



The Chalkboard

CECIL COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL
ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 36 NUMBER 4

Elkton, Maryland

December 2023

2023-2024 OFFICERS

President: Mary Ellen Butkiewicz

Immediate Past President: Anne
Humphrey

Corresponding Secretary: Joan-Marie
Parker

Recording Secretary: Signe' Mika

Treasurer: Tony Mattern
Co-Treasurer: Cheryl Lee

Newsletter Co-editors: Gretchen Ginder
and Signe' Mika

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are definitely in the "Fall" season. The leaves are falling, and our clocks fell back an hour. Always a chore to set all the clocks back! Another sign of Fall for me is an annual flu shot. This year, I also got the fourth Covid booster and the RSV immunization. I try to take advantage of what modern medicine has to offer.

Also, this Fall, we had honors bestowed on two worthy Cecil County women. Kathy Mullen was inducted into the MD Senior Citizen Hall of Fame. Besides all she does for CCPS, she graciously volunteers at her church and Union Hospital. Brianna Souder from RSHS was one of seven finalists for MD teacher of the year. Honors well deserved for these women.

Community Outreach

All donations were distributed to 27 of our Cecil County Public Schools. The nurses were very appreciative, and we have received several thank you notes for our participation in helping meet their needs. We continue to thank you for all donations from our members. We will be delivering another care package after our December luncheon. We will send out a note for requested needs beforehand.

We want to recognize all of you who are volunteering. Please send a note to Kay Distefano khdistefano@comcast.net or Paula Sheldon mahkila@verizon.net when volunteering. The other option will be forms at tables at the December luncheon to fill out.

Another sign of the times are the mailings from charities. We may have some that are dear to us for some reason. Closer to home, your donations of needed items for our school nurses and monetary donations help fund several worthy projects. Your support makes many great things happen in Cecil County. The donations for our December luncheon raffle are over the top! Hope you can join us to share this time of good fellowship.

MaryEllen Butkiewicz



CCRSPA MINUTES – September 19, 2023

Past president, Anne Humphrey, called our meeting to order at 11:20am on September 19. It was held at Elkton United Methodist Church. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. New members were introduced and welcomed. These included guest Larry Parker and past mini-grant recipient, Amy Ide. The minutes from our previous meeting were approved. Our current president, Mary Ellen, has been recovering at home. We wish her well.

BENEFITS: Paul Humphrey is looking for a replacement for his position. Said position involves meetings four times a year on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00-3:00. Anyone interested in fulfilling this position is asked to contact Paul or Anne.

TREASURY: Tony reported that there is \$5,382.51 in checking. He has updated the CD which is making 5.18 % interest. See his report.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: Paula thanked everyone who donated to 29 school nurses for distribution to students. Needed items are listed on the website. Our nominee for Senior Citizen Hall of Fame is Kathy Mullins. Congratulations, Kathy!

Anne read a message from Kay DiStefano concerning School Buddies. It is a program coordinated by Social Services, involving adults 55 and over to volunteer with students. These volunteers would work with students on reading and other academic skills.

LEGISLATION: Linda Elwood attended the first meeting on August 1st via Zoom. In January through April 8th legislature prioritizes updated concerns. Top priority is our pension. Our 401K is not considered very dependable. There are also concerns with Assisted Living. For instance, if there are fewer than 9 residents it indicates that this situation is not being properly monitored or regulated. Wait time that is way too long at ERs is still a problem.

MEMBERSHIP: There are currently 259+ members. This could drop off soon, though. Twelve people expressed interest over the summer, however. Because our pension is being scrutinized, We were asked to speak to retired friends about joining as support. Sherry mentioned that Tom Duffy is involved with donations of toys and/or money for the elementary schools. More information to follow.

It was agreed that Elkton United Methodist Church is a great location for our luncheon meetings. It may be necessary, however, to raise the price to \$25.00. Donations are made to missions of the church, who act as servers at our lunches. Anne thanked those who helped with set-up the day before the luncheon. Set-up is always the day prior to the luncheon at 4:00. Any help is appreciated.

PUBLICATIONS: Gretchen reported that the cost of publications and stamps has gone up. As it costs approximately \$200.00 to send hard copies through the mail, it has been requested that members change over to email copies. Reports for the December Chalkboard need to be sent by the week of November 13th.

SCHOLARSHIP: Mini grant applications and information have been sent to Jen Hammer and Jen Shaw as of September 8th. They will distribute information. Last year there were eight grants of \$200.00 and two scholarships of \$1000.00 awarded to chosen recipients.

TRAVEL: Fred said the Scotland trip with CIE is one year away. The bus holds 27 people and has room for eight more. Contact Fred if you are interested.

SUNSHINE: Deb Pasco was in the hospital.

PROGRAMS: Mary McCleary thanked members for contributions to raffles. Our program included Liz Monty from APGFCU who spoke about identity theft and scams involving seniors. It was very informative.

Grace was said by Paul Humphrey before our delicious meal.

Respectfully, Signe Mika

Membership News for December

Membership total is 259 . There are 20 local only members.

*******Some of you received an email from me, letting you know you were dropped from MRSPA. You can still renew!**

***** If you are a member, and know a retiree (old or new), welcome them to come and see what we are all about. We would love to add them to our membership at any time of the 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

Shirley Montgomery 302-731-5371 smmontgomery@verizon.net

Have you moved?/ New Phone Number, let us know, (Sherry Lewis) or (Gretchen Ginder) if you should change your address or phone#, I will make sure that MRSPA receives it as well.

New Member: Deborah Heintzen

In Memoriam

**Marcia McDermott
(3/24/1936 – 9/30/2023)
Teacher, Second Grade, PES**

**Ella Luff
4/25/1930 – 9/28/2023)
Kindergarten Teacher's Aide for Cecil County**

**Catherine Carpenter
(1/22/1939 – 10/2/2023)
School Bus Driver**

**Carole Loveless
(11/9/1938 – 10/18/2023)
Secretary of the PMS for many years**

Senior Citizen Volunteer of the Year

On October 19, 2023, Kathy Mullen was inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame for her volunteer work for our organization, her church, Union Hospital, and CCPS. Another of our CCRSPA members, Diana Lohr, summarized her achievements. Thank you for everything you do for our community, Kathy



Due to the increasing cost of postage, we have asked that the members who still receive a printed copy of The Chalkboard to start getting the newsletter through an email attachment. Many of you who have email addresses will now get your copy in your email.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Maryland Retired School Personnel Association's Legislative Committee's held their first meeting on August 1, 2023. Our committee will continue to meet the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. By ZOOM. If there are any members who would like to join our group, please let me know. The Legislative Session will begin in January 2024 and end April 8th.

At this meeting we reviewed and updated the Legislative Priorities for 2024. A new brochure will be shared with members in the near future. One of our top priorities is to continue to work to protect defined benefit pensions. Many states continue to attack pensions by having school systems have their employees obtain a 401K for retirement. North Dakota is one of the latest states to make this change.

In addition, we will review future bills that affect seniors/retirees and vote to support, oppose, or monitor the bills. A few examples of concerns are 1) to obtain regulations for assisted living facilities having nine or fewer residents. 2) Lowering prescription drug cost. 3) Reducing wait time in an ER to name a few.

Members can visit MRSPA's website to learn more about our committee.

Mentors Make a Difference



Cecil County Mentors knows that mentoring can make a big difference in the life of a child. From better decision-making to healthier relationships, mentoring can help children navigate the challenges and opportunities that come with growing up, so that they develop the life skills needed to succeed.

Are you ready to make a difference? We have children waiting to be paired with a mentor, and you could be the one to set them on the path to a brighter future. Reach out to mentors@cecilcasa.org or call 410-996-3025 for more information.

Grants Awarded

The Cecil County Retired School Personnel Association is happy to announce that we have awarded nine grants of varying amounts to CCPS teachers. We had 20 applicants, and the following teachers are recipients:

Amy Mazurkiewicz, BMMS, Science

Chelsea Jones, PVMS, Science

Brittany Brodo, BMMS, ELA

Nadeline Fleischer-Pile, Perryville Elem., ELA

Kelly Stevenson, Calvert Elem., ELA

Shelly Cline, CCES, 1st Grade

Amy Cook, ENES, Guidance Counselor

Christine Iaquinto, ENES, Art

Kimberly Dyar, RSHS, Media

December Luncheon Meeting

Elkton United Methodist Church

219 East Main Street, Elkton, MD 21921
December 12, 2023 - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Menu

Roasted Turkey with stuffing
Mashed potatoes
Green beans with almonds
Salad
Rolls with butter
Iced tea and coffee

Cost will be \$25 per person.

Payment will be at the door. Please pay by check or in cash. Email or call by December 4, 2023. Reply to Shirley Montgomery at shirlnems@gmail.com or 302-731-5371

*******IF You RSVP, THEN YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYING FOR YOUR LUNCH
EVEN IF YOU DON'T ATTEND.*******

Budget Report

Balance - 06/30/2023.	\$5082.05
Sub Total Income.	4146.04
Sub Total Expenditures.	3202.03
Net Balance.	6026.06
Certificate of Deposit	11,654.62
Balance on Hand.	17,680.68

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

<u>Community Outreach</u>	Paula Cobb
<u>Education/Protective Services</u>	Tony Mattern
<u>Legislation</u>	Linda Elwood
<u>Membership</u>	Sherry Lewis
<u>Nominating</u>	Kay DiStefano
<u>Benefits</u>	Paul Humphrey
<u>Programs</u>	Mary McCleary
<u>Public Relations & Communications</u>	
<u>Publications</u>	Gretchen Ginder/ Signe' Mika
<u>Scholarship</u>	Charlene Metzger
<u>Social</u>	Shirley Montgomery
<u>Sunshine</u>	Debbie Pascoe

CCRSPA Donation

(Please Clip and retain for your records)

Name _____

\$ _____ Ck # _____

Amount _____

Date: _____

Kids Fund

Scholarship Fund

In Honor or In Memory of _____

CCRSPA Scholarship or Kids Fund Donation – 2023-2024.
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.
Thank you. (*See Below)

Name _____ Amount \$ _____

*REMINDER: A separate check for donations to the *Scholarship* or *Kids Fund* may be sent to Tony Mattern, 160 Willard Drive, North East, MD 21901-1631



Have nice things that you don't need/want/use anymore? If so, Mary McCleary wants to hear from you; she may be reached at 410-398-3556 or email Mary McCleary <mmcdairy@comcast.net.

Purchasing Luncheon raffle tickets help support *Kids Fund* and the *CCRSPA Memorial Scholarship*. You benefit as well as a child who receives a new coat or scholarship because your donation\$ are tax deductible.

MOVING?

Don't forget to update address and phone info!

Name _____

New Address _____

New Phone # _____

E-mail address _____

✉ Mail to: Sherry Lewis, 4793 Telegraph Road, Elkton MD 21921 or via email at chickeelewis@mac.com

Christmas Program

It's beginning to look like Christmas...

Our Christmas program will be the Perryville High School choral group under the direction of Daniel Crosby. Please join us to hear their seasonal concert!

Mary McCleary, Program Chairperson.



Have a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Scottish Isles & Glens

12 Days/11 Nights

Sept. 20- Oct. 2, 2024

We currently have 19 people traveling to Scotland for the Isles & Glen 12-day tour September 21-Oct 2, 2024. I have 8 spaces left for anyone who's still interested in coming along. Contact Fred at fmetzger@zoominternet.net for more information.



We are entering the "giving season."

Protect those dollars that you are contributing by making sure that it is a legitimate, reputable charity. Verify that it is a tax-exempt organization, registered with the Internal Revenue Service by reviewing its Form 990. You can type in the charity's name with the IRS Form 990 and it will tell you if they are required to file this form.

Determine how your donation will be used. GuideStar, CharityNavigator, and CharityWatch are a few websites that will give you an overview of an organization's financial health and budget breakdown.

Watch for the link for "Giving Tuesday" when MRSPA will once again partner with the **Maryland Food Bank from November 27th thru December 1st to provide funds for feeding Maryland families that are food insecure.**

The link will be on the MRSPA website and will also be sent out via Constant Contact.