



## TALBOT COUNTY SCHOOL PERSONNEL RETIRED ASSOCIATION

The Little Red Schoolhouse

### President's Message

As I write this, I am remembering my time as a principal and how snow days made such an impact on student performance, schedules, staff contracts, budget, and countless other issues. It was a very stressful time, which didn't allow for much appreciation of the beauty and peacefulness of freshly fallen snow. Now, I look out my window as I feel the warmth of the fireplace, book in hand, and a smile on my face knowing that I don't have to go anywhere, make a decision, or answer the phone unless I want to! I think I sense a lot of agreement from those who are reading this newsletter.

This fall and winter have been very busy for many of our Board members. In November, Bertha Wilson, Debbie Chance and I attended the Legislative workshop in Annapolis. We were reminded by Trisha Raff of the importance of contacting our legislators to add our voice to the MRSPA legislative team's mission of protecting the Pension Fund now and in the future. Other priorities include health care, consumer protection, education, supplemental pension funding, long term health care, and others. Other presenters were Andrew Palmer, Chief Investment Officer of our retirement fund, Steve Sakamoto Wengel, Deputy Chief of the Consumer Protection Division from the office of the Attorney General, Delegate and former teacher Eric Ebersole, and Tammy Bresnahan, Associate State Director Advocacy for AARP. Please visit the MRSPA website for more detailed information on these and other important topics.

Our Christmas luncheon was a great success! Appreciation goes to Mary Reeser,

Chic Harrison, and Pat Chapman for all the work they did planning this event which was held at Bayleigh-Chase. Our guest speaker was Kevin Baum, Talbot County Teacher of the Year. Liz Wildasin got us into the Christmas spirit by leading us in two holiday songs.



At our March 15 luncheon, to be held at Easton High School, Superintendent Kelly Griffith will be our guest speaker. We will also welcome Max Mueller, President of MRSPA, and Judy Zahren, Executive Director, MRSPA. Our annual Community Service Award will be given to a deserving community organization.

At this March meeting, our slate of officers will be presented by the nominating committee. Many thanks to Dotty Olds, Brenda Davidson, Debbie Chance, and Peggy Ford for their work. If you are interested in becoming an officer or a Board member, please let me know. Please be reminded that ALL members of our organization are welcome to attend our Board meetings. We can always use fresh faces and new ideas! The next Board meeting will be held on April 18 @ 9:30, Talbot County BOE.

We hope to see you at the luncheon  
in March!

Joyce Schriver

Christmas Luncheon  
Bayleigh-Chase  
2015



## TCRSPA Spring Luncheon on Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Place: Easton High School Chef Cook Classroom

Program: President and Executive Director of MRSPA  
Annual Community Civic Award  
Dr. Kelly Griffith, Superintendent

Time: Lunch will be served at 11:30 am due to student schedules.  
**Please try to arrive by 11:00 am!**

You do not have to check in at the main office. We will have a list with all of our names and check you off as you enter through the end door on the front of the building near the cafeteria. Parking is always limited. Please think about riding with a friend.

**Cost: \$10.00 To cut down on confusion at the door, PLEASE mail your reservation, with menu selections and \$10 check (made out to TCRSPA) so that it is received by THURSDAY, MARCH 10.**

Send reservation form, located below, to Pat Chapman, 802 Chapel Farm Drive, Easton, MD (443-786-8617), Chic Harrison, 29300 Will Street, Easton, MD (410-822-1209) or Mary Reeser, 358 St. Aubins Terrace, Easton, MD (410-822-4410).

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<b>MENU</b>	<b>Name</b> _____	<b>Paid</b> _____
<u>Soup (Choose One)</u>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Maryland Vegetable Crab	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cream of Asparagus	
<u>Salad (Choose One)</u>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed Greens with dressing on the side	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fresh Fruit Salad	
<u>Entrée (Choose One)</u>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grilled Ruben on Rye Bread, with a side	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Open faced Roast Beef Sandwich, with mashed potatoes and gravy	
<u>Dessert (Choose One)</u>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Brownie Sundae	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bread Pudding	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fresh Fruit	

Tea or Coffee will be offered.

There will be a 50/50 raffle and a collection for the  
"Martha Greene Summer Scholarship."

**Next Luncheon: Thursday, June 2, 2016 at Chesapeake Landing**

## Life After Retirement: Peggy Ford

submitted by Dee Rein

Teaching is really about learning, and Peggy Ford exemplified that throughout her career as an educator. Beginning her career at Baltimore's Southwestern High School, Peggy taught Special Education Math but notes the students really just needed extra help. One challenging female student accosted Peggy after graduation, "Ms. Joseph, you know I learned more in your math class than any other class!"

That memory and so many others accrued throughout Peggy's career. Peggy continued on the Eastern Shore, teaching at the Benedictine School. Later Talbot County recognized her versatility as she helped at risk youth with Debbie Urry. Herb Santucci's "anything for the kids" priority supported the program, which led Peggy to providing Appropriate Assistance at Tilghman and Saint Michaels High. Studying early childhood education expanded her teaching credentials, moving her on to grades 2, Pre-K and then kindergarten at Chapel Elementary. These opportunities to have "a ball doing creative stuff" like a wetlands unit dioramas, science experiments, thematic units and kindergarten "travels" to other countries kept Peggy growing in her teaching skills.

In retirement Peggy continues to explore, learn and contribute to her community. She enjoys helping current kindergarten teachers with reading, associated activities, and, of course receiving hugs from kindergarteners. Children are still her focus as a Court Appointed Special Advocate. Peggy notes, "These are a learning journey as one never knows what to expect." She appreciates the phenomenal training and support CASA provides to its volunteers. Talbot County Arts Council, Talbot County Retired School Personnel Association, Care Packs, and Saint Vincent DePaul activities show a breadth of interests. Peggy also teaches water exercise classes at the YMCA, a creative outlet that makes a difference in the lives of local adults. Best of all are date nights with her husband John. At home her border collie puppy, Ruby, reminds Peggy that she needs more training herself!



Retirement, says Peggy, is about, "searching to find the thing or more things to make me feel like I'm making a difference. Doing something for the good also lets you appreciate the time for yourself." She notes it's about finding balance and recommends retirees take a deep breath when asked to volunteer. She suggests they carefully think: "What is it that I really would like to spend my time doing?" Peggy concludes that teaching in a small area like Talbot County has allowed her to connect with multiple generations of families and with the community.

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# Consumer Education

submitted by Doris Valliant

## De-clutter Your Home Fast

Whether you are planning to sell your home or just would like to clear out some of the stuff that's piled up over the years, here are some quick tips to start the de-cluttering process—and keep your home clutter-free. (1) Use the three-box method. Try to focus on one room at a time; in the room you're de-cluttering, set up three boxes and a trash bag for trash. Label the boxes "Put Away," "Give Away," and "Keep." Then go through every item in the room to decide which of the four spots to place each item. (2) Try the closet hanger experiment. Put everything in your closet with the hangers facing backward. When you wear an item and return it to the closet, face the hanger in the right direction. After six months or a year, get rid of everything still facing backward. (3) Give away one item every day. You don't have to throw out everything at the same time. Find one thing each day to donate, and make it fun by thinking which charity or friend could most benefit from this item.

## Find the Best Prices on Medicine

An ABC news report recently gave some useful information about shopping around for prescription medicine. GoodRx and LowestMeds are two websites that are free to use. Both of these websites allow you to put in the name of the medication and the zip code where you live; then they give you a price comparison of pharmacies in your area. You will be amazed to see that some of these medicines are sometimes twice as expensive from one place to the next, so shop around and save some money!

## Save on Everyday Purchases from Abenity's Website

Are you signed up for Abenity? If not, go to the MRSPA website to join. It's free and you'll find great deals on a variety of purchases—from cars to movie tickets to local restaurants and for any number of other items that we buy. You can even print grocery store coupons from Abenity's website. Just go to the "Everyday Living" section where you'll see hundreds of free coupons to print. They are even divided by category such as All Categories (specifically Household, Health Care, etc.) or by Brand (Oral B, Old Spice, Kellogg's, etc.) If you're a coupon clipper, you won't need the Sunday newspaper. It's all there on the website by category, and you select what you want to print. Besides coupons, check Abenity for great deals on gift cards and local restaurants.

## Fight Bacteria—Floss Every Day

If you aren't already, start to floss every day. Flossing reduces oral bacteria, which improves overall body health. If oral bacteria is low, your body has more resources to fight bacteria elsewhere. Floss daily and you're doing better than at least 85% of the population.

## Community Service Committee

Many thanks to the members who made donations at our last luncheon. They were greatly appreciated. At our March luncheon, we will be collecting canned and bagged dog and cat food for Talbot County's Humane Society. Call us if you have questions.

Thanks,

Bennie Milton and Elois Brown

Bennie Milton : 410 -476 -3734      Elois Brown : 410 - 476 - 3574



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## Membership Report

Five inquiries about membership to MRSPA/TRSPA have been mailed out although no new applications have been received, YET! You probably know someone who is retired from Talbot County Schools who is not a member so please invite them to join in order to protect their Maryland State pension. Contact Peggy Ford at [pjford@goeaston.net](mailto:pjford@goeaston.net) or 410 822 6417 for further information.

## Pottery Painting at Kilnbourne (ClayBakers) in Easton

Tuesday, February 23 ~ Anytime from 2-5

Come and paint, have fun, chat, meet new people and visit with your friends from TCRSPA.

The cost would be whatever the item is that you choose to paint. Items that range from as little as \$7 to some in the \$100s. All are marked on the bottom of the piece so you know in advance what you are spending. Included is the item, paint and firing. The only other charge would be sales tax at the register. Contact Peggy Ford if you are interested. [pjford@goeaston.net](mailto:pjford@goeaston.net) or 410 822 6417

### Luncheons for 2016

**Tuesday, March 15**  
Chef Cooking Class @  
EHS

**Thursday, June 2**  
Chesapeake Landing

### Executive Board Meeting Dates

February 1, 2016

April 18, 2016

TCEC @ 9:30 a.m.

All TCRSPA members are invited  
to attend.

## Sunshine Committee

submitted by Jan Middleton

### ONE WORD

Can't be explained

Causes smiles and tears

Felt by everyone

Between two or many

Songs are written

Comes from the heart

### LOVE

Happy Valentine's Day

In October a get well card was sent to Polly Carroll. A thinking of you card was sent to Beverly Brash.

In November a thinking of you card was sent to Cynthia Ramsey. A get well card was sent to Judy Haddaway.

In December a thinking of you cards were sent to Marquerite Mundt, Joanne Murray, and Marie Best.

A get well card was sent to Mary Reeser.

Thanksgiving and Christmas cards were sent to Jane Barton, Helen Dettbarn, Elizabeth Dobson, Patricia Mavity, Peg Mundt, Kathleen Francis and Cynthia Ramsey.

Visitations were made to Lib Dobson by Jennifer Wheeler, Connie Rathell and Audrey Woolston by Mary Reeser and Chic Harrison. Gifts were taken on each visit. Also a gift was sent to Joann Murray by Bertha Wilson.

"You can give without loving,  
but you cannot love  
without giving"

Amy Carmichael

If you know of anyone who needs " a ray of sunshine " call Brenda Davidson at  
410 -310 -9051.

STAY WARM THIS WINTER

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TCRSPA

c/o Joyce Schriver

28427 Oaklands Road

Easton, MD 21601