



The Chalkboard

CECIL COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL
ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 37 NUMBER 1

Elkton, Maryland

February 2024

2024-2025 OFFICERS

President: Mary Ellen Butkiewicz

Immediate Past President: Anne
Humphrey

Corresponding Secretary:

Recording Secretary: Signe' MIka

Treasurer: Tony Mattern
Co-Treasurer: Cheryl Lee

Newsletter Co-editors: Gretchen
Ginder and Signe' MIka

President's Report

Old man winter appeared to be sleeping the past few years. He surely reminded us that winter is here with the recent snow and low temperatures.

No matter what the thermometer says, our school nurses need our support. Paula and Kay continue to do an excellent job filling their requests. If getting to a store is difficult, monetary contributions are always welcome.

Please spread the word that we are accepting applications for our scholarships and mini-grants. The raffles that we all love, provide the funds for these special projects.

Now for some state happenings. The MRSPA Legislative Workshop will take place virtually on Jan.30, 2024. We will have an update on how the proposed bills are progressing through the legislature.

Also, we will be welcoming Dr. Debbie Chance to our February luncheon. She is a member of the state Board of Directors for our area. Let's have a strong attendance at our luncheon and show her how committed we are in Cecil County.

Thank you for your support.
MaryEllen Butkiewicz

February Great Buys

Headphones

Wireless Speakers

Smart Watch

Home Goods (Presidents' Day Sales)

Tax Software Deals

Last-minute Ski Trips

CCRSPA MINUTES – December 12, 2023

Our meeting was called to order by our president, Mary Ellen, at 11:20 at Elkton United Methodist Church. She thanked Anne Humphrey for all her support and presented her with a lovely poinsettia arrangement. Mary Ellen went on to praise Union Hospital for the superb care she received during her recent stay.

During a Zoom state meeting Cecil County was noted for doing a good job with our mini grants and scholarship funds. Attracting new members seems to be a challenge throughout the state, not only in Cecil.

VOLUNTEERING: Requests were made for members to act as Reading Buddies at the library. Food donations can be made to the Judy Center, as well.

Remember to fill out and turn in your completed form. Instructions are included on the bottom of the form. Thanks was given for donations by members for Scholarship Fund and for Kids Fund.

TREASURER: Tony Mattern reported that we currently have \$16,521.35 in our account. He has moved our CD for higher interest at Cecil Bank

OUTREACH: Kay DiStephano relayed thank-yous from school nurses. They really appreciated the donations of clothing and money for the children, especially during these cold months. We were reminded to fill out the volunteer sheets for calendar year 2023. Tony will add information to website.

LEGISLATION: Linda Elwood said there was little to report. There is hope that something can be done about physical attacks on seniors. This is an ongoing problem.

MEMBERSHIP: Sherry stated that we have 259 members.

PUBLICATIONS: Gretchen has mailed 66 hard copies to members. She continues to request that members with email addresses to please change over to electronic copies. This would save on money and work. Gretchen would like all entries for the Chalkboard sent to her by January 29th.

Denise Beattie, our Uniserve MSTTA representative, says we are the lowest funded county in the state for the past four years. A CCCTA meeting was held on Dec, 13. It was preceded by carolling. Attendees were supporting education and the keeping of paras and other support staff.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Charlene discussed scholarships and grants. More detailed information can be found in her report.

SUNSHINE: Nancy Mitchell broke her leg in a fall on Thanksgiving. Best wishes for a complete recovery.

TRAVEL: Fred Metzger told us that there are presently 17 people signed up. There are 10 spots left and CIE will be booking up until April.

Today we enjoyed a lovely choral production by Perryville High School under the direction of Ms Cosby. The students looked wonderful and sang beautifully,

Grace was said by Paul Humphrey before we enjoyed a delicious turkey lunch

Respectfully submitted
Signe Mika.

CCRSPA Officers & Committee
Chairpersons

OFFICERS

<u>President</u>	Mary Ellen Butkiewicz
<u>Past President</u>	Anne Humphrey
<u>Corresponding Secretary</u>	Joan-Marie Parker
<u>Recording Secretary</u>	Signe' Mika
<u>Treasurer</u>	Tony Mattern
<u>Co-Treasurer</u>	Cheryl Lee

COMMITTEE

<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 DiStephano
<u>Benefits</u>	Bill Ide
<u>Programs</u>	Mary McCleary
<u>Public Relations & Communications</u>	
<u>Publications</u>	Gretchen Ginder and Signe' Mika
<u>Scholarship</u>	Charlene Metzger
<u>Social</u>	Anne Humphrey
<u>Sunshine</u>	Debbie Pasco

CCRSPA TREASURER'S REPORT

BALANCE: June 30, 2023	<u>\$5,082.05</u>
Miscellaneous Donation	
Kids Personal Needs	660.00
Scholarship.	570.00
Interest(from Checking)	1.58
Membership Dues.	2700.00
SUB TOTAL INCOME	6284.31
MANAGEMENT/GENERAL EXPENSES	368.00
PROGRAM SERVICES.	4409.95
SUB TOTAL EXPENDITURES	4,777.95
Net Balance	1506.63
CD at Cecil Bank	\$11,470.62
Balance on Hand	\$18,294.90



February 14

Sourdough Making Program

Please join us for our presentation on sourdough breads. Ester Shultz will be our presenter. Essie has written the following introduction for her presentation:

Good Grain Bread Co. is a local cottage bakery specializing in artisan breads. The bakery opened in the spring of 2023 and has been offering breads to the community through farmers markets, community events and weekly preorders. The rustic breads are naturally leavened through a sourdough starter, a culture of wild yeast and lactic acid bacteria. The sourdough breads undergo a long cold fermentation. This fermentation period allows the culture to transform the grain, which increases absorption and availability of the nutrients. In addition to the increased nutritional benefits, the breads develop a more complex flavor through this process. Sourdough breads are a delicious way to support a healthy gut microbiome.

Join us for a discussion on a brief history of the origins of bread-making and how it has evolved over time. We will explore how social and economic developments throughout time have impacted both the styles and nutritional contents of bread. Basic techniques for making an artisan rustic loaf will be demonstrated. Nothing brings community together like "breaking bread" with one another, so look forward to a sampling of a few sourdough breads while we chat!

Mary McCleary, Program Chairperson



February Luncheon Meeting

Elkton United Methodist Church

219 East Main Street, Elkton, MD 21921
February 20, 2024 - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Menu

Beef Lasagna, Ziti Alfredo, Vegetarian Lasagna
Tossed salad, Fruit, Rolls with butter
Pie and Cheesecake Iced tea, Coffee, Hot tea

Catered by Your Personal Chef

Cost per person \$25.00

RSVP by February 11, 2024 at 5pm

Payment will be at the door. Please pay by check or have \$25.00 in cash. Email or call by February 11, 2024. Reply to Shirley Montgomery at shirlnems@gmail.com or 302-731-5371

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

DOLLY PARTON IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Cecil Retired School Personnel Association helps support Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Cecil County. DPIL is a book gifting program that mails out free books to children from birth to their fifth birthday in participating communities in the United States and other countries.

This past year DPIL most notably reached their 200 million book milestone and Cecil County now has approximately 1400 children registered. Our local children are fortunate to have support of our community in our mission to help improve early literacy and academic success in our towns. However, there are still thousands of unregistered children, and we need to raise \$26/year for each one.

If interested in donating to DPIL of Cecil County go to:

<https://imaginationlibrary.com/usa/affiliate/MDCECIL/>

To register a child in Cecil County go to:

<https://imaginationlibrary.com/usa/affilitate/MDCECIL/> and scroll down to print out the PDF registration form and mail to Imagination Library, PO Box 5, North East, MD 21901.

On February 10th from 6-10 P.M. DPIL is having a fundraiser Murder Mystery Dinner at Minker Firehall, 920 Principio Furnace Rd. Perryville, MD. Appetizers greet you when you arrive and a delicious dinner by Your Personal Chef Catering will be served. A cash bar will be available through the evening. Tickets are \$75 per person, however, if a table of 6 is purchased, there will be a \$40 savings.

Go to: dpilofcecilcountymd.ticketleap.com/valentine-murder-mystery-dinner/

If interested. A ticket must be purchased online before February 2, 2024.

Membership News for February

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? Got a New Phone Number, remember to **let us know**, (Sherry Lewis) or (Gretchen Ginder) I will make sure that MRSPA receives it as well.

In Memoriam

Grace McCool
(1/23/1927 -11/17/2023)
Substitute School Teacher

Georgia Cressman
(6/6/1948 – 12/7/2023)
CCPS Teacher, and at BMHS

Beverly Tozer
(12/21/1943 – 11/19/2023)
Substitute Teacher For CCPS Elementary Schools

Joe Marshall
(8/14/1940 – 12/15/2023)
School Bus Driver for over 60 years

Brenda Rinehart
(3/5/1950 – 11/24/2023)
Secretary at Charlestown Elem. School

Larry Garber
(5/18/1948 -1/2/2024)
Taught at RSHS and BMHS

Scholarships

Our organization will again be offering \$1000 scholarships to education majors who will be entering their junior or senior year of college in the fall. Applications are available on our website, and must be sent to Charlene Metzger no later than Friday April 19, 2024. If you know any CCPS graduates who might be interested, please make them aware of this opportunity!

CCRSPA Donation

(Please Clip and retain for your records)

Name _____

\$ _____ Ck # _____

Amount _____

Date: _____

Kids Fund Scholarship Fund

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 \$ _____

In Honor or In Memory of _____

*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 chickeeewis@mac.com

Community Outreach

We continue to receive thank you notes from the nurses at our schools in Cecil County. We appreciate all donations that are brought to the luncheon, and also for monetary donations for the Kids Fund. We will make our last delivery after Spring break for this school year. Clothing, snacks, water, and personal hygiene items are always on the request list.

Please remember to bring your completed form of service hours for volunteering to the luncheon.

Thanks, Paula Sheldon

Scottish Isles & Glens

12 Days/11 Nights

Sept. 20- Oct. 2, 2024

Many of you have expressed interest in doing another group trip. Scotland seems to be a place people would like to visit. So, I've gathered information from CIE Tours International (used with our Ireland trip) which I'll share below so that I can get a feeling of just how many are actually interested before booking space. The cost is an estimate as CIE is using this year's prices. We will have group air once we reach 10 people. The air will be figured as we get closer to our departure date. Passports will need to be current with at least 6 months left past our tour date.

Land only cost est. \$4693 per person. Add approximately \$1096 to travel as a single.

Deposit per person is \$250 nonrefundable.

Trip Mate travel protection plan \$259 nonrefundable. Purchased at the time of your deposit.

Total deposit pp would be \$509.00

Final payments will be due **65 days** prior to departure. If you are interested in traveling to Scotland, please send me an email with the number of people interested.

Thank you,

Fred

fmetzger@zoominternet.net



Legislative Report

The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association Legislative Committee met via zoom on January 16, 2024. After Virginia reviewed the procedures for new members we discussed proposed legislation. Major concerns by delegates included the structural deficit, juvenile justice, affordable housing, and the Blue Print for Maryland to name a few.

As promised, I brought up crime protection for seniors and our need to support legislation. Unfortunately, as of the 16th no bill was submitted addressing high crime rate by juveniles. Hopefully, by the time we meet again a bill will exist.

Thirteen bills were reviewed. We chose to support with a letter HB0032 - Income Tax - Caregiver Tax Credit, HB0071- Education - Holocaust Education Assistance Grant Program, SB0058 - Income Tax - Senior Credit - Alterations, and SB0086 (HB0218) Income Tax - Credit for Long Term Care Premiums.

Bills we opposed were HB0009 - State Retirement and Pension System - Forfeiture of Benefits if found guilty of a crime, basically because of the affects it would have on a family and cases brought up by a student just because they dislike a teacher. HB0192 - Elections - In Person - Proof of Identity. A major concern was the feeling that many elderly citizens do not have an acceptable government issued ID, and HB0202 - Election Law- Absentee Ballots - Signature Requirement and Verification. Many members of the committee already stated unsigned ballots are already thrown out and this has not been a problem in Maryland.

Other bills reviewed that were discussed we either chose to monitor or we took no position on the bill.

Virginia was happy to report that delegates and senators are finally beginning to listen to concerns dealing with caregiving and nursing homes.

We will meet again on January 30th.