The Chalkboard

CECIL COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 40 NUMBER 2 **Elkton, Maryland** **December 2026**

2026-2027 OFFICERS

President: MaryEllen Butkiewicz
Immediate Past President: Anne Humphrey
Corresponding Secretary: Joan-Marie Parker
Recording Secretary: Cheryl Lee
Co-Treasurers: Anne Humphrey
Paul Humphrey

Website: http://www.cecilrspa.org/
MD State Website: https://www.mrspa.org/

FUTURE MEETINGS

Tues, December 8, 2026 - Luncheon 11:00 am

Tues, January 12, 2027 - Executive Meeting 10:00 am

Tues, February 9, 2027 - Luncheon 11:00 am

Tues, April 13, 2027 - Executive Meeting 10:00 am

Tues, May 11, 2027 - Luncheon 11:00 am

Elkton United Methodist Church
219 E Main St
Elkton, MD 21921



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mother Nature has sure been kind to us this fall. Mild temperatures and the most vibrant colored trees I've ever seen. One down side for me, is the darkness coming in around 5:00 PM. As we near Thanksgiving, I want to thank everyone who has given in some way to the Kids Fund. Kay and Paula recently made deliveries to the schools, and the nurses are always most appreciative of the supplies.

Our December luncheon on Tuesday, Dec. 8th promises some great things. The number of raffle items is generally overwhelming and offers many things to get you ready for the holidays. We will also enjoy a traditional holiday meal along with a live presentation. I hope you can join us and please bring a friend to help share this afternoon of good food and fellowship.

Our association is strong because of your support and I am most thankful.

Respectfully yours,
MaryEllen Butkiewicz, President



CCRSPA MINUTES – September 8, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 by Past President Anne Humphrey. Anne acknowledged two guests from the Historical Society of Cecil County: Paula Newton, president and Beth Moore, vice-president. First time guests Cathy Schlecker, Stacie Forman, and Earle Miller, were introduced. Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Paul Humphrey presented the Treasurer's Report and next year's budget. The budget was voted on and passed. The decision to split the CD, having $5000 to reinvest and $5000 in savings, giving more flexibility, was voted on and passed. Paul also noted that raffle funds are split evenly between teacher mini grants and scholarships.

Corresponding Secretary: Joan Marie Parker thanked all who have donated to our grants and scholarships. She has sent notes to people who donated at the last luncheon.

Community Outreach: Kay DiStefano thanked members for donations for the school nurses. She and her committee planned to meet the next day to sort the donated items. She pointed out the donation box that is always there at check-in.

Legislative: Linda Elwood - nothing to report.

Membership: Amy Ide reported we have currently 247 members, including 4 new members since July and 17 locals. The state is running a promotion for automatic payment of dues called "switch and save," which will give members a one-time $10 deduction. Go to the state website (link on our webpage) for the deal.

Nominating: Kay DiStefano, with committee members Barbara Buck and Sally Haberl, reported that a candidate or candidates is needed for (co)president(s). The person or persons in this position can delegate a lot of tasks, the main responsibilities are to convey messages and run local meetings by agenda.

Public Relations: Shirley Montgomery reminded members to continue to use email for communications. Porch drop-off is available for members without email.

Publications/Chalkboard: Bill Ide reported the CecilRSPA webpage is up and running, providing easy navigation by computer or cell phone, and access to our newsletter (The Chalkboard), membership information, grant and scholarship applications, and so much more. Check it out! The deadline for articles in the Chalkboard is the middle of the month before the luncheon meeting.

Benefits Advisory Committee: Bill Ide reported that there will be many changes to benefits for next year, both for active employees and retirees. These include wellness services, healthcare, PPO, and drug and pharmacy programs, many which expire August 31, 2027.

Scholarships: Charlene Metzger reported no activity, but applicants are being sought.

Mini grants to Teachers: Charlene Metzger is sending information on our grants to Jenn Shaw, Public Information Officer for CCPS. The goal is to try to make it easy for teachers to apply. Over $8,000 has been awarded to 39 teachers since 2019. Applications are due by the end of October. Also, this committee is seeking new members. Please consider and contact Charlene.

Social: Ann Humphrey reported that the December meeting and luncheon will feature a holiday program. February and May programs are still open and the committee is looking for ideas. Meal suggestions are also being sought. The caterer being used is Your Personal Chef from Rising Sun.

Sunshine: Deb Pasco has been holding this position for 7 years. Thank you, Deb! If you know some member who is ill or needs a note of encouragement, let Deb know.

Travel: Fred Metzger reported that Mary Ellen Butkiewicz is taking over arranging travel and the 2028 trip will be through Collette Travel. Choices are: 1) American Cowboy Country - 8 day tour or 2) Mackinac Island Tulip Time - 9 day tour. See website for details. The travel company has given CecilRSPA a donation.

Obituary: The passing of Henry A. (Dick) Shaffer, Jr. was noted.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 for lunch.

After lunch, **Dr. Jeffrey Lawson**, Superintendent of CCPS, arrived and gave a presentation on the new North East Middle and High School. He also discussed the future of CCPS including lower total student population, changing demographics, redistricting assessment, and possible school closures. He noted CCPS student accomplishments as AP Scholars and apprentices. Lastly, he talked about the CCPS Foundation (replaces BPAC) and encouraged our support.

Our luncheon program speaker was **Paula Newton**, president of the Historical Society of Cecil County.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Lee

DECEMBER LUNCHEON

Tuesday, December 8th - 11:00 AM
Elkton United Methodist Church

PROGRAM

Our program will be a presentation by Martha Washington (a.k.a. Mary Ann Jung) in honor of our country's 250th birthday. Ms. Jung is an award-winning historical interpreter who has visited us many times. We look forward to this new addition to her list of characters.

Martha Washington (1731-1802) was so much more than the kindly grandmother image most people have of her. She was a smart, courageous woman who risked her life to support her beloved husband George Washington and his troops during the Revolutionary War. She was an indispensable part of the forming of our nation and sets the standards of what a First Lady should be. Learn about Martha's sacrifices and strategies as she forged a new path in a brand-new country. It's a delightful interactive show & adventure in Colonial America!

MENU

roasted turkey breast, stuffing,
glazed carrots, creamy mashed potatoes
dinner rolls, assorted pies
coffee, tea, and iced tea

Payment will be at the door.
Please pay by check or have $25.00 in cash.
Email or call by Tuesday, Dec. 1st at 5pm.
Reply to Shirley Montgomery at:
shirlnems@gmail.com or 302-731-5371
Contact Shirley to inquire about special dietary needs.

Please be aware that if you RSVP, then you are responsible for the cost of your lunch even if you don't attend. We pay our caterer based in the number of lunches ordered.

Did you know that we have a huge raffle at each luncheon with usually around 30 prizes! The raffle supports our service projects!





SERVICE PROJECT

For our December 8th Luncheon, the following donations will be appreciated:

- Boys' and girls' underwear in sizes 4-18, or Small, Medium, Large, and Extra Large. We always look for good deals, and the Dollar Store is a place we frequent. We also find ladies underwear in Small, Medium, Large, and Extra Large there.
- Unisex pants and sweatpants in sizes 4-18, or Small, Medium, Large, and Extra Large are usually good deals we find at Goodwill Stores.
- We. have a good supply of socks on hand, but will need caps, mittens, and gloves
- Wipes, deodorant, and personal hygiene items for ladies are sometimes requested.
- We always have request for peanut butter and cheese crackers, granola bars, Goldfish, individual pretzel snacks, breakfast bars, juice boxes, and small bottles of water.

After giving more thought to our last delivery of the year, we want to change the date to after our February 9th luncheon. That way we would have 2 donations to work with from our members, and it would even out our delivery time to be 2 semesters. Donations are still requested from our members for all luncheons. The last May luncheon would not need snacks that could expire before our September 2027 delivery.

The nurses really appreciate our help, and we have received many notes of thanks for our efforts. We thank all our members for their help and support in this effort.









CCRSPA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS 2026-2027

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Community Outreach:	Paula Sheldon
Legislation:	Linda Elwood
Membership:	Amy Ide
Nominating:	Kay DiStefano
Benefits Advisory:	Bill Ide
Programs:	Mary McCleary
Publications – Chalkboard/Website:	Bill Ide
Scholarship/Grants	Charlene Metzger
Social:	Anne Humphrey
Sunshine:	Debbie Pasco

Scan our QR code to visit our website



MOVING?

(Don't forget to update address and phone info!)

Please email or send information via US Mail to

Amy Ide
130 Black Oak Drive
Elkton MD 21921
or via email at amyide@comcast.net

Make sure to include

- name
- address
- email address
- phone number

CCRSPA Treasurer's Report

August 31, 2026 – October 31, 2026

Current Funds as of October 31, 2026

Checking	$ 3,769.15
Savings	$ 5,492.67
CD	$ 5,000.00
Total	**$14,261.82**

Highlights since August 31, 2026

Income:

Kids Personal Needs (Raffle and Donations)	$412.00
Scholarship & Grants (Raffle and Donations)	$127.00
Membership	$350.00

Expenditures:

Kids Personal Needs	$405.00

Outstanding

Grants (9 awarded)	$2,5635.71



IN MEMORIAM

Dea Karol Williams

1/28/1959 – 11/4/2026

Dea Karol Williams, age 67 years, of Elkton, Maryland passed away peacefully at her home surrounded by her loving family on Wednesday, November 4, 2026.

Dea was born on January 28, 1959, to David and Margaret (Peggy) Williams of Elkton, Maryland and was one of seven children. She was a graduate of Elkton High School, where she played field hockey and was inducted into the National Honor Society. Following graduation, she attended the University of Maryland, College Park where she earned her bachelor's degree in education. Shortly thereafter, Dea was employed by Cecil County Public Schools as an elementary school teacher. She taught primary education at Leeds Elementary School, including grades 1, 2 and 3, for thirty-one years. She influenced hundreds of lives through her role as a teacher and was characterized by her focus on students with compassion and kindness.

She leaves behind two sons, Matthew Allen Welch (Cristina) of Wilmington, Delaware, and MacKenzie Allen Welch of Capistrano Beach, California and five grandchildren (Jaxon, Jonathan, Vivian, Weston and Wyatt Welch) to cherish her memory. Her siblings include D'Ette W. Devine, Barry L. Williams (Mary Ann), DeVon W. Daniels (Kit), David K. Williams (Tracey), K. Jane Williams, and Thomas T. Williams (Jacquelyn)

Henry Arthur Shaffer, Jr.

2/28/1947 – 9/7/2026

It is with deep sadness that the family of Henry A. (Dick) Shaffer, Jr., 79, of Elkton, MD, announces his passing on Monday, September 7, 2026, after a long illness. Even though family and friends grieve in his loss, there is much joy in the legacy he left us. A lifelong resident of Cecil County, he was born in Baltimore, MD on February 28, 1947, to the late Henry A. Shaffer, Sr. and Mary Pauline (Siple) Shaffer.

Henry attended Elkton High School where he excelled in the classroom and in both baseball and football. Henry was a graduate of Tusculum College in Greeneville, Tennessee, where he received a partial academic-athletic scholarship, was a member of honor societies and was a 4-year varsity letter winner in baseball. He received his master's degree in administration from Towson University.

Upon graduation he was employed by the Cecil County Public Schools as a teacher and baseball and football coach. Other positions held during his 51-year career with the school system included Athletic Director, Assistant Principal, Supervisor and Director of Human Resources, Associate Superintendent, Superintendent of Schools, and Consultant to the Superintendent/Board of Education.

Henry is survived by his loving wife, Kingsley Hopper Shaffer, to whom he was married for more than 56 years; his daughter, Kimberly Miller (John), and granddaughter, Paige.

George Anthony Klusak

4/3/1948 – 8/30/2026

George A. Klusak passed away on Aug. 30 at Autumn Lake Healthcare. He was born on April 3, 1948, in Clearfield County, PA. He received his education degree from California State College in PA and later a master's degree from Millersville University. George began his career teaching industrial arts at Rising Sun High School and later became an assistant principal, serving many of the high schools in Cecil County in that capacity.

He was preceded in death by his father George E. Klusak, and his brother Edward. He is survived by his mother, Regina Klusak, his wife, Laurel Wirtz, sons Blair (Laura), Brandon (Amy), and Brent (Alec).

Teacher Grants

Our mini-grant committee was pleased to give a total of $2,535.71 to nine teachers in November! We had a record-breaking number of applicants this year with 35 applications! We gave $300 to seven teachers, $285.71 to one teacher, and one teacher only needed $150 for her project. Since 2019, we have given $10,815.71 to 48 teachers. Below are this year's recipients, their schools, and what they teach.



Julie Stephenson
Bay View Elementary, Grade 5 Math/Science/Soc. Studies



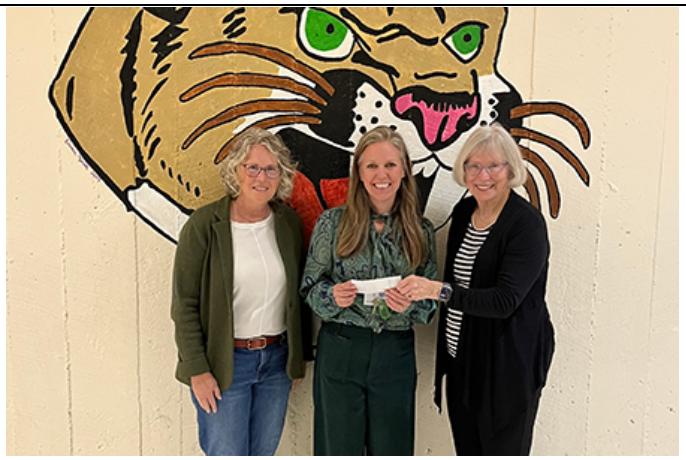
Sara Carnohan
Conowingo Elementary, Grade 3 Science



Bill Moon
Gilpin Manor Elementary, Chorus



Jeannie Abbey
Thomson Estates Elementary, Gr 2-5, ELA Development



Teresa Bowerman
Cherry Hill Middle School, All Literacy



Maggie Mancini
Elkton Middle School, Grade 8, AVID



Jilene Orman
Elkton Middle School, Community School Advisor



Colleen McCandless
Rising Sun Middle School, Grade 7 Science



Kerry Anne Kedzierski
North East High School, Physics

Many teachers requested financial assistance for very worthy reasons. It was difficult for our committee to eliminate 29 of the applications. To continue this program for the teachers, we need your help in the form of donations. Below you can find a slip to use to mail a donation, or you could give that slip and your donation to Paul Humphrey at any of our luncheons. So many teachers would be very grateful!

CCRSPA Donation

(Please Clip and retain for your records)

Name _____

$ _____ Ck #_____
Amount

Date: _____

☐ Kids Fund

☐ Teacher Grants

☐ Student Scholarship Fund

CCRSPA Scholarship, Grants, or Kids Fund Donation 2026-2027

Make check payable to CCRSPA, write "Scholarship", "Teacher Grants", or "Kids Fund Donation" in lower left corner and mail along with this slip to:

Paul Humphrey
458 Welsh Hill Road
Newark, DE 19702

_____ _____
Name Amount

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____