

TALBOT COUNTY
RETIRED



SCHOOL PERSONNEL
ASSOCIATION

“Making Community Connections”

Welcome recent retirees, new members and returning members! We look forward to your ideas, input and participation as we begin another year of activities, advocacy and fellowship.

This year TCRSPA has co-presidents. **Debbie Chance** was in education for 38 years, as both a teacher at St. Michaels Middle School and an administrator at various schools and the central office in Caroline County. **Terry Callahan** taught English at Easton High School for 41 years after teaching French and Spanish in Baltimore County for two years.

We are both looking forward to representing your interests and enjoying your company at our general/luncheon meetings this year. As a reminder, you are always welcome to attend the Executive Board meetings.

Please take time to look at the requested by-laws change to the association constitution. As currently written, the TCRSPA constitution has no provision for co-presidents. Therefore, this by-laws change will be voted on at the first general membership/luncheon meeting at Chesapeake College this fall.

Summer brings a time for reflection. The Community Service committee kept busy collecting supplies for area organizations – Care Packs, Little Free Libraries, the Neighborhood Service Center and the Talbot County Senior Center at Brooklets Place. Some members volunteered to help with Care Packs, others volunteered time in schools and with community organizations. This year’s Martha Greene Scholarship recipients, two middle schoolers from the St. Michaels area, were chosen to attend summer camps at the YMCA. For the first time, TCRSPA awarded a scholarship to a senior in the Teacher’s Academy to aid in her journey to becoming a teacher. Members also attended Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) meetings, legislative meetings and local Board of Education meetings. As you can see, we are a busy group!

Whether autumn means you now can sleep late (or maybe you will still wake up on “school time”), we hope you enjoy retirement and look forward to seeing you!



Terry Callahan and Debbie Chance

Also from our co-presidents:

By-Laws: The TCRSPA constitution stipulates that a by-laws change must be voted on at a general membership meeting. Therefore, this change will be voted on at the luncheon at Chesapeake College on October 30.

By-Laws change:

Article III, Section 1

h. Co-presidents may be elected. In the event of co-presidents, the vice-president position may be left open as one co-president may preside in the absence of the other.

TCRSPA Officers for 2018-2020

Co-Presidents: Terry Callahan, Debbie Chance,

Secretary: Eileen Kuhn

Treasurer: Jan McCrea

Members at Large: Pat Clark, Liz Wildasin

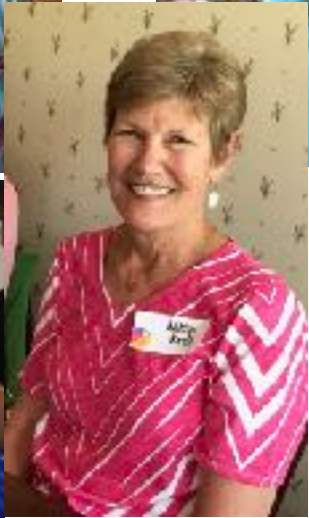
The Talbot County Retired School Personnel Association held its end-of-year luncheon on June 7th at Chesapeake Landing Restaurant.

The Memorial Book Scholarship was awarded to Mrs. Theresa Ward, Media Specialist at Easton Elementary, Dobson Building. This annual scholarship is presented in honor of members of TCRSPA who have passed away during the previous year. This year's scholarship was in honor of Janice Middleton, Elaine Thompson, and Audrey Woolston. TCRSPA also shared the name of the recipient of its first annual book scholarship. This scholarship is presented to a graduating senior who has been a part of the Teacher Academy and who plans to pursue a career in education. This year's scholarship went to Jordan Nielson, a senior at Easton High School. The final order of business was the induction of officers for 2018-2020. Serving as co-presidents are Mrs. Terry Callahan and Dr. Debbie Chance. Mrs. Eileen Kuehn will continue to serve as secretary, and Mrs. Jan McCrea will continue to serve as treasurer.

Submitted by Debbie Chance



Summer Luncheon in June at Chesapeake Landing





Life after Retirement: Heather Crow

submitted by Dee Rein

As a 6th grader Heather Crow was fortunate to have a favorite teacher who taught geography. That teacher entered Heather's painting in the county fair. With \$5 in prize money Heather was rolling in wealth and had found her calling: she'd become an art teacher. Art has continued to give her a wealth of experiences throughout her life.

After college at Bowling Green University, Heather taught Art for 4 years in Ohio and Indiana. Three children and eighteen years later she left the nest to return to teaching, helping to send those young people to college. By then she and her husband Roger were living in Talbot County, having previously been city dwellers in Atlanta, Charlotte and Indianapolis. Substituting and then teaching Art full time at St. Michaels High School allowed her to follow her primary interest in the welfare of individuals as well as share her content. Teaching was about more than just art. One favorite memory comes from an Art Appreciation course at Chesapeake College. Attending students, ages 17-50, were asked on opening day to rank their attitudes toward Modern Art by standing in an appropriate spot on a value line indicating the spectrum of attitudes from love to hate for Modern Art. One man at the hate end was wearing a tie that Heather pointed out, much to his surprise, was actually very modern in its colors, asymmetry and abstract design. By the end of the course he expressed appreciation that his perceptions of art had changed so much. Under Heather's guidance the individual had grown. With good health and the time to pursue interests, Heather has enjoyed retirement. She has been swimming at the YMCA at (yawn!) 5:30 a.m., has illustrated two books, reads, paints, hosts grandchildren frequently and watches almost every Washington Nationals baseball game. However, she notes the key challenge at this stage of life is "finishing well," a phrase that speaks to her hope that Christ would evaluate her life positively. She believes "intentional use of time" with a focus on people is the most important use of her life now. Through Talbot Bible Church she teaches a class in hospitality at home, opening one's home to meet other people's needs. This follows the biblical counsel of Deuteronomy 10:18 New Living Translation : "18 He ensures that justice. He shows love to the orphans and widows receive gives them food and clothing." Hence, Heather and Roger are active in supporting the immigrant community in our area as well as with Talbot Mentors and Young Life. Trips to Kazakhstan expand their aid to orphans, as well as blind and deaf people.



Retirement has allowed Heather time to visit one son and his family in Denmark as well as support her two other children and 9 grandchildren, including two very welcome new babies. Family connections are very important. Heather advises retirees to be involved with their families and with their faith communities. She observes that we tend to care for our physical needs but should remember that we are a "trichotomy of body, soul and spirit" and should attend to spirit for personal well being at this stage of life, a thought well worth our consideration for a rich life.

2018 Martha Greene Summer Scholarship Recipients

Talbot County Retired School Personnel Association has awarded an enrichment opportunity to two Talbot County middle schoolers every summer since 2008. Martha Greene was a true pillar of the Unionville community. Her service to her students, dating back to the 1930's, included educating and caring for them all year long. Mrs. Greene made special efforts to provide her students with summer enrichment experiences, and TCRSPA continues this tradition in her honor.

Brianna and Brandon from St. Michaels Middle School were this year's recipients. Both chose to participate in camps at their local YMCA.



Fall Luncheon

When: Thursday, October 30, 2018

Where: Chesapeake College, Higher Education Center, Please park in **Lot D** (or in the circle drive, if the lot is full)

Time: 11:30 AM. (Registration) 11:45 (Welcome, Arts Award, Budget)
12:15 (Lunch)

*Please let us know, when you register, if you are interested in carpooling: **EVFD** parking lot at 11:00 AM.*

Menu: Maryland Crab Vegetable Soup or Chicken and Rice Soup
Herb Roasted Chicken Breast, Toasted Almonds, Tomatoes, Hard Boiled Egg,
Carrots and Seedless Grapes, Served on a Bed of Fresh Mixed Greens
with Assorted Dressings
Assorted Pies
Coffee, Hot Tea, Iced Tea, and Water

Program: Representatives from the different university partners will join Debbie Urry to share current degree programs offered at the ES Higher Education Center. Learn about the Social Work and Education degrees from Salisbury University and Notre Dame of MD University.

Cost: \$15.00 Reservations must be made by **Friday, October 19th**. The committee would prefer that payment be mailed prior to the luncheon. If reservation is made by phone, you are responsible to make the payment. Money can not be refunded after the committee has finalized the number of people attending with Chesapeake College.

Thanks for your help with this matter.

Please make \$15.00 check payable to **TCRSPA**: Send, so it is received by **October 19th**, to one of the following:

Mary Reeser, 358 St. Aubins Terrace, Easton, Md 21601 (410-822-4410) or
Chic Harrison, 29300 Will St., Easton, Md 21601 (410-822-1209) or
Pat Chapman, 802 Chapel Farm Drive, Easton, Md 21601 (443-786-8617)

50/50 Raffle, and Martha Greene Scholarship Donation will be available.

Also, please remember your donation of individual food items for **CarePacks**.

BE SURE TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 6TH

When Marylanders approved casino gaming, we thought the new revenue would increase education funding. While almost \$2 billion in casino revenue went into the Education Trust Fund – which can only be used for funding public education – nearly the same amount of existing funding was *shifted* from education to other parts of the state budget. The result? The new revenue from casinos *didn't add* to existing funding; it supplanted or simply maintained existing, minimum levels.

Passing (Constitutional Amendment) Question 1, which will be on the General Election ballot on November 6, will Fix the Fund, stop this budget gimmick, and ensure that casino revenues go to *increasing* or supplementing school funding over current levels. This could be an influx of \$500 million dollars within 4 years to education funding.

Because local school systems would benefit from this additional revenue, it could mean better protection for the health benefits you enjoy as a retired educator.

To learn more, go to www.fixthefund.org and

Please VOTE YES on Question 1 this November 6th!!

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Anyone with a new email address (especially former Verizon emails), please contact Jan McCrea at jmccrea7678@gmail.com with your update right away!!

**Luncheons for
2018-2019**

Thursday, October 30
Chesapeake College
Higher Education Center

Thursday, December 6
Latitude 38 Restaurant
Oxford

Tuesday, March 26
Chef Cook Class @ EHS

Thursday, June 6
Chesapeake Landing

**Executive Board
Meeting Dates**

Nov. 5, 2018

Feb. 4, 2019

April 8, 2019

TCEC @ 9:30 a.m.

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

Welcome to Our New Members

Lee Hutchison
Freddie McCracken
Carla Hill
Alice Penchenski
Eunice Roberts
June Melchoir
Kim Nichols

Please invite any TCPS retirees to join us!
Or contact me pjford@goeaston.net.

CarePacks provides weekend meals for students who need them. If you would like to help on the packing days (September 20, October 18, November 15, December 13, January 17, February 14, March 14, April 11, May 9) at 9am to count and organize bags for students from each school; or show up later (noonish) to help pack each bag "assembly line" fashion for the students. Show up at the old Black and Decker building or contact me at pjford@goeaston.net for more information.

Community Service Committee

Committee 2017/18 Review

During the 2017/18 year, the Community Service Committee accepted donations for the following: Care Packs of Talbot County, Little Free Libraries, the Neighborhood Center, and Talbot Senior Center. Care Packs has a mission of preventing weekend hunger to Talbot County Students. Little Free Libraries are placed in neighborhoods to provide easy access to books 24 hours/7 days a week. Our non-perishable donations helped the Neighbor Center fill Christmas baskets and add to their food pantry. Our generous donations to Talbot Senior Center provided them with much needed supplies and allowed them to allocate more funds to other needs.

Many thanks to all member who were able to donate cash, checks or items to the above causes.

September

Many thanks to all who gave donations to Talbot Senior Center in June. The items were greatly appreciated. Our generous donations allowed the Senior Center to allocate more funds to Meals on Wheels and other programs.

At our October Luncheon we will be collecting non-perishable items for Care Packs of Talbot County. They are in need of the following: applesauce and fruit cups, filled crackers, small packages of peanuts, trail mixes, & pretzels, cereal & granola bars, raisins, easy open canned soups & pastas, instant lunch noodles, and single servings of cereal & oatmeal.

If you have questions please call us.

Bennie Milton and Doris Roach
410-476-3734 410-822-3563

CONSUMER EDUCATION

Submitted By Doris Valliant

SOME TRAVEL TIPS FOR FALL

Fall is a great time to travel, and being retired makes it easy to book a trip. Before booking a fare on an online travel agency such as Expedia or Orbitz, search google.com/flights to see all of the carriers that serve the route you're flying. Then check the airlines own sites to see whether you can find an even lower fare. Fares can vary considerably for flights that are just a few hours apart and at crosstown airports. Make sure that your flight preferences still are valid for these changes.

Also, use price alerts. Kayak will email you weekly or even daily notices when a price falls. This is a great service when you are shopping for airfare well ahead of your planned trip. You can still change your mind, even after you purchased your ticket. By law, you can cancel a booking without a penalty for 24 hours after you pay for it, as long as you're not traveling for at least a week. Prices change all the time, so keep an eye out and if you find a better price within that 24-hour period, take the better fare.

Score the best seats on the plane by checking seat availability 72 hours before departure. That is when airlines may start releasing those seats that were reserved earlier, but now are available because people have upgraded or canceled. This means you might be able to pick a great spot without paying extra for it. Check out seatguru.com to see maps of most airplanes. These maps show seat pitch and width. Green seats have more room; yellow seats have at least one drawback (no window, limited recline or leg room, or proximity to a galley or restroom); red seats have multiple drawbacks.

Consider enrolling in TSA Pre-Check. Go to universalenroll.dhs.gov and fill out a form; then make an appointment to visit an enrollment center listed on the website. Pre-Check participants are not required to take off their shoes, jackets or belts, or remove laptops or bottles with liquids in their bags. The cost is \$85 for five years if you qualify.

If you're making a road trip instead of flying (and what better to enjoy the beautiful fall scenery than through your car window), you can save money on gas along the way by using the online app, GasBuddy. This online tracking app found a difference of 92 cents per gallon in some stations that were only a few blocks apart.

A word of caution for car travelers: if you're not sure about road conditions such as flooding, call MD 511 or go online to www.MD511.org.

Whatever way you choose to travel this fall, these tips may help save you some money or provide you with more cash to use on your vacation.

DISCOUNTS AT BJ'S WHOLESALE CLUB FOR MRSPA MEMBERS

Did you know that BJ's offers discounted membership and renewals for MRSPA members? You also receive a free additional month and a free additional card for a family member. You cannot get this discount at a BJ's location. You must either call or email Melissa Lynch for this offer. Email her at mlynch@bjs.com or call her at 443-271-1110.

Excerpts from Talbot Teachers' Tales 1976

(Talbot teachers' experiences from decades past)

"It was quite a thrill to receive an appointment as principal of a two-room school in Carroll County. In those depression years, many graduates did not receive assignments....When students were absent several days, the attendance officer advised us to visit their homes. The Starners [where they boarded] told us we were likely to get shot. So, we left the visiting to the attendance officer." *Loleta Callahan, "Deep Run School in 1929-1930"*

"During the depression in the early 1930's, I have gone as long as four months without receiving any [pay] at all but have finally gotten it all....I have taught when there was no tenure law and no sick leave and also when I was under tenure and with twenty day cumulative sick leave. Since the greater part of my classroom teaching was in the field of mathematics, I saw the effect of Sputnik and the drive for the so-called New Math." *Walter W. Mooney, "Highlights of My Teaching Experience"*

"Every summer the schoolyard [Kirkham School] grew up in weeds and seedlings and had to be cleared in order to have any play space. The children and I did this work. Out of my \$60.00 per month salary, I bought a dodge ball and jump rope for them." *Mary F. Clough, "Some Random Recollections of My First Year of Teaching" (September, 1920)*

Sunshine Committee

submitted by Brenda Davidson

Sunshine News

May-cards for this month included Thinking of You for Midge Coppersmith and a Sympathy card for a Bonnie Wager on the loss of her Father. In June we received a "Thank You" note from Ms. Blanche Walker for sending her Congratulations on her Retirement as an Easton Crossing Guard. We also sent members Joyce and Harold Schriver a sympathy card on the loss of their son, Brian. We sent condolences to Mary Reeser on the loss of her husband, Wayne and to Phyllis Pope on the loss of her Father. We remembered Peggy Mundt with a Thinking of you note. Congratulations for new promotions for Administration positions within the school system were sent to the following employees- CarolAnne Burkhardt, Ali Strickland, Corey Devaric, and LuAnn McKelvey. In July, we remembered Midge Coppersmith with Get Well wishes. We also sent a Thinking of You note to Joyce and Harold. Last month we sent our sympathy to the family of member Mrs. MaryBell Callahan on her recent death. We also sent Get Well thoughts to Doug Gibson.

Thanks to all of the "Back To School" memories (next page):

Co-President **Terry Callahan** began her teaching career in 1962 as a Foreign Language teacher at Lansdowne Middle School. “The admin decided to give classes in French and Spanish to all 7th graders and the top third of 8th graders. I had over 300 students over that year. Classes were in modules. I might have a 20 min class then a 5 min planning break, then an hour class with a 20 min planning break, and so on. Also, it was a windowless school and the air conditioning broke down both years I was there.”

Midge Coppersmith shares with us - “I was a secondary English teacher piloting the new Talbot Kindergarten program in 1970 with 3 other out-of-field people. The first day I laid out my 20 brand new picture puzzles for the kids’ first day. That night I took the 20 empty puzzle frames home with all 400 pieces in a bag, and my husband put them together. That was one of my many early lessons in what not to do in kindergarten. (Hint: Number code the puzzles on the backs of the pieces.)”

Member **Heather Crow** shares with us - “My first year of teaching, just barely out of college, my school custodian took me by the arm in the hall and not-too-politely reminded me as he abruptly turned me around toward the door, that kids were not allowed in the building until school started. Hahaha! Ahhhh, to look that young again!!!”

From member **Jane Thompson** - “My best memory of my first few years teaching is that my school in Virginia still baked their own bread and pizza crust so the school smelled like baking bread everyday. And the staff would do a “field trip” for how to bake bread showing their huge mixer. Of course, this was so long ago that I also taught reading with Sally, Dick and Jane (and Tom, Susan and Betty). Guess I’m lucky that I didn’t have to light the wood stove in my classroom each morning!”

From member **Jean Carrion** - “My first classroom was previously a conference room. I had 9 old sewing machines as desks. The only materials were 100 paperback dictionaries in a closet and a lot of dittos in a file cabinet. I joined a teacher’s book club and made most of my materials. I wrote to every animal club, the Moose, Elks, Lions, and asked for donations to buy books. Each of them sent me \$50 which was a lot of money in 1980.”

From member **Penny Plack** - “First year in Talbot County-case load 23 students (LD). Test each student, write IEP for each, get parent permission for them to be in the program and write a lesson plan for each student for each day of the week. Oh yea and MAKE activities & games for them none available to buy! 24 hr. day not nearly enough hrs. Second year of teaching same, but since I did such a great job add 2 more grade levels and TEST every kindergartener at the beginning of school for a learning disability. Eventually went from k-3 to k-6 two schools and any non reader was mine as well because the reading specialist only tested did not do any remediation. Any question why I quit after 11 yrs., a Masters Supervision Certification & ending salary of \$18,000.00 in 1982.”

And from member **Jim Lohr** - “My first year of teaching began in the fall of ‘57 in Oxford Road. Francis Holsinger was principal, Herb Santucci was VP. We had grades 7-12 and segregation was still in place. Arthur Higginbottom was our supervisor. He would ask for plans on the day he came to observe but that was the only time that plans were required for presentation. However, I wished to be prepared, so went to work and planned meticulously for my Chem and General Sciences classes. Unfortunately, only one day into my set of plans, Mr. Holsinger changed the order of periods, splitting my lab periods. I quickly learned the wisdom of having Plan B, C and D, depending on what the order of periods might be. My Cross-Country course ran near the Quaker Meeting House and along Paper Mill Pond. The janitors never could understand where it went, so on the days before a meet I would use my free periods to take the little Farmall Cub and cut the path. I almost always made it back in time for my next class. We who were involved in “minor” activities were lucky to get gas money to drive our own cars to away meets!”

TCRSPA

c/o Terry Callahan

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