



The Bell Ringer

Kent County Retired School Personnel Association

Volume 44 Number 5 September 2022



CLAPPER

WHAT'S IN THE BELL

President's Message -cont.	2
Editor Comments	2
Meeting Dates	2
Birthdays	3
Treasurer's Report	3
Sep. Executive Mtg Minutes	4
Scholarship Report	6
Other Committee Reports	7
Legislative Report	8
Scholarship Donation Form	9
Executive Committee	10
General Meeting Reservation	11

As I was driving into town the other day I noticed this field of corn had been harvested since the day before when I made the same trip. Other fields are brown and dry looking so I suspect the corn harvest is underway.

This brings to mind that school is back in session. For most of us Retired School Personnel, the actual starting date may not be all that meaningful now, but for those still involved with the education systems, it is a big issue. It does appear to me that this year will be a more normal year than has been the case for a couple of years.

As far as the KCRSPA goes, we never stopped. Even during the severe parts of the pandemic, some work was done on behalf of the Association. And while the calendar for our unit is a bit lighter during the summer, the Association work continues.

It will be good to get back to our Luncheons. We will continue to take as many precautions as deemed appropriate. Kathy Clark and her committee work very hard at lining up the venues and getting a menu that is enticing and affordable.

Continued on page 2

Photo by Glenn Michael

Continued from page 1

The Luncheons are also an additional way to get funds into the scholarship fund so that we can continue to give the scholarships that we give each year. See page 11 of this newsletter for the Reservation Form for the Luncheon.

Additionally it is expected that each member will make an annual contribution to the fund via the form on page 9 of this newsletter. I have stated numerous times that while the combined groups of KCRSPA & MRSPA do a lot of things to benefit the retired educational people, such as keeping an eye on the pension, we also have projects such as the scholarship, the Little Libraries to name just a few.

So, make plans to join us at a Luncheon and see all we do. Plus, the General Meeting Luncheons are a way to reconnect with fellow education people and it's not an after school faculty meeting held when you're tired.



It's also time to harvest many things from the garden such as the long neck pumpkin seen here, also sometimes called pie pumpkin. I believe they make the best pies ever, and other pumpkin treats too.

Notes from the Editor -

Here is another issue. Seems like it has been awhile. I hope all have had a good summer, despite the heat. I want to thank all the committee people and the other officers for getting materials to me in a better than timely manner. It just makes this layout job much less stressful and gives a bit more time until deadline. This time, I'm even getting it out early. Some rush is made to make sure the members have the information on the General Meeting as to location that really isn't possible too far ahead of time. Yet, the response time is limited. Effort is made to give you as much time to make your reservation as is possible. It would be really nice to see large turnout. Kathy Clark and her committee work hard to find a variety of venues that can meet our needs. I think they do a wonderful job. Let's support them.

A special thank you to Kathy Clark also for taking the minutes at the Executive Meeting. We really need a full time person. It isn't a whole lot of work, but it is needed and it is valuable work.

There is a standing thank you to Terri Mullikin as her work in getting the hard copies out to those not getting the email edition is valuable.

This newsletter is organized in the usual format. I call your attention to the last page which is the Reservation form for the luncheon. Print it out, send a check, and do it now while it's on your mind.

Glenn Michael, Editor

Important Meeting Info to Keep In Mind -

The ***KCRSPA General Meetings*** are the First Thursday of the month in October, December, March and June,.

The ***KCRSPA Executive Committee Meetings*** are the First Thursday of the month preceding the General Meeting, thus are in September, November, February and May.

PLEASE put these dates on your calendar so you are able to attend. It's good to get together with past colleagues and friends. Notices will not be sent

For the General Meeting -

It's good to have a meal while supporting the Scholarship fund.

Locations for the General Meeting are selected just prior to the Executive Committee Meetings.

Specific details on location, menu, etc. will be in the newsletter issued following the Executive Committee Meeting, and the venue is selected based on a list of specifics, now including safety on Covid precautions

Hope to see as many members as possible at the meetings.

HAPPY 2022 BIRTHDAY TO OUR FALL and WINTER MEMBERS

KCRSPA CELEBRATES BIRTHDAYS

Be sure to let us know if your address or email changes so you receive any correspondence. Also contact Sue Coleman 410-648-5252 if you know a member who is sick or had a loss in their immediate family.

OCTOBER

Douglas Walters 10/7
Terri Mullikin 10/7
Sue Coleman 10/12
Tina Johnson 10/19
Kathy Clark 10/21
Ruth Wilson 10/26

NOVEMBER

Bonnie Smith 11/3
Herman Gay 11/4
Sally Jastram 11/15
James Lupis 11/16
Brenda Shorter 11/20
Lloyd Taylor 11/24
Susan Clark 11/25
Helen Tyson 11/25
Anna Hurd 11/26
Becky Glenn 11/30

DECEMBER

Ray Clarke 12/7
Eileen Hahn 12/7
Judy Gunter 12/8
Doreen Schivley 12/16
Rick Walters 12/17
Charlotte Potts 12/30

JANUARY

Carole Coleman 1/12
Denise Jones 1/19
Ann Thomas 1/27
Christine Hackett 1/31
Glenn Michael 1/31

KCRSPA celebrates you with a card for your birth date and recognizing the years of your important life. If your address changes, please contact Sue Coleman by calling: 410-648-5252 or email magpiesuz@gmail.com. If a member is sick or loses a loved one, contact Sue so she can send a card from KCRSPA.

Treasurer's Report Debbie Smith - Treasurer

KCRSPA Treasurer's Report

Business Checking

*Starting Balance as of June 30, 2022	\$8020.45
Income	\$2000.00
Expenses	
University of Delaware (Scholarship Mackenzie Clark)	\$2000.00
Starting Balance	\$8020.45
Total Income	\$2000.00
Total Expenses	-2000.00
Ending Balance as of July 29, 2022	\$8020.45

KCRSPA Scholarship Fund

Business Savings	
Starting Balance June 6, 2022	\$6444.52
Income: .21	
*.21 is interest compounded	
Withdrawal	\$2000.00
Starting balance \$6444.52 – withdrawal \$2000.00 =	\$4444.73
Ending balance as of July 29, 2022	\$4444.73

The meeting was called to order by President Glenn Michael at 10:30 a.m. and we recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

In attendance: Glenn Michael, Sue Coleman, Nancy Harrington, Sue Crooks, Kathy Clark, Charlotte Potts, Debbie Smith, Margie Baker, Betty Drew, Billie Lynn Roberts, Terri Mullikin

Treasurer's Report:

- Debbie reported that as of August 30th we have \$13,073.45 in our treasury. This includes money collected for the November trip.
- * The Scholarship Fund as of August totals \$2544.73.
- * Checks have been written for and "thank you's" received from the two scholarship recipients from last year.
- Due to an increase in postage the committee also approved an increase to the Sunshine budget, from \$100 to \$125.
- * Approval of the budget was moved by Kathy Clark, and seconded by Billie Lynn Roberts.

President's Report:

- Glenn suggested a donation to Salem Church (Fairlee) since they offered a meeting room to us free-of-charge. As the "Dr. Seuss" volunteer reading program is not active at present, a motion was made (Terri M.)and seconded (Sue Cole man) to donate the unused "Seuss" money to the Church.
- *Alicia Siegrist, Vice Chair of the Institute for Adult Learning in Centerville, will be the speaker at our October luncheon.

Community Service:

- Billie Lynn reports that we are again looking for a nominee for the MRSPA Volunteer award, the AARP Andres Award, and the Md. Senior Citizen Hall of Fame Award.
- *Children's books for the Little Libraries are needed. A request will go out with the lunch form to bring a book to the Oct. luncheon.

Legislative:

- Betty reports that MRSPA has set its priorities for the coming session including the following:
 - protecting pensions
 - ensuring a secure retirement for all
 - lower prescription drug prices
 - access to internet for seniors
 - lifelong learning opportunities

Hospitality:

- Kathy Clark announced the luncheon will take place at the Kitty Knight House, Thursday, Oct. 6th. Lunch will be served on the deck, weather permitting.
- There is also the possibility of a second speaker, Sue Schaubert, if arrangements can be made.

Membership:

- Nancy H. reported that our numbers dropped from 99 to 95 MRSPA/KCRSPA members, thus losing our 1st place status for small county membership.
- There are still 16 local members with dues outstanding.
- Nancy is requesting help in creating a KCRSPA/MRSPA poster detailing the workings of our organization, and the benefits of joining.

With approval, these will be placed in each school and the Bd. of Ed.

- * She will also be inviting the recent retirees from KCPS (13) to our Oct. luncheon.

Trips/Social Events:

- The trip to the American Music Theater in Lancaster is filled.
- A trip on the Chestertown River Packet has been postponed until the spring.

Scholarship:

- Billie Lynn received thank you notes from the KCHS staff to our organization for providing scholarships for students. Thank you's from student recipients were also read.
- Checks were written to the U of Del. for Mackenzie Grace Clark(Nursing), and to McDaniel College for Emma Spray (Teaching Program).

Sunshine:

- Sue Coleman will send a "Get Well" card to Laretta Freeman.
- She requests that she be called when you know of a member's illness or death.

Newsletter: All articles are due to Glenn by Thursday, Sept. 8th.
Responses for the luncheon are due Friday, Sept. 23rd.

Announcements:

The Rock Hall Museum Board is looking for retired teachers who have an interest in local history. Their store of artifacts are available for use in Kent County history/social studies lessons, but they would like to have appropriate lesson plans developed to go with them. If you are willing and able to help, please contact Terri Mullikin.

Motion to adjourn was made by Nancy Harrington, and seconded by Betty Weller. Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Clark, Acting Secretary

To The Kent County Retired School Personnel Association,

I am beyond grateful to have been selected by your scholarship committee! In the fall I will be attending the University of Delaware as a nursing major. Thanks again for your scholarship selection. Please contact me if further information is required, Mackenzie Clark.

Mackenzie G. Clark

Dear Kent County Retired School Personnel Association
Thank you so much for choosing and awarding me with your scholarship. It means so much to me to be recognized for your award. This scholarship will help fund my goal of being a teacher.

Thank you so much,
Emma Spray



Clark, Mackenzie



Spray, Emma

thank you
VERY MUCH



Thank you for providing a scholarship opportunity for our students as well as preserving tonight!
Mrs. Trise Brown
KCRS Counseling Secretary

Scholarship Committee Report

The Senior Awards Assembly was held at KCHS on May 19, 2022. Billie Lynne Roberts attended to present awards to the two students chosen to receive the KCRSPA Scholarship for this year. Both students received a \$2000 scholarship to be sent to their respective colleges.

Mackenzie Grace Clark lives with her family in Worton, MD and plans to study nursing at the University of DE. Emma Arabelle Spray lives in Worton, MD with her family and plans to enter the 5 year Teacher Preparation program at McDaniel College in Westminster, MD, where she will receive a Masters in Education. Both girls are exemplary students, active in the community and highly recommended by their teachers.

Checks for \$2000 were sent this summer to the financial aid offices of both colleges. We look forward to hearing from the girls and wish them success as they begin their college careers.

We did receive nice thank you notes from both girls expressing their appreciation for the scholarship awards. Thank you to all who continue to contribute to the scholarship fund. Your donations are very important to secure our ability to provide scholarships to deserving KCHS seniors. As the prices of everything increase, your donations are very important. It is our mission to provide financial aid to young people as they begin their career paths.

In this newsletter you will find a form to use for donation6

Membership



Welcome back members! It will be so good to see everyone and catch-up with our retired lives! At this time, there are 94 unified members, 6 local members, and 3 Emeritus members. Our Emeritus Members are Leah Schlender, Peggy Smith and Meriam Spriggs....3 amazing ladies!

Denise Jones is our newest member. Welcome Denise to our membership! There are 12 new retirees who will be invited to our Fall luncheon. Our retirees are Judith Usilton, Janice Nor-

dhoff, Elizabeth Rich, Patricia Gibbon, Sandra Green, Nora Loeffler, Terence Moody, Curtis Powell, Sandra Tilghman, Sue Nickerson, Jerry Wright, and Sylvia Voshell.

LITTLE LIBRARY UPDATE

KCRSPA has 3 Little Libraries. They are located at Rock Hall's Lagoon, Tolchester Community Center and KC's Parks and Recreation.

They have really been used this summer. We have plenty of adult books but our children and youth books are dwindling. Please consider donating books {new or used} and bringing them to our Fall Luncheon.

AMERICAN MUSIC THEATRE TRIP

Once again this Fall, we will be traveling to Lancaster to the AMT to see the Christmas Show. At this time our bus is full. This bus trip supports our Scholarship program.

Community Service

Many of our members are doing valuable volunteer activities in the community. If you are aware of anyone who should be recognized by our group, please submit that information. We are hoping to recognize a member for outstanding service this winter with the MRSPA Volunteer Service Award. As COVID restrictions become more lenient, there may also be nominations for the MD Senior Citizens Hall of Fame.

Nancy Harrington and Terri Mullikin have been instrumental in developing and maintaining Little Libraries around Kent County. Students and adults borrow the books for free. At this time there is a library box in Worton, in Rock Hall and in Tolchester. Several members help to maintain the boxes. Please continue to help our "books for children" campaign by bringing new and gently used books to our next luncheon. These books will be used in the little libraries and at the local food pantry.

Possible group volunteer activities are being discussed. Terri Mullikin proposed a project to help collate Kent County History materials from the Rock Hall Museum. Teachers are needed to help box materials and write related lesson plans for these materials.

Thank you for your service.

Billie Lynne Roberts, Chair of Scholarship and Community service

Legislative Priorities 2023 – Draft (4) for Review
From MRSPA via Betty Weller, KCRSPA Legislative Chair

Pension Protection

MRSPA works to protect defined benefit pensions and a secure retirement for all Marylanders.

Rationale: Pensions contribute to the state economy and promote financial security. Full funding of the state pension system is our top priority, including the commitment to fully fund make-up contributions to ensure system sustainability.

Health Care

MRSPA supports legislation that provides full funding of local school systems. MRSPA also supports legislation to control the cost of prescription drugs.

Rationale: Local school systems provide health benefits/options for retired school personnel that are essential for a secure retirement.

Education

MRSPA supports legislation designed to enhance public education and promote lifelong learning for all students.

Rationale: Support for public education and lifelong learning is essential to forming an educated and productive citizenry. Curriculum decisions made in support of public education and life-long learning must be the responsibility of State and Local Boards of Education.

Technology

MRSPA supports legislation and grant programs to promote access to computers, the internet, and training to decrease the isolation of seniors and to close the digital divide.

Rationale: Lack of access to broadband, Wi-Fi, and internet-based programs limit access to telehealth/telemedicine, connections with family and friends, and access to news and other current information.

Safety

MRSPA supports legislation to reduce crime and violence against seniors.

Rationale: MRSPA advocates for the prevention of abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults and seniors.

Civic Participation

MRSPA supports legislation that protects the right of every eligible citizen to vote.

Rationale: Voting rights of seniors must be protected including voter ID requirements, access to the ballot box, absentee and mail in voting, and time and place of voting.

Consumer Protection

MRSPA supports legislation that provides protection from identity theft, fraud, scams and financial exploitation of seniors and vulnerable adults.

Rationale: Fraud and financial crimes targeting seniors continues to increase.

Quality of Life

MRSPA supports legislation to provide services and communities that help seniors age in place and remain healthy, active, and independent.

Rationale: As the population ages, seniors should have safe and appropriate living options that ensure a high quality of life.

Long -Term Care

MRSPA supports legislation to address the rising cost of long -term care insurance.

Rationale: Older adults who invested in long -term care insurance to provide for their own care are faced with unreasonable price increases or a loss of benefits. These increases are prohibitively expensive and should be negotiable and greatly limited.



Scholarship Fund

Educators need to be in the forefront of supporting education. Please help us support high school students planning a career in education because scholarships mean a lot to students and their families. In yet another year unlike any other, the need is clear. Your gifts ensure opportunities for success. In the past 16 years our association has awarded more than \$30,000 in scholarships to deserving KCHS students. These awards are made possible by our members who are asked to contribute \$25 annually, though any and all amounts are appreciated. This year we have received some generous donations from our members. Many thanks to those who already made a contribution.

Member donations are encouraged and always important. We are fortunate to be able to meet and have our raffles to help the cause. This is a major goal of our organization! We look forward to future gifts that will allow us to support a brighter future for our students.

One student wrote : “Thank you for believing in me and my ability to succeed...” Please think about a donation to our fund for the next school year and use the form provided.

Thank you for your consideration.
Billie Lynne Roberts
Chair, Scholarship committee

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 :

**Debbie Smith
209 Pear Tree Point Road
Chestertown, MD 21620**

Executive Committee 2021

President

Glenn W. Michael
23169 Old Fairlee Road
Chestertown, MD 21620
fastaperture@gmail.com

Vice President

Nancy Harrington
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Past President

Sue Crooks
26895 Mallard RD 21620
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Secretary

To be appointed

Treasurer

Debbie Smith
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By-Laws Chair

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Legislative Chair

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Hospitality/Program Co- Chairs

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gdclark2@verizon.net

Nancy McCloy

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Terri Mullikin

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Nominations

To be announced

Scholarship Co Chairs

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Sue Crooks

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susanlcrooks@yahoo.com

Charlotte Potts

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(no email)

Brenda Shorter

10387 Bunting RD
Chestertown, MD 21620
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Sunshine

Sue Coleman
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Trips/Social Activities

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Edwina Walters

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edwinawalters@rocketmail.com

WE STILL NEED A SECRETARY!



October Luncheon

Our fall luncheon will take place at the Kitty Knight House on Oct. 6th. We've reserved the deck, but in case of inclement weather, we have use of their spacious dining room. Alicia Siegrist, Vice-Chair, of the of the Institute for Adult Learning (formerly at Chesapeake College, now in Centreville) will be one of our speakers. Come hear the opportunities available through this program.

Our other speaker, Sue Schaubert, will entertain us with stories of her adventures on the "Mystery" this summer— the log canoe that she and husband Fran own and sail in competition. Should be enlightening!

Finally, our Little Libraries have been a great success! So much so that we are running out of books to replenish them. Many members have already donated their "store" of books from their own families. If you have some children's books that need a home (elementary through middle school) we can use them. We ask that you bring one new or "gently used" children's book to the luncheon to help restock our libraries. LET'S KEEP OUR KIDS READING!

KCRSPA LUNCHEON
at
Deep Blue at the Kitty Knight House
Thursday, October 6, 2022
Business Meeting: 11:15 Lunch: 12:00

Come join us for lunch on the deck at the Kitty Knight House, and enjoy the view over Georgetown harbor. Don't forget to bring a new or "gently used" children's book for our Little Libraries.

MENU

Choice of:

*Shrimp Caesar Salad (grilled shrimp, romaine lettuce, parmesan, croutons and Caesar dressing) with crackers

or

*Club Sandwich (layers of deli meat, swiss cheese, lettuce, tomato, bacon, and garlic mayo) with fries

Dessert: Assorted Dessert Tray

Beverages: Coffee, Tea, Soda

Please respond by **FRIDAY, SEPT. 23rd, to Kathy Clark at 199 Rolling Rd Chestertown, Md. 21620. Make checks (\$25/person) payable to KCRSPA.**

Circle your choice of entree:

Shrimp Caesar Salad

Club Sandwich

Name _____

Amt. Enclosed _____ 1