our membership by 3 based on a 6% increase. Presently, we have 96 members. Hopefully, we will reach our goal of 99...but why not 100 members!

We ALL must do our part to "reach out" and encourage retirees to join us. There's strength in numbers.

I truly thank you for the many years you've served as docents for the Cliffs School. At least 15 years since I've been your representative and for the years you served with Frances Clendaniels and Richard Morlock. Thank You!

The schoolhouse was open August 18th, for the last time to the public. The Unruh family from Hartley DE were there, seven members strong -- young and old. Two brothers in the group had attended the school. Joe Unruh's mother was there as well. Many memories and laughs were shared.

Sadly as of August 31st. The Cliffs School has been sold to Vinton Lawrence and Amy Brown, to be used for Agriculture education.

The contents of the school will be dispersed. An email from Carol codes:

Good Morning Jean,

Settlement on Cliffs School was held on Friday afternoon and I am assuming all went as planned. Chris and I cleared the school of items not wanted by the new owners

(Vinton Lawrence and Amy Brown, also owners
They are most interested in keeping items which the families who attended the school and I know they will keep T

It was a bitter-sweet task.

Some small items and a few books were requested by Tuttle Smith; by Joan Andersen who is working on Knock's Folly; and by John Schratwieser and I for an African-American school in Newtown through the Council.

