



TALBOT COUNTY SCHOOL PERSONNEL RETIRED ASSOCIATION

The Little Red Schoolhouse

President's Message

Dear Fellow Retirees,

Welcome to a new year 2016-2017, for T.C.R.S.P.A. I am writing this letter in the heat of August. My, it is a hot summer! Humidity seems to be at an all time high.

Soon school buses will be on the road and teachers will be in their classrooms working hard to welcome their students to a new school year. It will be the very beginning of some careers and may be the end of careers for folks thinking about retiring.

I hope that you are enjoying your time as a retiree. Some of you may be adjusting to this new way of life that will be full of time for however you may choose to be involved . It is truly your time to work, to play, to be you!

Please consider joining your local TCRSPA and your state retired organization MRSPA. Join. Pay your dues, to insure your pensions and benefits. Maybe you could join our executive board, (4 meetings a year). Maybe you would enjoy coming to luncheons to visit with old friends and fellow teachers. Come to our meetings and listen. Sit in. Make a suggestion. All are welcome. JUST COME! JOIN US!

As your new president, I will be involved through newsletters, luncheons, workshops,

and some volunteering. Please know that I consider this an honor to represent you.

Peggy Ford is our new membership chairperson . pjford@goeaston.net. Send off an email and Peggy can fill you in on dues and information.

Oh my! Our fall season is creeping up . You will see in this newsletter dates for our next luncheon. Where? When? \$\$\$? And then, my goodness we will have our National Election in November. (Aren't you glad that you are not a political science teacher?!) ... and here come the holidays!! Busy times for us. Certainly we have lots to think about.

In closing, stay healthy Keep your friends and family close.

Dotty Olds, President



Summer Luncheon in June at Chesapeake Landing



TCRSPA 2016 Performing Arts Award Recipient

TCRSPA's 2016 Performing Arts Award recipient is Andrea Stewart Davis, who has been the Choral Director and Theater Arts teacher at Easton High School for the past two years. Prior to her position at EHS, Ms. Davis taught choir at Milford Central Academy in Milford, Delaware for six years. She received her M.M. (2014) and B.M. (2009) from the University of Delaware where she studied vocal performance with Dr. Marie Robinson and education with Dr. Suzanne Burton and Dr. Alden Snell. Ms. Davis now studies with Ms. Kathryn Armour in Wilmington, Delaware. In 2014 Ms. Davis made her international conducting debut with the Delaware Choral Symposium in Aix-en-Provence, France and returned in 2016 as an ensemble member under the tutelage of Dr. Paul Head. In addition to her passion for teaching Ms. Davis enjoys performing as a soprano soloist and guest conductor. Her recent performing credits include, *The Addams Family* and *Hello, Dolly!* - Musical Director, *Kent Chamber Choir*, *Mama Rose - Gypsy*, *Elsa Schrader - The Sound of Music*. Andrea plans to use the \$200 award to purchase curriculum for the choirs and/or to defray the cost of transportation to choral performance events.

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Susan Pratt, Dotty Olds, Bonnie Haynes, and Jane Thompson, along with many others, enjoy Pat Chapman's Annual First Day of School Panera Breakfast for Retirees.

(Open house - put it on your calendar for next year!!)



Life After Retirement: Doris Valliant

submitted by Dee Rein

Doris Valliant remembers fondly all of the professionals with whom she worked and how much she learned from all of them. Her thirty plus year teaching career began in Houston, Texas for a year before she and her then husband traveled east to Maryland. Talbot County enjoyed her services as she taught high school English classes of all grades and ability levels, and spent a final year as the English, Language Arts Specialist. Her fondest memory of working with the Maryland Writing Project, learning to teach writing and helping others by coordinating workshops for other teachers. Doris found seeing the presentations by teacher consultants as well as presentations by the teacher participants “inspiring and instructional.” She notes, “It changed my teaching career.”

After seven years at the Country ranks of the retired. She’s certainly always wanted to be a writer and retired. Between 2000 and 2004 she children for Chelsea House and personal finance, cheerleading and writer she prepares articles for the Regional Health system on medical “I’m not really working; in fact retirement’s the best job I’ve ever had. I enjoy writing.”



School Doris happily joined the kept herself well occupied. She had began that second career before she wrote seven nonfiction books for Mason Crest. The topics included Bangladesh. Now as a freelance University of Maryland Shore and health issues. She joyfully notes,

Retirement activities vary. Having the time to travel without pressure is one retirement advantage. Doris savors heading to California to see her son-in-law and daughter Anne, who plays the role of a washerwoman at the Renaissance Pleasure Faire of Southern California. Retirement means Doris can go whenever she wants. Exploring new creative outlets is satisfying too. Claiming, “absolutely no talent for art,” Doris has studied drawing, watercolor and other media. “Lack of talent isn’t important,” she says; “it’s the fun of the creative challenge.” Art keeps her active even when dealing with health challenges like breast cancer and knee replacement surgeries. Doris reminds us all to get our regular mammograms and other screenings. She’s currently regaining mobility and anticipating some more travels.

As Doris’s life shows and she avers, “Your life will be as filled and busy as you choose to have it be. You can taste and sample, pick and choose what suits you! Opportunities you never imagined will show up.”

As your president I am sending this out to you in this first newsletter. This is what our organization is all about. Our Executive Committee meets regularly to guide the organization. This keeps our association alive and well. This is what we do as retirees. We have had careers in public education - teachers, administrators, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, aides, and secretaries. We are now retired. We still take pride in coming together in our retired years. Below are listed the goals of our association. Dotty Olds

1. Advocate benefits and services for retired members. Health benefits (Board Of Education Liaison)
2. Retirement (funding for our pensions)
3. MRSPA –Advocates for our retirement

We support or Talbot County Public Schools

1. Pre- retirement Workshop
2. Volunteer projects
3. Martha Greene summer enrichment scholarship
4. Performing Arts Award, Memorial Book Award,
5. Teacher of the Year recognition
6. Visit schools during American Education Week

We communicate important information to our members

1. Emails
2. Newsletters
3. Meetings

We participate in Community Service

- 1 .Community Civic Service Award
- 2.Volunteer
- 3.Service Projects (Humane Society, Neighborhood Center, Care Pacts, Homeless Shelter

We provide socialization opportunities for retired members

1. Luncheons
2. Feature members in our newsletters
3. Send cards and make visits to members (Sunshine Committee)

Service Projects (collect for Humane Society, Neighborhood Center,Homeless Shelter, Care Pacts)

Fall Luncheon

When: Thursday, October 27, 2016

Where: Chesapeake College, Higher Education Center, Please park in **Lot D**

Time: 11:30 AM. (Registration) 11:45 (Welcome, Arts Award, Budget)
12:15 (Lunch)

*Please let us know if you are interested in carpooling.
Carpooling from **Easton Fire Department** parking lot to leave at 11:00 AM.*

Menu: Vegetable Crab Soup or Chicken and Rice Soup
Grilled Chicken on a bed of fresh salad, with assorted dressings
Rolls and Butter
Cookies, Brownies and Assorted Pies
Coffee, Hot Tea, Iced Tea, and Water

Program: Learn about the Chesapeake College **Institute for Adult Learning (IAL)**, open to anyone over the age of 50.

Cost: \$15.00 Reservations must be made by **October 21st**. The committee would prefer that payment be mailed prior to the luncheon. If reservation is made by phone, you are responsible to make the payment. Money can not be refunded after the committee has finalized the number of people attending with Chesapeake College. Thanks for your help with this matter.

Please make **\$15.00** payment to **TCRSPA**: Send to:

Mary Reeser, 358 St. Aubins Terrace, Easton, Md 21601 (410-822-4410)

or

Chic Harrison, 29300 Will St., Easton, Md 21601 (410-822-1209)

or

Pat Chapman, 802 Chapel Farm Drive, Easton, Md 21601 (443-786-8617)

Send by October 21st to reserve your spot.

Flu Shots

Good Afternoon,

That time has come again! **The Flu shot will be offered Friday, October 28, 2016** here at the Talbot County Education Center from 9am-Noon in Conference Room 3. **You will need to sign up in advance in order to receive the shot or call to make an appointment.** Please pass along to any co workers who do not regularly access their email!
Please let me know if you have any questions!

Have a great day,

Angelina Khlok

Administrative Assistant, H.R.
Talbot County Public Schools

410-822-0330

Luncheons for 2016 - 2017

Thursday, October 27
Chesapeake College

Wed., December 7
Latitude 38 Restaurant
Oxford

Tuesday, March 21
Chef Cook Class @ EHS

Thursday, June 1
Chesapeake Landing

Executive Board Meeting Dates

Sept. 12, 2016

Nov. 1, 2016

Feb. 6, 2017

April 3, 2017

TCEC @ 9:30 a.m.

All TCRSPA members are
invited to attend.

Consumer Education

Submitted by Doris Valliant

How Strong Are Your Computer Passwords?

SplashData, a password management company, studies millions of password breaches, and they have created an annual list of the most common and easily exploitable passwords. Here are some of the worst (or most hackable) on their list. No. 1 is to use the numbers 123456; second place goes to “password.” Other worst list perennials are football, baseball, letmein and qwerty (the first six letters in a row on the keyboard). Newcomers include “Starwars,” “princess,” and “solo.”

SplashData says a password is breached every three seconds, and among the most vulnerable are people aged 60 and over. What makes a strong password that’s more difficult to hack? Create passwords that are at least 12 characters long and are a mix of letters, symbols and numbers. Make them easier to remember (or list all your passwords in a special password notebook that you create) by using short words interspersed with spaces or characters in between, such as “eat cake at 8” or “car_park_city.”

Don’t use the same combination of username and password for multiple sites, and avoid using a favorite sport, person’s name or birthday.

Thinking about Selling Your Home? These Tips Might Help.

One of the most important things to do is depersonalize your home. The more personal stuff in your house, the less potential buyers can imagine themselves living there. Get rid of a third of your stuff—put it in storage. This includes family photos, memorabilia collections and personal keepsakes. To maximize the full potential of your home, consider hiring a home-stager.

The kitchen is the most important room in your house because you’re not actually selling your house—you’re selling your kitchen. The benefits of remodeling your kitchen are endless, and you’ll probably get about 85% of your money back. The fastest, least expensive updates include painting and new cabinet hardware. Again keep the idea of a blank canvas and choose paint in a neutral color.

Your house needs to be “show ready” at all times because you never know when your buyer will walk through the door. To ensure your home is in tip-top shape don’t leave dishes in the sink, keep the dishwasher cleaned out and the bathrooms sparkling, and make sure there are no dust bunnies lurking in corners. These efforts may sound inconvenient, but following these tips will get your house sold.

Looking for the best gas price in the area?

Check out gasbuddy.com and put in your zip code. It will give you a list of gas stations with the lowest prices in your area. If you’re traveling, check it to find the best prices on your travel route. You can also download the Gas Buddy app for your smartphone.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL NEW RETIREES!

PLEASE JOIN MRSPA

Kathy Dill	Ronald Thomas	Elizabeth Farris
Rodney Boyce	Pamela Heaston	Lisa Finn*
Raymond Kraeer*	Joyce Jenkins	Deena Messick*
Gayle Secrist	RuthAnn O'Neill	Donald Copper
Jean Startt*	Dianne Potter	Jamie Gonzales
Patricia McDougal	Suzanne Brannegan	Blondina Emory
Barbara Grogan	Marian Harrison	James Greene
Robert Bolling	Michelle Catlin	Kenneth Kvamme
Bruce Horvath		

***is a member**

If you know someone who has retired this year, invite him or her to join us. Our recruitment for new members is based on current members asking other retirees to join us: a personal approach. We have found that there really is strength in numbers especially when it comes to **preserving our pensions and other benefits**. So ask your friends to join. Membership dues are \$50 per year (MRSPA \$35 and TCRSPA \$15). Just go to www.mrspa.org

HAVE YOU USED ANY MRSPA BENEFITS???? Share your strategies and success stories with fellow members. We all want to know how you have saved money using MRSPA Benefits. As a part of membership, everyone can get discounts renting a car, buying hearing aids, dealing with legal issues, going to the dentist, even buying movie tickets and more. Call Peggy at 410 822 6417 or email pjford@goeaston.net The first 3 people to respond get a prize!!!

WELCOME to our New Members!

Lisa Finn, Barbara Kraeer, Ray Kraeer, Deena Messick, Sharon Pahlman, Betty Ann Sands and Jean Startt

TCRSPA in Action

CarePacks- Counting 8:50-10:00, Packing 12:00-1:00 **on October 29** at the Oasis Church Community Building on Aurora St. in Easton. For more information call Peggy at 410 822 6417.

Poplar Island Are you interested in a Poplar Island Field trip in April? It is free and the boat leaves from Tilghman to Poplar Island. Then you would board a bus for a tour and explanation of the Poplar Island Restoration Project. If interested call Peggy at 410 822 6417 or email pjford@goeaston.net

Are you curious and want to continue learning?

Check out the wide variety of offerings online or give them a call:

Chesapeake College's Institute for Adult Learning (IAL) 410-822-5400 ex.2300

Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum's Academy for Lifelong Learning (ALL)
410-745-4941 Allison Speight

American Education Week is November 14-18. Make it a point to visit a Talbot County School and show your support. Call 410 822 0330 for further information or check the TCPS website. SEE below for a special invitation from EES Dobson.

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On November 17, 2016 Lisa Kline has invited our retirees to come to her school, Easton Elementary Dobson, to read to the young children. Hours are 9-11 and 12-3. Books will be available (you may bring a favorite book to read if you would like). This is a part of celebrating American Education Week. Ms. Klein has invited us and I feel it would be a nice way to show staff that retirees are active and still very interested in our schools. Please consider doing this !! If you would like more info, call [410- 822-0550](tel:410-822-0550) or email Lisa Kline at lkline@tcps.k12.md.us. Thanks, Dotty Olds

Community Service Committee

Many thanks to all who donated supplies for the Summer Program at the Neighborhood Service Center. The items were delivered and were very much appreciated.

At our our next luncheon we will be collecting items for CarePacks of Talbot County. They are in need of the following items: oatmeal packets, filled crackers, applesauce cups, cereal or granola bars, toaster pastries, fruit cups, small packages of pretzels, peanuts, or trail mix, and single servings of cereal, canned pasta, soup, or tuna.

Thanks,

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

Sunshine Committee

submitted by

Jan Middleton, Brenda Davidson

Hummingbirds are the most unusual energetic little birds. We have a feeder next to our screened in porch, and watch them everyday . There are three types that we see; The talker, quiet one, and the looker. The talker talks the whole time he's drinking, and one day went under the feeder talking to us, going on and on. The quiet one never makes a sound; but the looker is Mr. Personality. He will take a drink, fly to the side to see if we are still there, take a drink, fly to the top and look, going all around the feeder as if to say, "Are you there? Can you see me now?" The most beautiful moment was when our Maine Coon cat was lying on the porch with his back to the feeder. Looker came down to see what he was, and they looked at each other. If only I had my camera.

Cards that were sent since our last newsletter were:

April 20 Karen Guthrie sympathy on the death of her brother

April 28 Marcia Sprankle sympathy on the death of her husband Michael

May 1 Sympathy to the family of Helen Dettbarn on her death

May14 Liz Wildasin Thinking of you during her daughter's illness

May 24 Jane Barton Thinking of you when her husband entered Hospice care

June 20 Jane Barton Sympathy on death of her husband

August 15 Pat Clark Get well

August 22 Kelly Griffith sympathy on the death of her mother

August 24 Pat Clark Thinking of you for hospital visit

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

Hummingbirds can fly a thousand miles without food or rest; can remember every single flower they visit. Audubon

TCRSPA

c/o Dotty Olds

7415 Tour Drive

Easton, MD 21601