

TALBOT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



RETIRED PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

The Little Red Schoolhouse

President's Message:

You know, I have been doing some thinking lately about our retired association, and just why we exist and why I joined this group .

Looking back to June 2007, the year I retired, a friend of a friend who was retired mentioned to me that I really should come and join, maybe even consider coming to Executive Board Meetings. I did not think of her as being pushy or forward. I thought it was nice of her to want me to be a part of the group. I was actually pretty honored. I wasn't thinking, "Oh my gosh, what have I gotten myself into, or another responsibility to take on , or I hope they don't ask me to do anything."

Looking around the table of the Executive Board I saw some familiar faces and some not so familiar. All were former employees of Talbot County School System. I felt that I was in the right place. **Maybe it would be the same for you.**

I have attended a meeting for presidents and met some others from the shore. We are all anxious to serve our communities and give to schools. Volunteering is one way to do this. Give it a try. I also will be attending a meeting in Annapolis when the legislature is in session. This will be a very new experience for me, and Pat Clark, Bertha Wilson and Midge Coppersmith will be going along. We will listen and see and



Dotty Olds with Mary Reeser at the MRSPA convention in Deep Creek

learn how the government works for you and me. This trip is November 17th at the Miller Senate Building. You all are invited to come along too.

This month I have been discovering why we exist as a group . We are a group of people who advocate for benefits for services for retired members (health, retirement, MRSPA). We support our schools (volunteer, projects). We provide social opportunities, participate in community service and communicate pertinent information to our members (emails, telephone tree, meetings, newsletters and now our own Website).

Have a glorious Fall season and stay well. Hope to see you at our luncheons.

Dotty Olds, TCPSRPA President

A Wish For A Friend:

Wishing you a rainbow
For sunlight after showers-
Miles and miles of Irish smiles
For golden happy hours-

Shamrocks at your doorway
For luck and laughter too,
And a host of friends that never ends
Each day your whole life through!

“Consumer Connection” Information from MRSPA

November / December 2011

Ways to Avoid Tricky Scams for Investing

- Be wary of any stock strategy that promises you won't suffer large losses.
- Ask “dumb” questions. The more information you gain the better decisions you make.
- Even if the investment seems attractive – be sure that it is valuated and meets your needs.
- Don't listen to claims that connections with rich and powerful people should help you invest.
- Promissory notes are the number one vehicle for financial scams today. Avoid them.

Emails – You did not send

If people are getting emails from you that you did not send, someone has probably gained access to your account or you may have a virus. This is happening most often with web-based email such as AOL or Yahoo.

What to do: Run your antivirus software to be sure a virus is not present. You don't have a virus, so change your password. Then go to your account management page and review and/or change the information that you find there. Fortunately this is not happening frequently – especially if you keep your virus software updated.

Had You Heard?

· Saccharin is no longer considered a cancer cause? The EPA recently announced that there is

insufficient evidence that saccharin causes cancer.

· Mobile banking worries smartphone users? To stay secure when using mobile banking: use antivirus software, get apps from the app store not through email links. Don't send banking user names and passwords by text or email. Don't do transactions when you are on a public WIFI network.

· Doctors who own or lease MRI equipment order more scans for low-back pain? · Printing of \$5 and \$10 has plunged? The prevalence of credit cards ... and paper currency is lasting longer.

Diagnosing Alzheimer's

If you have trouble with your memory you are sure that you are in the first stages of Alzheimer's. In the October issue of The AARP Bulletin is an article about Diagnosing the disease and whether to be tested or not. If you are not a member and do not get the Bulletin you can read the article on line at the AARP website.

Surviving Grief

At some time or other everyone experiences grief. Some are able to handle it better than others. Each person usually has to grieve their way. There are many nurturing activities in which you can participate that may help with the healing process. The slow and gentle practice of meditation and yoga can help you feel more calm and balanced. Writing your thoughts and feelings in a journal can also help as you move through the mourning process. A strong network of friends and family

can be powerful – someone to listen and not upset you. Remember all the positives that are still in your life despite the loss of a loved one. Someone said. “I don't mention the one you lost”. That is the worst thing that can happen, because you want to remember the loved one and, though you don't forget them, as time passes it gets easier.

Check Your Credit Score

- * Get all three reports because scores can differ between the three major bureaus. You can access free reports by going to www.annualcreditreport.com.
- * Review carefully each report.
- * Challenge mistakes. Four out of five credit reports contain errors. * Be diligent. Check your scores annually. The greatest factor to a good score is making payments on time.

Believe it or Not

If you want to achieve maximum weight loss, you must chew each bite of food 40 times!

Helpful Web Sites

www.AllAboutBirds.org – This is a bird identification guide. Photos and videos are from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. www.Ready.gov – This will help make a family emergency plan. www.Recreation.gov – This is a comprehensive source on recreation opportunities at National Parks, forests, monuments and other federal lands.

Save the Date

Save Our State Community Conversations

Proposed cuts to the state and federal budget could mean an economic crisis in Maryland in 2012. There have been nearly \$7 billion in state budget cuts made over the last five years and some elected officials will push for even deeper cuts in 2012, despite the negative impact it would have on our communities.

Cuts have led to increased unemployment and less attention and care given to those who need it the most. *Maryland needs growth and jobs, not more cuts to schools, public services, or health care.* We must pursue a balanced approach to provide a solution that keeps our schools great, our quality of life secure, and our jobs here.

This crisis affects every Marylander and every community in the state. What can we do about it? How can we protect Maryland's children, families in crisis, senior citizens, and public safety? In moments of crisis, either we pull together or fall apart.

Please join members of our community to discuss the challenges we face and the sensible solutions we need to keep moving Maryland forward.

November 1, E. Russell Hicks Middle School, Hagerstown, MD
6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

November 2, Goodpaster Hall, Room 195, St. Mary's College, St. Mary's City, MD
6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

November 7, Wicomico Room at Salisbury University, Salisbury, MD
6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

More dates and locations to be announced soon!

Sponsoring organizations:

ACLU-MD Education Reform Project • Advocates for Children and Youth • Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO • AFSCME-MD • AFT Maryland • Maryland Budget and Tax Policy Institute • Maryland Education Coalition • Maryland Retired School Personnel Association • Maryland State Education Association • Progressive Maryland • SEIU Maryland and DC State Council • UFCW Local 1994 MCGEO

Character Counts Coaches Needed

I recently saw the article in the Talbot Guide about TCRSPA and would like to ask any member to volunteer as a Character Coach. Retired teachers are the best because they already know classroom management (but the teacher remains with you). Time commitment is once a week 15 minutes per class.

Right now I have three K classes at White Marsh Elementary that need a coach to provide lessons and ideas, plus WMES has a Character Corner for books in their media center. Tilghman Elementary is in need of one or two coaches from grades 2 - 6 (there is only one class per grade and some can be combined because of the class sizes). You can also call me if you are interested in any other coaching opportunities.

Please let me know if anyone has any questions. Many thanks!!

**Susan Luby, Director
Character Counts Mid Shore, Inc.
410-819-0386**

Name Change

The Executive Board had it's meeting today, November 7, 2011. It has been proposed that we shorten our organization's name. Presently, we are Talbot County Public School Retired Personnel Association. A motion was made to shorten our name to Talbot County Retired School Personnel Association. The rationale being it would match the state association MRSPA and it will match our website address. A vote will be taken at the March luncheon.

Community Service Committee

The Community Service Committee would like to thank all members who gave donations for the Talbot County Humane Society. We will be collecting nonperishable food for the Neighborhood Service Center at our December luncheon.

If you have any questions, please call us. Thanks!

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



Gladys Giddens, Dorothy Palmer and Bertha Wilson at the MRSPA Convention

Jane Barton

by Peggy Mundt

Jane was born in December of 1918, so she will be turning 93 next month. She is up and going daily. She cooks, cleans house, shops, and does all of the things she has always done. That, in itself, is amazing. She likes to go to lunch with friends and keeps her memberships in good standing with the organizations she has joined. Her two favorite activities, tennis and singing, she has had to give up. Best of all, however, that sharp, active mind keeps an eye and ear on activities here and around the world.

Jane grew up in New Brunswick, NJ. She had one sister. The girls were close and throughout life they did many things together. Jane's father was the superintendent of construction of the 1939 World's Fair in New York. Jane and her sister would meet him at his office and go to the newest Broadway shows.

Jane attended Rider College in NJ. After graduating she took a position teaching in Netcong, NJ, a town in the foothills of the mountains. After four years, she felt she needed some experience as a secretary to teach her subject, so she got a job with Johnson & Johnson as secretary to the vice-president.

In 1945, she married Ken Barton. They had known each other since the age of four. (This year they celebrated their 66th anniversary.) She set up housekeeping on Nantucket, an island off the Massachusetts coast. The U.S. entered WWII and Ken was drafted. He entered the Coast Guard. After five European invasions, he was sent home for a rest. When his tour of duty was over, Ken entered Springfield College. Jane took a position at Holyoke Business College. Their first child, Kenny, was born in Springfield.

After graduation, Ken began his "Y" career in Torrington, Connecticut. Jane found a

teaching position at Wilby High School. Their second child, Jim, was born in Torrington. They next moved to Waterbury. Three years later, Ken was hired to build a YMCA in Easton, MD. They moved to the Eastern Shore in 1963.

Art Higginbottom was then president of the YMCA, trying to get a "Y" built here in Easton. He told Jane that he had a job for her in St. Michaels, but she told him she didn't drive. He mentioned this at SMHS and the secretary said, "No problem, Peggy will bring her." And I'm still bringing her to this day!

So Jane became our Business Ed department at SMHS. She taught typing (I can still hear her class typing in rhythm to "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree"), shorthand and "Office Practice" for 23 years. Since businesses used the old heavy calculators with a roll of paper, dictaphones and mimeograph machines, she had to know those pieces of equipment inside out.

Jane helped to establish Alpha Delta Kappa, the honorary sorority for women educators in Talbot County. The state organization awarded her their Spellman Award for her activity in the community.

Jane loves to help at her church. When asked, she happily cooks for church events, makes sandwiches for the homeless and hungry, and knits about a dozen sweaters each year for the church fundraiser. Every year she also crafts 200 favors for the place settings at the annual church dinner. Her reason for doing all of this, "It keeps me busy." The truth is, she loves to "do" for the church and for other people.

This time of year Jane and Ken head to Florida for the winter months. Jane and her family visited her father in New Smyrna Beach often, as did her sister. Upon retiring, they all knew where they wanted to spend the cold months. I'll bet when Jane gets this to read, she will be basking by the pool, soaking up the sun, enjoying their winter friends.

Membership Report

One of our main goals remains focused on building our membership . A strong local association will help make our state association strong. A strong state association will give us a strong voice in Annapolis. The state membership stands at 14, 330. State membership and local membership = 47.00 . Come and enjoy being a part of us. Talk with friends you know who could also become members and encourage them to join Persons interested in joining call me at 410-770-9372 for forms and information.

Dotty Olds
Membership Chairman

Luncheon Dates

Monday, December 5, 2011

Easton Club Waterview Grill

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Easton High School Cooking Class

Monday, June 4, 2012

Newly renovated Oxford Community Center

Winter Social Luncheon

We hope you can join us for our Winter Social Luncheon which will held on **Monday, December 5, 2011**, at the Easton Club's Waterview Grille. We will be meeting in the dining room to the left as you enter the main building. The room will be decorated in the holiday spirit and lunch will be served in festive style.

Agenda for Luncheon

11:30 a.m. Check in and Social Time

11:45 a.m. Our program for the luncheon will begin with a Remembrance Tribute to honor our departed members. Dorothy Palmer will be making this presentation.

12:00 p.m. Dotty Olds will introduce our MRSPA guests- Judith Zahren and Bonnie Brose, as well as Talbot County's Teacher of the Year, Angela Asmussen.

12:15 p.m. Lunch will be served. (\$17 this year)

1:00 p.m. Following lunch, Angela Asmussen will tell us about her year's experiences as Talbot County's Teacher of the Year.

The luncheon will close with drawings for Door Prizes and "50/50." Door Prizes will be given out at the luncheon. Remember if you won a door prize at the October Luncheon, you need to refill the bag with a small present and bring to this luncheon.

Telephone Tree Callers

Please call your members and remind them to have reservations in by November 29,2011.

E-Mail

Members will be reminded via e-mail (If we have your e-mail address!)

Menu

Garden Salad with Assorted Dressings on Table

Rolls and Butter

Tea and Coffee

Entrée Choose One:

Chicken Chesapeake (with Crab) and Roasted Potatoes

Chicken Chesapeake (without Crab) and Roasted Potatoes

Shrimp Marinara over Angel Hair Pasta with Spinach

Dessert Choose One:

Bread Pudding

Fruit Cup

Please call or mail reservations with your check (\$17)

by November 29th to

Mary Reeser
 358 St. Aubins Terrace

410-822-4410

or

Chic Harrison
 29300 Will Street

410-822-1209

Easton, MD 21012.

Sunshine Committee
submitted by Jan Middleton

As we've watched the leaves turn different colors, several people have needed "a ray of sunshine."

In September, a thinking of you card was sent to Doris Roach.

In October, a sympathy card was sent to Mary Reeser for the death of her brother. A sympathy card was sent to Jean Carrion for the death of her mom. Get well cards were sent to Polly Carroll, Jackie Greene, and Tanya Lawrence. A thinking of you card was sent to Ruth Seese.

If you know of anyone who needs "a ray of sunshine," call Jan at 410-822-7280.

"Always remember that you are absolutely unique, just like everyone else."

Margaret Meade

Telephone Tree

Please call your members and remind them to make reservations for our Winter Luncheon by Monday, November 29, 2011. The luncheon will be at the Easton Club Waterview Grill on Monday, December 5, 2011, at 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$17.00. If they want to car pool, please let us know when they call.

(See information on previous page.)

Please have them notify :

Mary Reeser
358 St. Aubins Terrace
410-822-4410
or
Chic Harrison
29300 Will Street
410-822-1209
Easton, MD 21012

Executive Board Meeting Dates

Feb. 6, 2012

May 7, 2012

TCEC @ 9:30 a.m.

All TCPSRPA members are invited to attend.

TCPSRPA
% Dotty Olds
7415 Tour Drive
Easton, MD 21601