

# TALBOT COUNTY RETIRED



# SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

The Little Red Schoolhouse

## President's Message

Greetings!

Winter has been busy and the upcoming spring shows no signs of slowing down for TCRSPA. At the holiday luncheon at Latitude 38 we sang "Happy Birthday" to Jane Barton via video to celebrate her centennial. Dorothy Palmer conducted our annual In Memoriam ceremony as we took a moment to honor past members. Lovely baskets were raffled along with huge poinsettias. Everyone had a good time.

In January, Terry Callahan, Debbie Chance and Peggy Ford (membership chair) attended a regional MRSPA workshop on membership that was held at TCEC. As our area director, Debbie was also a co-presenter. The focus was on three R's – recruiting, retaining and regaining members. We are working on developing a strategic plan for our association.

Early February brought the Executive Meeting. We heard from Audrey Wosny, community outreach coordinator for Junior

Achievement. Audrey highlighted the JA programs and volunteer needs and materials. If anyone is interested in more information on Junior Achievement programs and volunteer opportunities, please let us know and we will forward information to you.

March brings our spring luncheon held at EHS. This is always a full event and has limited space, so be sure to book your place early! Ann Marie Downey, President of MRSPA, will be a guest. On the response form you will see that we must supply copies of our IDs in order to meet security requirements.

Whether March comes in like a lion or a lamb, we wish you a healthy and happy spring!

**Debbie & Terry**





**Holiday Luncheon  
at Latitude 38**

## Life after Retirement: Larry Kratzenberg

submitted by Dee Rein

Larry Kratzenberg and his wife Pat, also a retired Talbot and Caroline County teacher, share travel, gardening and many teacher memories. Nine years ago they moved to Easton Village following an exhaustive search at the hands of Roger and Carol Sue Clark. Previously they initiated their retirements with travels that one can't do as a teacher. A Fall train trip from Baltimore Washington International Airport to Burlington, Vermont with bed and breakfast stops along the way headed their travel list. Seattle, Washington, and Texas followed. Once they moved to Easton Village, new friends beckoned them to join in cruises to New England, the Baltic and Hawaii. Larry and Pat were on the go! More recent adventures include two van trips with another couple, one to Utah, traveling around to see the national parks and other sites, and a surprising one to Iceland in the summer. Larry never imagined doing a van trip and found sharing the driving facilitated the adventure. He counsels once one reaches retirement age to take advantage of the time and good health to enjoy the richly deserved time and activities.

Larry's retirement was preceded by 30 years with Talbot County Public Schools. After graduating from Slippery Rock State College in Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Science in Geology, he headed from Pittsburgh to Easton for an interview with Bill Best. His arrival to this area that seemed so far from home and his then fiancée, Pat, was hindered in Annapolis by the 1973 Bay Bridge span opening celebration parade, replete with marching bands and fire trucks. Fortunately Larry didn't turn back. An apologetic Bill Best understood the late arrival, completed the interview and offered a contract. Larry signed, and he and Pat adjusted their marriage plans so she could finish at Salisbury University.

During his career here Larry taught Earth Science at Easton High School for 8 years before becoming the Special Education Work Study Coordinator. Those were extremely satisfying and rewarding years. "The kids were just great! Many fantastic employers were willing not only to hire the students but also to teach skills and train them. It was really a job training program," said Larry. The Chesapeake Center provided vocational evaluations as well as a sheltered workshop for those in need. Many students Larry meets today are still working for those original employers. The most memorable aspects were kids getting jobs, being productive with the help of the employer, receiving a paycheck and seeing the rise in self esteem. Larry comments, "Those kids were dear to my heart. We bonded."

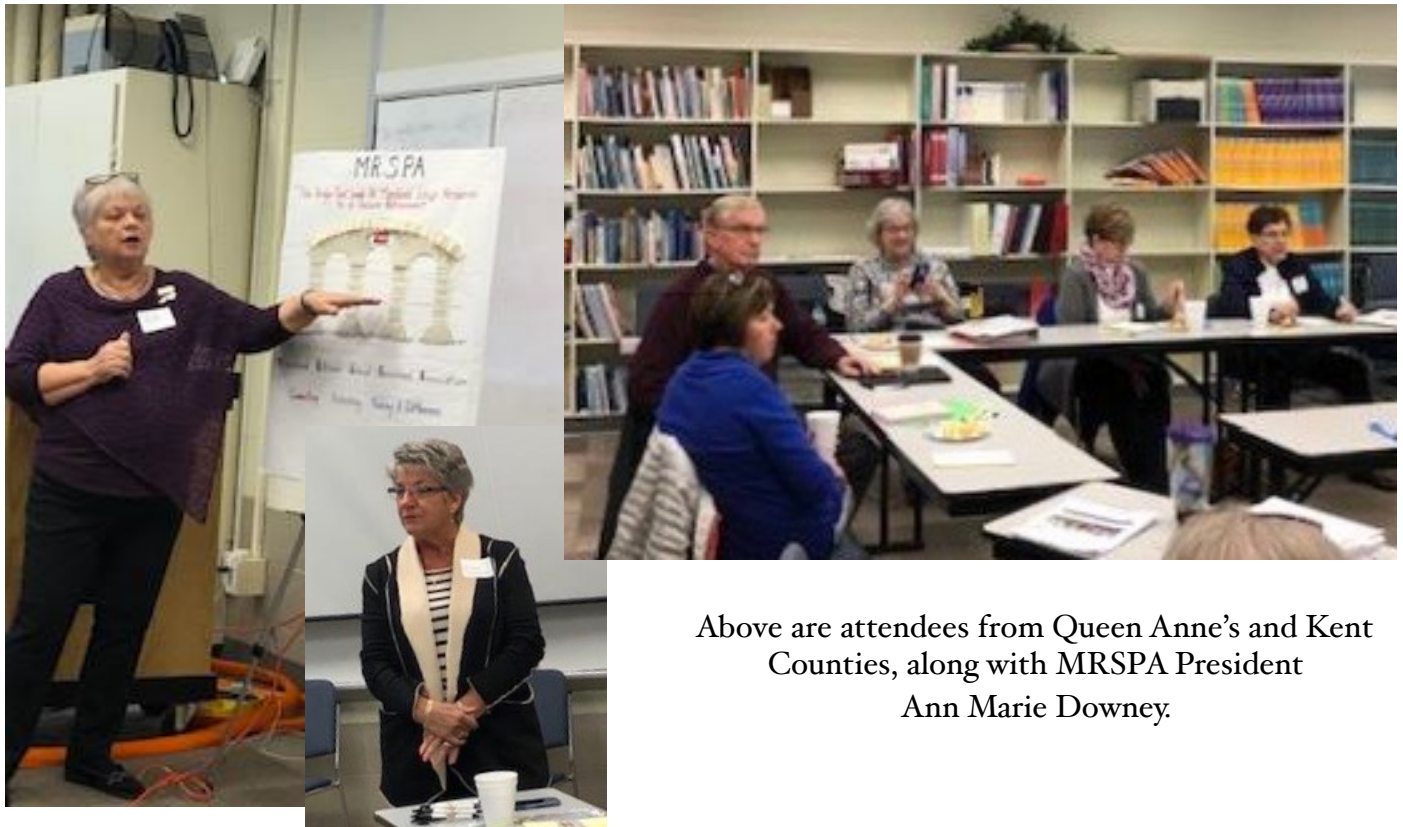
Since retirement Larry has continued to contribute his efforts with the Eastern Shore of Maryland Education Consortium for teacher health care, Easton Village Home Owners Association, and Eucharistic ministry at St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church. He and Pat savor outside gardening, home maintenance, and daily walks. Having overcome some health challenges, Larry feels blessed to have these years to enjoy pursuits of interest. Stay as healthy as you can, exercise, and take advantage of all retirement has to offer like Larry and Pat!



## Regional Membership Workshop held at TCEC

On January 17, 2019, a Regional Membership Workshop was held for the five upper shore counties that comprise Area III North. TCRSPA hosted the event, under the leadership of MRSPA Membership Chairperson Ruth Clendaniel (pictured below presenting the overall plan). Also in attendance were representatives from the retired school personnel associations in Kent County and Queen Anne’s County. Cecil County and Caroline County were unable to attend. MRSPA President Ann Marie Downey and MRSPA Executive Director Wanda Twigg also attended.

Using MRSPA’s template, representatives began to develop a strategic plan for recruiting, retaining, and regaining local members. Ideas were shared by participating counties for each of these three goals before each county worked independently to begin to write their plans. These plans will be shared at the upcoming Presidents’ Meeting in March. Debbie Chance (inset picture) also assisted in the presentation.



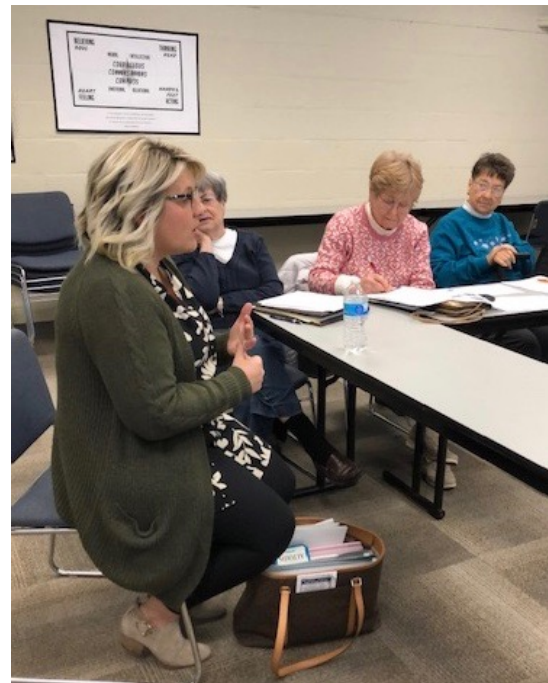
Above are attendees from Queen Anne’s and Kent Counties, along with MRSPA President Ann Marie Downey.

### Membership Incentives from MRSPA

- Remember that each time you sign up a new member you will receive a \$10 Wal-Mart gift card **IF the new member chooses dues deduction**, which allows for automatic renewal. To receive the incentive, you must write your name on the membership form as recruiter.

### Volunteer Opportunity

Do you miss teaching, but you don't miss the grading and planning? If so, then Junior Achievement of the Eastern Shore has a volunteer opportunity for you. Junior Achievement (JA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating youth, grades K-12, on financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship. JA's hands on, age-appropriate programs inspire youth to live within their means, prepare for the world of work and understand the free enterprise system. Currently, JA needs volunteers for the White Marsh 4<sup>th</sup> grade program. As a volunteer, you will be given a kit that has everything you need to teach during five one-hour sessions. If you are interested, contact Audrey Wozny (pictured right during the February 4th Executive Board meeting), JA Community Outreach Coordinator, at 410-742-8112, or email her at [audrey.wozny@ja.org](mailto:audrey.wozny@ja.org).



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Members of the Talbot County Retired School Personnel Association recently painted and donated bowls to the local Empty Bowls project. Pictured are Peggy Ford, Jean Startt and Ellen Wile.

**Luncheons 2018-19**

**Tuesday, March 26**  
 Chef Cook Class at EHS

**Thursday, June 6**  
 Chesapeake Landing

**Executive Board Meeting Date**

**April 8, 2019**

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

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

## **TCRSPA Sponsors Pre-Retirement Workshop**

**February 13, 2019**

**Pre-Retirement Committee: Pat Clark, Mary Hawkins, Judy Kohn and Mary Reeser**

Each year we organize and host a workshop for any employee who is considering retirement within the next three years. As you know, the decision to retire can be overwhelming!

Our workshop on February 13 was designed to provide helpful information for making wise decisions. We highlight:

- \* Pension choices - Charles Gainer, the Maryland Retirement Counselor (pictured below), explained each choice and answered questions.
- \* Health Insurance - Deanna Alessi, the TCPS Health Benefits Counselor, explained the health benefits and their expected costs.
- \* Procedures/Forms - Angelina Khlok, the TCPS Retirement Counselor, explained the Procedures for completing the necessary forms.

During our workshop, soup, sandwiches and cookies were served by the EHS Chef Cook class. Good food always helps create a more relaxed atmosphere.

This workshop is one of TCRSPA's projects that is really appreciated. We receive many a "thank you" and many compliments about the informational content presented by the speakers. We encouraged the participants to join TCRSPA after they retire!



## **Community Service Committee**

Many thanks to all who donated items to both Little Free Libraries and the Neighborhood Center. The items were delivered and greatly appreciated.

At our March luncheon, we will be collecting items for The Talbot Interfaith Shelter. The Shelter can use the following items: bleach, toilet paper, paper towels, diapers, hand sanitizer, sugar, granola bars, fruit and applesauce cups, juice, bottled water, sodas, and aspirin.

If you have questions please call.

Bennie Milton 410-476-3734

Doris Roach 410-822-3563

## TCRSPA Spring Luncheon on Tuesday, March 26, 2019

**Place:** Easton High School Chef Cook Classroom. A delicious lunch will be prepared by the program's students. ( **Please try to arrive by 11:00!** )

Parking is always **limited**. Please think about riding with friends. To avoid being trapped in the parking lot by the buses, we will need to leave the Chef Cook Classroom by 2:15 pm.

**Time:** Lunch will be served at 11:30 am due to student schedules.

**SECURITY PROCEDURES:** EHS staff is asking that we try to complete security prior to March 26 to save any inconvenience at the time of the luncheon. You can:

~Send a copy of your ID to Chic Harrison when you send your reservation and we will take care of security.

~Stop by the main office at EHS and have your ID scanned by Tuesday, March 19.

~Scan a copy of your ID directly to [ahall@talbotschools.org](mailto:ahall@talbotschools.org).

(Copies of ID will be shredded once they have been scanned into the system)

~If you have been scanned at any other TCPS building this school year, you may ask that school to email Toni Hall at EHS and she will accept that notice.

Any of these will take care of security, you will only need to sign in at the office and proceed to the Chef Cook classroom. **EVERYONE will still enter through the main office.**

If you choose to wait until the day of the luncheon, please be aware that you may have difficulty with a timely security check in. Make sure you have your ID with you.

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 a person 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 FRIDAY, MARCH 15, at the latest. **SEATING IS LIMITED** for this luncheon, so please be prompt in your reservation, with enclosed payment, as we will fill slots on a first come, first served basis.

To make the reservation process easier, please send your reservation form and payment, and copy of Driver's License (if interested) to: **Chic Harrison, 29300 Will Street, Easton, MD, 21601.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Cut & Mail with \$10.00 to Chic** \_\_\_\_\_

**MENU** Name \_\_\_\_\_

Paid \_\_\_\_\_

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 and side

\_\_\_ Chicken Salad Plate and side

Dessert (Choose One)

\_\_\_ Double Chocolate Mousse

\_\_\_ Apple Pie

\_\_\_ Fresh Fruit

Tea or Coffee will be offered.

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## The Martha Greene Summer Scholarship Story

By Eileen Kuehn

Since 2008 TCRSPA has been sponsoring a summer scholarship in Martha Greene's memory. Martha Greene taught in Talbot County for 44 years. Her career began in a one-room segregated school house in Unionville called the Miles River Neck School. Martha made sure her students had an enriching summer experience to report on when school resumed in the fall. She organized bus trips and funding for the children and their families to have an experience outside Unionville they would never otherwise have been able to have. While teaching, Martha would also provide for her students by making big pots of soup for them on the school's pot-bellied stove along with cocoa, oatmeal and Jell-O.

2019 will be our twelfth year offering a summer enrichment program to sixth graders in both Easton and St. Michaels. Our students are chosen by their respective guidance counselor based on character and need. The students have chosen such things as a theatre experience at the Avalon, a nature week at Pickering Creek, a Y camp, art at the Academy; we have even sponsored a horseback riding camp and a gymnastic camp for two deserving youths.

Mrs. Greene retired from Easton Middle, and Eileen Kuehn and Mary Reeser worked with Martha in those years. Mary felt that our association should offer some kind of memorial to her. Our inspiration for the scholarship came from a local magazine article which quoted one of Martha's former students, Bill Roberts. He could not have been more grateful to Martha Greene.

At that time he was president of Verizon Maryland and was delighted to sponsor our program. He did so for the initial years until leaving his position. Now our generous members help provide the funding through their donations. Almost forty children have taken part and Martha's memory lives on.

### MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to our newest members: Pam Clay Agnes Foster Betsy Willey

### Let's Get Together

CarePacks date reminder (9,o'clock for counting and noon for packing at the old Black and Decker building next to the Sheriff's Dept.)

**Free** monthly Tuesday concerts at the Talbot County Senior Center at Brookletts Place at 12:15 on March 12, April 9 and May 7 (this one is Chris Noyes).

Lunch is also available at noon with advanced reservations (410-822-2869) for \$2.75.

Questions or need more information? Contact Peggy 410-725-1101 or  
[pjford@goeaston.net](mailto:pjford@goeaston.net)



## **New School Supply Resource Center to open next semester!**

TCRSPA is partnering with TCPS to sponsor a school supply resource center to be housed in a trailer at the Talbot County Education Center. Once we have received and organized the donations, volunteers will set up the area and open it for after-school teacher visits once or twice a month. Mrs. Charlene Gould, Dr. Griffith's executive assistant, is our TCPS contact. She will be visiting area businesses to ask for materials.

At the pre-retirement workshop the pending retirees were also asked to consider (as they clean out their rooms) donating their excess supplies. You may have supplies that were too good to throw away stored in a closet, garage or shed. Please consider donating new and gently used school supplies, such as pencils, paper, notebooks, art supplies, and posters. Contact Terry Callahan ([tacall@goeaston.net](mailto:tacall@goeaston.net)) to donate or volunteer.

### **Please note:**

If you cannot print the emailed newsletters, you can request a hard copy. Please notify Terry Callahan ([tacall@goeaston.net](mailto:tacall@goeaston.net)) or Jan McCrea ([jmccrea7678@gmail.com](mailto:jmccrea7678@gmail.com)). Remember to also keep Jan updated on email or address changes.

## **Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, Inc.**

Each year beginning in January and ending in early April, The Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, Inc., (MSCHF) seeks nominations of senior citizens for induction into the Hall of Fame. Nominees must be residents of Maryland, age 65 or over, who are active volunteers, and who have made an outstanding contribution to improve the lives of others in their community since age 65. Nominee qualifications and nomination procedures are included in the nomination form. The deadline for submitting nominations is April 8. Nomination information and forms can be found at <http://mschf.org>. If you would like to nominate someone, that would be great! The organization is hoping for an honoree from all MD counties.

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## Spring 2019 CONSUMER EDUCATION

Submitted by Doris Valliant

### **Ready for taxes?**

It's that time of year again, but this year we face many changes from the 2018 tax laws. Will we have to pay or will we get a refund? However, one essential issue hasn't changed—how to organize and protect our tax records. IRS.gov offers some easy and practical tips to safeguard these documents. First and foremost, make sure you keep a copy of your completed federal and state tax returns, including all supporting materials. Keep paper records in a secure location, preferably locked in a secure desk drawer or a safe. Electronic records on your computer should be backed-up in case your computer's hard drive crashes. The IRS recommends keeping tax return copies and support documents for a minimum of three years and a maximum of seven years. This three-seven year period also includes keeping records relating to property you no longer own, beginning the year after you disposed of it. The three-year time frame allows you to file amended returns, or handle questions that arise on a tax return. The seven-year time frame allows you to file a claim for adjustment in a case of bad debt deduction for a loss from worthless securities. If you store tax records electronically, be aware that deleting these tax files does not remove them from your computer. In fact, you should wipe all electronic drives when you trash or sell the computer, tablet or mobile phone to ensure all personal data, including sensitive data like tax documents, has been removed. You may need special disk utility software to do this.

### **How do you organize all your mail and other paperwork?**

February and March are good times to organize paperwork since the weather often keeps us indoors. Take these steps to make categorizing easier, especially if you stick with your plan. Find an area in the kitchen or office where you can create a Mail Station. Label baskets or bins to hold mail and paperwork you want to keep. Keep a trash/recycle can nearby to easily dispose of unwanted paper. Then begin sorting. Junk mail—recycle or shred. Bills—toss, recycle, or shred envelopes and unnecessary inserts. Then place bills in the designated Bills basket. Magazines and catalogs—recycle those you don't want, and create a Magazine basket of recent arrivals. Throw out old magazines and catalogs so that these outdated copies don't pile up. Invitations—file anything that needs a response in the Invitations basket, and toss the envelopes unless you need the return addresses. Coupons—use an organizer, file folders or an accordion folder to sort the Coupon bin. You might think going paperless or paper light is the solution, but you'll still get mail every day. *The real secret to successfully organize your paperwork is to deal with the mail right away and have a place for everything, and this should only take about 5-10 minutes every day.*

### **Afraid of falling on the ice and uneven surfaces?**

Walk like a penguin! Point your feet out. Keep your head up. Slowly take short steps. Extend your arms out to your sides for balance. Be safe, do the Penguin Walk!

## Sunshine Committee

submitted by  
Brenda Davidson

Sending Sunshine  and warm weather to all of you!

Recently, a friend of mine was telling the story about a sales clerk giving her change from a purchase she had made. My friend commented that she remembered when clerks would “count back” the change to the customer - the clerk replied that she was glad that the register told her how to do that.....with that being said, here are some “old-school” skills our children shouldn’t lose - Enjoy!

1. How to read a map
2. How to spell
3. How to tie a tie
4. How to write a thank-you note
5. How to wash dishes by hand
6. How to mow a lawn
7. How to write in cursive
8. How to do laundry
9. How to tell time on analog clocks

AND HOW TO MAKE CHANGE 

(This list was taken from an article by Darcel Rockett writing for the ChicagoTribune.)

During January we remembered Jane Thompson and Mindy Howell with Thinking of You cards for health concerns. We also expressed our Sympathy to Bertha Wilson and Pat Clark on deaths in their families. We sent our LOVE Valentines to our Emeritus members Pat Mavity, Ella Morton, Jane Barton, Kathleen Francis, Mary Jarrell, Peggy Mundt, Cynthia Ramsey and Wanda Whedbee and to our Shut-In members Betty Best, Beverly Brash, Thelma Clash, Joanne Murray, and Connie Rathell. A sympathy card was sent to the staff at Easton Middle School on the death of their colleague, Mrs. Beth Riggs Hall.

Please contact me when you know of a member who would enjoy some “sunshine.”

Brenda

[bdavidson@goeaston.net](mailto:bdavidson@goeaston.net)

410-310-9051

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TCRSPA

c/o Terry Callahan

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