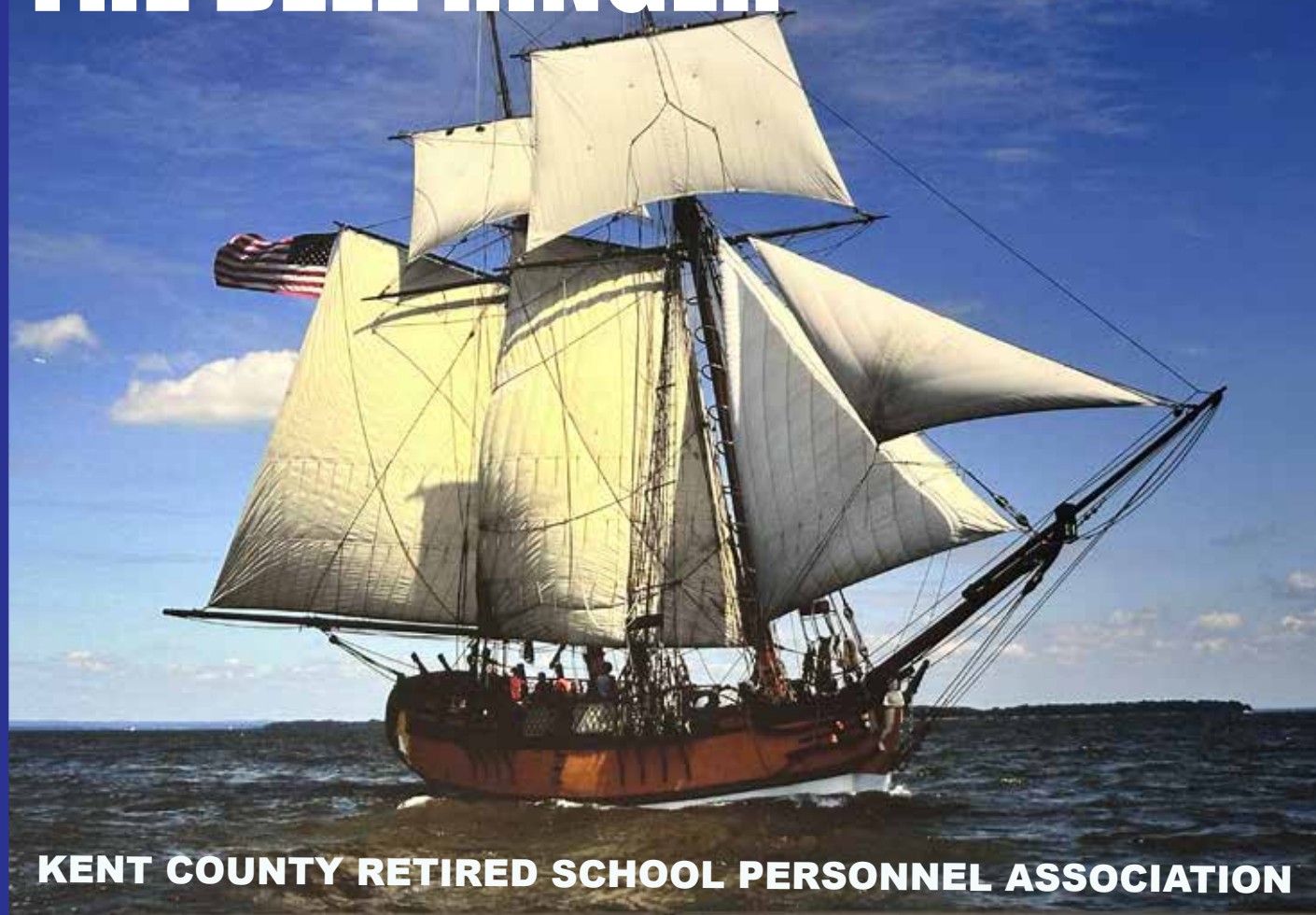


THE BELL RINGER

May 2025 Vol 47



KENT COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

Photo by Glenn Michael of a painting of the Sultana that hangs in the dining hall at Heron Point

Dear Retirees,

Spring has arrived and don't you just love the warm weather, the flowers that are blooming, and the leaves growing on the trees. Unfortunately, though there is the pollen!

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We want to welcome Ken and Judy Linn to our membership. They attended our "Coffee Hour" at Play It Again Sams in March. It was so nice to talk with them and catch-up with what they have been doing since they retired. Ken and Judy's address is 193 Birchwood Lane, Galena, MD 21635. Thank you to the members who supported this membership recruitment project. I think it was a success!

Our last luncheon for this year will once again be a cruise down the Chester River on the "Packet." Thank you to Kathy Clark and Nancy McCloy, our Program/Hospitality Co-Chairs, for organizing this end of the year luncheon. Our Executive Director, Wanda Twigg will be our guest. Please take the opportunity to thank her for all she does for MR-SPA. Betty will also be installing KCRSPA'S new officers. They are Co-Presidents, Susan Clark and Nina Newlin, Secretary, Brenda Shorter, Treasurer, Debbie Smith. At this time KCRSPA does not have a Vice President. I hope there is a retiree who will consider filling this position.

Our Little Libraries are low on adult books, so if you have any, please bring them to our luncheon. There will be a box for you to place them in before you get on the boat.

It is retirement time! If you hear of any personnel in the county who are planning on retiring, please let Sue Crooks or me know. We will contact them and give them information about MRSPA and KCRSPA.

For the past two years, I have been your President. It has been an honor and a privilege to have worked with a great group of retirees. I thank you for your support and your commitment to our small, but strong association. Please continue to stay informed in your retirement benefits, stay involved in your community, and stay connected to KCRSPA'S RETIREES. Have an awesome, fun, and safe summer and see you in the fall.

Nancy M. Harrington

Reminders for Your Calender

JUNE 5TH - KCRSPA MEETING,

INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS

NOVEMBER 19 - SCHOLARSHIP TRIP TO

AMERICAN MUSIC THEATRE

(contact Ruth Wilson if you want to go)

Editor Notes -

We are finishing another active year of KCRSPA newsletters. I hope you received them as promised and were pleased. My effort is to make sure you receive the newsletter on time and that it is informative and easy to read. I remind the members that if you do not receive a newsletter in the early part of the month prior to the month of the General Meetings, October, December, March and June, PLEASE send me an email or call. Hopefully you receive the newsletter digitally as that is quick and easier to do, and with the ever increasing cost of postage, also much less expensive. A thank you is given to Terri Mullikin for her work on the hard copies and mailing and with great timing.

In this issue you will find the final message from out going president Nancy Harrington, the usual reports including treasurer, secretary, and committees. There are photos from the last two general meetings with grateful thanks to Lea Hunley who carries her tablet to the meetings and gets the photos.

Finally in this issue there is the RSVP Form for the June meeting which is a cruise on the Chester River via the Packet. Effort is made to get the material to you so that you have time to get your money and form to Kathy Clark on time. Hope to see a lot of you on the boat.

Glenn Michael, Editor

KCRSPA Treasurer's Report

March 31, 2025

(for May 2025 Meeting)

Business Checking Account

Income

3/10/2025	State Check	\$15.00
3/10/2025	March Luncheon	\$870.00
Total Income:		\$885.00

Expenses

03/06/2025	Kathy Clark (decorations for March Meeting)	\$60.39
03/06/2025	Heron Point of Chestertown (luncheon)	\$724.51
03/20/2025	Deborah Smith (coffee at Sam's)	\$11.55
Total Expenses:		\$796.45

Starting Balance as of 02/28/2025 **\$9,425.48**

Total Income: **\$885.00**

Total Expenses: **\$796.45**

Ending Balance as of 03/31/2025 **\$9,514.03**

KCRSPA Scholarship Fund

Business Savings Account

Starting balance as of 02/28/2025 **\$5,739.68**

Income

03/10/2025	Scholarship Donations	\$375.00
03/12/2025	Scholarship Donations	\$100.00
03/31/2025	Interest Compounded	0.41
Total Income:		\$475.41

Expenses **0**

Total Expenses: **0**

Starting balance as of 02/28/2025 **\$5,739.68**

Total Income: **\$475.41**

Total Expenses: **0**

Ending balance as of 03/31/2025 **\$6,215.09**

Legislative Report-

Betty Weller

The 2025 Legislative session is over. A total of 2614 bills were submitted and the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association followed 31 of them which were related to our legislative agenda.

We opposed 12, 4 dealt with the budget and the others were curriculum related. Depressed spending, nominal population growth, the loss of pandemic money, cuts that needed to be restored and the Blueprint were among the reason for the \$3 billion shortfall.

Some money has been shifted back to the counties, a change in the tax structure, a 3% tax on IT services and a slight increase in the piggy back tax (from 3.2 to 3.3) were some of the steps taken to ultimately pass a balanced budget.

The Governor had until May 27, 2025 to either sign or veto the bills. Anything not signed or vetoes will become law.

KCRSPA executive meeting: 5/1/25

- We met at Sumner Hall on 5/1/25. Members in attendance were: Glenn, Nancy (her last meeting as president!), Debbie Smith, Charlotte, Betty, Sue Crooks, Nina, Sue Clark, Kathy, and Brenda. We pledged allegiance and approved the minutes from our Feb. 6th executive meeting.

-Debbie gave her finance report, which we accepted and voted for approval.

-We must have our books audited before Sue Clark and Nina take over as co-presidents.

-We also need to create a budget before the June meeting on the packet. Those who will work on the budget are Nancy, Debbie, Kathy, Sue Clark, and Nina. Another budget item to be added to our list of budget items is printing funds.

-For the Turf Valley meeting, (4) members will attend as delegates with Nancy as the chauffeur.

-Betty shared our membership needs to be raised. The word audit will no longer be used but the word review will replace it. Legislative news: 2,600 bills were brought up in the legislative session but only (4) bills were supported. Some of the failed bills had to do with curriculum for the state. The loss of pandemic money is being felt in the state. The state is also trying to grow new teachers.

-We will treat our county teachers again with “goodies”/”treats” in the fall.

-WES is still the place where we will keep our KCRSPA memorabilia.

-We had a great turnout for our “Read Across America” day in our county elementary and middle schools.

-For our June 5th meeting/luncheon, we will sail on the Chester River Packet. The menu will be the same as it was last year, and the cost will be \$50.00.

-Officer installation will occur on the packet on June 5th.

-Our membership includes 99 members!

-There are (4) KCHS scholarship recipients. They will receive \$1,000.00 on Senior Awards night on May 14th. Sue Crooks and Brenda Shorter will present the awards.

-Nina needs legislative news from Betty which will complete Nina’s information for the KCRSPA webmaster page.

-Maryland’s 1974 teacher of the year, Eloise Johnson, has a booklet dedicated to this honor for her, which we will donate to Sumner Hall.

-Kent County teacher honorees: (cards of congratulation will be given to each):

Cheryl Fricasse = Teacher of the Year (2025) Madison Kendall=Promising Educator (2025)

Ralph Johnson=Support Employee (2025)

*A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, a second was made, and we all approved the motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda W. Shorter

Note - These minutes are from the Executive Committee Meeting on May 1, 2025. They are included in the newsletter for your information. They will be voted on for approval at the next Executive Meeting to be held September 4, 2025. Location to TBD.

KCRSPA minutes/3/6/25 meeting/luncheon:

- We met and had lunch at the quaint Heron Point dining Hall on a blustery and chilly March day.
- Our first guest was Pat Clarke, wife of the late Ray Clarke, who thanked us all for our kind thoughts, cards, words, and deeds for her dearly beloved husband.
- Our second guest was the lead sales person at Heron Point who reminded us to seek her assistance with any questions, needs, etc. concerning Heron Point. She will give an overview of Heron Point on March 13th at 10:30 a.m. if there is any future interest on our part to someday reside there.
- Committee reports:
 - Nancy is passing the leadership torch to Susan Clark and Nina Newlin.
 - Debbie's treasurer's report was given and we voted to approve it.
 - Nancy reminded us there are (4) seats available for the Turf Valley meeting on May 6th, so let her know who is interested in attending. The celebration on this date will be one where 80 years of MSRPA will be celebrated.
 - KCRSPA still needs someone to step up to become the Vice-President of our association.
 - In our archives closet at WES, the 1974 Teacher of the Year celebratory packet for Ms. Eloise Johnson was found. Another precious gem was the KCTA Directory listing members from "way back when."
 - We are to email Ruth Reed so she can list all of our service/volunteer information for her records.
 - As of today, 3/6/25, we have 97 members in our association.
 - We are reminded to reach out to non-members to join our association and are asking for their attendance at our "Meet & Greet" at Play it Again Sams on March 20th at 10:00 a.m.
 - There was no new news concerning scholarships. Brenda will look into how many students have signed up for one already.
 - Nancy shared an informative handout titled, "A Look at KCRSPA," which lists an overview of all we do and most importantly, why we do what we do as an association.
 - The flea market sale will be held off until this fall so we can work out how best it will benefit our scholarship fund.
 - Our June 5th meeting/luncheon will be on the Chester River Packet. Kathy and/or Glenn will notify us of the price.
 - Last but not least, our last speaker of the hour was Sonja Presgraves, the Kent County Animal Shelter spokesperson. She passionately pleaded for volunteers, noting that the staff at the shelter was a very small one. Volunteering would include laundry of items used to care for the animals at the shelter, cleaning the pet rooms, walking the animals, interacting with the animals, and helping out with animal care whenever and wherever help was needed. Donations are welcomed and some of their regular donors are: Redner's Grocery store, Grounds for Hounds Coffee Company, and Creafill Fibers Co. Also, at each Tea Party event in May, the animal shelter has a booth with items for sale to help with the upkeep of the shelter. Volunteers are needed and hired as young as 16 years of age, and all high school students of age are welcomed to volunteer and will receive Service learning hours from the Kent County Animal Shelter.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda W. Shorter

Note - These minutes are from the last General Meeting held at Heron Point. They should be voted for approval at the next General Meeting in June, 2025.



March Meeting

The March meeting was held at Heron Point. Always a good venue.
A special thank you to Lea Hunley for the splendid photos.





Christmas Luncheon

The December meeting was our annual Christmas meeting and Basket Raffle to benefit the Scholarship Fund. This year it was again at the Chester River Yacht & Country Club. Attendance was good, the baskets were phenomenal, and meal was excellent.

Photos by Lea Hunley



A BIT OF KCRSPA HISTORY

When Lee, Kathy, Sue and I organized KCRSPA archives at the former Worton Elementary School, we found very interesting and fun items. We found Eloise Johnson's MARYLAND TEACHER of the YEAR book, which we donated to SUMNER HALL. There was also a folder of old newsletters. The poem you are about to read was written by President Millicent "Milley" Dilley in 1987. Also, at that time the members of the association were only teachers.

RETIREMENT

School bells ring but not for me.
From years of commitment I now am free!
Lesson plans, meetings, Christmas programs, too,
Children with problems-wow! Quite a few!
How can that school survive without me?
I was so important,
I was needed for that education to be.
But, something inside me said, "Friend, it's time!"
Retire, you've done a good job,
 you've done just fine.
Other younger teachers are as dedicated as you,
Their ways may be different but inspiringly new.
Have faith. YOU help train them along your way,
So, retire, relax, enjoy--no reason to stay.
Withdrawal pains? Sure, but just take heart,
Friends met at KCRTA is a wonderful start.
Soon you'll be quoted and heard to say,
'The day I retires was an outstanding day!'

THE END



Photos provided by Nancy Harrington

I think we can all say retirement is "outstanding."

Membership Report - Susan Crooks

At this time the KCRSPA has 97 members. We would love to have some new members join us. As you are out and about, if you see or talk with someone who has retired from Kent County or any other school system, please tell them about our activities and extend an invitation for them to join.

KCRSPA Community Service - Ruth Reed

Update 5/5/2025

Our KCRSPA members have been very active and are enjoying the time to volunteer throughout our communities. One member stands out and has been nominated for the MRSPA Community Service Award for this year from Kent County. Our Olythea (Lee) Hunley has shown outstanding community service and we are proud to put her name forward to the state retirement association. Lee is very active in the following areas of volunteer work: HomePort; Lions Club; Commission on Aging; Hospital Advisory Council; Union Church at Coleman's Corner; Administrator for church; and Parsonage Maintenance Committee for church. What a very active young lady!

There will be a documentation form circulated during our luncheons/meetings regarding volunteer work. We know that everyone volunteers through the community, their churches and their schools. We would like to keep an updated documentation of our special times and record them for KCRSPA.

Scholarship Committee Report

We were pleased to receive eight completed applications for the KCRSPA 2025 scholarship. The Scholarship committee met to review the applications and selected four students to be awarded our scholarship. Scholarships will be presented on May 14, at the KCHS Awards Night at 6:00 by Brenda Shorter and Susan Crooks. You are invited to attend. All of these students have achieved academic success and earned the praise of their teachers and community. Most have expressed financial need. Each will receive \$1000 to be sent to their college of choice. All monies will be mailed to the schools this summer. It feels good to help these young people on their educational journey.

We wish these students success with the challenges ahead.

Some of our scholarship monies come from a group of retired educators started by former superintendent of Kent County Public Schools, Dr. Lorraine Costella. For many years generous gifts from this group have helped us support students in Kent County. We thank Dr. Costella, Dr. Bonnie Ward and friends for their loyal and generous support.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND !!

Thank you to all friends and colleagues who contribute to the scholarship fund. We ask members to make an annual \$25 donation. Your donations are very important to secure our ability to provide scholarships to deserving KCHS seniors. As the prices of everything increase, your donations are very important. **It is our mission to provide financial aid to young people as they begin their career paths.**

In the newsletter you will find a form to use for donations. Also, in the newsletter you will find a list of members who have made contributions in 2025. Many thanks to those folks.

Scholarship Donations 2025

Glenn Michael - memory of Ray Clarke, and non memorial

Karen Dize - memory of Elaine Holden, Mary Fisher, Ray Clarke

Jean Foreman - memory of Ray Clarke

Margie Baker

Patsy Skirven Reilly - memory of Margaret Larsen

Dale Atkinson

Nancy McCloy - memory of Ray Clarke

Ruth Wilson

Charlotte Potts

Barbara Jean Lusby Wright

Doreen and Mark Shivley - in memory of Dr. Ray Clarke

Very generous donations from the Costella group

Dr. Lorraine Costella

Dr. Bonnie Ward

Ann Hummer

Jean Flory

Many thanks to all donors! You make our scholarships possible!

2024 - Nina Newlin

2024 - Brenda Shorter

Scholarship Fund

Help us fulfill our mission to support high school students planning their college careers. It is through your donations that we are able to award scholarships to deserving Kent County High School Students. These scholarships mean a lot to students and their families.

In the past 16 years our association has awarded more than \$30,000 in scholarships. These awards are made possible by our members who are asked to contribute \$25 annually. Many thanks to those who already made a contribution.

**Remember: This is a major goal of our organization!
All donations allow us to continue the scholarship program.
Names of donors will be listed in the newsletter.**

One student wrote: "Thank you for believing in me and my ability to succeed..."

Please think about a donation to our fund for the next school year and the form provided here.

Thank you for your consideration.

Scholarship Donation Form

Name _____

Date _____ Amount _____

In honor or memory of : _____

Thank you for your support!

Checks may be made to **KCRSPA** and mailed to:

**Debbie Smith
200 Pear Tree Point Rd
Chestertown, MD 21620**

It's Time to Celebrate Birthdays of KCRSPA Members May-August

MAY

Yvonne Paxton 5/1
Ruth Reed 5/5
Nina Burt 5/7
Diana Georgeson 5/7
Billie L. Roberts 5/7
Joyce Powell 5/9
Sharon Gordon 5/17
Ann Moss 5/18
Mark Schivley 5/19
Karen Dize 5/29
Joe Massey 5/31

JUNE

Nancy Harrington 6/7
Larry Adams 6/18
Bud Jastram 6/20
Jocarol Miller 6/24
Nancy Brown Diangela 6/26
Mary Sieman 6/29

July

Ruth Jackl 7/4
William Flook 7/6
Jean Foreman 7/9
Marlene Vosberg 7/12
Emily Massey 7/12
Evelyn Schaubert 7/17
Marsha Miller 7/19
Bonnie Rose 7/23
Sharon Steward 7/24
Nancy McCloy 7/26

AUGUST

Elizabeth Knapp 8/5*
Donna Mills 8/8
Bess Engle 8/9
Lee Loller 8/11
Joanne Clarke 8/25
Tom Groce 8/28
Debbie Smith 8/28
Margie Baker 8/30
Beth Wright 8/31

KCRSPA Executive Committee 2024-2025

President

Nancy Harrington
530 Hlgh Bridge Road
Millington, MD 21651
nmhar@verizon.net

Vice President

Susan Clark
210 Manor Ave.
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Past President

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Secretary

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Nina Newlin

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Nancy McCloy
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Trips/Social Activities

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/Pre-Retirement Co-Chairs

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rockhallpixie@verizon.net

Assisting . . .

Nancy Harrington,
Emily Massey,
Debbie Smith,
Jean Wright.



LUNCH NOTES

Our third annual river packet luncheon will take place on the first Thursday in June.

As before, we will gather at the foot of High Street, and boarding will begin at 11:45. The boat sails **PROMPTLY** at noon.

AT THIS TIME the drink prices are the same as last year: \$2 for sodas and tea, \$5 for wine and beer, and \$7 for liquor. However, we should be warned that the looming tariffs may change all that by June. **BE PREPARED!** Cost of the cruise is \$50.00 per person

June Luncheon Meeting of KCRSPA Cruise on the Chester River Packet June 5, 2025

MENU

Filet Mignon Sliders with horseradish sauce

Cold Shrimp

Gluten-free Pasta Salad

Green Salad

Cookies

All responses should be in by Monday, May 26th (Memorial Day).

Please make checks for \$50.00, per person payable to KCRSPA and mail to:

**Kathy Clark
199 Rolling Rd.
Chestertown, Md. 21620**

I will be attending the cruise luncheon.

Name_____

Amt. Enc._____