



TALBOT COUNTY SCHOOL PERSONNEL RETIRED ASSOCIATION

The Little Red Schoolhouse

President's Message:

It is hard to believe that the holidays have come and gone, and that we are well into the New Year! I hope that 2015 finds you and yours healthy and happy. The luncheon, which was held in December at the William Hill Manor auditorium, was a great success! Many thanks to Mary Reeser and Chick Harrison for planning a wonderful event. We were pleased to have Max Muller, President of MSRPA, and Judy Zahran, Executive Director, in attendance. Max emphasized the importance of increasing membership in the organization. With a new Governor, Larry Hogan, and fifty-seven new legislators, it will be important for our organization to educate them regarding the economic impact that state pensions have on the state economy. As Kelly Kenneally from the National Institute on Retirement Security stated at the Legislative workshop in Annapolis, "Every dollar paid out in pension benefits results in approximately \$5.40 in economic output." Please contact our legislators and urge them to protect our defined pension benefits. I would like to thank Dotty Olds and Dorothy Palmer for attending this workshop with me.

On January 13, Eileen Kuehn and I had the pleasure of attending the swearing-in ceremony for the new members of the Talbot County Board of Education. Sandy

Kleppinger, returning member, Kelly Sparks, Michael Garmin, and Otis Sampson spoke of their dedication to the students and staff of the TCPS system, and vowed to do their best to help move the system forward. Congratulations to all!



Please be reminded of the spring luncheon to be held at Easton High school on March 24 in the Chef/Cook classroom. Mary Reeser and Chick Harrison have once again planned a delicious lunch. We will be recognizing a worthy community organization with a donation from our group. The registration form is included in this newsletter.

Lastly, the Interfaith Shelter has asked that we encourage our members to provide help in any way possible in assisting them in their mission to provide food and shelter to those in need. If you are able to donate time, food, or other necessities, please contact Nancy at 410-822-2190.

Best wishes for a wonderful
2015!

Joyce Schriver, President



New member Judy Haddaway joins Executive Board members Mary Reeser, Chic Harrison, and Mary Hawkins at our Holiday Luncheon at the William Hill Manor on December 2nd.

MRSPA President Max Muller, TCRSPA President Joyce Schriver, and MRSPA Executive Director Judy Zahren pose with Talbot County Teacher of the Year Bridget Whited following her address to the members.





Christmas Luncheon
2014



TCRSPA Spring Luncheon on March 24, 2015

Social Committee: Pat Chapman, Chic Harrison, Mary Reeser

Place: Easton High School Chef Cook Classroom

Program: E.H.S. Music Dept. Students; Civic Award

Time: Because of student schedules, lunch will be served at 11:45 p.m.

Please try to be there by 11:30 a.m.

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 is \$10.00. Please call or send reservations by March 18, 2015 to Mary Reeser, 358 St. Aubins Terrace, Easton, MD or call 410 822 4410, or to Chic Harrison, 29300 Will Street, Easton, MD or call 410 822 1209.

MENU

Soup (Choose One)

Chicken Corn Chowder

MD Veg. Crab

Salad (Choose One)

Mixed Greens with dressing on the side

Fresh Fruit Salad

Entrée (Choose One)

Grilled Ruben on Rye Bread with a side

Hot Chicken Casserole with a side

Dessert (Choose One)

Chocolate Mousse Parfait

Apple Dumpling

Fresh Fruit Tea or Coffee will be offered

Luncheons for 2015

Tuesday, March 24
Chef Cooking Class @
EHS

Thursday, June 4
Chesapeake Landing

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

Life After Retirement: Eloise Brown

submitted by Dee Rein

Many years ago Elois Brown was a small child growing up in Trappe in a time when she couldn't even ride the school bus to school. Over time, she's seen many changes and made her own special contributions to her community, where she still lives today with her husband, Donald.

Elois has fond memories of her days working in the Talbot County Public Schools as support staff. She spent many years at White Marsh Elementary as an instructional assistant in the first grade classroom of Arlela Cray. Mrs. Cray, Elois reports, was a warm person and they had a very comfortable relationship. Elois worked with first graders needing extra help and is delighted to have those same children, now all grown, recognize and speak with her when they meet in the community today. As we all know, the big challenge is remembering the names of all those children! In addition to classroom duties, Elois was very active with the parent association, keeping parents on board with the children's activities. She even visited children's homes, including Bruceville, to help parents help their children with school work.

This joy in helping others continues through Scott's United Methodist Church in Trappe, or, as Elois calls it, "the light by the light." There the church choir, the finance committee and outreach visits to nursing homes fill her time. She reports she even saw Mrs. Dobson a couple of weeks ago.

Of course, grandchildren and now a great grandchild's preK activities, as well as basketball games, fill the Brown's time. Donald calls Elois' interest in Word Search puzzles her "brain thing" and together they visit the Veterans Hospital in Cambridge to share those Word Searches with the veterans.

When asked for retirement advice, Elois suggests, "Just take it one day at a time." After a medical event she's learned to slow down and not try to do everything. Her faith is evident as she remembers that when it happened God told her, "It's going to be all right." Elois Brown is more than "all right;" she's a continuing asset to her Trappe community and all of us who are so fortunate to know her.

Consumer Education

submitted by Doris Valliant

Get Rid of Unwanted or Unused Gift Cards

Did you get gift cards for Christmas that you can't use or don't want? Or maybe you have some old gift cards from previous holidays that you'll never redeem. Surprisingly, about a third of the gift cards given each year are not used. Since 2008 this has added up to \$44 billion worth of cards that have never been redeemed, even though gift cards are the most requested holiday present.

What do you do with all this valuable, unwanted plastic? You turn it into cash! According to *AARP Magazine*, several merchants, such as Macy's and Barnes & Noble, will buy these unused cards at a discount off their face value. Then these merchants resell the cards to others. Or you can go online. If you type gift card exchange in Google, a number of websites will pop up that buy, sell or exchange gift cards. Online websites such as Cardpool.com, Cardhub.com, Cardcash.com and Giftcardgranny.com buy and sell gift cards at a discount. As long as the company is still in business, you can strike a deal.

Most of the online gift card exchanges will send you a check or give you PayPal credit, or you can swap your unwanted cards for some cards you'll use. Typically, you receive 65 to 92 percent of the face value, but the cards you want to exchange need at least a \$10 issued amount to be eligible.

Take Advantage of Unwanted Gifts

What do you do with those gifts that you don't want? Get a tax deduction! Give them to Goodwill, the Salvation Army or local charities and church thrift shops that could use them. If you'd rather have cash in your pocket, Craigslist and eBay will sell virtually anything. For those clothes still sitting in their gift boxes, you may be able to swap them using websites such as Swapstyle.com, Rehashclothes.com and Dignswap.com. To get cash for electronics, try Gazelle.com and Nextworth.

Need Some Extra Cash?

Try the Money Challenge, an idea found in a recent *AARP Magazine*. Set aside just \$1 the first week, \$2 the next week, \$3 the third week and so on till the final week when you're putting \$52 aside. At the end of the year, you'll have saved a total of \$1,378!

A Clever Solution for Those Pesky Phone Scammers

Jan McCrea has a clever solution to discourage phone scammers. She says to give the Maryland State Police phone number to them. They will think they're calling your spouse, and instead...surprise! Your new "spouse's" number is 410-819-4747 or 410-822-3101.

A Health Tip to Prevent Falling

When you brush your teeth, stand on one foot for up to 60 seconds; then switch to the other foot. This will improve your balance and probably your dental health, too.

Pre Retirement Workshop

Pre- Retirement Workshop Scheduled for February 24, 2015

Planning Committee: Pat Clark, Mary Hawkins, Judy Kohn and Mary Reeser

Again TCRSPA is sponsoring a workshop for any Talbot County Employee who is considering retirement within the next three years. We are pleased to be able to help our employees learn about the many factors they need to consider before making the big decision to retire. Information is provided by a State Retirement Counselor as well as information about Talbot County Continuing Health Care Benefits. Many questions are answered and we hold this workshop in the E.H.S. Chef Cooking Classroom with plenty of comforting food. The participants seem to really appreciate our help.

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The Interfaith Shelter needs more teams of volunteers starting in April. I am the chairman of the committee that recruits volunteer team coordinators.

My number: 410-822-2190. Thanks!!

Peace, Nancy

Executive Board Meeting Dates

Feb. 2, 2015

April 29, 2015

TCEC @ 9:30 a.m.

All TCRSPA members are invited to attend.

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



Membership Report

TCRSPA has increased our membership !! Thank you to all who have joined and support our retired association. We support your retirement interests in Annapolis and pensions are IMPORTANT to us all. Our new state members are as follows: Cindy Doupnik, Debbie Chance, Brenda Davidson, Pat Chapman, Peggy Ford, Betty Wagner, Jane Thompson, Ellen Wile and Bryan Yarbrough. Local members: Karen Guthrie, Judy Haddaway, Barbara Burkehardt, and Mary Beth Sparpaglione. In addition, I am very pleased to say that Peggy Ford, Pat Chapman and Brenda Davidson and Debbie Chance have joined our Executive Board.

Dotty Olds
Membership Chairman

Sunshine Committee

submitted by Jan Middleton

Winter - the white season, because of the snow.
Those who have to drive in it
hate to see it.

But me being a retired teacher love it, because I can appreciate
it's beauty from a distance.

Sympathy cards were sent to the Families of Agnes Orban, Roscoe Fields, Ruth Seese, and Dola Hayman. Also to Chris Roberts for the loss of her dad, ToEdith Hayman for the loss of her niece and Lawrence Niskey for the loss of his wife.

Thinking of you and get well cards were sent to Bertha Wilson, Jan Middleton, Joann Murray and Judy Kohn.

Home Visits were made to Marian Miller, Connie Rathell, Barbara Nichols, Jan Middleton, Ruth Seese, and Elizabeth Dobson.

Holiday Cards were sent to our Emeritis members - Jane Barton, Elizabeth Dobson, Helen Matthews, Peggy Mundt, Pat Mavity, Kathleen Francis, and Cynthia Ramsey.

If you know of someone who we should send a card to, please contact me or Brenda Davidson (bdavidson@goeaston.net). Thanks!

*Happiness
is not having
what you want
but wanting
what you have !*

Rabbi Hyman Judah Schactel from our association as well.

TCRSPA

c/o Joyce Schriver

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