



# *The Chalkboard*

## **CECIL COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION**

**VOLUME 38 NUMBER 2**

**Elkton, Maryland**

**May 2025**

### **2024-2025 OFFICERS**

**President:** Mary Ellen Butkiewicz

**Immediate Past President:** Anne Humphrey

**Corresponding Secretary:** Joan-Marie Parker

**Recording Secretary:** Signe' Mika

**Treasurer:** Tony Mattern

Website: <http://www.cecilrspa.org/>

MD State Website: <https://www.mrspa.org/>

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Spring has sprung in Maryland--with the usual roller coaster weather, but the wind's blowing harder than ever! Spring also brings several statewide meetings. I participated in the MRSPA Presidents' Meeting on March 18, 2025. It is good to hear what is happening in other counties. I always come away feeling that Cecil County is doing a terrific job with all our activities that support our teachers and students.

Another state event is the MRSPA Annual Meeting on May 6, 2025, in Ellicott City. This year I will be joined by Kay DiStefano, Sally Haberl, and Kathleen Mullen. Special note, Kathy will be honored as a nominee for the Community Outreach Service Award.

Our May luncheon will be an exciting event. We will be announcing the scholarship winners and have the opportunity to view the projects that our mini grants funded.

Wanda Twigg, MRSPA Executive Director will be joining us for the luncheon, along with Dr. Debbie Chance. Dr. Chance will be installing the officers for the next term. I will continue serving as President, Cheryl Lee will be Recording Secretary, and Anne and Paul Humphrey will be Co-Treasurers. Another change will be Amy Ide stepping up to take over the Membership Committee. MANY thanks to Sherry Lewis for her years as chairman and to Signe' Mika for her service as Recording Secretary for the past years.

As you can see CCRSPA is a strong association, but YOU, our members are what makes us strong! Come join us on May 20 for the Luncheon. Find out what's happening, meet new people and renew friendships.

### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

Tues, May 20, 2025 - Luncheon 11:00 am

Tues, Aug 26, 2025 - Executive Meeting 10:00 am

Tues, Sept 23, 2025 - Luncheon 11:00 am

Tues, Nov. 11, 2025 - Executive Meeting 10:00 am

Tues, Dec 9, 2025 - Luncheon 11:00 am

Tues, Jan 13, 2026 - Executive Meeting 10:00 am

Tues, Feb 10, 2026 - Luncheon 11:00 am

Tues, April 14, 2026 - Executive Meeting 10:00 am

Tues, May 12, 2026 - Luncheon 11:00 am

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



Respectfully yours,  
MaryEllen Butkiewicz

## CCRSPA MINUTES – February 18, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 11:20. Some committee members gave reports.

**OUTREACH:** Paula extended thank-yous for donations to schools. New items will be delivered to school nurses after spring break. Barbara Buck was inducted into the Senior Citizen Hall of Fame for her volunteerism, service to her community, attention to our homeless, and her donation of time to her church. We will be needing new nominations for this position in April.

**CONSUMER ED:** The state sends out information at regular intervals.

**LEGISLATION:** Shirley Hicks, recipient of the Legacy Award, gave an informative report about the 37th Martin Luther King Awards Banquet. The Legislative committee met virtually for a workshop on Tuesday, January 28th. The purpose of the workshop was to cover some budget issues, provide an update on the Pension System, and to share an overview of legislative priorities. One item discussed was the budget deficit. Previously there had been a surplus. That was due to federal funds that were related to COVID, and they had to be spent. That resulted in a deficit. Social Security was discussed. Maryland teachers are not affected by cuts. Also discussed was pension, legislative priorities, and points of interest. NRTA works with AARP concerning prescription affordability, adult protective and long- time care.

Linda Elwood said the bills were supported. Check the website for details. Nursing homes are not being inspected regularly, and cuts are being made. Contact delegates regarding cuts to budgets in counties. See our website, “Legislative Bills” for more information.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Sherry Lewis said that we have 252 members, including three new members. Because Maryland is an expensive state, we are losing members. We were reminded that it doesn’t matter where you live, your pension comes from Maryland since that is where you worked. For that reason, it is wise to join our organization.

**NOMINATING:** Some of the positions have been filled and will take effect over the next few months. Recording secretary will be taken over by Cheryl Lee. Joan Marie Parker will be our new corresponding secretary. Filling the positions of co-treasurers will be Anne and Paul Humphrey. Bill Ide has already taken over publications. Thank-you to all who have volunteered for these positions. We are still in need of members to fill the jobs of co-president elect, or president elect. The president’s job was described by Kay DeStefano.

**SCHOLARSHIP:** There was information scattered around on each table. The number of applicants has been dropping. There will be two to three scholarships offered this spring. Fluorescent colored fliers were left on tables in hope that members of our group would display them throughout the county. This will inform possible applicants of scholarships being offered.

**SUNSHINE:** Betty Moore has been hospitalized in Christiana.

**TRAVEL:** Fred Metzger discussed the next trip, which is a cruise to Bermuda. The cruise line is Bermuda Liberty, which has the capacity for 2900 passengers. This unfortunately will be the travel agency’s last trip, as it is closing next year.

### **OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST:**

- Our Farm Museum is in desperate need of bathrooms to be used for class trips. Donations are needed.
- The annual business meeting will be held in Ellicott City on May 6, 2025. There is a need for delegates.
- Tony Mattern is offering free tax preparation at the church. Please call to make an appointment at 443-485-1153.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 in preparation for a delicious Italian meal.

Respectfully, Signe’ Mika

## SPRING LUNCHEON

**Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> - 11:00 AM**

Elkton Methodist Church

### Menu

Pit Ham & Smoked Turkey

Garden Salad, Dutch Potato Salad

Fresh Fruit, Cookies, Brownies

Iced tea, Coffee, Hot tea

*\*If you have specific diet restrictions, please contact Shirley for possible alternatives.*

**Please pay by check or have \$25.00 in cash.**

**email or call by Tuesday, May 13, noon**

Reply to Shirley Montgomery at:

[shirlnems@gmail.com](mailto:shirlnems@gmail.com) or 302-731-5371

*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!

## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS & MINI GRANTS

Each year our organization has the privilege of helping future teachers reach their goals by awarding scholarships. We started this program in 1987, and as of 2025, there have been 60 recipients for a total of \$53,950.

This year we are giving \$1,500 each to two young men. Connor Suprik is a graduate of RSHS who will be a senior at Salisbury, majoring in Physical Education and Health. Daniel Tserkis, a PVHS graduate, will be a senior at Towson, majoring in secondary education. Both have been invited to our May luncheon.

We started giving grants to teachers in 2019. This fall we gave 9 grants. As of now, we have awarded grants to 32 teachers, totaling \$6,330. Teachers provide displays for us to share with you. Come to the May luncheon and see what we have helped them to do with their students this year!

## SERVICE PROJECT

We are continuing our support of CCPS students by helping the nurses have needed supplies on hand in their school health rooms. Thank you to everyone for your generous donations to the Kids Fund.

We made our final delivery of the school year to the school nurses in April.

All 29 school nurses were very grateful for the donations to support CCPS students. Our next school delivery will be this fall so please hold off on purchasing snacks until then.

Please consider purchasing any of the following for our May 20 luncheon:

- Boys and Girls underwear-size 5T- 14
- Ladies' underwear- S, M, L
- Gender Neutral Children's sweatpants - 5T -14
- Gender Neutral Adult sweatpants - S, M, L
- Cases of bottled water



Connor Suprik is a graduate of Rising Sun High School. He will be a senior at Salisbury University majoring in Physical Education.



Daniel Tserkis, a Perryville High School graduate, will be a senior at Towson University, majoring in secondary education.

# IN MEMORIAM

## **Kaye Irene Merrey**

9/30/1945 – 1/24/2025

Miss Merrey was a lifelong resident of Cecil County. Kaye earned a Master of Music Degree in Music Education Piano/Vocal from West Chester, PA. State College and is a retired K-12 Music Teacher for Cecil County Public Schools.

## **Audrey Way Johnson McDonough**

8/9/1933 – 2/11/2025

Audrey Way Johnson McDonough, 91, of Middletown, DE, formerly of Chesapeake City, MD, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 11, 2025. She was born in Elkton, MD on August 9, 1933. Audrey retired from Chesapeake City Elementary School as lead secretary in 2004 with 30 years of service.

## **Kathryn Crothers Knutsen**

3/13/1946 – 3/11/2025

Kathy, a beloved teacher, friend, and community member, whose life was dedicated to the education and upliftment of those around her. Kathy spent over 20 years as a cherished educator at Leeds Elementary, where she inspired countless children with her passion for learning and her unwavering commitment to their growth.

## **Dorothy Lorraine Austin Gregg**

7/7/1941 – 4/2/2025

Dorothy was born in Baltimore, MD on July 7, 1941. Dorothy dedicated 30 years as an elementary school teacher and librarian at Rising Sun Elementary School, where she made a lasting impact on countless students and fostered a deep love of reading in their hearts. Her passion for inspiring others to read and grow in knowledge remained a guiding force throughout her life.

## **Donna J. Hitchner (Van Vliet)**

3/10/1958 – 4/19/2025

Donna J. (Van Vliet) Hitchner, 67, of Newark, DE and formerly of Bridgeton, NJ passed away late Saturday evening April 19, 2025, at the Wilmington Hospital – Hospice. Donna lived a life dedicated to serving others. Upon receiving her teaching license, she taught at Bridgeton Christian School before moving with her husband to Newark, DE in 1980. She taught First through Fifth grade for the Cecil County Public Schools until the birth of her first child in 1990.

## **Evelyn Logan (Ford)**

12/8/1926 – 5/14/2025

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Evelyn Logan, a beloved matriarch, devoted educator, and cherished friend, who departed this world peacefully at the age of 98. Her life spanned nearly a century during which she touched countless lives with her kindness and unwavering spirit. Evelyn dedicated 31 years of her life serving as a secretary at Calvert Elementary School. A proud member of the Cecil County Retired Teachers Association, Evelyn nurtured an enduring love for learning and sharing knowledge, exemplifying the virtues of patience and dedication.

## **John A. Leitgeb**

1951-5/17/25

We regret to inform you of the passing of Mr. John Leitgeb on May 17, 2025. Mr. Leitgeb was a retired Cecil County Public Schools teacher and the father of James Leitgeb, Principal of Elkton High School, and Jennifer Ayers, Instructional Coordinator for Special Education; the father-in-law of Jacob Ayers, Assistant Principal at Perryville Elementary School, and Brea Leitgeb, Special Education Teacher at Rising Sun High School.



## CCRSPA OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS 2025-2026

## CCRSPA TREASURER'S REPORT

### OFFICERS

<u>President:</u>	Mary Ellen Butkiewicz
<u>Past President:</u>	Anne Humphrey
<u>Corresponding Secretary:</u>	Joan-Marie Parker
<u>Recording Secretary:</u>	Cheryl Lee
<u>Co-Treasurers:</u>	Anne Humphrey Paul Humphrey

### COMMITTEE

<u>Community Outreach:</u>	Paula Sheldon
<u>Education/Protective Services:</u>	Tony Mattern
<u>Legislation:</u>	Linda Elwood
<u>Membership:</u>	Amy Ide
<u>Nominating:</u>	Kay DiStefano
<u>Benefits Advisory:</u>	Bill Ide
<u>Programs:</u>	Mary McCleary
<u>Publications - Chalkboard:</u>	Bill Ide
<u>Scholarship/Grants</u>	Charlene Metzger
<u>Social:</u>	Anne Humphrey
<u>Sunshine:</u>	Debbie Pasco
<u>Website:</u>	Tony Mattern

**BALANCE:** June 30, 2024 \$3,985.60

### Receipts:

Donations	\$875.00
Kids Personal Needs	\$1,315.00
Raffles	\$255.00
Scholarship	\$920.00
Interest (from Checking)	\$1.98
Membership Dues	\$2,690.00
Luncheons/Meetings (Quarterly)	\$3,705
<b>SUB TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$9,506.98</b>

### Management and General Expenses

Chalkboard	262.07
Miscellaneous	\$50.00
MRSPA Insurance	\$25.00
Postage	\$84.14
President's Fees	\$50.00
Supplies	\$36.53
Website	\$181.89

### Program Services

Kids Personal Needs	\$2,320.53
Luncheons/Meetings (Quarterly)	\$3010.34
Programs for meetings	\$500.00
Scholarship/Grants	\$2,230.00

**SUB TOTAL EXPENDITURES** **\$8750.50**

**Net Balance** **\$756.48**

CD at Cecil Bank 06/30/2024 \$12,063.38

CD Interest – 5.18% \$144.07

**Balance on Hand** **\$16949.53**



## **MOVING?** (Don't forget to update address and phone info!)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_  
street address state zip

New Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Amy Ide  
130 Black Oak Drive  
Elkton MD 21921  
or via email at [amyide@comcast.net](mailto:amyide@comcast.net)



## 7 NIGHT BERMUDA CRUISE - June 14-21, 2026

I have arranged group space sailing on Celebrity Silhouette out of Cape Liberty Cruise Port, NJ on June 14, 2026, to Bermuda. We have 16 veranda staterooms, Category V2. Each stateroom total cost (2 passengers) is \$4,163.56 which includes basic wifi and classic beverage package. Other category staterooms can also be booked, such as ocean view or inside. I would need to price those out for you upon request. Passports must be valid 6 months past June 21, 2026. A deposit of \$250 per person is due at the time of booking. Travel protection (\$149 pp) and gratuities (\$126 pp) can be added when making the booking. Once booked, you can set up payments with me whenever you like. Final payment will be due prior to March 15, 2026. The last date to make a booking in the group will be February 14, 2026.



I will be arranging bus transfers to/from the cruising port as it gets closer to sailing. You can also drive the 2½ hour trip yourself and park there. The booking form is attached on the next page. If you have any questions, please send an email or give me a call.

### Cruise Itinerary:

14 JUN	Check-in between	10:30 AM – 2:30 PM
14 JUN	Cape Liberty NJ, Depart	4:00 PM
14 JUN	Statue of Liberty (cruising)	4:45 PM – 5:30 PM
15 & 16 JUN		AT SEA
17 JUN	Royal Naval Dockyard, Bermuda, Arrive	8:30 AM
18 JUN	Royal Naval Dockyard, Bermuda	
19 JUN	Royal Naval Dockyard, Bermuda, Depart	4:00 PM
20 JUN		AT SEA
21 JUN	Cape Liberty NJ, Arrive	7:00AM

*Fred Metzger*  
230 Crothers Rd.  
Rising Sun, MD 21911  
443 350 5806  
[fmetzger@zoominternet.net](mailto:fmetzger@zoominternet.net)



### 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amount

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

**Celebrity Silhouette June 14 – 21, 2026 7-night Bermuda**

1.Name- First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_ Suffix \_\_\_\_\_

Gender- M \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ Date of Birth- (month/day/year) \_\_\_\_\_

Passport No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date (m/d/y) \_\_\_\_\_

Address- \_\_\_\_\_ City- \_\_\_\_\_ State- \_\_\_\_\_ Zip- \_\_\_\_\_

Phone- \_\_\_\_\_ Cell- \_\_\_\_\_ Email- \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone- \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

2.Name- First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_ Suffix \_\_\_\_\_

Gender- M \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ Date of Birth- (month/day/year) \_\_\_\_\_

Passport No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date (m/d/y) \_\_\_\_\_ Citizenship \_\_\_\_\_

Address- \_\_\_\_\_ City- \_\_\_\_\_ State- \_\_\_\_\_ Zip- \_\_\_\_\_

Phone- \_\_\_\_\_ Cell- \_\_\_\_\_ Email- \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone- \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Rooming with \_\_\_\_\_

Travel protection- \_\_\_yes \_\_\_ no, I decline. (\$149.00 pp) with deposit

Gratuities \_\_\_yes \_\_\_ no (\$126.00 pp) with deposit

Bus transportation to and from Cecil County to pier- \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no\_\_\_ Cost to be determined

Payment details:

Credit card number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp date- \_\_\_\_\_ CSC \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name- \_\_\_\_\_ Billing address \_\_\_ check if same as above

Deposit amount \_\_\_\_\_ Insurance \_\_\_\_\_ Total deposit \_\_\_\_\_

**I agree to pay according to the card issuer agreement. I understand and accept the cancellation policy, terms and conditions.**

**Signature required for acceptance of the conditions and agreement to credit card use.**

**Name- \_\_\_\_\_ Date- \_\_\_\_\_**

*Send to: Fred Metzger, 230 Crothers Rd., Rising Sun, MD 21911 443-350-5806*

[fmetzger@zoominternet.net](mailto:fmetzger@zoominternet.net)

# THE CHALKBOARD

The Chalkboard is published quarterly, approximately two weeks prior our quarterly meetings. It is available on our website.

<http://www.cecilrspa.org/>

We send pdf copies via email to members at their request. Due to increased USPS postage rates, and to honor our fiscal responsibility, we will be limiting paper copies beginning with the September 2025 issue. If you still NEED a paper copy, contact:

Bill Ide  
[chalkboard21921@gmail.com](mailto:chalkboard21921@gmail.com)  
130 Black Oak Drive,  
Elkton, MD 21921  
443-945-5443



*The Chalkboard*

Cecil County Retired School Personnel Assoc.

130 Black Oak Drive

Elkton, Maryland 21921



*Special Delivery for:*