



# The Chalkboard

CECIL COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL  
ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 37 NUMBER 3

Elkton, Maryland

September 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

Newsletter Co-editors: Gretchen  
Ginder and Signe' Mika

## President's Report

Summer is fading and a new school year is about to begin. Soon new teachers will embark on a path we all journeyed down years ago. Wishing them many satisfying years of memorable teaching.

You may have noticed the \$60 difference in your July pension deposit. That is for our state (now \$50) and \$10 local association dues. Funds that help support us in many ways!

At the May Annual Business Meeting, Barbara Buck was awarded the Community Service Award. She is also nominated for the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. The MSCHF Induction Luncheon will be held on October 17, 2024 in Clarksville, Maryland.

Congratulations Barbara!

I participated in the virtual State Presidents meeting in July. One focus of MRSPA this year is to increase membership. They are looking into several expensive campaigns. Our county association can best accomplish an increase by reaching out to fellow retirees and encourage them to join our association. Phone a friend!

Hope to see you September 17th.

MaryEllen Butkiewicz

Remember to Vote

November 5, 2024



## CCRSPA MINUTES – May 21, 2024

Our meeting was called to order by our president Mary Ellen Butkiewicz. Bill Ide addressed benefits. This involved presenting Joanna Zimmerman and Briane Crouse. There were discussions of the Benefits Advisory Committee (BAC). This group helps: Support Services, Teachers, Administration, Supervisors (ASA) It also helps in the making of business decisions. The members meet four times a year. Twelve people plus Bill Ide vote for changes, such as our dental plan and the new RSP for vision next year. Self-insured means the employer owns the insurance. When you get a bill with remaining costs, CCPS pays that remaining amount. We pay the rate and deductible, CCPS pays the rest. Payroll and healthcare are the most expensive items being paid by CCPS. Out of pocket expenses are the same for Aetna and Care First with a ceiling of \$1500 per policyholder. For further information you can contact the following: Joanna Zimmerman...phone-410 996 5415, FAX-410 996 1051, Email - jkzimmerman@ccps.org. Briane M. Crouse...phone 410 996 5401 ext. 50303, FAX 410 996 1051, [Email-bmcrouse@ccps.org](mailto:Email-bmcrouse@ccps.org).

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:** Thank-yous were given to Catherine Duckett and Reg Canada for their charitable contributions.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH:** The third delivery for this school year was made. The school nurses are so thankful for these much-needed items for the children. There is a combined total of 3,000 volunteer hours by members of our chapter. Barbara Buck has the most volunteer hours. She has participated in such activities as ; Cecil Cares Clean-up Program, church Sunday and Bible Schools, cleaning for missionary visitors, and many more. Congratulations and thank-you, Barbara, for your dedication and hard work.

**Consumer Ed.:** Linda Elwood reported that there is no additional money for the grant program. It is not good at the state level. Services have been cut. There are ten medicines ( mostly for diabetics) that are on a list to become more affordable.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Sherry reported that we have 258 members.

**NOMINATING:** Kay stated that we need a president elect.

**SCHOLARSHIP:** For mini- grants this year there were seven \$200 grants, one \$150 grant, and one \$50 grant. Checks were awarded in the fall, and we got to enjoy representations of projects for which the money was used.

**SCHOLARSHIP:** Students who are eligible for scholarships must be juniors or seniors of CCPS. They must major in education in college. Check The Chalkboard for all recipients. Julia Edwards at Rising Sun and Josephine Juergen were recipients of \$1,000 each.

**SOCIAL:** Ann said that we would continue to have our luncheons at the church. Mary McCleary is recovering from surgery and is doing well.

**LEGISLATIVE:** See the report in the Chalkboard.

\* State dues will be increasing by \$5.00

\* Increase in Cost of Living is 4.116% on July 1, 2024.

Grace was said by Fred Metzger.

Have a wonderful summer. 🎵 See You in September.🎵

Respectfully submitted,

Signe Mika

### Future Meetings

Tuesday, August 27 Executive Meeting 10:00am  
Tuesday, September 17 Luncheon 11:00am  
Tuesday, November 19 Executive Meeting 10:00am  
Tuesday, December 17, Luncheon 11:00am  
Tuesday, January 21, 2025 Executive Meeting 10:00am  
Tuesday, February 18, 2025 Luncheon 11:00am  
Tuesday, April 22, 2025 Executive Meeting 10:00am  
Tuesday May 20, 2025, Luncheon 11:00am

Barbara Buck



### Health Care Info From MRSPA For Retirees

The Drug Affordability Board has announced the first prescription drugs they will consider for cost review, which include: **Biktarvy, Dupixent, Farxiga, Jardiance, Ozempic, Skyrizi, Trulicity, and Vyvanse**. It is critical that the Board hears from real patients who have been hurt by the costs of these medications. If you have struggled to afford any of these prescription drug products, please share your story with the Board via their website. Follow the link below and click on "Let us know" if you want to submit your experiences. <https://healthcareforall.com/project/reducing-prescription-drug-costs/>

How much do you know about long-term care solutions? Have you talked with loved ones about your plans for long-term care? Do they know your wishes if you become disabled and unable to make the choice on your own? Academy Financial, Inc. has options for long-term care and they are happy to meet with you or you and a loved one about how best to prepare for your future should you need long-term care. [Academy Financial, Inc.](https://www.academyfinancial.com) works with MRSPA members and shares information about your options.

**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

**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 DiStefano
<u>Benefits</u>	Bill Ide
<u>Programs</u>	Mary McCleary
<u>Public Relations &amp; 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>
<b>Receipts</b>	
Kids Personal Needs	701.00
Scholarship.	1355.00
Interest(from Checking)	2.57
Membership Dues.	2720.00
LUNCHEONS -MEETINGS (QUARTERLY).	4878.26
<b>SUB TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>9656.83</b>
<b>MANAGEMENT/GENERAL EXPENSES</b>	
CHALKBOARD	479.54
MRSPA INSURANCE	25.00
POSTAGE.	356.25
WEBSITE	241.60
<b>PROGRAM SERVICES</b>	
GIFTS ( SOCIAL COMMITTEE)	10.00
KIDS PERSONAL NEEDS	1869.53
LUNCHEONS -MEETINGS (QUARTERLY)	4121.35
MRSPA SCHOLARSHIP.	50.00
SCHOLARSHIP/GRANTS	3600.00
<b>SUB TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>10,753.28</b>
<b>Net Balance</b>	<b>-1096.45</b>
CD at Cecil Bank 06/30/2023	11,470.62
CD Interest – 4%.	541.62
<b>Balance on Hand</b>	<b>\$15,997.84</b>



**An Audience with the Queen**

Come and enjoy the presentation of Queen Elizabeth Tudor I. This brilliant leader was the first female to rule England alone and successfully. Her Majesty will take you on a royal romp through the less serious aspects of life in her era.

Mary Ann Jung (History Alive!) is back by popular demand. Be prepared to participate in this informative show!

Mary McCleary

## 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 Vyvins. 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](http://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.

### Community Outreach News

Barbara Buck is our honoree to the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. An Induction Luncheon will be held on Thursday, October 17, 2024, at Ten Oaks Ballroom in Clarksville, Maryland. The social hour will begin at 11:00 am with lunch scheduled for 12:00 noon, followed by the induction ceremony. They should be finished by 2:00 or 2:30.

If you wish to attend the luncheon, the tickets are \$35 per person. Please send check to Paula Sheldon by September 25, made out to MSCHF. Address is 9 Arizona State Drive, Newark, Delaware, 19713.

We will appreciate your continued donations to be brought to the luncheon. We will be making our first delivery to schools sometime in September. The usual requests are for clothing, personal hygiene items, and snacks.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paula Sheldon

# September Luncheon Meeting

## Elkton United Methodist Church

219 East Main Street, Elkton, MD 21921

September 17, 2024 - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Menu

Quiche (spinach and tomato/basil)

French Toast

Pancakes

Crispy Bacon

Breakfast Sausage

Fresh Fruit Salad

Brownie/Cookie

Cost per person \$25.00

RSVP by September 10, 2024 at 5pm

Payment will be at the door. Please pay by check or have \$25.00 in cash. Email or call by September 10, 2024. Reply to Shirley Montgomery at [shirlnems@gmail.com](mailto:shirlnems@gmail.com) or 302-731-5371

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



#### MARYLAND RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A  
Odenton, Maryland 21113-1508  
Phone: 410-551-1517  
Email: [mrspa@mrspa.org](mailto:mrspa@mrspa.org)

#### MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 16, 2024

TO: MRSPA Board of Directors  
Local Presidents and Presidents- elect  
Local Membership Committee Chairs  
Local Public Relations/Website/Facebook Committee Chairs

FROM: Betty Weller, MRSPA President  
Wanda Twigg, MRSPA Executive Director

SUBJECT: MRSPA Leadership Workshop **via Zoom – Reply Requested by 9/13/24**

The MRSPA Leadership Workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, September 24, 2024, **via Zoom**. Any materials for the workshop will be emailed to you prior to the meeting. You will receive the Zoom invitation two days prior to and the morning of the workshop from Heidi Rothert at [hrothert@mrspa.org](mailto:hrothert@mrspa.org). Please check your spam or junk mail for the Zoom invitations if you cannot locate them in your inbox.

**These leaders are asked to attend: MRSPA Board of Directors  
Local Presidents and President- elect  
Local Membership Committee Chair  
Local PR, Website/Facebook Committee Chair  
One additional local leader**

We hope that **all** invited participants will attend. More attendance will allow for greater discussion in your local association after the workshop. The workshop will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will conclude by 12:30 p.m. The focus of the workshop is on ways to welcome new members to the association, and to share specific membership strategies used by a few of our locals that might be duplicated in other locals. Amina Makhdoom Lynch, President, Freshel Consulting will present the new member induction concept and give you time to work on a plan for your local association, while local association leaders will share their membership strategies. An update on the potential MRSPA media campaign will be shared. There will be door prizes!

**Please RSVP to Frankie McDonnell on or before Friday September 13, 2024, at [fmcdonnell@mrspa.org](mailto:fmcdonnell@mrspa.org).** You may also reach the MRSPA office by phone at 410-551-1517, or toll-free at 877-625-6782, or by email [mrspa@mrspa.org](mailto:mrspa@mrspa.org).

We request that the Local President coordinate the local registration with MRSPA. MRSPA Board members should RSVP individually. Please contact MRSPA with questions.

**MRSPA: Opportunities to Advocate, Serve, and Connect**



## Membership News for September

Membership total is 255.

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](mailto:chickeelewis@mac.com)

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

Frances Linton  
(1932 - 5/3/2024)  
Volunteer, Bainbridge Elementary

Shirley Jackson  
(Died May 5/2024)  
Secretary to Principal at North East Middle and High School, and Secretary at Cecil Vocational Technical Center for guidance office

Thomas Shaffner  
(2/25/1943 - 5/30/2024)  
36 Years teaching math at Elkton High School, Senior Class Advisor, Student Council Advisor, Coached Tennis/Soccer at Elkton High and Soccer at Bohemia Manor CCRSPA Member

Lorraine Barlow  
(5/19/1944 - 6/11/2024)  
Worked in Cafeteria at Elkton High School For 12 years)

John Scarborough  
(1/6/1947 - 8/4/2024)  
Taught at Bohemia Manor High School

Robert Mitchell  
(12/1/1945 - 5/1/2024 )  
Taught Industrial Arts (Technology Education in Cecil County Public Schools, Coached High School Football CCRSPA Member

Betty Boyle  
(1/16/1938 - 5/23/24 )  
Substitute Teacher at Rising Sun High School and Rising Sun Middle School

Judith Veasey.  
(1/31/1943 - 5/25/2024 )  
Taught 28 years at Cecil County Public Schools, Last 20 of her years was teaching primary special education students CCRSPA Member

Chris Mench  
(1/11/1942 - 8/3/24)  
36 years, Teacher, Coach, Supervisor, and Assistant Superintendent/Principal

Joanne D. Clark  
(3/18/1935 - 8/7/2024)  
Nursing in Cecil County Schools

## 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](mailto:chickeeLewis@mac.com)

## Cecil County Mentors

[cecilcasa.org](http://cecilcasa.org)  
(410) 996-3025

At Cecil County Mentors, we believe in the power of connection. We're more than just a mentoring program – we're a community dedicated to helping children, young adults, and families reach their full potential.

Join Us in Reinventing Mentorship and Empowering Cecil County's Future:

*One Family at a Time*

