

# TALBOT COUNTY RETIRED



# SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

The Little Red Schoolhouse

## President's Message

Dear Members,

I am writing this letter and it is still January. When you receive this newsletter, a month will have passed and we will be in the middle of the month of February. We will have a new President leading our country. We all hope and pray for the best. We want to keep safe and continue to enjoy the freedoms that our country promises us through the constitution.

Our February calendar brings our Pre Retirement Dinner at Easton High School. This event is for those school employees who may be near retirement. A wonderful meal is prepared by Chef Cook students and information is presented to inform retirees about benefits in their pension system. Mary Reeser, Judy Kohn and Mary Hawkins and Pat Clark organize and Mrs. Linda Brown's students serve and prepare food and a guest speaker from The Maryland Pension System will answer questions.

Our March calendar brings our luncheon at Easton High School ( always a favorite and well attended). Our guests will be our new leaders from Odenton, Shachar Weizman (executive director) and Francis Miller (president). This is a luncheon that you should not miss. I am sure that you will find it very informative.

I hope to see you in March. Stay healthy, and stay warm.

Robert Frost 's take on the coming of spring....

*"The sun was warm but the wind was chill.*

*You know how it is on an April day.*

*When the sun is out and the wind is still,*

*You're one month on in the middle of May.*

*But if you so much as dare to speak,*

*A cloud comes over the sunlit arch,*

*A wind comes off a frozen peak,*

*And you're two months back in the middle of March."*



**Dotty Olds, President**

# Christmas Luncheon at Latitude 38



Annie Mewborn  
TCPS Teacher of the Year







## Life after Retirement: Jane Barton

submitted by Dee Rein

At age 98 Jane Barton has more years of experience as a retiree than most of us. She savors her full life as well as reminiscing about her teaching career.

As a young woman Jane says she was interested in typewriters and shorthand. She wanted to be a secretary. However, her parents wanted her to go to college and further her education. A compromise was reached and she attended Rider University, a business college, and went on to teach business subjects at high schools. Her life took her to schools in New Jersey, Massachusetts and finally St. Michaels High School in Talbot County, Maryland. At St. Michaels she spent 23 years teaching shorthand, accounting and office practice. Jane remembers the girls she taught and how she could “love them and tell them how proud you were of their work.” Small classes meant few discipline problems. Every day was enjoyable. As we all experience, she still enjoys meeting those former students in the community.

A full life in Jane’s case means worthwhile activities. She is helping St. Marks Methodist Church pay for their new addition by knitting sweaters to be sold at bazaars benefiting the building fund. So far she’s made over fifty sweaters! She also belongs to the prayer shawl ministry, knitting and crocheting baby blankets and lap robes. Jane lives alone but enjoys daily talks with Peggy Mundt. Jane and Peggy shop together and share lunches out. She’s also active with Alpha Delta Kappa, a national teacher’s sorority that works to fund scholarships.

While Jane misses school that her life is full and She advises retirees to nothing. “Fill your life including good friends.” shared some of Jane



and “the kids,” she reasserts satisfying with no difficulties. avoid sitting at home doing with something worthwhile, We’re all fortunate to have Barton’s friendship.

## National Education Week in Talbot County

Before the holiday in November 2016, many of our members volunteered to read aloud to young children in classrooms throughout the county. Dotty hopes it will be a tradition, and she is calling for us to volunteer once again for **Dr. Seuss's Read Across America Birthday on Thursday, March 2nd.**

Many thanks to those listed below  
and any others who offered their time for this event:

Debbie Baynard  
Sandy Butler  
Pat Chapman  
Midge Coppersmith  
Patricia Early  
Bennie Milton  
Dotty Olds  
Mary Reeser  
Ellen Wile



## TCRSPA Spring Luncheon on Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Place: Easton High School Chef Cook Classroom

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

You WILL have a security check in at the main office. Please have a Photo ID or Driver's License with you. It will need to be scanned. Parking is always limited. Please think about riding with a friend. To avoid being trapped in the parking lot by the buses, we will need to leave the Chef Cook Classroom by 2:15 pm.

After you are through security in the office, you will enter the lobby. Take the hall on the right side of the lobby toward the cafeteria. You will then take the second hallway to the left. We will have people in the main hall to help direct you to the Chef Cook Classroom.

**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 TUESDAY, MARCH 14, at the latest. SEATING IS LIMITED for this luncheon, so please be prompt in your reservation and payment as we will fill slots on a first come, first served basis.

Send reservation form, located below, and payment 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).

MENU	Name _____	Paid _____
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Soup (Choose One)

- Maryland Vegetable Crab
- Broccoli Cheddar

Salad (Choose One)

- Mixed Greens with assorted dressings
- Fresh Fruit Salad

Entrée (Choose One)

- Grilled Reuben on Rye Bread
- Chicken Salad Plate

Dessert (Choose One)

- Double Chocolate Mousse
- Apple Pie
- Fresh Fruit

Tea or Coffee will be offered.

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



## CONSUMER EDUCATION

Submitted by Doris Valliant

### **Having ICE on Your Cell Phone Might Save Your Life**

Have you added ICE (in case of emergency) in your Contacts? If you were in a dire situation, how would someone know whom to contact? By adding ICE in front of one or more of your Contacts, you have designated a friend or family member that can be contacted if you are in a serious situation or medical emergency. For many cell phones all you need to do is (1) select the name of a contact from your cell phone's Contact list. (2) Choose "Edit Contact," and (3) click on that contact's first name and type "ICE" in front of it. Let this person or persons know that you've chosen them as your ICE contacts, and review your medical alerts with them so that they are informed and understand what to do in case of an emergency.

### **The Power of Plants**

Common household plants such as ferns, palms, snake plants and spider plants not only protect your health but also your wallet. These plants absorb indoor toxins, and this air-purifying punch costs a fraction of commercial units. They may help HVAC systems to work more efficiently and extend air-filter life. Because plants add humidity to the air, you can set your thermostat a few degrees lower. You'll save money and feel healthier.

### **Some Helpful Problem-Solving Tips**

**Consumer Problems:** If you are having trouble getting a consumer issue resolved, contact the Maryland Office of the Attorney General. There is help at your fingertips for many consumer issues at <https://www.oag.state.md.us/Consumer/index.htm> to find information about your consumer rights, how to file a complaint and how to protect yourself from being the victim of a scam.

**Medical Issues:** If you or your doctor believes that you need urgent care but your health plan doesn't agree, call Maryland Insurance Administration's toll-free number at 800-492-6116. Within 24 hours this agency will render a decision, and under certain circumstances, can order a private plan to pay for the treatment.

**Medication Expenses:** Before heading to the pharmacy, search the name of the medication on your computer. It can save you hundreds, maybe even thousands of dollars. Many pharmaceutical companies offer coupons that are good for an entire year, sometimes saving you over a \$100 a month. If your search doesn't find anything, ask your pharmacy. Sometimes they will search for you. Some pharmacies even offer free medications. Another source to check out is GoodRx.com to find the best prices and sometimes a coupon.

## **TCRSPA in Action**

### **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](mailto:pjford@goeaston.net) .

The National Park Service is seeking volunteers. Please contact [kristina\\_higgins@nps.gov](mailto:kristina_higgins@nps.gov) if you are interested.

Take care,  
Barb Catron  
MRSPA Admin Assistant

## **Community Service Committee**

Many thanks to everyone who donated items for the Neighborhood Service Center. They were delivered and were greatly appreciated.

At our next luncheon we will be collecting canned and bagged dog and cat food for the Talbot County Humane Society. If you have questions please call.

Bennie Milton 410-476-3734



## **Maryland Retired School Personnel Association Legislative Workshop - 2016**

submitted by Bertha Wilson

The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association held its 2016 Legislative Workshop on November 10, 2016 at the Miller Senate Building in Annapolis, Maryland. Dotty Olds, Debbie Chance, Eileen Kuehn and Bertha Wilson represented our local association at this event.

MRSPA advocates for its almost 15, 000 members and it encourages each of us to serve in our local communities and to work with our legislators statewide. MRSPA has established nine priorities that they seek to protect and support for its members. They are Pension Protection, Secure Choice Retirement, Health Care, Quality of Life, Safety, Consumer Protection, Education, Supplementary Pension Funding and Long Term Care. MRSPA has hired a new Legislative Aide who is working for our interest in Annapolis. Our Legislators and our Governor are in full support of our Legislative Priorities.

MRSPA is looking for Governor Hogan to present the following Bills to the 2017 Legislature: Tax-Cut for the Elderly, Quality of Life Bills, which includes Aging in Place, Visibility and Safety Scams.

Other pertinent information that was given includes the following: Tax Refunds were up a little more than expected. Sales taxes were down. Unemployment is going down and employment in better jobs and retirement are going up. The Economy and the Revenue of the State are handled by the following: The State Budget Committee main job include: to enact tax legislation and to provide all Marylanders Tax Relief. The Board of Trustees has a Comptroller, a trustee, an ex-officio member, 5 elected members, 1 employee, an active teacher and one retired teacher. The Maryland Treasurer main function is to raise money, collect taxes and keep the books. The State Legislature elects the Treasurer. Maryland, also, has a strong Board of Public Works, which approves the Procurement of the State. MRSPA has a Committee that looks out for our Assumed Rate of Return and our Governor has a New Pension Board.

The Next Maryland Legislative Session will begin in January 2017 and it will last for 90 days. Approximately 2,000 Bills will be coming in. It is very important that we make a concerted to contact our State Legislators during this time. Here are some ways that we can use to build a positive working relationship with them: Come down to Annapolis and meet your legislators face to face, contact Advocacy Groups, conduct a one-on-one meeting to build relationship, share with others, use Facebook, use E- Mail, Fax, Scanners, Face-to Face time and Snail- Mail. Remember these words: "If we utilize some of these things, we will not merely survive, we will prevail."

ARRP- focus for 2017 will be the Care Act, Pay Roll Savings, Teli- Health Care for 50 Years Plus and Utility- Charge.

## Hey Retired Teachers!!

It is almost **Dr. Seuss's birthday !! March 2<sup>nd</sup> !** We are contacting our elementary school principals now about visits to the schools to read to the children. Maybe you have a favorite story book that you could share? Maybe you would enjoy reading a Dr. Seuss book. This is a way to show our children how important they are and how special it is to read! Please think about enjoying an hour or less with a group of little ones. Just grab a book and show up. **March 2<sup>nd</sup> !!** That's the date. Call the principal of the school and make arrangements. Hope you can do this !!

**Dotty**

### **Luncheons for 2017**

**Tuesday, March 21**  
Chef Cook Class @ EHS

**Thursday, June 1**  
Chesapeake Landing

### **Executive Board Meeting Dates**

**April 3, 2017**

**TCEC @ 9:30 a.m.**

**All TCRSPA members are  
invited to attend.**

**FROM: Lynne Duncan, Assist. Superintendent for Admin. and Support Services**  
**SUBJECT: Proposed Changes in Retiree Benefits**

The following recommendation will be made at the February 15<sup>th</sup> Board of Education Meeting.

- I. Retirees under age 65
  - a. Board share of cost increases from 66% to 70%
  - b. Addition of dental and vision plan
- II. Spouse of retiree under age 65
  - a. May remain on plan but must cover full cost- no Board subsidy
  - b. Addition of dental and vision plan
  - c. \$200 stipend per month for one year or reaches Medicare age, whichever comes first
- III. Retirees 65 and over
  - a. Board share of cost increases from 66% to 70%
  - b. Addition of dental and vision plan
  - a. Addition of dental and vision plan
  - b. May remain on plan but must cover full cost- no Board subsidy
- IV. Retirees with children on plan
  - a. Addition of dental and vision plan
  - b. Child may remain on plan but must cover full cost- no Board subsidy
- V. \*Retirees at 10-14 years of service
  - a. Board share remains at 50%
  - b. Addition of dental and vision plan
- VI. Spouse of retiree with 10-14 years of service
  - a. Addition of vision and dental plan
  - b. May remain on plan but must cover full cost- no Board subsidy

\*Only those employees who complete 10-14 years of service by June 30, 2017 will be eligible for this benefit.

## **Sunshine Committee**

submitted by  
Brenda Davidson

### Cards Sent ~

#### November

Deanna Stock - Thank you to Chesapeake College - donations for CarePacks

Harold Schriver - Sympathy for sister

Sarah Ross - Thank you to Chesapeake College Early Childhood CarePacks

#### December

Shari Powers - Thinking of you/health

Gail Middleton - Sympathy for brother-in-law

Jan Middleton - Sympathy for brother-in-law

Christmas cards for Emeritus members: Mrs. Mundt, Mrs. Barton, Mrs. Dobson,  
Ms. Francis, Mrs. Mavity, Mrs. Ramsey, Mrs. Morton

#### Shut Ins' gifts

Mrs. Dobson, Mrs. Mavity, Mrs. Woolston, Mrs. Rathell, Mrs. Murray, Mrs. Best,  
Mrs. Roach

Charlie Connolly- Sympathy for mother

Eloisa Brown - Get well

Mindy Howell - Get well

Pat Chapman - Sympathy for mother-in-law



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TCRSPA

c/o Dotty Olds

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Easton, MD 21601