e Bell Ringer Kent County Retired School Personnel Association

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Photo by Nancy Harrington

# Volume 46 Number 2 November 2023

Greetings KCRSPA Retirees,

The season of Autumn is here ...... cooler temperatures, colorful mums, orange pumpkins, yellow, red, and gold trees and the thought that snow is in our future! Until the white flakes start to fall, we have much to do.

Please continue to encourage retirees to join our association. It's the best way to stay informed about items concerning our pension and our health benefit package.

We will continue to support two of our elementary schools in the county. Please consider donating hygiene products to HHGES such as soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, etc. and socks, underwear, t-shirts, etc. to GES. Bring your donated items to our luncheon.

Our "Christmas Scholarship Luncheon" is Thursday, December 7th at the Chester River Yacht and Country Club. It's always a delightful way to celebrate the season with your retiree friends. We will once again be having our "Basket Raffle"...our fun way of raising money for our Scholarship fund. So be sure to bring

your "dollars" to purchase an arm length of raffle tickets. And if you feel creative, bring a basket full of items to be raffled off! (Continued on page 2)

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We will be inviting retirees who missed our October luncheon and Debbie Chance, our Area 111 director.

We will be handing out our new Directory at the holiday luncheon. Please be sure to read the new revised By-Laws. There will also be a roster of all the members in our association including birth dates, emails, etc.

One of our Emeritus Members has passed away.. Meriam Groce Spriggs. Meriam was a teacher at Henry Highland Garnet Elem. School for many years. Rest in peace dear, dear friend and colleague.

Hope to see many of you at our Christmas luncheon on Thursday, December 7th {Pearl Harbor Day}. Let's have a terrific celebration!

#### Wishing you all a blessed Thanksgiving, the merriest Christmas, and a New Year of good health and happiness! President Nancy Harrington

#### Editor Notes -

The November newsletter means it's real close to December and It's time for the December meeting with the Raffle Baskets fund raiser for the Scholarship. I think Scholarships are the best thing we do. Please, attend and spend. It's fun and raises money for a good cause.

This issue has the usual information, including Treasurer's Report, Minutes, reports from the committees, and birthday information. There are some other items too. Once again, if there is an issue with insurance coverage, call RetireeFirst. 855-236-7152. I have used this number myself, several times. They are knowledgeable and efficient. And they follow through. Members went to the awards ceremony for Terri Mullikin.

The Scholarship contribution form is in all issues. It is encouraged that all make at least a \$25 donation to the fund. Certainly a little more means more meaningful grants can be awarded.

A thank you to the people of the Program/Hospitality Committee chaired by Kathy Clark, with assistance of Nancy Mc-Cloy, for the time consuming work in setting up the venues and details for each luncheon meeting. With costs going up, it is necessary to raise the price of the meals to \$30. Well worth every penny. For this meeting with the raffle, bring a little extra to buy chances on the prizes.

#### KCRSPA Executive Committee Minutes - November 2, 2023

The regular KCRSPA Executive Committee Meeting was called to order by President Nancy Harrington on Thursday, November 2, 2023 at 10:06 am at Sumner Hall, in Chestertown.

Members present were: Nancy Harrington, Sue Clark, Kathy Clark, Sue Coleman, Billie Lynn Roberts, Sue Crooks, Debbie Smith, Glenn Michael.

There was some discussion on whether there was a quorum, but the motion that the Bylaws were being met was made by Sue Coleman, seconded by Sue Crooks, and motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was presented. (Contained in this newsletter.) It was moved approved by Sue Clark, seconded by Sue Coleman, and passed.

There was some discussion about the meeting time, as it is now 10 am.

Nancy Harrington and a few others reported on the attendance to the ceremony for Terri Mullikin as Volunteer or the Year. Sue Crooks mentioned the school support program of health items and KCRSPA will continue. Also shared was the MRSPA ad for Raffle Tickets. It will be in the newsletter.

There was some discussion on insurance. No information at this time, but RetireeFirst was mentioned and the number will be included, again, in the newsletter.

Nancy mentioned doing the basket raffle at the December meeting. The idea was accepted and various members volunteered to do baskets.

Sue Coleman mentioned Debbie's Angels and a quilt that she was given by Dorothy Ringgold, and that additional quilts will be forwarded to Social Services.

The Bylaws changes as shown to the General Membership at the October meeting were presented as corrected and moved accepted by Sue Coleman, seconded by Kathy Clark, and passed.

Kathy Clark presented the venue and menu for the December meeting.

There was some discussion on the basket winning procedure. It was moved by Billie Lynn that only one basket winner to a person. Seconded by Kathy Clark, passed.

RHES is looking for readers during American Education Week.

Meeting was moved for adjournment at 11:20 am by Sue Coleman, and seconded by Sue Crooks.

Respectfully submitted, Glenn Michael - Acting Secretary

This set of minutes are from the KCRSPA Executive Committee Meeting held on November 2, 2023. They will be approved at the next Executive Committee Meeting on February 1, 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.

# KCRSPA General Meeting notes: Oct. 5, 2023

Our meeting was opened by Nancy Harrington at the Granary on this bucolic day in October! She welcomed us all and proceeded to congratulate Terri Mulliken for her award in volunteerism.

We were all thanked for our great donations for HHGES and GALES which were much needed items.

Next, our new officers were introduced and we then reviewed the constitution and bylaws of KCRSPA which was led by Kathleen Jones. We voted to accept the newly revised constitution and bylaws and briefly discussed a few items that were changed within it for clarification.

Billie Lynn gave her thanks and appreciation for all who donated to our scholarship fund. Billie Lynn also shared a beautifully written card from one of our scholarship recipients. She also reminded us to keep in mind those whom we would like to vote on for the most volunteerism so that she can complete the forms for state submission in a timely manner.

Sue Crooks stated we have 95 members and introduced our new retirees who are: Mary Fisher, Ida Nabb, Nancy DeAngelo (of Cecil County), Lisa Learner, and Tracey Williams. Mary, Ida, and Nancy all shared with us what they were looking forward to as retirees.

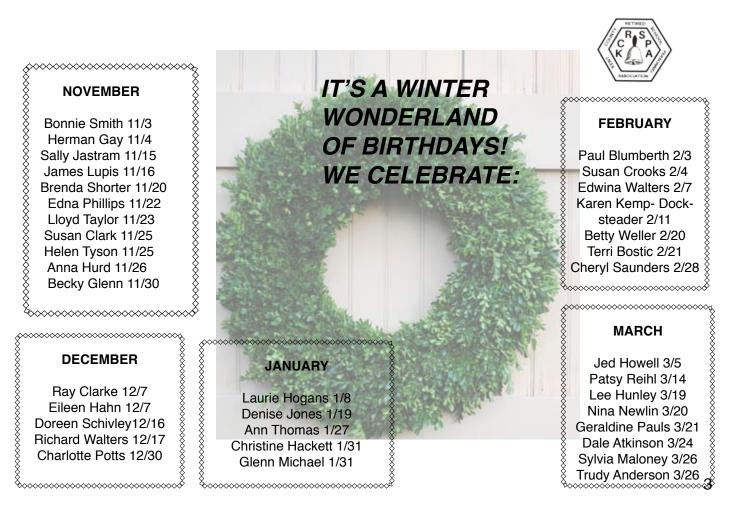
We have (5) emeritus members and Bess Engle will be one of them next year!

Our speaker for the day was Miss Candace Ringgold who is the museum manager for Sumner Hall. Her parents attended school here in Kent County and Candace graduated from UMES. She stated Sumner Hall is a gem of a museum and was founded and built in 1908 by Civil War Veterans. It has also served as a community center in the past and Ella Fitzgerald sang there in the past. Sumner Hall is known to bring people together! In 2014, it was revamped/refurbished to its original glory! It is open from 10-2 pm every Saturday; there is an African American walking tour there and pre-Covid, there were even musical events held there.

Some of the activities still held at Sumner Hall are school visits to read to our students in our public schools, a "teacher trunk" filled with Revolutionary Time period items is provided, and last but not least, Miss Candace stated that volunteers are always welcome to share their time with our students in Kent County.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda W. Shorter

These minutes are from the October meeting and will be voted for approval at the December meeting.



KCRSPA Treasurer's Report September 29, 2023 (Business Checking Account)						
Starting Balance as of August 3 Income	\$10,693.48					
09/08/2023						
09/21/2023	State checks and Membership	Dues \$120.00				
09/29/2023	State checks and Membership	•				
	T	otal Income:	\$1050.00			
Expenses						
08/28/2923	American Music Theatre		\$86.00			
09/08/2023	Bille Lynne Roberts (stamps)		\$12.60			
		Total Expenses	s: \$98.60			
Starting Balance as of August 3 <sup>-</sup>	1, 2023		\$10,693.48			
		Total Income				
		Total Expense				
Ending Balance as of Septembe	er 29, 2023		\$11,644.88			
KCRSPA Scholarship Fund (Business Savings Account)						
Starting Balance as of August 3 Income		\$2762.61				
09/08/2023	Scholarship Donations		\$75.00			
09/21/2023	Scholarship Donation		\$25.00			
09/28/2023	Scholarship Donations		\$100.00			
09/29/2023	Interest Compounded		\$0.18			
		Total Income:	\$200.18			
Expenses			0			
Starting Balance as of August 3		\$2762.61				
	, _0_0	Total Income:	\$200.18			
		Total Expense				
Ending Balance as of Septembe		\$2962.79				

# **NEWS ON INSURANCE!!!**

The KCRSPA has not heard anything from any source as of 11/2/2023 regarding changes in the retirement insurance for the coming year, 2024. Given the changes of the last few years, lets hope no changes happen this year.

# For information -

Any time you have a problem with physician acceptance of your insurance, or questions regarding a bill *that normally would be covered*, contact **RETIREEFIRST 1-855-236-7152**. The number will take you to RetireeFirst. You will be answered by a person on the staff and she/he will hear your problem. This is for all questions or problems with acceptance of bills.

It would be handy to put this number - **855-236-7152** on your cell phone. If the physician you are seeing will not accept your insurance, you can contact RetireeFirst while you're at the doctor's office and the RetireeFirst people will try to work with the physician.

The attendees: Margie Baker, Nancy Harrington, Charlotte Potts, Debbie Smith, and the Honoree Terri Mullikin.

Photos courtsey Nancy Harrington



This year we nominated Terri Mullikin for our volunteer service award. She actively donates many hours to help improve the lives of others in our community. The Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame (MSCHF) selected Terri Mullikin as our nominee for 2023. Terri was inducted into the MSCHF Class of 2023. She received an award and was honored at the induction luncheon on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at the Ten Oaks Ballroom, Clarksville, Maryland. Several of our members, Nancy Harrington, Charlotte Potts, Debbie Smith, and Margie Baker attended the luncheon ceremony with Terri.

Billie Lynn Roberts, Chair

# **Community Service**

Many of our members are doing valuable volunteer activities in the community. This year we nominated Terri Millikin for our volunteer service award. She actively donates many hours to help improve the lives of others in our community. The Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame (MSCHF) selected Terri Mullikin as our nominee for 2023. Terri was inducted into the MSCHF Class of 2023. She received an award and was honored at the induction luncheon on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at the Ten Oaks Ballroom, Clarksville, Maryland. Several of our members, Nancy Harrington, Charlotte Potts, Debbie Smith, and Margie Baker attended the luncheon ceremony with Terri.

MRSPA annually recognizes outstanding service of members who are positively impacting the community. We need your input to help us select a volunteer for our service award in 2024. Please submit your ideas to Billie Lynne Roberts by January 1, 2024.

Nancy Harrington and Terri Mullikin continue to manage 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. We are happy to see these libraries being used.

Again this year the Lions Club of Kent County will be distributing Christmas baskets to families in need. KCRSPA will donate \$100 to help with this effort. The boxes will be packed at the Community Center in Worton. All volunteers are welcome beginning at 8:30 on December 11, 2023. Volunteers also help deliver the boxes in the afternoon.

Other community outreach projects include collecting hygiene products for Garnet Elementary School and donations to the food pantries in Millington and Chestertown. Another project revolves around collecting clothing items for children who may need an emergency change of clothes at Galena and Garnet Elementary Schools. Please bring your donations to the luncheon on December 7, 2023.

# Community Service Report - Part 2

# Garnett Elementary School Hygiene Outreach

In 2023 KCRSPA members started a hygiene outreach to be used by the families and students of Garnet Elementary school. This year GES received the Conservation of Poverty Grant. Funds from this grant were used to purchase additional hygiene items. The supplies donated by KCRSPA members and purchased from the grant have already run out. Please continue to support our local school by donating items listed on the flyer, below.

Thank you for helping support our local GES students.



# Scholarship Report

Isabella Hickman, one of our scholarship recipients for 2023, decided to withdraw from Salisbury University. We were notified by the University in September and contacted Isabella. She decided to attend Chesapeake College. We received a refund from Salisbury and sent a check for \$1000.00 to Chesapeake College.

Updated scholarship applications will be delivered to KCHS in January for the 2024 Scholarship awards. All completed applications will be sent to Sue Crooks. The committee will meet in late April to review applications.

# PLEASE SUPPORT THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND !!

Thank you to all friends and colleagues who 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 the newsletter you will find a form to use for donations. Also, in the newsletter you will find a list of members who made contributions in 2023. Many thanks to those folks.

# **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. Outof-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
- 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.



MRS	SPA Foundation
Your Name:	
Your Address:	
Home Phone:	_ Cell Phone:
Email Address:	

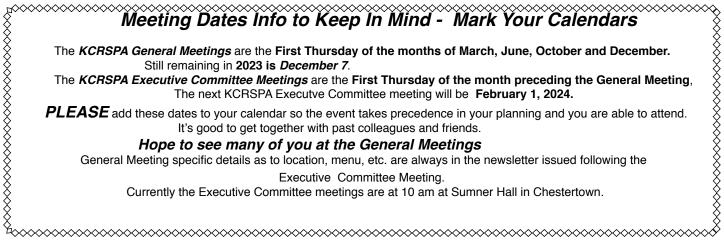
We appreciate donations made in 2023 from the following people. Thank you. At this point about 30% of our members have contributed to the scholarship fund. Remember: our major mission is to support students planning to further their education. Please show your support.

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 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

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

<b>Scholarship Fund</b> Help us fulfill our mission to support high school students planning their college careers. It is through your donations tha 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. Educa- tors 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.					
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					



#### President

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# Archives Chairs Olythea Hunley PO Box 4

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# Executive Committee 2023 - 2024

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Nancy McCloy PO Box 105 Still Pond,MD 21667 nmccloy@aol.com

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Little Libraries Terri Mullikin 5885 Cottage Avenue Roch Hall, MD 21661 rockhallpixie@verizon.net

Assisting . . . Nancy Harrington, Emily Massey, Debbie Smith, Jean Wright.

Don't Forget !!!!!! LaborFirst is now RetireeFirst !!!!! All Services are the same, just the name has changed. The number is the same toll free (855) 236-7152 You might want to plug the phone number into your cell. If you get to a provider and they say they don't take Care First Advantage, you can call from the doctor's office if service is denied. They may be able to get the problem resolved in real time.
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!!!!Your Homework Needs To Be In On Time!!!
Yes, we know we are RETIRED people and we are a mixture of school personnel. Still our homework needs to be turned in on time. In this case, the homework is your Reservation for the December Luncheon. You won't want to miss this meeting.
$\equiv$ Out of a sense of duty, as well as the fact that the venu needs a count, it is important to get your reservation $\equiv$ in to Kathy Clark by the deadline.
So, why not do the homework and send off your Luncheon form RIGHT NOW! Don't put it off.
10

*Notes* - Our holiday get-together will take place at the Chester River Country Club on Thursday, December 7th, with the business meeting starting at 11:15 am. We will be hosting any new retirees that didn't make it to our October luncheon along with our MRSPA Area Director, Debbie Chance. Please welcome all to our band of "merry retirees."

We will again have our basket raffle, with tickets being \$1 each or an arm's length (Glenn's) for \$10. Just a reminder, this raffle focuses on raising money for the Scholarship Fund, which is a major priority of our organization.

As you have seen in the past, executive committee members put a lot of effort and money into creating beautiful, useful, and enjoyable packages to be shared by many. That's why our policy is to award only one basket per winner. If your name is pulled more than once, you get to choose which basket to keep. We then redraw for the other one. We find this more fair than having one person take home two or more baskets, and others nothing. Again, the focus is to raise as much money as we can to support our Scholarship Fund. So bring your holiday spirit and join us for some "merry little Christmas" fun!

This year, our party will gather downstairs in the Front Room of CRYCC. Due to another larger party in the upstairs ballroom, there may also be limited parking. We encourage all who can to carpool to avoid any problems. Reminder: luncheon cost will rise to \$30/person starting with this member meeting.

# KCRSPA CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON at CRY&CC THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023 BUSINESS MEETING BEGINS at 11:15

#### MENU

Appetizer: \*Butternut Squash Soup

#### Choice of Entree:

\*Chicken Piccata with a Lemon-Caper Sauce

\*Sliced Roast Beef with Mushroom Demi-Glace

(Both served with scalloped potatoes and green beans almandine)

\*Caesar Salad with house-made Croutons, Grated Parmesan and topped with Salmon

Dessert: Chocolate Mousse

Beverage: Coffee, Tea, Iced Tea, Lemonade

Please respond by *FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1ST* to Kathy Clark at 199 Rolling Rd Chestertown, Md. 21620 Make checks payable to **KCRSPA at \$30/person**.

Chicken Piccata	Circle choice of enti *Roast Beef	e: *Salmon Caesar Salad	
Name			
No. attdg	Amt. Enc		