



# The Chalkboard

CECIL COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL  
ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 34 NUMBER 2

Elkton, Maryland

March 2021

## 2020 – 2021 OFFICERS

President: Anne Humphrey

Immediate Past President: Kathy Mullen

Corresponding Secretary: Betsy Van Culin

Recording Secretary: Sally Haberl

Treasurer: Tony Mattern

Newsletter Co-editors: Gretchen Ginder and  
Signe' Mika

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Cecil County Retired School Personnel Association announces its 34 Annual Memorial Scholarship program. To date the fund has awarded over \$41,950. To be eligible, students must be graduates of a Cecil County Maryland public high school, majoring in the field of Elementary or Secondary Education and entering their junior or senior year of college. The value of the scholarship is up to \$1000.00. A description of this scholarship, instructions for applying, and the official application form can be found on the CCRSPA website:

[www.http//cecilspa.org](http://cecilspa.org).

The completed application and all official college transcripts are to be placed in one envelope, postmarked by April 23, 2021, and addressed to:

Mrs. Charlene Metzger  
CCRSPA Scholarship Committee  
230 Crothers Road  
Rising Sun, MD 21911

## President's Message

We have now rounded the one-year anniversary of the start of the COVID Pandemic. I hope that you are all set up for your vaccines – so important for your protection and those near you! It certainly has been a year of new experiences.

Our CCRSPA Executive Board met by ZOOM last Monday. We are all in agreement that we should not plan a gathering this spring. However, we will keep an eye on numbers for possibly an outdoor event this summer – maybe a cookout. We will hope to tentatively resume our luncheons in September.

We did vote to continue to give our scholarships this spring. We know that now more than ever, many students are in need of financial assistance. We fund our scholarships with money raised from our wonderful raffles held at our luncheons. As you can imagine, that places us a little short for this year. Our goal is to provide three \$1,000 scholarships. We are also planning three \$200 mini grants for September.

I would like to issue a challenge to all members to make a donation to our scholarship/mini grant program. The challenge is for you to think about something that you would have spent money on if there were no pandemic and make your donation in that amount. I will start by making a donation of \$100 for some of the meals that Paul and I would have eaten at restaurants. Your donation can be of any amount for any reason – maybe a trip you didn't take, or a movie you didn't see, or something you did not go to the store to buy! Remember that any donation is tax deductible! You will find a form here in the Chalkboard to send in with your donation. I thank you in advance for your donations!

Please plan to join us when it is safe for us to meet again!

## CCRSPA MINUTES – February 8, 2021

A ZOOM executive board meeting was held on Monday, February 8, 2021. The meeting began at 1:00.

Because of the current pandemic situation, there will not be a CCRSPA meeting in May. We are tentatively planning to have a meeting in September. The final decision will be made in August as to if, where, and when the luncheon meeting will take place.

Community Outreach chairpersons, Paula Cobb Sheldon and Kay DiStefano, have been purchasing items requested by some of the school nurses.

The Scholarship Committee wants to award Memorial Scholarships this year. Betsy Van Culin moved and Paul Humphrey seconded that three \$1000.00 scholarships be awarded.

Linda Elwood provided some information about the virtual meetings held by the state Legislative Committee. The State Legislature session started on January 13. Fourteen hundred bills have been introduced. There was much talk about long-term care. Care in assisted living facilities is a concern because all of the help is not certified. Some Memory Care units do not have trained personnel. Linda will be sharing more information in the Chalkboard.

Linda Elwood talked about the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Currently 500 children from newborn to age 5 from the towns of Chesapeake City, Conowingo, Elkton, North East, Perryville, Port Deposit, and Rising Sun receive a book a month. It costs approximately \$1000.00 a month to send the books to the children. Linda moved and it was seconded that our organization donate \$500.00 to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library in Cecil County. Information will be forthcoming about how members can donate individually to the organization.

Another ZOOM meeting will be held in May.  
The meeting adjourned at 2:05.

### **Be on the lookout for scams during the pandemic!**

Stimulus payments are being sent again, be on the lookout for scammers trying to gain your financial information. Some will call, claiming to be from the IRS, asking for your personal information to process your stimulus payment. Some even ask for a fee to process your payment faster. Identity thieves are busy redirecting payment from the intended recipient for their own pockets. Don't answer these calls. If you do pick up and find the caller asking these questions, hang up!

Continue to remain vigilant as others are out there trying to take advantage of people during difficult times.

#### **SCAM! IRS calling**

The IRS will never call you, demanding payment.  
The IRS doesn't use social media, text, or emails.  
The IRS will not ask for gift cards as payment.

Information obtained from ABC News 7

### **CCRSPA Scholarship or Kids Fund Donation – 2020-2021**

Make check payable to CCRSPA, write "Scholarship" or "Kids Fund Donation" in lower left corner and mail along with this slip to Tony Mattern, 160 Willard Drive, North East, MD 21901-1631.

## Maryland Senior Citizen Hall of Fame

Betty Moore is our Maryland Senior Citizen Hall of Fame nominee. The Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame induction luncheon has been rescheduled from October 22, 2020 to Thursday, April 15, 2021. Please mark your calendars with the new date. They will be in touch sometime in February to reconfirm the new date and begin the process for guest ticket requests.

Vocationally, Betty is a retired registered nurse and served as a school nurse for Cecil County Public Schools for 26 years. She has been married for over 62 years. She and her husband, Charles, who is known as Bud, live on a farm. They operated a dairy until 1989.

Betty Moore has given decades of service to the Maryland farming community. She is a lifelong resident of Cecil County. She is one of the founding members of the Cecil County Farm Museum, where she serves as membership Chair. She was honored as the 2018 Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau Award recipient.

Church service has been important to Betty throughout her life. Betty has served as deacon and is an elder. She has taught Sunday School and is currently the treasurer at Rock Presbyterian Church in Fair Hill.

Betty is a volunteer for the Mason Dixon Oliver Cletrac Collectors Association. Its purpose is collecting, preserving, and teaching the history of Oliver, Hart-Parr, and Cletrac and the various other companies associated with them. She is one of the founding members, and has served in positions of secretary, treasurer, and membership chairman.

Betty says that volunteering helps her to be a better and stronger person. Her hope is that other people and groups benefit from what she does.

Her thanks and praise go to the one who makes all of her activities possible— "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." Phil. 4:13

Paula Cobb Sheldon  
Community Outreach

## CCRSPA TREASURER'S REPORT

BALANCE: June 30, 2020	<u>\$7,271.96</u>
SUB TOTAL INCOME	\$3176.87
SUB TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$623.01
Net Balance	\$9825.82
CD at Cecil Bank	\$11,415.49

### Imagination Library of Cecil County Program

Dolly Parton Imagination Library of Cecil County currently provides books to children ranging in age from 0-5. This program has been extremely successful and we have been able to register approximately 500 children in seven towns. Each child receives an age appropriate book every month and by age 5 children enrolled from birth, will have a library of 60 books that have been read and reread to them. As educators, we are aware of the need to expose children during these early years to literature and a vocabulary rich environment, which will help prepare them for kindergarten.

Our organization would love to expand this program to the entire county, but due to the pandemic, fund raising has been difficult. Anyone interested in making donations to this worthwhile program can go to

<https://imaginationlibrary.com/usa/affiliate/MDCECIL/> and select Donate at the bottom right hand side of the page. Checks can also be made out to Imagination Library/CASA of Cecil County and mailed to Imagination Library P.O. Box 5 North East, MD 21901

## ELECTION OF MRSPA OFFICERS TO BE HELD AT ABM

**Nominee for MRSPA**

**Nominee for MRSPA**

**Nominee for MRSPA**

**President-Elect**

**Treasurer**

**Secretary**

**2021-2022**

**2021-2022**

**2012-2022**

**Carla J. Duls**

**Dr. Stephen J. Raucher**

**Janet K. Williams**

**More information is available in February 2021 MRSPA News.**

## MRSA's Legislative Committee

The committee met virtually during the fall. We reviewed the Legislative Priorities for 2021 and made revisions to this brochure. Prior to the opening of the Legislative Session, which began on January 13th, an introductory letter was sent to Delegates and Senators with a copy of our priorities.

Since the opening of the session the Legislative committee has been meeting virtually bimonthly. Each member receives a print out of the bills that pertain to our pension and issues that effect seniors. These bills are reviewed and discussed and then we decide whether the association will support or oppose the bill. Letters are often sent to the Legislators stating our position and giving recommendations for additions or deletions if needed.

Numerous bills are reviewed and discussed, so I encourage those of you who are interested to go to [mrspa.org](http://mrspa.org), click on Legislation and then scroll down and click on Legislation Updates. You will see bills we reviewed and the position we took. If you are interested in finding out more information on the bill, click on the House bill or Senate bill in blue at the top. Then once the bill comes up you will see a thumbtack and the blue bill number under it. When you click on that the entire bill as written can be seen.

A Legislative Workshop was also held January 26, 2021. Sixty-four members took part virtually. Dean Kenderdine, Executive Director Maryland State Retirement and Pension System, gave an outstanding report and I am happy to report our pensions are secure. Tammy Bresnahan from AARP also gave a very informative presentation. She reviewed many concerns AARP has about seniors and the care they receive. One concern that she stressed was that in Assisted Living Facilities many of their employees are not certified and there are few regulations in place. This does not apply in most Nursing Homes and in home care organizations.

Ms. Bresnahan also warned us against Third Party Electric Suppliers. Apparently their Standard Offer Service and Transmission fee is an unregulated part of their bill and is often higher than normal, costing some citizens about \$700 more a year. She said these companies target seniors.

If anyone is interested in joining our committee, please let me know.

Linda Elwood

### In Memorium

**Jane Johnson**

(3/21/1944 – 7/1/2020)  
MRSPA and CCRSPA member  
Paraprofessional for CCPS

**Frank Rinaldi**

(4/6/1951 – 8/7/2020)  
Board of Education

**Marjorie Boyd**

(10/28/1965 – 8/30/2020)  
School Bus Driver for CCPS

**Deborah Earles**

(2/21/1955 – 9/1/2020)  
Cafeteria Aid for CCPS

**Susan Hintz (10/14/1952 - 9/21/2020)**

Mentor for CCPS Elementary  
School Students

**Victoria Cebula**

(12/9/1935 – 10/30/2020)  
CCRSPA Member, Retired from CCPS

**Carmelo Palazzo**

(1/7/1934 – 10/16/2020)  
MRSPA and CCRSPA member  
Supervisor of Art, Music, Library

**Dorothy Currier**

(4/23/1929 – 10/25/2020)  
CCPS Employee

**Leonard Lundberg**

(8/10/1931-11/3/2021)  
Administrator in Elkton and Rising Sun

**Paul Devine (2/26/1948 – 1/18/2021)**

Instructional Coordinator of Career and Technology

## Community Outreach Report

Thanks to all your donations from our February 2020 CCRSPA meeting. We delivered clothing, snacks, bottled water and other items requested by school nurses at 13 elementary, 5 middle, and 6 high schools in our county. The following are just a few of the written thank you notes we received:

• Good Morning, I wanted to take a moment and thank you for the donation from the Cecil County Retired School Personnel Association. The water, snacks and pillowcases are greatly appreciated and will definitely benefit the students in the Health Room. I think it is wonderful that the association is generous each year with your donations. Thank you again and have a wonderful weekend.

• Hello, I hope you and your families are well. I wanted to say thank you for the donations dropped off today. The snacks are much appreciated by students visiting the health office, and the hygiene products are highly appreciated as well. Using them I am able to create a hygiene bar for students who need it. We appreciate all you do! Thanks again!

• Thank you both so much for the donations to Perryville High School. It allows me to stretch my budget further and is such a benefit to our students. Thanks again.

Many of the deliveries were contactless due to Covid, but at some schools, very thankful nurses and school staff came outside to greet us. We know the needs still exist this school year, although we've not received any specific requests. This is most likely due to the nature of hybrid and virtual learning. As the student population in the buildings increases, we feel certain we'll receive more requests. We plan to send an email for your assistance when the requests arrive. Until then if you have clothing (underwear, socks, leggings, sweatpants, hats, gloves, scarves, coats - from size 4T through adult Large) or snacks you'd like to donate, we have two contactless drop off sites. Simply place your items in the plastic bin on the front porch of:

Paula Sheldon - 9 Arizona State Drive Newark, DE

or Kay DiStefano - 28 Harvest Moon Court Elkton, MD

We'll safely store the items until we receive requests. We appreciate your support and we look forward to a time when we can meet together again.

## Membership News for September

**Membership total is 278.** There are 22 local only members.

I made contact by phone or email to all that missed their yearly payment to MRSPA. A reminder was sent in September and I followed up in October. It is not surprising with this crazy year.

**\*Thank you to all who have contacted us to make a change to receive the Chalkboard using your email? Feel free to continue to contact us if you wish a change.**

**\*\*If there is a reason as to why you would like/need to continue getting your Chalkboard newsletter by mail, PLEASE contact us, too. (By phone or email)**

**\*\*Contact info**

Sherry Lewis 410-398-1337 [chickeelewis@mac.com](mailto:chickeelewis@mac.com)

Shirley Montgomery 302-731-5371 [smmontgomery@verizon.net](mailto:smmontgomery@verizon.net)

**\* Moving**, let us know, Gretchen Ginder or me (Sherry Lewis) if you should change your address, I will make sure that MRSPA receives it as well.

### New Members

Penelope Boas

Dale Kerns

Cindy Wilson-Risko