

The Chalkboard

CECIL COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL
ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 37 NUMBER 2

Elkton, Maryland

May 2024

2024-2025 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

Welcome Spring!!!

For our May luncheon, let's put away our dark, warm clothing. Celebrate spring by everyone wearing something representing spring, spring colors, flowers, nature, etc. Let's see how we can brighten up our meeting.



President's Report

Spring is finally here, visible in all the flowers and trees. This is my favorite season, bringing new life and warmer days. My year as president has been very rewarding, thanks to our committee members and especially all of you who support our endeavors. It was gratifying to hear Stephanie Norman express the gratitude of our school nurses for the supplies we provide. Many thanks to Kay and Paula.

At our last luncheon, Dr. Lawson gave us synopsis of Cecil County Schools for 2024-2025. I know our thoughts are with all the school personnel who strive each day to educate our children.

Our May meeting has several exciting presentations. We will have a representative from Human Resources to discuss issues of importance to our retirees. We will also get to view the wonderful projects supported by our mini-grants and recognize those individuals who were awarded our scholarships. Charlene has worked diligently on both of these projects.

The Community Service Committee as nominated Barbara Buck for this annual MRSPA Award. Barbara along with 3 other delegates will attend the MRSPA Business meeting on May 7, 2024 in Ellicott City.

In the spirit of spring, I would like to encourage you to wear apparel expressing the lovely colors of nature this time of year!

With gratitude,
MaryEllen Butkiewicz

CCRSPA MINUTES – February 21, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 by president Mary Ellen Butkiewicz. at Elkton United Methodist Church. Our first visitor was superintendent Jeff Lawson. Dr. Lawson spoke to us concerning the CCPS budget crisis. He began by saying that this problem is “nothing more than politics”. Communication is important, and the county is stronger than the state, and its government has a larger impact. Our county is apparently more flexible. The last thirty years of superintendents, especially the past three years, have seen the lowest funding. There will be large cuts, the most being people’s jobs. The arts will be adversely affected, as well. This is a dire situation in that 60 percent of our students come from poverty. We are also seeing the highest number of students with special needs. Dr. Lawson is opposed to school choice in that it differentiates between the “haves” and “have nots”. The county must have the funds to pay \$5,000+ for each student. Forty million is being spent on healthcare. Jobs cannot be eliminated because even a small decrease in the number of teachers results in gross overcrowding of classes. There are plans for the loss of 113 positions across the county’s 29 schools. We need a more favorable county executive. The primaries will be held on May14.

CORRESPONDENCE: Joan-Marie Parker relayed thank yous from schools for contributions to the Kids’ Fund.

The minutes and budget were approved.

BENEFITS: Bill Ide discussed Express Scripts, Aetna, and Care First. He stated that Care First was believed to be the best value. Bill also explained why he felt that the budget is not heavy on administration. This is a concept that he noticed during his attendance at state meetings.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: Paula also thanked contributors for donations to the schools. She said we were the only organization involved in this endeavor. She encouraged volunteers to turn in their hour sheets.

LEGISLATURE: Linda Elwood gave her report. Please refer to her entry. She added that Delta Dental had been compromised/hacked.

PUBLICATIONS: Scholarships and mini grants were discussed. There has been a decline over the past four years for scholarships. There is information on the website. There will be displays by the applicants at our next meeting being held on May 21st.

TRAVEL: Fred discussed the trip to Scotland on November 17, 2024. Information can be found on the website.

The annual business meeting for MRSPA will be held on May 7th in Elliott City at 8:30 am.

Stephanie Norman, nurse coordinator for CCPS thanked us for donations. She told us that there is only \$1.50 allotted for each student for their visits or needs from their health room. Most needed items include; bottles of water, clothes, and snacks for those with diabetes. The diabetes snacks are peanut butter crackers, Skittles, and Goldfish. These are for children in grades pre-k to twelve.

Dr. Debbie Chance, the State Board of Directors member for our area, visited our group. She discussed raffles at the state level and scholarships. She said that state membership is down.

Our meeting ended at 12:15. Grace was given by Paul Humphrey.

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>
Receipts	
Kids Personal Needs	410.00
Scholarship.	820.00
Interest(from Checking)	1.81
Membership Dues.	2720.00
LUNCHEONS -MEETINGS (QUARTERLY).	2,353.00
SUB TOTAL INCOME	6304.81
MANAGEMENT/GENERAL EXPENSES	
CHALKBOARD	278.22
MRSPA INSURANCE	25.00
POSTAGE.	280.66
WEBSITE	201.90
PROGRAM SERVICES	
GIFTS (SOCIAL COMMITTEE)	19.00
KIDS PERSONAL NEEDS	1246.22
LUNCHEONS -MEETINGS (QUARTERLY)	3048.94
MRSPA SCHOLARSHIP.	50.00
SCHOLARSHIP/GRANTS	1600.00
SUB TOTAL EXPENDITURES	6749.94
Net Balance	-445.13
CD at Cecil Bank 06/30/2023	11,470.62
CD Interest – 4%.	390.90
Balance on Hand	\$16,294.44

May's Guest Speaker

We have invited Joanna Zimmerman, Cecil County Public Schools Educational Director of Human Resources, Joanna will present to us Bill Ide's role as our benefit's representative. Attending with her will be Briane Crouse, Assistant in Human Resources. They will entertain questions from our membership.



May Luncheon Meeting

Elkton United Methodist Church

219 East Main Street, Elkton, MD 21921
May 21, 2024 - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Menu

pulled pork bbq slider rolls baked ham with pineapple
garden salad
old bay potatoes
cookies and brownies

Cost per person \$25.00

RSVP by May 13, 2024 at 5pm

Payment will be at the door. Please pay by check or have \$25.00 in cash. Email or call by May 13, 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.

Summer is right around the corner—Thursday, June 20th!

Nice weather also brings out more scammers! Those individuals that might approach you in your yard, offering to do home improvements, driveway sealing or repaving or landscaping jobs at **incredibly** low prices! If it sounds too good to be true, it usually is! Here are some red flags to spot a potential scammer:

- Refusal to provide a contractor's license and insurance documentation
- Vague on project details, materials, timeline
- No references from satisfied recent customers or the Better Business Bureau
- Total cost of quote far lower than other contractors' estimates
- Requires a very large down payment or credit card upfront
- Only provides a verbal agreement, not a written contract
- Won't pull required permits for the work
- Asks you to obtain materials yourself
- Old, worn vehicles and equipment

Maryland Retired School Personnel Association CONSUMER CONNECTION

Membership News for May

Membership total is 256.

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.

Good Grain Bread Co. with Ester Shulz

Ester Shulz demonstrates how to make sour dough bread.



CCRSPA Donation

(Please Clip and retain for your records)

Name _____

\$ _____ Ck # _____

Amount

Date: _____

Kids Fund Scholarship Fund

CCRSPA Scholarship or Kids Fund Donation – 2024-2025.
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 chickeeLewis@mac.com

In Memoriam

John Henderson
(6-15-1924 / 1-18-2024)
School Bus Driver

Joan Bryan
(2-21-1933 / 2-13-2024)
Teacher's Aide for 21 years at
Bainbridge Elementary School

Judith Ann Olah
(3-9-1939 / 3-20-2024)
Substitute Teacher

Jane Marsteller
(4-12-1954 / 2-15-2024)
Contributions to Rising Sun
Elementary School

Barbara Pinder
(5-13-1948 / 2-24-2024)
Retired from CCPS as a Paraprofessional at Gilpin Manor
Elem and Cecil Manor Elem.

Community Outreach News

Barbara Buck is our nominee for Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. There will be a Hall of Fame luncheon on October 17, 2024. More information will be available at a later date if planning to attend.

Barbara is also our nominee for the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association Community Service.

Volunteers that turned in information for a total of 3,405 hours of volunteer service are:

Barbara Buck
Kay DiStefano
Allison McMahan
Fred Metzger
Kathleen Mullen
Roseann Pasek
Paula Sheldon

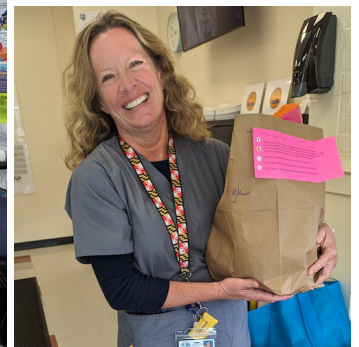
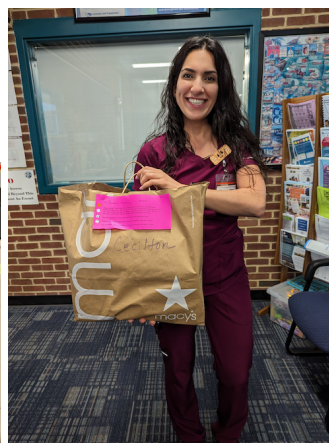
Mary Ellen Butkiewicz
Carol Mangeano
Charlene Metzger
Shirley Montgomery
Debbie Pasco
Dianna Pierce

I'm sure there were many other volunteers, so a big thanks to all who are helping out in some way.

We have delivered our last round of donations for this school year. We have pictures and thank you notes from most of the nurses. Everyone is very appreciative. Our organization is making a difference in care that students in Cecil County receive.

For our next luncheon, please continue to bring in donations except for snacks. We store these donations to use at the beginning of next school year in September. We have been able to make 3 deliveries to schools in Cecil County this year. A big thanks to Kay DiStefano and Barbara Buck in helping purchase and deliver to our schools, and all of our members that made monetary donations along with supplies that were requested to the Kids Fund.
Paula Sheldon

School nurses receiving their last deliveries of items for students for the year.



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

This year's Legislation Session has ended and unfortunately there were not a lot of changes due to this year's budget shortfall.

Ten of the bills our committee supported, passed and were sent to the Governor for his approval. Twelve bills we opposed failed. We opposed HB1386 - Education - School Employee Antibias Training - Requirements. This bill passed and was sent to the Governor. It would develop guidelines and training for teachers.

Bills we supported, passed and were sent to the Governor are:

SB0143/CH0065 - Teachers' Retirement and Pension Systems - Reemployment

SB0202 - Department of Aging - Caregiver Expense Grant Program - Established - This bill started out as a tax credit, but ended up allowing caregivers to apply for a grant.

SB0219/CH0048 - Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program - Sunset Extension - There will be a limit on the amount of money that will be given.

SB0744 (HB0814) Juvenile Law Reform - A general feeling that this bill does not go far enough to punish juveniles.

HB1143 - Emergency Medical Services - Maryland Emergency Department Wait Time Reduction Commission - Establishment. This commission will address factors that increase wait time. Unfortunately, private equity firms are getting involved and are interested in making money. They want to cut staff and hire more Physician Assistants instead of Physicians.

The General Assembly leadership decided to wait and expand our Prescription Drug Affordability Boards Authority until it completes its initial phase. This bill will reappear January 2025. The Board announced the first prescription drugs they will consider for cost review will include Biktarvy, Dupixent, Farxiga, Jardiance, Ozempic, Skyrizi, Trulicity, and Vyvinse. If you have struggled to afford any of these prescription drugs, please consider submitting comments to the Prescription Drug Affordability Board at www.healthcareforall.com/CostReviewInput.

Finally, a bill SB0001 (HB0267) Electricity and Gas - Retail Supply - Regulation and Consumer Protection passed and was sent to the Governor to sign. Our committee agreed to send a letter to Governor Moore requesting him not to sign this bill. We have been warning our members to not go with third party electric companies that target seniors and residents in poor neighborhoods. These electric companies initially offer lower rates, but after several months their electric rates substantially increase. AARP has worked hard to inform the public about this issue.