

TALBOT COUNTY RETIRED



SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

The Little Red Schoolhouse

Presidents' Message

Here come the holidays! However, we don't need a holiday to come together as friends and colleagues and have a pleasant time. That's just what happened at the luncheon held at Chesapeake College last month. The nearly 40 members who attended were asked to share the number of years they were involved in education in a variety of roles. The number of years represented was extremely impressive, and leads to one of the November education highlights, American Education Week. TCRSPA is well represented in our dedication to helping students succeed.

When the Waterfowl Festival again takes over many local venues this month, students will have some time off from school. Many of them volunteer for community organizations, earning them not only service-learning hours, but much thanks for helping out. Thank you to those of you who make the weekend run smoothly as you help our visitors and residents have a great time to remember.

November 15th brings the TCPS Education Foundation fundraiser. Many of you know one or more of the alumni being honored: Roger Clark (SMHS '61), Walter Chase

(Moton High School '53, and Margaret (Peggy) Baker Rennels, M.D. (EHS '63).

Thanksgiving (also known as the beginning of leftovers week), when we cook too much, bake too much and maybe eat too much is next. Always, it is a time to take time to be grateful for special people and events in our lives. May you have a wonderful day.

While you are thinking how to fit everything in, please join us on December 11 at the TCRSPA holiday luncheon at Latitude 38 in Oxford. More information is in this newsletter. Thank you to the Social Committee – Chic Harrison, Mary Reeser and Pat Chapman - for organizing the event. Please note our community service project and many thanks to Bennie Milton and Doris Roach for collecting and delivering our donations.

***Happy Holidays to all of you
and Happy New Year!***



Debbie Chance and Terry Callahan

Fall Luncheon at Chesapeake College

Debbie Urry (right) speaks about the many early childhood and elementary education programs available at Chesapeake College's Higher Education Center for Associate Degree graduates, and for others who already have bachelor's degrees and are working to fulfill teacher certification in this area.



Liz Wildasin (left) presented to Dawn Robinson, Easton Elementary-Dobson music teacher, the TCRSPA Performing Arts Award and a check for her program.



TCRSPA Fall Luncheon 2019

On October 15, TCRSPA members gathered at the Higher Education Center, Chesapeake College, for the Fall Luncheon. New members Susan Anders, Sue Angel, Connie Cook, Barbara Wilson and Norby Lee joined the group, though Chris Pridgen, Joyce Crow and Sandy Whelan were unable to attend. Liz Wildasin presented the TCRSPA Performing Arts Award and a check for \$200 to Dawn Robinson, Easton Elementary-Dobson music teacher. Retirees brought many items for CarePacks, and the Early Childhood classes at the Higher Education Center also donated items. Debbie Urry, Director of the Higher Education Center, shared the many programs available at the Higher Education Center (HEC). Associate Degree graduates can access programs at the HEC to complete the final two years of a bachelor's degree in education. For others who already have degrees (non-education), there are courses available to fulfill certification for teaching careers in early childhood and elementary education. Salisbury University and LaSalle University are among the institutions providing programs and courses through Chesapeake College.

Terry Callahan asked members attending the luncheon to submit the number of years they worked in education—teaching, support services, administration, volunteering. The final tally was 1,573 years!



Welcome to our newest TCRSPA members!!

Connie Cook, Sue Angel, Barbara Wilson, Norby Lee, Susan Anders



“Each one, reach one.”

The personal touch means a lot. If you know someone who has retired from TCPS who is not a member of the Talbot County Retired School Personnel Association please reach out and personally ask them to join us. It works!

For more information contact Peggy at pjford@goeaston.net or Peggy Ford 410-725-1101.



Bob Burris was recognized at the October 18,2019 Board of Education Meeting for his life time contributions to Athletic Programs of Talbot County Schools.

Martha Greene Scholarship Winners



Two Easton Middle School 6th graders were this year’s recipients of the Martha Chase Green Summer Enrichment Scholarship. Isaiah enjoyed a week of specialty basketball camp at the Easton YMCA and Gabrielle enrolled at the Camp Mardela integrated arts session.

2019-2020 Performing Arts Award



TCRSPA's 2019-2020 Performing Arts Award recipient is Dawn Robinson, music teacher at Easton Elementary School, Dobson Building. Dawn has been teaching for 25 years, the last 18 years in Talbot County with 4 years at St. Michaels Middle/High School and 14 years at Easton Elementary School.

In addition to teaching music Dawn is on the School Improvement Team (SIT), is the Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports coach (PBIS), is the Assembly Coordinator, and is a member of the school based literacy team for EES. She has also directed before- and after-school programs in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), coding (computer, not Morse or medical) and ukulele. And in her "spare" time she has served as a Scout den leader (2011-2015) and Cub master (2013-2014) for Boy Scouts of America Pack 532. Dawn lives in Hurlock with her husband, Brian, two sons, Remy and Nash, and an array of cats.

Dawn graduated from the Hartt School of Music with a BM in Music Education in 1994, earned an MS in General Education in 1998 from the University of New England, and has been a member of Alpha Delta Kappa International Organization for Women Educators since 2002. She believes that the love of learning begins by building a strong interpersonal relationship with each student.

TCRSPA Holiday Luncheon

Date: **Wednesday, December 11, 2019**

Place: **Latitude 38 Bistro and Spirits, 26342 Oxford Road, Oxford, Maryland**

Time: **11:30 a.m. Lunch served at 12 noon.**

Cost: **\$20.00**

*** Directions: From the light at Easton Bypass take Oxford Rd (Rt 333) toward Oxford. Latitude 38 is on the right, about 8 miles. If you reach the Fire Department on the left, you have gone too far. Parking is limited, give friends a ride! **Let us know if you need a ride from the Easton Fire Dept, leaving at 11:00****

Menu Selections:

Cheese and Fruit Tray. Coffee, Tea and Lemonade included, pick up in bar area. Cash bar also available.

Entree #1 Cranberry Walnut Roasted Pork Loin with mashed sweet potatoes and green beans

Entree #2 Grilled Chicken Breast on a bed of Penne pasta tossed with grilled vegetables and creamy pesto cheese sauce

Entree #3 Potato Encrusted Tilapia on a bed of rice pilaf with grilled asparagus and a lemon beurre blanc (butter) sauce

Dessert: Lemon Cake with Fluffy White Frosting, provided by the Social Committee

The Holiday luncheon is always well attended, so to avoid a line at check-in, we would appreciate payment at time of reservation. Thank you!

There will be a Holiday Basket raffle to benefit the Brighter Christmas Fund (3 tickets for \$5 or \$2 each), a 50/50 raffle, Door Prizes and the donation for the Martha Greene Scholarship available.

Please remember your Community Service donations for "Supplies for Success". Items needed are bandaids, hand sanitizer, quart bags, crayons, pencils, notebooks, etc. This initiative is in a trailer behind the Board Office for TCPS teachers to gather supplies for their students, free of charge.

Mailed reservations (preferred) or calls should be received by Tuesday, Nov. 26

Chic Harrison 29300 Will Street, Easton, Maryland 21601, 410-822-1209

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Reservation form for TCRSPA Holiday Luncheon Return by November 26, 2019

_____ Entree #1 Cranberry Walnut Roasted Pork Loin (\$20.00 payment enclosed)

_____ Entree #2 Grilled Chicken Breast (\$20.00 payment enclosed)

_____ Entree #3 Potato Encrusted Tilapia (\$20.00 payment enclosed)

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Ride Needed: Y or N

**Luncheons for
2019-2020****Wednesday, December 11**Latitude 38 Restaurant
Oxford**Tuesday, March 24**

Chef Cook Class @ EHS

Tuesday, June 9

Chesapeake Landing

**Executive Board
Meeting Dates****Feb. 10, 2020****April 6, 2020****TCEC @ 9:30 a.m.****Room #1****All TCRSPA members are
invited to attend.****Community Service Committee**

Many thanks to all who gave donations to Care Packs. The items were delivered and were greatly appreciated.

At our December luncheon we will be collecting school supplies and other items for Supplies for Success. These supplies are for our educators and they will be housed in a trailer at TCEC.

The following items could be used for this project: composition and spiral bound notebooks, erasers, lead and colored pencils, packs of lined paper, folders, facial tissues, glue, sandwich and quart ziplock bags, and permanent and water based markers. If there are other items an educator may need, feel free to donate them.

Please call us with any questions.

Thanks,

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

American Education Week “Reach, Educate, Inspire”

American Education Week (November 18-22) is 98 years old this year. Annually it is the week before Thanksgiving. The 2019 theme is “Reach, Educate, Inspire” as it recognizes ALL of the educators, support staff, administrators and more (ex: counselors, bus drivers, cafeteria workers). Each day is a special celebration of some of the many roles we have filled at our schools. Monday is Kickoff Day, Tuesday is Parents Day, Wednesday is Education Support Professionals Day, Thursday is Educator for a Day (community leaders invited to be an educator for a day and get firsthand experience) and Friday is Substitute Educators Day. Talbot County Public Schools will welcome visitors on Monday and Wednesday.

(NOTE: May 4 through May 8, 2020 is Teacher Appreciation Week.)

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Please update your contact information (email and/or mailing address) with Jan McCrea (jmccrea7678@gmail.com) to ensure you receive TCRSPA information.

Also, please let her know if you prefer a paper copy of the newsletter instead of receiving it via email.

CONSUMER EDUCATION FOR WINTER 2019

Submitted by Doris Valliant

DON'T FALL FOR THESE MISLEADING INVESTMENT PITCHES

Slippery salespeople—we know they're out there and we believe we're on our guards, but it's not always so. How do they get past our defenses? These salespeople are experts at manipulating our emotions. They appeal to our fears, our greed, and even our warmer feelings such as friendliness and a desire to please. Mid-life and older adults are their particular targets because we often have money to invest. Writing in the *AARP Bulletin*, personal finance expert, Jane Bryant Quinn shares five misleading sales pitches that often deceive us.

"People who made this investment are already earning 50% a year!" the salesperson exclaims, or he guarantees a high return on your investment. No investment earns 50% a year or even 25% a year, so never buy on a promise of thrilling, get-rich yields.

"You can trust me because we belong to the same church" (temple, bowling team, club or other groups). Con men don't just prey on strangers; they also find victims among their own social groups. Even if he tells you that he invested his mother's money in this venture, get nervous and head for the door.

"This investment is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)." Sounds like a safe place to put your money except that the SEC doesn't vet investment products!

"I specialize in conservative investments for seniors." These "specialists" probably took no more than a weekend course. Their true expertise is selling high-priced investments and annuities at free-lunch or dinner seminars.

"I earn a commission on this sale." Seems like your salesman is declaring a conflict of interest, but those touting bad investments are especially persuasive because they're suggesting that buying will help them out, which pressures you to cooperate.

You may not be fooled reading these ploys in the investment brochures that land in your mailbox, but when it's a personal meeting with one of these salesmen, they can grab you and your money. Instead, stick with investments that have worked for you in the past and avoid these "safe, guaranteed, double-your-money" sales pitches.

MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS ON HERBAL AND DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS

Herbal and dietary supplements and natural remedies are sold at grocery stores, gyms, health food stores and on the Internet. Many claim to be a safe way to lose weight, boost energy, fight colds, etc. However, not all of these claims are legal because herbal supplements can be sold without prior approval or testing by any government agency. Sometimes the FDA removes a supplement from the market if the agency has received reports of people suffering serious side effects. Supplements also may react with prescription or over-the-counter medicines or reduce their effectiveness. That's why before taking any supplements, check with your doctor first.

Sunshine Committee

submitted by Brenda Davidson

As I was thinking of what to write for this newsletter, I received a set of Christmas cards in the mail that I could purchase for a small donation from a charity - and I began to think about how the custom of sending Christmas cards came about. This custom was started in the UK in 1843 by Sir Henry Cole. He was a senior civil servant who had helped to set up the new "Public Record Office" where he was an Assistant Keeper, and wondered how it could be used more by ordinary people. Cole and artist John Horsley designed the first card and sold them for 1 shilling. The card had 3 panels - the 2 outer panels showed people caring for the poor and the center panel was a family having Christmas dinner. About 1000 were printed and sold. Christmas cards first appeared in the USA in the late 1840's. In 1875, printer Louis Prang started mass producing cards so more people could afford to buy them. Then, in 1915, John Hallmark and his 2 brothers created Hallmark Cards. The first "personalized" card was sent in 1891 by Annie Oakley. She was in Scotland at the time and sent cards back to her family and friends in the USA featuring a photo of herself in a tartan plaid kilt. In the 1920's home made cards became popular and were often unusual shapes and had foil and ribbon on them. Writing the annual Christmas letter has been an American tradition since at least the 1950's. Today, sad to say that social media is starting to replace these traditional holiday greetings. Some say that it's no longer NECESSARY to send cards or letters to family and friends. What do you say? Here's hoping that you'll find as much pleasure in sending a holiday card or letter to your family and friends as you will in receiving one in your own mailbox. Merry Christmas everyone!

October - We remembered Doris Roach with a "Thinking of You" card this month. We also sent a BIG THANK YOU to the Early Childhood Development students at Chesapeake College, under their advisor Ms. Sarah Ross, for their very generous donation to our CarePacks project this month. Students from Salisbury University Elementary Education, under their advisor Dr. Elaine O'Neal, also donated to CarePacks this month. Again this year Mrs. Debbie Urry (Mrs. Chick Harrison's daughter 😊) was our gracious hostess for our delicious luncheon at Chesapeake College - Thank You Debbie!

If you know of anyone who needs "A ray of sunshine" call
Brenda Davidson at 410-310-9051.

TCRSPA

c/o Terry Callahan

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Easton, MD 21601