

# The Bell Ringer



## Kent County Retired School Personnel Association

Volume 46 Number 3 February 2024



*Photo by Nancy Harrington*

Greetings KCRSPA,

The new year is in full swing and I hope 2024 will be a healthy, happy, and a great year for all members of KCRSPA. I also hope there are a few "kindred spirits" among our membership who enjoyed the snow as much as I did. I love walking through our woods enjoying its beauty!

At our December luncheon our "Basket Raffle" earned our scholarship fund \$425. Terrific and thank you to the members who created the beautiful baskets! We also had four new retirees join our association in January, Welcome Beth Coxon, Ida Nabb, Sandra Tilghman, and Tracey Williams.

On Tuesday, January 30th, Betty Weller {our Legislative Chair} and I attended a Zoom Legislative meeting. It was a very informative one. One of the guest speakers was Dr. William Kirwan, Vice Chair of the Accountability and Implementation Board. He shared the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. The Blueprint's Five Pillars are in our newsletter, page 10, for you to read. Also, you can view the meeting on You tube: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ESFCDaEbT5k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ESFCDaEbT5k).

Many of our members have received post cards, letters, and telephone messages from Porter, A Proud Partner of Carefirst. It is a wellness program. Fridania Sanchez, Human Resources Specialist for KCPS, suggests contacting Retiree First, our advocate between our insurance and retirees, if you have any questions.

**CLAPPER**  
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This year we have nominated Susan Clark, KCRSPA's Vice President, for the Senior Citizen Hall of Fame. Susan volunteers at the hospital, the new animal shelter, Washington College Archaeology Lab, just to name a few. We will be honoring Susan at a luncheon in October.

Lastly, our March luncheon will be a "Brunch" at a fairly new restaurant in Rock Hall called "The Rock." It is owned by a local man, Jason Cannan and his wife. Jason went through the Kent County Public School System. It is so good we are able to support our former student. Don't forget to bring items for our new Kent County Animal Shelter.

Hope to see everyone at our "Brunch" on Thursday, March 7th. The speaker will be Emily Murphy, Coordinator for the Horizon's Program.

Let's have a healthy, happy, and great 2024!

Nancy M. Harington

**Editor Notes** - Welcome to the February 2024 issue of The Bell Ringer, our KCRSPA newsletter. Even though it is the first issue of the calendar year, this is the third newsletter of four for our activity year.

Contained in this issue there is a full page of photos from the December 'Christmas Luncheon.. I send many thanks to Lea Hunley, who carries her tablet to the meetings and uses the camera feature to do photos. Good photos! Then she forwards those photos. The extra help is much appreciated, and she's good at it. There are also a couple of photos from the bus trip thanks to President Nancy. Below is the memorial to another lost member.

There are two sets of minutes. Please read and be ready to vote as appropriate. Executive Committee votes on their minutes, General Membership votes on the General Minutes. We will save the planet by not having to run off copies. The treasurer's report, committee reports are all here. Also there is a listing of all scholarship donors for 2023 and forms for donating to the scholarship fund. Of course, there is a form for the meeting in March. The form details all the information, including the menu and the venue. This is something new and should be a treat. Please, take the time right now while you think about it, to send in your reservation. Come to the meeting!

Glenn Michael, Editor

*Meriam Spriggs May 27, 1932 - November 1, 2023*

In 1964 Meriam came to Chestertown Middle School teaching 8th grade Social Studies and English. She retired in 1992. Mrs. Spriggs joined Aaron Chapel at a young age and transferred to Asbury UM Church where she was active, serving on the finance committee, co-chair of their Annual Day and supported numerous functions. She was a member of the NAACP, Maryland State Teacher's Assoc, and the Kent County Teacher's Assoc. She retired in 1992. Mrs. Spriggs joined Aaron Chapel at a young age and transferred to Asbury UM Church where she was active, serving on the finance committee, co-chair of their Annual Day and supported numerous functions. She was a member of the NAACP, Maryland State Teacher's Assoc, and the Kent County Teacher's Assoc.

It was with great sadness that we heard of our Aunt's death.

It is often said that "the good die young". But it is also true that the great ones live to see 90 years. 90 plus years of living and impacting so many lives as a teacher.

As a teacher Aunt Meriam accepted nothing less than a student's best. She was the teacher that made you think, made you dream, and made you set goals years ahead of possible achievement. She was the kind of teacher that all teachers should emulate: demanding, commanding whilst also nurturing, supportive and inspiring.

There are so many memories. Too many to encapsulate in a short tribute. That said, every "memory" was fun, filled with laughter and enveloped with the type of love that keeps families strong.

Missing her much and loving her more with the regret of her passing...

Renee Morales (niece)

Jeffrey Groce (nephew)



### **KCRSPA Executive meeting: 2/1/24**

Members present: Nancy Harrington, Terri Mulliken, Glenn Michael, Betty Weller, Charlotte Potts, Lee Hunley, Susan Clark, Kathy Clark, Debbie Smith, Sue Schaub, Nancy McCloy, Margie Baker and Brenda Shorter.

The pledge of allegiance was recited and the meeting began. The meeting minutes from the Dec. 7th meeting/luncheon were read and a vote to correct errors was taken and corrections were made.

We brought in a good amount of scholarship funds in the Dec. meeting and also brought in (3) new members!

For the President's report, Susan Clark was nominated for the Senior Citizens Hall of Fame and we voted her in as our nominee.

#### **Committee reports:**

Debbie Smith's treasurer's report was reviewed and accepted by vote.

No report from Archives, Bylaws/Policies and Trips/Social Events.

Community Service: The "Little Library" is back in use in Rock Hall. There is also a need for these libraries in Fairlee and Terri will check into getting libraries to both groups of apartments.

Legislative: Bills have been filed such as the tax credit, long-term care, oversight of senior facilities; there is a budget shortfall (COVID funding has stopped), and there is a new crime bill which is a work in progress. Betty will add the website for us to view the specifics of this bill and other bills.

Program/Hospitality: Cathy looked into "The Rock" in Rock Hall for our March '24 brunch/meeting. We will also enjoy the Chester River Packet again in June '24.

Membership: We have (4) emeritus members and an increase of (7) members overall for a total of 101 members.

Scholarship: Billie Lynn has given guidance the scholarship forms for students who are interested in becoming teachers. Brenda will check on the progress of the scholarship information periodically at KCHS.

Newsletter: All information that goes into our newsletter should be submitted to Glenn in a timely manner so that Terri can get all information printed in a timely manner.

**Old business:** Brenda wondered what to do with all information from the minutes in (2) huge binders from Winnie's time as secretary. We discussed using Worton Elementary as a meeting/storage place and will contact Joe Wheeler for permission to use this site.

**New Business:** There is a program that is free and under the umbrella of Care First called Porter. Porter offers services such as annual health screenings and wellness programs, among other programs concerning health matters.

Scott Milligan, a rep. from KCHS for teachers' health benefits, asked if KCRSPA was an advocate for teachers' health benefits. He was told that is not true. Which begs the question of who advocates on our behalf for health benefits so now we will ask Freda from HR to meet with us in March to share health benefits information for retirees.

Nancy and Betty participated in a Zoom session with Dr. Kirwan. It was suggested from this session that we all look into Dr. Kirwan's Blueprint program on Youtube.

Lee Hunley read a thank you note from Debbie Chance to KCRSPA.

Last but not least, Glenn's nephew, Dr. Ronald Gilbar, wrote a childrens' book, *Emerald, the Green Dolphin*, and we all agreed to provide a copy of it to our (3) elementary schools! \*\*Read across America is in March!

Respectfully, Brenda W. Shorter, Secretary

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### **KCRSPA December General Meeting & Luncheon 12/7/23**

Members present: Rick Walters Ruth Wilson, Susan Clark, Jean Wright, Kathy Clark, Debbie Smith, Billie-Lynne Roberts, Ray Clarke, Jean Foreman, Jim Lupis, Kathleen Jones, Sue Crooks, Karen Dize, Sue Schaub, Karen Dize, Margie Baker, Terri Bostic, Trudy Anderson, Edna Phillips, Nina Newlin, Beth Coxon, Ruth Reed, Terri Mullikin, Tracey Williams, Cynthia Phillips, Ida Nabb, Sandy Tilghman, Denise Jones, Lisa Lerner, Becky Glenn, Nancy McCloy, Charlotte Potts, Mary Fisher, Lee Hunley, Sue Coleman, Glenn Michael, Betty Weller, Nancy Harrington, Debbie Chance (Speaker/ Area Director), Linda Fry.

The meeting began with a welcome from KCRSPA President Nancy Harrington and the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Debbie Chance, Area Director of MRSPA spoke next:

- Asked for a volunteer to be on the nominating committee.
- Distributed a survey for members to share the benefits of joining the association.
- Gave details about a scholarship available for person(s) interested in taking classes towards teacher certification. There is a two-week application window in January, 2024. See the website for more information.
- Travel opportunities on the website.

Debbie Smith, treasurer, shared that our association has \$9,101.05 in checking and \$5,329.25 in the scholarship account.

An updated Membership Directory was handed out and members were asked to check their information.

Sue Crooks introduced four new KCRSPA members: Tracey Williams, retired Pupil Personnel Supervisor Sandra Tilghman, retired guidance counselor; Beth Coxon, retired elementary teacher, and Lisa Lerner, retired ESL teacher.

Susan Clark - spoke of community service opportunities:

- Food Baskets - Volunteers needed on Monday, December 11th at the Worton Community Center, 8 a.m., until finished.
- A fundraiser to benefit the Kent County Animal Care Center is being considered for 2024.
- Cathy Clark - Baskets will be raffled off after the meal. Each member should take home a poinsettia. Cocoa packets were provided by Cathy's daughter, Meghann.

*Submitted by Nina Newlin, Acting Secretary for the meeting*

*The set of minutes are from the KCRSPA Executive Committee Meeting held on February 1, 2024. They will be approved at the next Executive Committee Meeting on May 2, 2024. They are provided here so that all members can know the actions approved and discussed at the Executive Committee Meeting. Members are welcome to attend Executive Meetings. The General Meeting minutes are from the Dec. 2023 General Meeting and will be voted on at the March General Meeting.*

**KCRSPA Treasurer's Report**  
 December 29, 2023  
 (for February 2024 meeting)  
 (Business Checking Account)

<b>Income</b>		
12/07/2023	State Checks	\$30.00
12/11/2023	Dec. Luncheon	\$1,045.00
12/29/2023	State Checks	\$90.00
	<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$1,165.00</b>

<b>Expenses</b>		
12/07/2023	Kent County Christmas Basket	\$100.00
12/07/2023	Kathy Clark -favors	\$75.60
12/07/2023	Chester River Yacht & Country Club (luncheon)	\$895.28
12/07/2023	Nancy Harrington (directories, etc.)	\$120.88
12/07/2023	Transferred Nov. Trip money to scholarship	\$746.23
	<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$1,937.19</b>
Starting Balance as of November 30, 2023		\$9,787.28
	<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$1,165.00</b>
	<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$1,937.19</b>
Ending Balance as of December 29, 2023		\$9,015.09

**KCRSPA Scholarship Fund**

(Business Savings Account)

Starting Balance as of November 30, 2023 \$4,483.26

<b>Income</b>		
12/07/2023	Scholarship Donations	\$230.00
12/07/2023	Basket Raffle	\$425.00
12/11/2023	Scholarship Donation (from Nov. Trip)	\$746.23
12/29/2023	Scholarship Donations	\$1000.00
12/29/2023	Interest Compounded	\$0.35
	<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$2,401.58</b>

<b>Expenses</b>		
		0
Starting Balance as of November 30, 2023		\$4,483.26
	<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$2,401.58</b>
	<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>0</b>
Ending Balance as of December 29, 2023		\$6,884.84

**HOP  
 INTO  
 SPRING  
 AND  
 CELEBRATE  
 THESE  
 MEMBERS**

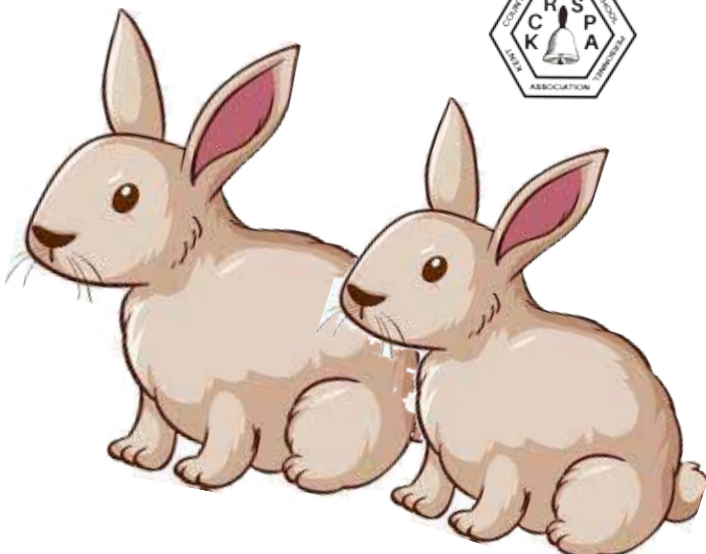


**MARCH**  
 Jed Howell 3/5  
 Patsy Reihl 3/14  
 Olythea Hunley 3/19  
 Nina Newlin 3/20  
 Geraldine Pauls 3/21  
 Dale Atkinson 3/24  
 Sylvia Maloney 3/26  
 Trudy Anderson 3/26

**APRIL**  
 Barbara Kergaard 4/2  
 Peachie Moore 4/3  
 David Kergaard 4/10  
 Jean Wright 4/11  
 Linda Wesley 4/15  
 Lorraine Costella 4/25  
 Kathleen Jones 4/28  
 Sue Bedwell 4/29

**JUNE.**  
 Sandra Tilghman 6/6  
 Nancy Harrington 6/7  
 Larry Adams 6/18  
 George Jastram 6/20  
 Jocarol Miller 6/24  
 Nancy Brown Diangela 6/26  
 Peggy Brown 6/28  
 Mary Sieman 6/29

**MAY**  
 Joyce Bridles 5/1  
 Ruth Reed 5/5  
 Nina Burt 5/7  
 Billie L. Roberts 5/7  
 Joyce Powell 5/9  
 Sharon Gordon 5/17  
 Ann Moss 5/18  
 Mark Schivley 5/19  
 Karen Dize 5/29  
 Joe Massey 5/31



**From the Editor - Insurance Info -**

I have been getting a slew of calls, some at unusual times, from a company that shows on my caller ID as PORTER. I have checked with RetireeFirst, with Dan Husion at the Central Office, and I believe President Nancy has as well.

I personally am reluctant to agree to any service other than the regular insurance coverage for retirees. As an effort to get information, I did FINALLY take a call from PORTER. Apparently PORTER provides some kind of in-home services in conjunction with BlueCross/BlueShield Advantage Plan. They say "at no cost to you." When I tried to pin the caller down, he couldn't give me an answer as to where they get the money for this service. Further, it appears that much of what they do is actually already handled by the regular insurance and Medicare.

Info acquired from Dan Husion, 1/2/24, HR - "Just heard from Carefirst and as I called them directly. In the words of Carefirst, Porter is core to the medical plan. All 65 and over member's plans are fully insured, which means that there are no strings attached, no additional fees or charges with this service. The bill is picked up by Carefirst."

Editor - I would say, be careful. In my gut, I find it difficult to accept anything that doesn't make sense. PORTER cannot be providing any kind of service that doesn't cost somewhere, somehow. Caution!!! I have requested that they take my name off the phone call list.

**Also From the Editor and insurance related.**

I have commented numerous times on the good job that RetireeFirst does in the handling of issues with the insurance. I have had issues a number of times and each time the people at RetireeFirst got to the bottom of the problem.

Recently an issue of what I was responsible for with my CPAP equipment needed clarification. Originally I was getting the equipment from another company than the one that I have now. When it was the other company, the total was covered by Medicare and supplemental insurance. Then with the new company I started getting bills. I called RetireeFirst to see why. A service person not only called the company and got that cleared, but also called the doctor and got a problem cleared regarding failure to follow the prescription as defined by the doctor. The girl, Maria, stayed on the problem until it was resolved.

**For issues of coverage, call Retiree First - 855-236-7152**



**ANNOUNCEMENT**  
We are in need of hygiene product donations for our families and children at HHGES. Help fill our closet for the holidays.

Please feel free to donate and drop them off to HHGES 320 Calvert Street in the box in our vestibule.

Items needed...

Shampoo, Conditioner, Soap, Lotion, laundry soap, Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Deodorant, and Socks

Bus Trip Photos by  
President Nancy Harrington

**KCRSPA DECEMBER CHRISTMAS MEETING  
AND SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE**



*Photos by Lea Hunley*



*Photos by Lea Hunley*



## Community Service

The Lions Club and food pantries of Kent County organized the annual Christmas boxes. A huge effort and amazingly well organized, volunteers delivered food boxes to hundreds of families.

Our group made a \$100 donation to the Kent County Christmas food drive. Thanks to all of you who donate many hrs. to serve our community. Also, thank you to all who made donations of food, clothing, and hygiene items.

It is time to nominate a volunteer from our group for the MRSPA community service award. The following items need to be considered:

- Hrs per week/month
- What/where performed
- Why needed

( Anyone nominated needs to answer these qts. and submit the info soon so it can be written up and mailed by April 1st.)

- Impact of volunteerism
- Summary of volunteer activities ( at least 100 words)

Also, nominations to the MD Senior Citizens Hall of Fame are due by April 1st. There is a check list which calls for a sponsor and a current photo.

The KCRSPA monthly community service project benefits The Animal Care Shelter For Kent County in Worton this month. They are always in need of donations for the cats and dogs in the shelter so please consider bringing a donation to the March 7th luncheon at The Rock in Rock Hall. Suggested donations are: Purina Pro Plan for dogs, Purina Cat Chow and Friskies Patefor cats. Treats such as Milk-Bone Soft & Chewy treats, Delectables Squeeze Ups, and Blue Buffalo Bursts are well liked by the pets. You may also consider toys such as dental chews, squeakers, wands, balls and bells. For the staff and volunteers we recommend paper towels, wipes, sponges, dish soap, and 60-gallon trash bags. Everything will be well appreciated.

## Scholarship

We have received many generous donations for our scholarship fund. A number were in honor of Lorraine Costella from her group of friends and educators. A list of all folks who donated to our fund in 2023 can be found in the newsletter, pages 8-9.

I have updated our KCRSPA Scholarship application and will deliver it to KCHS. Please remind the teachers to discuss scholarship opportunities with their students.... writing the essay, having it signed, 3 recommendations, and meeting the deadline are important. Completed applications will be sent to Sue Crooks.

The Scholarship Committee will meet in April to review the applications and select students to be awarded our scholarship. The Executive committee meets in May for final approval. Please contact Tilise Brown, guidance secretary at KCHS, to inquire about scholarship activity.

Members, please consider making a donation to our fund if you have not already done so. It is important for us to help students with their education. Thank you to all who continue to contribute to the scholarship fund. It is our mission to provide financial aid to young people as they begin their career paths.

*Billie Lynne Roberts*

## Membership

The good news is that KCRSPA membership is growing! Since the last report we have gained 4 new members. Currently we have 97 members, 4 of which are Emeritus. A huge thank you to everyone who has recruited our new members. Please continue to talk about our wonderful group and to reach out to anyone you come in contact with who may be interested in joining. *Susan Crooks*

## Additional Membership Information

Special Dues Reduction from March 1 to May 31, 2024 – Recruitment Incentive Reminder

Just a reminder of the special reduced state dues incentive that will take effect on March 1 and run through May 31, 2024, for new members and former members who rejoin for 2023-2024. Beginning on March 1, MRSPA dues will be reduced to \$10, with anyone who signs up for dues deduction getting the \$10 off incentive, so paying no state dues for the remainder of the 2023 – 2024 membership year. New and former members who pay by credit card or check will pay the \$10 MRSPA dues. Local dues will be collected regardless of payment type unless we hear(d) otherwise from you. Checks are payable to MRSPA for state and local dues. Please advertise this incentive to your potential new and former members. Members who join/rejoin during this time period will be billed for membership for 2024-2025 in June like every other dues paying member.

Dues Deduction - MRSPA can deduct New or Switch and Save member dues from pensions any month. Dues deduction files are sent to the Maryland State Retirement Agency (MSRA) on/by the 6th of each month. MRSPA receives the deduction report from the state on the 30th of each month and 10 days to two weeks later, local treasurers should receive their payment checks. Dues are still deducted only once ANNUALLY, per membership year.

Switch and Save Invitation - MRSPA will extend an invitation to cash members to switch to dues deduction for 2024-2025. If they make the change, they are eligible for a one-time \$10 reduction in state dues. They would pay \$40 for state dues for 2024-2025, plus their local dues amount. Members need to complete and return the Dues Deduction Authorization Form, which is available on the MRSPA website under Switch and Save (<https://www.mrspa.org/switch-and-save>).

Gift Card Incentive - The \$10 Gift Card incentive continues! Any member who recruits a NEW member via DUES DEDUCTION will receive a \$10 Walmart gift card. Please ensure that the member recruiter writes their name on the new member application form before it is returned to the MRSPA Office.

**Legislative Report - Betty Weller - See page 10 for 5 Pillars of the *BLUEPRINT***

## MRSPA Foundation Raffle

The MRSPA Community Service and Scholarship Committees provide tremendous support to students and staff in our schools across Maryland. Therefore, we are seeking **donations** to the *MRSPA Foundation* so that we can continue our work. Again, this year, raffle tickets will be purchased solely through the MRSPA newsletter using the form below and through local association newsletters using the same form. All donations are tax deductible and come with our thanks and appreciation!

Your name will be entered into a drawing upon receipt of your donation based on this criterion: Donations of \$10 will earn 1 raffle ticket while donations of \$25 will earn 3 raffle tickets incrementally. MRSPA staff will write your name on the correct number of tickets when we receive your check. The drawing will take place at the May 2024 Annual Business Meeting whether held in person or virtually. You can win the \$300 cash first prize, a Maryland themed basket valued at \$175 second prize, or one of 5 third place themed baskets valued at \$125: Cooking, Game Night, Wine Lover, Book Worm, and Sports Lover. Out-of-state winners will receive gift cards in lieu of basket contents.

### Entering the drawing is fun and easy!

1. Make your **check payable** to **MRSPA Foundation**
2. Write **MRSPA Foundation Raffle** on the FOR line
3. Date and **sign** your check
4. **Mail** check and completed form to MRSPA at 8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A, Odenton, MD 21113 **before March 22, 2024**

### Will you send a donation today?

**Receipts will be sent via US Mail.**



### MRSPA Foundation

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*We appreciate donations made in 2023 from the following people. Thank you! At this point about 45% of our members have contributed to the scholarship fund.*

*Remember: our major mission is to support students planning to further their education. Please show your support .*

Karen Dize - in memory of Elaine Holden

Jo Carole Miller

Mary Etta Reddy

David Kergaard in memory of colleagues who have passed

Mary Siemen

Sue Coleman - in memory of Flossie Johnson and Fay Miller

Billie Lynne Roberts - in memory of Fay Miller

Edwina Walters - in memory of Fay Miller

Ruth Wilson - in memory of Fay Miller

Emily Massey - in memory of Fay Miller

Jean Foreman - in memory of Fay Miller

Nina Newlin - in memory of Nathaniel Heal

Doug Walters

Mark and Doreen Shivley - in memory of Fay Miller and Carole Coleman

Kathleen Jones - in memory of Fay Miller and Carole Coleman

Nancy McCloy - in memory of Fay Miller

Jean Wright - in memory of Fay Miller

*Continued on page 9*



We appreciate donations made in 2023 from the following people. Thank you. At this point about 45% of our members have contributed to the scholarship fund. Remember: our major mission is to support students planning to further their education. Please show your support .

Terri Bostic - in memory of Francis Miller and Carole Coleman  
Susan Crooks - in memory of Bob Crooks  
Susan Clark  
Rebecca Glenn  
Elizabeth Weller  
Richard Walters  
Jean Wright - in memory of Mark Lusby  
Kathleen Jones - in memory of Gordon Browning  
Trudy Anderson  
Ruth Wilson - in memory of Mark Lusby  
Nancy Harrington - in memory of Fay Miller and other retired members who have passed  
Glenn Michael - in memory of Bob Tyson and Carol Coleman  
Linda S. Fry - in memory of Florence Dorsey  
Kathy Clark  
Ray Clarke  
Jean A. Foreman - in memory of Mary Ellen Clark  
Doug Walters - in memory of Mary Ellen Clark

Sophia Thompson - in memory of Meriam Spriggs  
Lorna Wilson-Allen - in memory of Meriam Spriggs  
Denise Wilson-Browning - in memory of Meriam Spriggs  
Thomas Groce  
Evelyn Shauber  
Aminata Mansaray - in memory of Miriam Spriggs  
Elizabeth Coxon  
James Luis  
Debbie Brooks - in honor of my Mother, Billie Lynne Roberts  
Virginia Newlin - in memory of Barbara Jones, and Carol Gordon

Special thanks to the friends of Dr. Lorraine Costella who donated in memory of Fay Miller:

Dr.Lorraine Costella  
Dr. Bonnie Ward  
Ann Hummer  
Jean Flory  
Mary Ellen LeDuc

### Scholarship Fund

Help us fulfill our mission to support high school students planning their college careers. It is through your donations that we are able to award scholarships to deserving Kent County High School students. These scholarships mean a lot to students and their families.

In the past 16 years our association has awarded more than \$30,000 in scholarships. These awards are made possible by our members who are asked to contribute \$25 annually. Many thanks to those who already made a contribution. Educators need to be in the forefront of supporting students.

***Remember: This is a major goal of our organization!  
All donations allow us to continue the scholarship program.  
Names of donors will be listed in the Newsletter.***

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.***

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#### 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  
200 Pear Tree Point Rd  
Chestertown, MD. 21620**

## Executive Committee 2023 -2024

### President

Nancy Harrington  
530 High Bridge Road  
Millington, MD 21651  
nmhar@verizon.net

### Vice President

Susan (Sue) Clark  
210 Manor Ave.  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
sclark2@washcoll.edu

### Past President

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

### Secretary

Brenda Shorter  
10387 Bunting Road  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
bshorter20@gmail.com

### Treasurer

Debbie Smith  
209 Pear Tree Pt. RD.  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
debbiesmith828@gmail.com

### Archives Chairs

**Olythea Hunley**  
PO Box 4  
Still Pond, MD 21667  
olytheab@gmail.com

### By-Laws Chair

**Rick Walters**  
12750 Ireland's Corner Rd.  
Galena, MD 21620

### Legislative Chair

**Elizabeth Weller**  
216 Duke of Kent Street  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
weller.betty@gmail.com

### Community Service

**Billie Lynne Roberts**  
26661 Old Still Pond Road  
Still Pond, MD 21667  
db.roberts@verizon.net

### Hospitality

#### /Program Co- Chairs

**Kathy Clark**  
199 Rolling Road  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
gdclark2@verizon.net

### Nancy McCloy

PO Box 105  
Still Pond, MD 21667  
nmcclay@aol.com

### Trips/Social Activities

**Ruth Wilson**  
102 East Campus Avenue  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
rwilson26@verizon.net

### Membership

#### /Pre-Retirement Co-Chairs

**Sue Crooks**  
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susanlcrooks@yahoo.com

Nancy Harrington  
530 High Bridge Road  
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nmhar@verizon.net

### Newsletter

**Glenn Michael**  
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Chestertown, MD 21620  
fastaperture@gmail.com

### Terri Mullikin

5885 Cottage Avenue  
Roch Hall, MD 21661  
rockhallpixie@verizon.net

### Sunshine

**Sue Coleman**  
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### Assisting . . .

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Emily Massey,  
Debbie Smith,  
Jean Wright.

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### The Blueprint's Five Pillars

#### Blueprint Pillar 1: Early Childhood Education

Recognizing that a child's early years are the most critical period for brain development and set the foundation for lifelong learning and achievement, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future emphasizes equitable early education opportunities that prepare all children for school and for success. Investment in high-quality early childhood education and learning experiences means more equitable opportunities for children across the state to succeed as they begin their school careers. Building on research studies that have proved the academic benefits of Pre-K, the Blueprint expands full-day Pre-K access so that all children are ready to learn and be successful when they enter kindergarten. The Blueprint also increases the number of Judy Centers and Patty Centers and increases the number of educators in early childhood as well as high-quality early care and learning experiences.

#### Blueprint Pillar 2: High Quality and Diverse Teachers and Leaders

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future is elevating the stature of the teaching profession through the implementation of a career ladder, competitive salaries, including raising starting pay to \$60,000, incentives for National Board Certified teachers up to \$17,000, as well as raising expectations for teacher preparation, induction, and mentoring programs to attract and retain high-quality teachers.

#### Blueprint Pillar 3: College and Career Readiness

The College and Career Readiness Pillar sets a new College and Career Readiness (CCR) standard that prepares graduates for success in college and the workforce by ensuring they have the knowledge and skills to complete entry-level credit-bearing college courses and work in high-wage and high-demand industries. The Blueprint aims to have all students meet the CCR standard by the end of their 10th grade year, develops CCR-Support pathways to support students in meeting the standard, enables students to enter a Post-CCR pathway that builds on the student's strengths, develops a Career and Technical Education (CTE) system that is aligned with industry's needs, and ensures that prekindergarten through 12th grade curriculum, standards, and assessments are all aligned with the new CCR standard.

#### Blueprint Pillar 4: More Resources to Ensure that All Students are Successful

The Blueprint focuses on strengthening wraparound services through the expansion of community schools, establishing the Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports, targeting supports for students and families based on differentiated need, establishing a workgroup on multilingual learners, and developing a funding formula based on a new measure of concentration of poverty.

#### Blueprint Pillar 5: Governance and Accountability

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future involves thoughtful and comprehensive coordination between many agencies and institutions at all levels of Maryland government to implement the various programs and initiatives and to transform Maryland into a world-class educational system. The Blueprint establishes the Accountability Implementation Board and Expert Review Teams program. These entities hold the State and local education agencies accountable for Blueprint implementation.

**Legislative Report - Betty Weller**

The 2024 legislative session began on January 10 and will end on April 8. So far over 1200 bills have been introduced. Generally there are 2000 or more bills introduced during a session. MRSPA has a legislative agenda and follows bills that are related to that legislative agenda. Some of the bills we are following deal with tax credits for seniors for having long terms care insurance, regulation of assisted living facilities, protections for seniors and of course pension protection.

Last week MRSPA held it's legislative workshop where we heard from Brit Kirwin about the Blueprint for Maryland's Schools. Governor Wes Moore has fully funded the plan for this year. That said, there is a budget shortfall this year primarily because COVID money from the federal government is no longer coming in. Because of that, many bills that involve money will probably not go anywhere. Fixing the broken juvenile justice system is a big focus this year. Stay tuned as the session progresses to see what happens!

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**KCRSPA MARCH LUNCHEON**  
**at**  
**THE ROCK in ROCK HALL**  
**Thursday, March 7, 2024**  
**(Business meeting begins at 11:15 am)**

For a change of pace our March luncheon will be a brunch buffet at THE ROCK. The restaurant is located at 21321 Rock Hall Ave. As you drive into Rock Hall, turn left into the Bayside Market parking lot. The Rock is situated in the small strip mall to the left.

Since this is a buffet, there's no need to make any choices, but you **must respond** if you're attending by **FRIDAY, MARCH 1ST.**

**BUFFET MENU**

Assorted fresh fruit, pastries & breads  
Buttermilk biscuits  
Pancakes/French Toast  
Fried potatoes with onion  
Scrambled eggs  
Cheesy eggs  
Sausage links/patties  
Bacon  
Scrapple  
White & wheat toast

Our speakers will include Emily Murphy from the Horizons summer program, and Frida Sanchez, our new HR benefits specialist and insurance contact at the board.

Please send your response & payment by **FRIDAY, MARCH 1st**

Kathy Clark  
199 Rolling Rd.

Chestertown, Md. 21620

**Make your check (\$30/person) payable to KCRSPA.**

I will attend \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. \_\_\_\_\_