

# TALBOT COUNTY RETIRED



# SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

The Little Red Schoolhouse

## President's Message

Dear Members,

Well, here we are finding ourselves in the month of November. The days are getting a bit shorter, the weather is a bit chillier and waterfowl festival is the EVENT in Easton. Football is on T.V. non-stop it seems, and the holidays are here! Busy times, that's for sure.

I hope everyone will reach out to connect to a prospective member so that we can grow. Remember this is the only organization that provides legislative monitoring of issues that concern our retirement benefits and pensions at the state level. It was great to see so many recent retirees at our October Luncheon.

Our holiday luncheon will feature special guests Joe Gamble, Talbot County Sheriff, and Teacher of the Year Katy Fox and Assistant Teacher of the Year Tonya Hayman. Hope you make a reservation with Mary, Chic or Pat to come. Last year's event at Latitude was fabulous soooo we are repeating this successful luncheon. Once again we will raffle a holiday basket.

Check out our TCRSPA website. Be sure to stay informed !

Trips ?? Newly retired members would enjoy some travel opportunities. Maybe a visit to a theater, perhaps to D.C. It just doesn't get any better than this!! Some of our retired associations are adding trips to their yearly calendars. Think on this. Interested in making up a committee to investigate the possibilities ? Let someone on the Executive Board know with a simple phone call.

In closing , I wish you good health and happy days with friends, enjoying your well earned retirement.



**Dotty Olds, President**

# Fall Luncheon at Chesapeake College



Mollie L. Connolly, the music teacher at White Marsh Elementary School has been an educator for thirty-eight years in Talbot County. Mrs. Connolly received a B.S. degree and Masters degree in music education from Salisbury University. She is also the organist for St. Luke's United Methodist Church in St. Michaels and has remained in this position for forty-three years.

Mrs. Connolly has been a member of the school improvement team and a mentor for new teachers. She has been a past volunteer for the Waterfowl Festival, Festival of Trees, Talbot County Fair, Pets on Wheels, Christmas in St. Michaels, and is a member of St. Mark's Methodist Church.

Mrs. Connolly has been the recipient of the "Outstanding Music Teacher Award for Excellence" by the Maryland Music Educators Association, the "Outstanding Arts Educator for Talbot County" by the Talbot County Arts Council, and Who's Who Among America's Teachers.

Born and raised in Talbot County, Mrs. Connolly and her husband Charles, the Director of Finance for Talbot County Schools, have one daughter, Keegan Connolly Fetherman who was recently married and resides in Annapolis. Three years ago, Mrs. Connolly started a family business, KMC Creations, which designs, manufactures, and sells infinity scarves, jewelry, and children's toys.

**Arts Award Recipient**  
**2017-2018**  
**Mollie Connolly**





## News from Debbie Chance ~

The Talbot County Retired School Personnel Association (TCRSPA) held its annual fall luncheon at Chesapeake College on October 12, 2017. Following a brief business meeting, attendees enjoyed a delicious lunch and were introduced to seven new members who were in attendance. TCRSPA had an increase of thirteen new members this year and received recognition from the state association for surpassing its membership goal. The 2017-2018 Arts Award recipient, Mollie Connolly, was presented with a check to be used for her music classes. Mrs. Connolly, the music teacher at White Marsh Elementary School, has been an educator for thirty-eight years in Talbot County. She has been the recipient of the “Outstanding Music Teacher Award for Excellence” by the Maryland Music Educators Association, the “Outstanding Arts Educator for Talbot County” by the Talbot County Arts Council, and Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers. TCRSPA is proud to be able to support the arts in our schools.



Membership Chairperson, Peggy Ford (back left) welcomes seven of the thirteen new members of TCRSPA.

Front Row: Vickie Wilson, Alana Turner, Karen Melhunik

Back Row: P Ford, Penny Plack, Shirley Gannon, Linda DePrima, Diane Brice.



Dotty Olds, with Mary Reeser, Peggy Ford, Brenda Davidson, and Pat Clark, presents Superintendent Kelly Griffith with \$200 for our sister school in Houston, Texas.

### **Community Service Committee**

Many thanks to everyone who donated to Care Packs. The items were delivered and greatly appreciated. Thanks go out to Peggy Ford and others who assisted with delivering the items during our absence.

At our December luncheon, we will be collecting new and gently used children's books for "Little Free Libraries". Little Free Libraries were started in Talbot County by Theresa Ward, A TCPS employee, in memory of her daughter. Little Free Libraries can be found in fifty states and seventy countries. These libraries allow access to books 24 hours - 7 days a week. These libraries are small, free standing structures that hold books. Currently there are two Little Free Libraries in our community with more planned.

Please call us with any questions.

Thanks,

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

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## Life after Retirement: Bennie Milton

Bennie Milton grew up in Spartanburg, South Carolina. When scanning a map for someplace near the ocean that also had access to big cities, she found Talbot County. Most importantly, as a single woman she sought a safe rural atmosphere and found it here. Recruited by John Barrett's visit to Winston-Salem State University and hired by Bill Best in 1972, Bennie began her teaching career at what was then Upper County Elementary School, which later became Cordova District Elementary. Starting with sixth grade and experiencing grades 3, 4, and 5, Bennie eventually settled with 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, whom she describes as "not babyish but mature enough to focus on learning." A masters degree in Psychology from Washington College enhanced her understanding of her students. It was a joy for her to be able to be innovative and creative with these children, watch them grow, develop rapport with the students and Cordova community and touch so many lives.

Upon retiring Bennie found herself for the first time in her life with nothing to do. Although retirement initially seemed boring, Bennie found plenty of activities to occupy her time. She began substitute teaching when a colleague asked her to cover during maternity leave. Chapel District Elementary also benefits from her help at their semiannual book fairs. Now Bennie fits subbing into her travel schedule as she visits friends and family near and far. Trips to Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, Las Vegas and an anticipated 2018 Bahama cruise are on her agenda. The recent loss of her husband of 41 years changed how Bennie experiences travel and so many other things. She's found grief seminars and literature helpful as she learns to live her life as a widow. At home Bennie enjoys reading Regency era fiction and feeding and watching the songbirds, Cardinals and Juncos among others, in her yard. Trips to movies, like recent release Geostorm, and church activities round out her life. An active member of Union Baptist Church, Bennie teaches vacation bible school, does missionary work, and helps with the food give away and provision of church services at The Pines. A recent trip to South Carolina for her 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion meant treasured time with a best friend there as well. Visiting family and friends enriches Bennie's life.

When Bennie reflects on her teaching career she fondly remembers a third grader who arrived in her classroom unable to read. By the end of the year she had helped him grow to reading at the 2.5 level. Touching so many young lives in this way was gratifying. Making new memories in retirement is important, too. Her strategy for a happy retirement is to enjoy and cherish each day, stay mentally active, and focus on good health and friends. Bennie Milton continues to touch many lives.



## CONSUMER EDUCATION

Submitted by Doris Valliant

### Save Money This Holiday Season!

Visit [freeshipping.org](http://freeshipping.org) if you're shopping online to get free shipping codes or to find percent-off coupon codes at many retailers. "Black Friday" won't always have the best deals. Some retailers are starting weeks before the actual shopping day. Some merchandise, including toys, brand-name TVs and jewelry may actually be lower *after* Thanksgiving weekend. If sales are not brisk, brick and mortar retailers probably will drop their prices. If you can wait longer before shopping, you may snag some great deals!

### Shop Safely!

Practice safety when you're out shopping. Be aware of your surroundings when you walk to your car. If it's night and you don't feel safe, ask the store or mall security for an escort. Don't walk around talking on your cell phone because would-be thieves see this as an opportunity to snatch your purse or phone. Theft increases, even during daylight hours, during the holiday shopping season.

### Be Aware of New Maryland Driving Laws

As of October 1, here are some of the new driving laws that may affect you. (1) Drivers may pass on the right shoulder if a vehicle is making a left turn ahead and the driver does not leave the paved surface. (2) Bicyclists and unicyclists are provided the same protections as pedestrians in crosswalks. (3) Objects that obstruct a driver's view through the windshield cannot be hung from the rear-view mirror. Although this is not a driving law, be aware of pedestrians talking on their cell phones. Some do not stay in the crosswalks and are not paying attention to the traffic around them. Be aware and keep yourself and others safe.

### Look for New Medicare Cards in 2018

Medicare is preparing to stop using Social Security numbers for identification next year and will send new cards to patients with Medicare ID numbers. The move is required by a law enacted two years ago to discourage identity theft. The agency plans to begin mailing new cards with Medicare Beneficiary Identifiers (MBIs) in April 2018.

### Visit [Maryland.org](http://Maryland.org)

Are you looking for some fun activities? [Maryland.org](http://Maryland.org) has some great ideas for fall and winter fun. There are many inexpensive things to see in Maryland, and great festivals are going on all around the state. Visit another part of the state that you're not familiar with and you'll be amazed at what you find!

**Important – Please respond to this request.**

Please update your email address with me.  
[jmccrea7678@gmail.com](mailto:jmccrea7678@gmail.com) or phone me at 410-943-0022

Patricia Kestler  
Joanne Murray  
Kathy Becker  
Diane Brice  
Jerlean Sampson

**Many thanks, in advance, for your response.**

**Jan McCrea**

**Luncheons for  
2017 - 2018**

**Tuesday., December 5**  
Latitude 38 Oxford  
(form mailed separately)

**Tuesday, March 13**  
Chef Cook Class @ EHS

**Thursday, June 7**  
Chesapeake Landing

**Executive Board  
Meeting Dates**

**Feb. 5, 2018**

**April 9, 2018**

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

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



## **Sunshine Committee**

submitted by Brenda Davidson

A "tradition" is defined as "the handing down of beliefs and customs from one generation to another over many years." Thanks to the following members for sharing their holiday traditions with us. Maybe this will be year that you begin a "tradition" for your family, too.

Susan Lester - "My daughters and grandchildren come to my house to make about 7 types of Christmas cookies all in one day. We start eating them right away, but many are frozen for the holidays. Flour, sugar and chocolate are flying all over the place and the oven warms the entire house with wonderful aromas. Things have gotten high tech, too. We now look up recipes on iPads instead of in cookbooks!"

Chic Harrison- "Several years ago, my hands were so full of arthritis that I could not peel potatoes (or crabs), my daughter Debbie peeled them for me. She has kept this tradition ever since. (What a help). Since my back has gotten worse, Debbie's daughter (MichaelAnn or Sarah) have put the turkey (22lb) in and out of the oven for me. What wonderful girls!"

Penny Plack - "Delivering a hot Thanksgiving dinner to a shut-in is one of my favorite things to do or when I lived in other places, if there was a student who could not get home for the holiday to invite them to join for the day. Here, perhaps there is someone at MEBA that is far from home as they are from all over the US."

Pat Chapman- "The Chapman family is a creature of habit when it comes to Thanksgiving dinner. Whoever is hosting the dinner will assign the side dishes to come, but they are always the same. The recipes have been handed down for at least three generations, many written in my grandmother's handwriting. A corn pudding recipe, sweet potato casserole and homemade rolls are standbys. As we sit down to the table, our prayer is from each person, a line for what they are thankful for this year."

### **September**

Thinking of you - Audrey Woolston (had a fall), Judy Haddaway and Jan Middleton

Congratulations - Katie Fox (Teacher of the Year) Tonya Hayman (Support Staff of the Year)  
Linda Brown and Joseph Candel (Recognition for Culinary Program at EHS)

### **October**

Thinking of you - Jennifer Wheeler, Debbie Harper, Mary Reeser

Thank You - Sarah Ross & Students in the Early Childhood Development Program at

Chesapeake College for their generous donation to our CarePacks project  
Debbie Urry - for arranging the wonderful program with the Salisbury University cohort and luncheon for our meeting

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TCRSPA

c/o Dotty Olds

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