



The Chalkboard

CECIL COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 39 NUMBER 1

Elkton, Maryland

February 2026

2025-2026 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, 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



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A new year brings a new beginning, offering us an opportunity to look ahead with renewed purpose. Our association strongly supports ways to impact our students. Teachers across the county are using the funds from our mini grants to enhance their programs. Supporting the needs of our school nurses is an ongoing commitment. In addition, we are now accepting applications for our scholarships. The raffles that we all love, help to provide the funds for these special projects.

Happenings in Maryland: the MRSPA Legislative Workshop will take place virtually on Jan. 27, 2026. We will have an update on how the proposed bills are progressing through the legislature and several other items of importance to us, i.e. budget! Linda Elwood has done a great job representing our county on the MRSPA Legislative Committee for many years.

We will be welcoming Dr. Debbie Chance and Betty Weller to our February luncheon. Debbie is a member of the state Board of Directors for our area. Betty is the MRSPA President. Let's have a strong attendance at our luncheon and show them how committed we are in Cecil County.

Wishing everyone a 2026 filled with good health and good friends.

With gratitude,
MaryEllen Butkiewicz

CCRSPA MINUTES – December 9, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 11:20 by President Mary Ellen Butkiewicz. Guests were introduced.

Treasurer's Report: Paul Humphrey gave his report and noted that \$641 was spent for the Kid's Fund so far this year. An annual donation of \$500 to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library would be made after the first of the year.

Community Outreach: Kay and Paula thanked everyone for their donations. They plan to deliver to schools early in the new year.

Nominating: Mary Ellen Butkiewicz has agreed to serve for another year, but we still have a need for the position of Co-President or President Elect for the 2026-2027 year.

Legislative: Linda Elwood reported there is a workshop on January 27, 2026, 10:00 – 12:30. There will be a state budget overview and an update on the state pension system.

Membership: Amy Ide reported that membership as of December is 240 members as compared to 246 last year. We also have 19 local only members.

Publications/Chalkboard: The Chalkboard is published 4 times each year. Our goal is to publish each issue at least two weeks prior to our scheduled luncheons. The deadline for February's submission is January 25th.

Benefits: Bill Ide reported that the Benefits Advisory Committee reviewed several potential dental insurance plans at their November 11th meeting. Their recommendation was that we continue using United Concordia as our Dental insurance provider.

Luncheon Registration: Shirley Montgomery requests that members keep her informed of any updated email addresses.

Mini Grants to Teachers: Charlene Metzger reported that had 11 applicants and we awarded \$300 to 6 teachers and 1 teacher requested \$150. To date we have awarded over \$8,000 since 2019. You can check out photos of our recipients on the website.

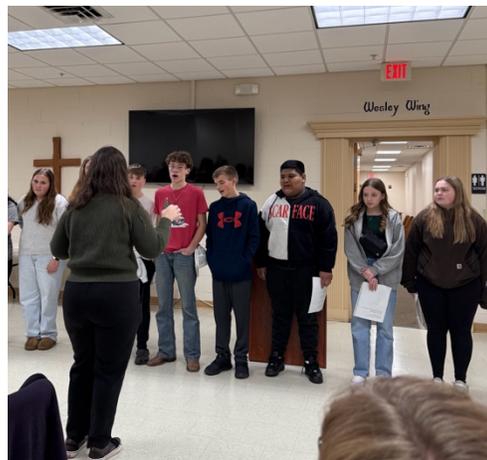
Sunshine: Reminder to please send names of anyone you might know who needs a card of support.

Travel: Fred Metzger reported that all information for the June 2026 cruise to Bermuda is on the website.

Website: Tony Mattern requests that any changes or corrections to the website be sent to him.

Program and Raffle: Rising Sun Middle School chorus shared holiday selections.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45. Respectfully submitted, Amy Ide (for Cheryl Lee)



Scenes from December's Luncheon

FEBRUARY LUNCHEON

Tuesday, February 10th - 11:00 AM

Elkton United Methodist Church

February's Program is a Mystery?

Yes, our guest speaker, Cheryl Nickle, a local retired teacher (North East High School) has recently written a mystery with settings in North East, Maryland, and Virginia. She will present the mechanics of writing her mystery story, *Piercing the Fog*.

Cheryl combines her love of her community, her Catholic faith, and a good mystery into a chilling suspense that will keep you on the edge of your seat.

MENU

Baked Potato Bar with all the fixings
(including broccoli and pulled pork)
Tossed Salad, Fruit Tray, Brownies/Cookies
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 Monday, February 2 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! One of December's lucky raffle winners – Tom Duffy.



SERVICE PROJECT

The Community Outreach Committee thanks each of you for your generous donations at our December luncheon. The school nurses often comment that they just ran out of whatever we happen to be delivering and are so thankful for the support from CCRSPA. We delivered to 28 schools in January and will make our next delivery in the spring. Please consider picking up a few items to bring to our luncheon on February 10th.

The following are the most requested items:

Bottled water and juice boxes

Unisex sweatpants for children - size S, M, & L

Unisex sweatpants for adults - size S, M, L, & XL

Underwear - boys and girls - size 5 - 14

Underwear - women - S, M, & L

Individual snacks - cheese or peanut butter crackers, granola bars, fruit snacks, breakfast bars, or spearmints

Thank you again for making such a difference in the lives of our CCPS students. Here are photos of a few happy nurses receiving the donations from CCRSPA.



CCRSPA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS 2025-2026

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

<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



Scan our QR code to visit our website



CCRSPA TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Balance as of 10/31/25	\$6,520.87
Deposits since 10/31/25	\$1,860.47
Expenditures since 10/31/25	\$3,076.87
Checking Balance as of 12/31/25	\$5,305.47
Certificate of Deposit as of 12/31/25	\$10,118.18
Balance on Hand	\$15,423.65

Changes since October 31st

Contributions - Donations

Raffle <i>(not included in total)</i>	\$330.00
Kid's Personal Needs	\$365.00
Scholarship	\$215.00
Interest from checking	\$47.00
Membership Dues	\$30.00

Program Services Revenue

Luncheons – Meetings (Quarterly)	\$1,250.00
MRSPA Postage	\$0.00
Other Income	\$2,223.80
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,907.00

Expenditures

Management and General Expenses

Chalkboard	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
MRSPA Insurance	\$0.00
Postage	\$0.00
Supplies	\$0.00
Website	\$69.98

Program Services

Gifts (Social Committee)	\$0.00
Kid's Personal Needs	\$0.00
Luncheons (food and supplies)	\$905.89
Luncheons (donations for services)	\$150.00
MRSPA Scholarship	\$0.00
Parton's Imagination Library	\$0.00
Programs for Meetings	\$0.00
Scholarships	\$0.00
Teacher Grants	\$1,950.00
SUB TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$3,075.87

IN MEMORIAM

Linda P. Kleiner

4/1/1945 - 11/1/2025

Linda P. Kleiner, aged 80, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family on November 1, 2025. Linda, a natural marketing genius, was known for being a strong, thoughtful, steady leader in the community. She saw an opportunity in the school system to boost student attendance, achievement, and community engagement, and co-founded Cecil County's first partnership program linking businesses, parents, and education, known as Partners in Education. She was also an original member of BEPAC, the Business Education Partnership Advisory Council—now called The Foundation—which celebrated its 36th anniversary this year.

<https://www.abofuneralservices.com/obituaries/Linda-P-Kleiner?obId=46418107>

Wanda Cameron Ward

11/30/1940 – 11/25/2025

Residing in [Elkton, MD](#), Wanda was well-known in her community for her passions. She found joy in baking delightful treats and cultivating her vibrant garden, which was the pride of her home. She served as a dedicated employee of the Cecil County Board of Education, working in the front office at North East High School for many years and later in Administration at the Board of Education.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/cecildaily/name/wanda-ward-obituary?id=60155161>

Van Art (Rooster) Moore

1956 – 12/7/2025

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Van Art "Rooster" Moore, who passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, December 7, 2025, surrounded by his loving family. He was 69 years old. Van attended Bohemia Manor High School. Van's work ethic was exceptional. He devoted 31 years to Cecil County Public Schools, where he worked as a painter and "pony driver".

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/cecildaily/name/vanart-moore-obituary?id=60256191>

Nancy Elizabeth Chadwick

4/14/1948 – 1/7/2025

Nancy she was the daughter of the late Thomas Sr., and Goldie Grub Evans. She worked for many years in the cafeteria for Cecil County Public Schools, where she was known for her kindness and dedication.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/cecildaily/name/nancy-chadwick-obituary?id=60512083>



STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Cecil County Retired School Personnel Association will be offering \$1500 scholarships to education majors who will be entering their junior or senior year of college in the fall. Applications are available on our website, <http://cecilrspa.org>. They must be submitted no later than Friday April 17, 2026. If you know any CCPS graduates who might be interested, please make them aware of this opportunity! If you use Facebook, please copy and paste this on your page to spread the word.

It's *MRSPA Foundation* Raffle Time!

The MRSPA Community Service and Scholarship Committees provide tremendous support to students and staff in our schools across Maryland. Therefore, we are seeking **donations** to the *MRSPA Foundation* so that we can continue our work. Again this year, raffle tickets will be purchased solely through the MRSPA newsletter and through local association newsletters using the form below. All donations are tax deductible and come with our thanks and appreciation!

Your name will be entered into a drawing upon receipt of your donation based on this criterion: Donations of \$10 will earn 1 raffle ticket while donations of \$25 will earn 3 raffle tickets incrementally. MRSPA staff will write your name on the correct number of tickets and send your ticket stubs to you in the US Mail when we receive your check. The drawing will take place at the May 2026 Annual Business Meeting, whether held in person or virtually. You can win the \$300 cash first prize, a Maryland-themed basket valued at \$175 second prize, or one of 5 third place themed baskets valued at \$125: Cooking, Game Night, Wine Lover, Book Worm, and Sports Lover. Out-of-state winners will receive gift cards in lieu of basket contents.



Entering the drawing is fun and easy!

1. Make your **check payable** to **MRSPA Foundation**.
2. Write **MRSPA Foundation Raffle** on the FOR line.
3. Date and **sign** your check.
4. **Mail** check and completed form to:

MRSPA
8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A
Odenton, MD 21113
before March 20, 2026.



MRSPA Foundation

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

CCRSPA Donation

(Please Clip and retain for your records)

Name _____

\$ _____ Ck # _____
Amount

Date: _____

Kids Fund

Scholarship Fund

CCRSPA Scholarship or Kids Fund Donation 2025-2026

Make check payable to CCRSPA, write "Scholarship" 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 _____



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

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.**

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



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.

Fred Metzger

230 Crothers Rd.

Rising Sun, MD 21911

443 350 5806

fmetzger@zoominternet.net

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