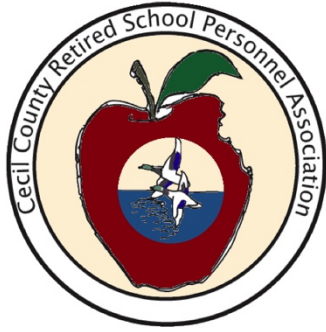




The Chalkboard

CECIL COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 39 NUMBER 2

Elkton, Maryland

December 2025

2025-2026 OFFICERS

President: Mary Ellen 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, 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



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The weather lately has been crazy. Spring like strong winds for days, then winter temperatures and snow. Hopefully we can enjoy a true, mild fall for a few weeks. But it's hard to ignore the fact that Christmas is on its way when every store is overflowing with "Christmas"!

We must remember that this is also a time of giving thanks. I want to thank everyone who has given in some way to the Kids Fund. Kay and Paula made deliveries to the schools, and the nurses were most appreciative. We are also aware that there is a need in our communities for food items due to limited funding. So, we will be collecting canned or box food at our December luncheon only. Just an extra can donated will help others.

The proceeds from our raffles help to support the Kids Fund as well as the mini grants and scholarships. Seven teachers were awarded mini grants to support their programs. The raffle items at the December luncheon are usually over the top! Many great things to get you ready for the holidays.

Our next luncheon is Tuesday, December 9, 11:00 at EUMC, when we will enjoy the musical selections from Rising Sun Middle School. Hope you can join us—and bring a friend as we celebrate this blessed season.

You all are the heart of CecilCRSPA and I am most thankful of all your support.

Respectfully,
MaryEllen Butkiewicz

CCRSPA MINUTES – September 23, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 11:20 by President Mary Ellen Butkiewicz. Guests were introduced. Corrections to the previous minutes, dealing with the 7-day (not 3-day) cruise to Bermuda in June 2026, were noted.

Treasurer's Report: Incoming treasurer Paul Humphrey thanked previous treasurer Tony Mattern for his service. Paul presented the budget and explained how it is being balanced. The motion to adopt the budget passed, with one dissent. Paul also requested that members be sure to indicate the purpose of checks when making payments or donations.

Corresponding Secretary: Joan Marie Parker acknowledged donations to the scholarship fund.

Nominations: Paula Sheldon reported that our nominee for Senior Citizen Hall of Fame is Mary McCleary.

Publications/Chalkboard: Bill Ide has cleaned up the mailing list and has provided applications to rejoin fully or to become a local member.

Benefits: Bill Ide said the next meeting of the Benefits Advisory Committee is October 15, 2025. Dental insurance is out for bid this year.

Nominating: Sally Haberl said that nominations are needed for the position of Co-President Elect.

Legislative: Linda Elwood reported there is nothing to report until January.

Membership: Previous chair Sherry Lewis was thanked for her service. New chair Amy Ide reported that membership is holding steady, with 273 members and 23 local members.

Luncheon Registration: Shirley Montgomery requests that if we have registered for a luncheon and are unable to make it, that money be sent in ahead if possible.

Mini Grants to Teachers: Charlene Metzger reported that applications will be sent to all CCPS teachers and will be due October 30. Winners will be notified by November 7 and checks sent out the next week. This year our hope is to give grants of up to \$300 to at least 8 teachers.

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

Travel: Fred Metzger reported that six staterooms have been reserved so far for the June 2026 cruise to Bermuda. Total cost will be approximately \$4700/couple.

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

Program and Raffle: Mary McCleary thanks us for our raffle donations. Today's program is "The Man of the Cloth - The Man of the Moth, Our Native Giant Silk Moths" presented by Rev. Eric Warner. The program for December will be a holiday choral group.

Other Items of Interest:

- Cecil's nominee for State Teacher of the Year is Taylor Shaeffer of NEMS, 8th grade social studies.
- The Cecil County Literacy Chapter of the IRA is looking for members (\$15 annual dues).
- Susan Zimmer of CCPS is looking for people to volunteer to be on a panel of judges for a young authors contest. Our contact is Penny Boas.
- Check out sra.maryland.gov for information on how to safeguard our financial information. This is the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System.
- Mary Ellen attended on Zoom the Presidents meeting. The goal is for membership growth. A new logo has been created. A leadership workshop was to be held to come up with social media ideas.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45.

Respectfully submitted, Cheryl Lee

DECEMBER LUNCHEON

Tuesday, December 9th - 11:00 AM

Elkton United Methodist Church

MENU

Menu - Traditional Holiday Meal

Roasted Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing,
Glazed Carrots, Green Beans, Rolls and Butter
Pie/Cheesecake

Iced Tea, Water, Hot Tea, Coffee

Payment will be at the door.

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

Email or call by Monday, December 1, 2025.

Reply to Shirley Montgomery at:

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!



SEASON OF GIVING TWO OPPORTUNITIES

Ongoing Service Project

The Community Outreach Committee thanks each of you for your generous donations at our fall 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 October and will make our next delivery in January. Please consider picking up a few items to bring to our luncheon on December 9th.

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.



Food Pantries

At the Dec 9th luncheon we will accept donations of shelf stable food for transfer to local charities. The holidays can be challenging for so many families and your generosity will be greatly appreciated!

TEACHER MINI GRANTS

Our mini-grant committee was pleased to give a total of \$1,950 to seven teachers in November! We had eleven applicants this year. We gave \$300 to six of the teachers, and one only needed \$150 for her project. Since 2019, we have given \$8,280 to 39 teachers. Here is a look at this year's recipients.



Michael Hinton, PVMS, CTE



Jamie Bruno, NEMS, Media



Lauri Walz, BMMS, 7th Grade Science



Richel Stocker, CHMS, 6th Grade Social Studies



Michelle Cox, RSES, 4th Grade



Dolores Wooddell, Calvert ES,
Information Literacy/Computer Science



Jennifer Fox, EHS, Art

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 8/31/25	\$6,520.87
Certificate of Deposit as of 8/31/25	\$10,053.64
Balance on Hand	\$16,574.51

Changes since August 31st

Contributions - Donations

Raffle <i>(not included in total)</i>	\$247.00
Kid's Personal Needs	\$298.50
Scholarship	\$198.50
Donations Miscellaneous	\$0.00
Interest from checking	\$0.52
Membership Dues	\$2,180.00

Program Services Revenue

Luncheons – Meetings (Quarterly)	\$1,245.00
MRSPA Postage	\$0.00
Website Refund	\$0.00
Other Income	\$2,223.80
TOTAL INCOME	\$6,146.32

Expenditures

Management and General Expenses

Chalkboard	\$22.47
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	\$641.55
Luncheons (food and supplies)	\$791.76
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	\$0.00
SUB TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,675.76

In Memory of

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

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: _____

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 Wi-Fi 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

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