

TALBOT COUNTY RETIRED



SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

The Little Red Schoolhouse

President's Message

Happy (almost) Spring! So far, so good for a mild winter. Trees are budding and daffodils are starting to shoot up. The past holiday season was a busy time for many of us. In November TCPS held its Mission Possible fundraiser. It was a very enjoyable evening as graduates of the county's Easton, St. Michaels and Moton High Schools were recognized (including our own TCRSPA member Roger Clark). The evening gives teachers trying to get funding for projects "show and tell" in hopes of achieving their needed amount. All of the projects got at least partially funded and many got entirely funded. What a nice time to applaud the honorees and help teachers expand their students' learning opportunities.

Our Holiday Luncheon at Latitude 38 was well attended and everyone had a good time as evidenced by the smiles and enthusiasm shared. The TCPS Teacher of the Year, Kevin Carroll, and the Support Staff of the Year, Sindy Reyes, shared some of their experiences and insights with the group.

Thank you to Pat Clark and her team for once again organizing and conducting the

Pre-Retirement Workshop. This program has helped many potential retirees see the options available to them.

Our Supplies for Success trailer initiative in partnership with TCPS is up and running. Teachers and staff are excited about the opportunity to provide more learning materials to their students. Some first-year teachers strongly expressed their gratitude for the supplies; they had never realized the amount of supplies they would need before.

Get ready for our Spring Luncheon on March 24 at EHS in the Culinary Arts suite. This is always a popular get-together so please get your responses in early to assure your place. Remember we'll have to supply copies of our IDs for security reasons. (Directions are on the luncheon form.) Hope to see you there!



Debbie
& Terry

TCRSPA Spring Luncheon on Tuesday, March 24, 2020

Place: Easton High School Chef Cook Classroom – a delicious lunch prepared by the students.

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. **Please try to arrive by 11:00!**

SECURITY PROCEDURES: EHS staff is asking that we try to complete security prior to March 24 to save any inconvenience at the time of the luncheon. You can:

~Send a copy of your ID to Chic with your reservation and we will take care of security.

~Stop by the main office at EHS and have your ID scanned by Tuesday, March 17.

~Scan a copy of your ID directly to ahall@talbotschools.org. (Copies of ID will be shredded.)

~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 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 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**.

There will also be a 50/50 raffle available, the collection for the “Teacher Academy Scholarship” and the community service project donation listed in the February newsletter.

MENU Name _____

Paid ____

Soup (Choose One)

___ Maryland Vegetable Crab

___ Chicken Corn Chowder

Salad (Choose One)

___ Mixed Greens with assorted dressings

___ Fresh Fruit Salad

Entrée (Choose One)

___ Open Faced Roast Beef Sandwich, with mashed potatoes and gravy

___ Grilled Chicken on Rice, with side and Sweet Potato Biscuit

Dessert (Choose One)

___ Double Chocolate Mousse

___ Vanilla Cream Meringue Pie

___ Fresh Fruit

Tea or Coffee will be offered.

There will also be a 50/50 raffle available, the collection for the “Teacher Academy Scholarship” and the Community Service project donation listed in the February newsletter.

Holiday Luncheon at Latitude 38



TCRSPA Holiday Luncheon

On December 11th, TCRSPA members celebrated the holiday season at the annual Holiday Luncheon at Latitude 38 in Oxford. Teacher of the Year, Kevin Carroll (EHS) and Support Staff of the Year, Sindy Reyes (EES) were honored, and they each shared some of their experiences. Dorothy Palmer presented the Memorial Service to recognize our departed TCRSPA members. We honored the lives of Thelma Clash, Mary Jarrell and Kim Nichols. Brenda Davidson introduced a new Emeritus member, Lois Yeager. Several members were winners of door prizes, the 50/50 Raffle, and a huge Christmas Cheer Basket.

Luncheons 2020

Tuesday, March 24
 Chef Cook Class at EHS
Tuesday, June 9
 Chesapeake Landing

Executive Board Meeting Date

April 6, 2020 @ 9:30 a.m.
TCEC Conference Room #1
All TCRSPA members are invited to attend.

Community Service Committee

Many thanks to everyone who donated classroom supplies to TCPS educators. The items were delivered to the board office and were very much appreciated.

At our next luncheon we will be collecting new and gently used books for Little Free Libraries. They are in need of children's books. If you have questions please call us.

If you have questions please call.

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

Life after Retirement: Pam Clay

submitted by Dee Rein

Pam Clay grew up as a Talbot County native, graduating from St. Michaels Jr. Sr. High School in 1973 with specialty in business subjects as well as college preparation. She returned as a college graduate to join Becky Moore in the business department at Easton High School. Pam recounts her beginnings as an educator, noting some trepidation at working with the formidable, well respected Ms. Moore. Would Pam be able to do a good job? To her pleasure she found Becky most helpful, providing guidance, strength and becoming a good friend. Another memorable person in her career was Bob Hall, whom she recollected as the best principal she ever had because he believed in children and was fair. Be it adults or youth, Pam has interacted with many people throughout her career in Talbot County.

Throughout Pam's years she spent 17 at Easton High as a business educator and another 2.5 traveling part time to St. Michaels in the same role. In 1994 changes in the school system led her to become a technical trainer for teachers learning to use computers. We all appreciated the skills she helped us develop. In 2005 Pam stepped into the role of career and technology supervisor where she remained until 2018 when she retired. Well, she says she retired...but there's some debate on that! Currently Pam works contractually for Talbot County Public Schools part time, writing career and technology grants, dealing with certification and student assessments and keeping folks up to date on state and regional information in the field. She also is a Beyond Diversity facilitator for the school system's equity program. As a board member for the Talbot County Education Foundation, Pam continues to influence education in our county.

Pam notes that one of the challenges she has faced in retirement is learning how to say, "No." Activities with the St. Michaels YMCA board and New St. John's United Methodist Church in Wittman, where she plays the piano on Sundays, round out her days. Her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., is dear to her heart, as are its members. She enjoys caregiving for her aunt and uncle, Bertha and Quentin Wilson, her godparents. Pam's mother lives with Pam and her husband and daughter and is a blessing in myriad ways, including cooking for them all. Of course, time on the screened porch with her husband, Robert, and a cup of coffee is a relaxing start to the day. In her free time Pam enjoys reading romance novels on her Kindle by black authors like Brenda Jackson, Angie Daniels, and Delaney Diamond as well as books by Michelle Obama. She advises retirees to, "Not sweat the small stuff," and, "Do what you think is best for you."

"I wouldn't have changed my path for the world, even with ups and downs," Pam comments. She's pleased to meet former students, seeing the lives she's touched and how these people have grown into successful parents, grandparents, and productive citizens in our community. Pam Clay turns to the Bible for spiritual enrichment, especially Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Pam's strength has pervaded the lives of so many people, colleagues and students, and continues to do so as she enjoys her current, somewhat retired life.



Emeritus Members News

TCRSPA members joined Jane Barton at Candlelight Cove to celebrate her 101st birthday on December 4th. Sadly, Jane passed away on December 28th.

Patricia Mavity, who was 100 years old this year, passed away on December 26th.



Supplies for Success Update

Our joint project with TCPS is up and running! The Supplies for Success trailer opened at the change of semester in January. Approximately 20 teachers took advantage of the chance to obtain donated supplies. In all, 257 single items and packages (pencils, crayons, glue, etc.) were given out.

Charlene Gould, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, spearheads this project with TCRSPA's support. She has been instrumental in approaching area businesses to obtain supplies. TCRSPA used the community service opportunity at the Holiday Luncheon to donate supplies. TCRSPA has also asked retired staff and staff planning to retire to donate supplies they will no longer use. Popular supplies include loose-leaf paper, folders, pencils, tissues, crayons and notebooks. Also, headphones/ear buds are needed teacher-requested items. Posters, teaching materials and everything else a classroom can use are all welcome.

Supplies were available one afternoon at the end of January. First, Charlene emailed staff about this project and encouraged them to contact her ahead of time with their requests. For those who did, bags with requested items were packed and sent to the teachers' schools. Requested supplies were also packaged for teachers to pick up on the designated afternoon. Staff could also come to look around and get materials. TCRSPA members were present to give out bags and make note of supplies needing replacement. It was so nice to see the appreciation of those who got supplies and hear how these items would help their classes. The goal is to provide an opportunity to give and receive supplies one day at the end of each month. Please get in touch with Charlene Gould (cgould@talbotschools.org) for more information or to donate supplies.

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The MRSPA annual Legislative Workshop was held Wednesday, November 13, 2019, at the Miller Senate Office Building in Annapolis. Co-President Debbie Chance and TCRSPA member Sharon Corkran attended as our representatives.

Dr. David Juppe, Department of Legislative Services, summarized what to expect in the 2020–2021 state budget, and emphasized the possible impacts of the Kirwan Commission recommendations. The Executive Director of the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System, Dean Kenderdine, updated members on the status and stability of the pension system. Virginia Crespo, MRSPA's Legislative Aide, reviewed the legislation that the Legislative Committee acted on last session, highlighting successes. Rachel Hise, a senior policy analyst with the Department of Legislative Services, highlighted the recommendations of the Kirwan Commission, the proposed funding formula from the Commission subcommittee, and possible impacts on state and local budgets. This is a topic that we all must pay attention to both at the state level as well as the local level!

If you are interested in attending the Lobby Day to be held in Annapolis on March 5, 2020, please let your local presidents know. Topics and talking points will be reviewed beforehand. Also, please watch your inbox for requests to contact your legislator from January to April. The 2020 General Assembly session is going to be a busy one and begins on January 8.

Spring 2020 CONSUMER EDUCATION

Submitted by Doris Valliant

It's Tax Time!

What do you do with all your previous tax returns and supporting documents? The IRS recommends retaining copies of your tax returns and supporting documents for a minimum of 3 years to a maximum of 7 years. Three years is a timeframe that allows you to file amended returns, or handle questions that arise on your tax return. Seven years is a timeframe that allows for adjustment in case of bad debt deduction or a loss from worthless securities. Also, you need to keep records relating to property you own for 3 to 7 years after the year in which you dispose of the property. For tax help at tax time, go to IRS.gov and click on the "Taxpayer Assistance Center Office Locator" for a center nearby. And remember to dispose of old tax records properly. Shred your federal and state tax records, as well as any financial or health records before disposing of them.

The 2020 Census Is Coming!

Beginning in March, check your mail for your invitation to complete the Census online. All households have the option of responding online, by mail or by phone. You should be counted at your usual residence (where you sleep most of the time), and every member of your household must be counted. The Census is easy and the questions are simple. How many people are living or staying at your home on April 1; is your home rented or owned? Questions ask about the sex, age and race of each person in your home and are these persons of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin. The Census also wants to know about the relationship of each person in your home. How important is your response to the Census? Governments, businesses, communities and nonprofits all rely on the data that the Census questions produce to make critical decisions.

The Census will never ask for your social security number, for money or donations, for anything on behalf of a political party, or for your bank and credit card account numbers. If you get a call from someone claiming to be from the Census Bureau who asks you these questions, it's a scam. Visit Avoiding Frauds and Scams at <https://2020census.gov/en> for more information.

After a Hospital Stay, Check Your Meds!

If you're in the hospital and your blood pressure medicine was changed, be sure to inform your primary care doctor. According to JAMA Internal Medicine, a study of 4,000 people found that those who were discharged after unrelated treatment with higher or newly prescribed blood pressure meds were 23% more likely to be back in the hospital within 30 days.

TCRSPA Members Attend TCPS Education Foundation Event



Terry Callahan, Doris Valliant and Peggy Ford joined Roger Clark, one of the three distinguished TCPS alumni honorees at the TCPS Education Foundation fall fund-raising event, “Mission Possible.” Roger Clark, Margaret Rennals and Walter Chase shared testimonials about the impact public education had on their lives. Guests also were invited make donations to fund grants that teachers showcased that evening. Founded in 2016, the TCPS Education Foundation exists solely to foster learning opportunities for students that go beyond the standard, the norm or the conventional by awarding grants to teachers. The Foundation asks teachers about their innovative instructional ideas and how these ideas would enhance learning for their students. They also ask teachers what they would need in order to execute their plans. Teachers have applied for grants for such instructional ideas as robotic engineering, computational creativity, population ecology, marketing, and archaeology.

Sunshine Committee

submitted by Brenda Davidson

We sent some “sunshine” to our following members during the past few months. In December we remembered Jackie Greene with good health wishes after her back surgery. We remembered the families of Emeritus members Jane Barton and Pat Mavity on their recent deaths. We also remembered our member Betty Seymour on the death of her son. In January we sent “get well” wishes to members “Miss Chick” Harrison, Jan McCrea, Dee Rein, Doris Roach, and Ann Yingling. A sympathy card was sent to the family of Joanne Murray upon her death in late January. We also sent a sympathy card to emeritus member Ella Morton on the death of her husband. We remembered Peggy Ford upon the passing of her husband John with a card and a memorial donation to the Chesapeake Multicultural Center.

And, we sent some “LOVE” valentines to our dear Emeritus members and Shut In members.

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

Brenda

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TCRSPA

c/o Terry Callahan

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