

CRSPA



President's Message

Greetings!

I'd say we were on the brink of spring but I'm still waiting for winter! If you love snow like I do, this has been a very disappointing season. I imagine most of you are grateful for the reprieve.

We've been busy advocating for CRSPA. The three bargaining agents are in negotiations. We are concerned that retired staff have not been kept informed of what is being negotiated in terms of benefits that might affect us, so we met with the leadership of the bargaining units to discuss our concerns. It was a very friendly and productive meeting. We were able to get an assurance from CEA president, Dona Ostenso that retired staff will be included in meetings outside of bargaining to keep us informed and ask for input and concerns. This is a very big deal given the rising costs of insurance and the current threat to Medicare funding. We hope to keep you all better informed as a result.

Barbara McKimmie and I visited with the superintendent, Dr. Curry to discuss improving our relationship with the board for our mutual benefit. We discussed things like assistance for retired teachers to renew their certification, use of BOE facilities for meetings and training, improved communication regarding changes in benefits that personal receive, use of county communication methods so that we can better communicate with teachers who are about to retire and hopefully grow our membership. We had a very cordial visit. Dr. Curry was most welcoming and his response to our sugges-

tions were encouraging. We left him with a memorandum of understanding which he promised to share with the Board of Education members. More to come on this when we hear back from Dr. Curry.

Our legislative lobby day is March 3. We need to be in Annapolis by 10:00 am. I have not heard from anyone as of yet but if you decide to go, please email me at amflaughlin@gmail.com. I'm quite familiar with the routine and am happy to drive if you would like to join me.

Our program for the March 11 luncheon will be Officer William Durner of the Calvert County Police Department. He will be sharing important information on safety and security for seniors. I myself have had several attempts to bamboozle me out of my hard earned retirement funds in the past few months. Luckily I know a scam when I hear one, but many do not and some of these scam artists can be very convincing and pull on your heart strings. Hopefully this presentation will help us all to be more aware and vigilant.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you next month. I hope you are all well and looking forward to a wonderful luncheon, good conversation and valuable information. See you then!

Best Regards,
Anna M. Laughlin
CRSPA President



Save These Dates

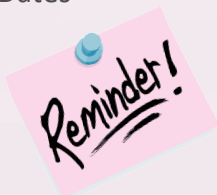
2019-2020 CRSPA Meeting Dates

Executive Mtgs/Harriett Brown Center

- March 4, 2020
- May 6, 2020

General Meetings/Christ Church

- March 11, 2020
- May 20, 2020



Additional MRSPA Meetings

March 11, 2020
MRSPA Presidents Meeting
Odenton

May 13, 2020
MRSPA Annual Business Meeting
Martins, Camelot, Upper Marlboro

Lunch begins at 12pm with the program and business meeting beginning at 1pm.

If you plan on having lunch please call **Loujeania Johnson at 410-586-1066 or email by March 9th to reserve a meal.**

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In Memoriam

Phyllis Skinner Johnson

March 21, 1924 - November 25, 2019



Phyllis Marian Skinner Johnson, 95, passed away on November 25, 2019. A Calvert County native, Phyllis was born in Port Republic. Phyllis graduated from Calvert County High School in 1941 at the age of 17. She attended the University of Maryland and graduated in 1944 with a BA degree in English and a Biological Science Minor. She started teaching English at Bladensburg High School, in Prince George's County in 1944. She married a fellow teacher, Albert Johnson in 1953 and they lived in Prince George's County. A daughter, Allyson Jaye, was born in 1957 and a son, Philip Skinner was born in 1960. She was a school counselor in Prince George's County high schools for almost twenty years, and she retired from Parkdale High School in 1979. When she retired, she returned to Calvert County to resume some of the farming activities that she had grown to enjoy and respect as a child. At the age of 80, Phyllis wrote and published her first book, *Calvert's Gold*. She continued writing and published three more books.

Phyllis is survived by her children Allyson Sigler and Philip Johnson, her grandchildren, Jessica Sigler Berens and John Muelbe Sigler, and her great granddaughter, Isla James Berens. Phyllis was preceded in death by her husband of 38 years, Albert Joseph Johnson, Jr.

Contributions can be made in Phyllis' name to Christ Church, Port Republic.

Judith A. Bibb

February 14, 1945 - January 9, 2020



Judith A. Bibb, 74, of Port Republic, MD passed away on January 9, 2020 at Burnett Calvert Hospice House in Prince Frederick, Maryland. She was born in Washington, D.C. on February 14th, 1945 and is predeceased by her husband, Robert D. Bibb. She is survived by: her daughter, Carey Parkes Bibb of Port Republic, MD; a sister, Betty Sue Salvia of Anne Arundel County, MD; and a brother, Robert R. Johnson of Montgomery County, MD. Judy moved to Calvert County in 1967. She taught junior high school home economics and senior high school math, and worked as a library assistant and teaching assistant at Calvert Elementary School. Through her time working for Calvert County Public Schools, she deeply impacted the lives of many students and helped them develop a passion for math and reading. She loved reading, traveling, baking delicious brownies and cakes, and walking her dog, Nyxie.

She will be remembered as a kind, patient woman who always had a smile on her face and a friendly word to share with everyone with whom she came in contact.

Interment will be at a later date in Fayetteville, WV.

The family has requested that contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or the Humane Society in Judy's name.

In Memoriam

Sally Douglass

July 19, 1929 - October 12, 2019



Sally (Norris) Douglass passed away at Asbury Solomons surrounded by her loving family. She was the beloved wife of Robert M. Douglass who predeceased her. Sally was born in Brooklyn, NY and grew up in Troy, NY. Sally graduated from Troy High School, and in 1951 she graduated summa cum laude from Russell Sage College. She taught elementary school in Baltimore City and home economics in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Anne Arundel County, and Calvert County. In Calvert County, where she has lived since 1971, Sally was active in her community and her church. She started and coordinated a Caps for the Cold outreach, knitting countless caps for Calvert County schoolchildren and adults. In 2010, she was voted one of the "Calvert You are Beautiful" recipients in honor of this work.

Her greatest joy was spending time with her family and friends.

Sally is survived by her four children: Dwight of Fairplay, MD; Patti Wahl and her husband John of Port Republic, MD; Peggy Tolerton of Towson, MD; Polly Douglass of Baltimore, MD; sixteen grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Christ Church, 3100 Broomes Island Rd. Port Republic, MD 20676; Calvert Hospice 238 Merrimac Ct. Prince Frederick, MD 20678; or Russell Sage College 65 1st St. Troy, NY 12180.

To teach is to touch a life forever.

School Supplies Raffle

Winners

3 winners! Congratulations.



Door Prizes

Winners

10 winners! Congratulations.



Welcoming New Members

Andrea Daniels
Carol Donovan
Jackie Gray

Arthur Hefferon
Mark Hammersla
Cheryl Ragusa

CRSPA's Next Meeting

CRSPA Executive Board

2019-2020

President

Anna McLaughlin
amflaughlin@gmail.com

Vice President

Linda Mooney

Immediate Past President

Barbara McKimmie

Recording Secretary

Jan Travers

Corresponding Secretary

Fran Armstrong

Treasurer

Vicky Karol

Newsletter

Debbie Hance
debbiejhance@gmail.com

Safety Tips

Your credit score is an important marker of your financial health. Monitoring it can help keep your money safe too.

Free Services

Credit Karma
Credit Sesame
Credit.com



Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2019

Place: Christ Church Parish—Port Republic, MD

Time: 12pm Lunch - 1pm Meeting

Program: *Safety and Security for Seniors*

Menu: Corn Beef and Cabbage Shrimp
Vegetable Salad
Carrots and Potatoes
Beverage and Water
Desserts

Cost: \$17 per person

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facebook.com/calvertretiredschoolpersonnel

CRSPA Community Outreach:

At our **May** meeting we will be collecting canned goods and non-perishable items to be donated to a Food Pantry. The pantries will be in greater need with students home for the summer. Please help out if you can by bringing a donation with you in **May**. Suggestions of a pantry to donate to would be greatly appreciated. (See Debbie Hance)

School Supplies



Barbara and Maureen delivered our donated supplies and a check for \$425 to Dr. Curry and Dr. Melissa Morris, Student Services, after our December meeting.



Happy Birthday CRSPA Members

March

Vivian Jones 5
Elizabeth Towle 5
Jane Fletcher 6
Marianne Frankhauser 7
Clarice Johnson 14
Julie Roehm 14
Pamelia Moore 14
Alice Sewell 16
Andrea Daniels 16
Kathy Simone 16
Lori Idol 17
Donna Nichols 17
Ken Horsmon 21
Arlene Thornton 23
Barbara McKimmie 24
Catherine Howanstine 26
Anthony Fiorello 27
Lula Parran 31

April

Mary Friedman 7
Jennifer Bates-Hudson 9
Mary Ellen McGown 11
Mary Bannerman 13
Pat Major 15
Wendell Brady 23
Lisa Tettimer 25
Jeniene Wishart 30

May

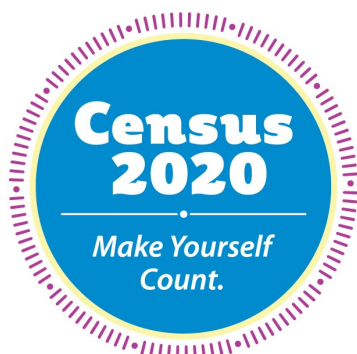
Ray Enrico 1
Linda Mooney 2
Marsha Gray 6
Connie McSpadden 7
Winnie Herberie 10
Kandia Spain 15
Cathy Cutright 16
Cheryl Ragusa 16
Sherry Burcham 18
Barbara Brown 21
Russell Costley 23
Leonard Elter 25
Dorothy Campbell 31



Have you been left off the birthday list? Let us know so we can celebrate you each year!

Help Needed!

Huntingtown High School Archaeology Club is researching the original Huntingtown High, which was used from 1921-1932. They are interested in talking to any of our members who might know anything about the old school. Contact: HHSarchaeology@gmail.com



Update from NFBC

Negotiating For Benefits Committee

On January 29, 2020, Ann Laughlin, Barbara McKimmie, Linda Mooney, and Vicky Karol met with a representative from the Calvert Education Association (CEA) and the Calvert Administrator and Supervisor Association (CASA). A follow up meeting was held by Barbara McKimmie and Stacy Taymen who represented the Calvert Association of Support Employees (CASE). At both meetings, discussions were focused on developing more collaborative partnerships with our organization, CRSPA, so that current members and future retirees will learn more about impending changes in health benefits, life insurance, and retirement benefits. This includes changes in negotiated contracts and federal and state law changes.

Submitted by: Dr. Vicky Karol

Good times at our December Meeting.....



Teacher of the Year
Dr. Nathan Kimbro,
Huntingtown High School



Educational Support Person
of the Year
Ms. Regina Hagelin
Mill Creek Middle School



Mutual Elementary Advanced Band
and Strings.



Director Doug Fraley



CRSPA's next meeting is Wednesday, March 11th.
Call Loujeania by March 9th to reserve a meal
@ 410-586-1066.

And More.....



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@ 410-586-1066.



.....Just What Are Our Elected Officials in Annapolis Up To?

Submitted by: Ray Enrico, Legislative Chair

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Our elected officials are currently in their 90-day legislative session. Approximately 1000 bills will be addressed this session. Two areas of focus are crime prevention and education (Kirwan) funding. Governor Hogan proposed eliminating taxes for retirees who make less than \$50,000 per year and reducing taxes by 50-100% for those making less than \$100,000 a year. In 2014 a similar Republican bill died in committee. Hogan's bill is unlikely to advance in the Democratic-led General Assembly as lawmakers search for ways to raise billions of dollars to pay for Kirwan Commission education reforms. Budget analysts fear that without changes to state revenue and spending, Maryland is forecasted to have a \$701 million shortfall in two years. (Capital 1-17-20)

*Incoming House Speaker Adrienne A. Jones and incoming Senate President Bill Ferguson stated that they have ruled out across-the-board increases to state sales, property or income taxes during this legislative session. The leaders' chief priority for the 2020--90-day session is to adopt a formula for how much money the state, its 23 counties and Baltimore are required to spend on schools. In 2019 the General Assembly passed a law funding the Kirwan Commission (now known as **Blueprint for Maryland's Future**) recommendations for three years. This year they expect to put funding formulas into law to balance future costs (years 4-10). (The Sun 1-5-20) Kirwan Commission education reforms include expanded prekindergarten, higher teacher salaries, improved vocational training, and more funds for schools in high poverty areas. (Capital 1-17-20)*

*A 2.2-billion-dollar plan to build and renovate schools across the state will be addressed this session. The plan (**Build to Learn Act**) **HB1 and SB1** will be funded in part by casino revenues. Governor Hogan has a similar \$3.8 billion over 5 years plan. Over this decade, the cumulative increase to public schools will total about 32 billion.(Capital 2-9-20) More classrooms will have to be built and more teachers hired to implement Kirwan's recommendation of pre-kindergarten for all 4-year olds in Maryland and pre-school for 3-year-olds in high poverty areas. By 2030, about 4 billion dollars more (than current funding) will be spent each year on education. The state is expected to pay 2.8 billion and the 24 jurisdictions will pay 1.2 billion in 2030.*

*Under the heading of addressing crime, on Dec 11, the governor announced a bill aimed at "significantly" increasing sentences for "violent offenders who commit crimes with guns." (Recorder 12-27-19) Under the **Stopping Dangerous and Violent Offenders Act of 2020**, those convicted of violent crimes would be required to serve 90% of their sentence instead of the current 50% before being eligible for parole. Under the **Gun Theft is a Felony Act**, stealing a gun would result in a two-year sentence for the first offense and five years for a second offense. (Recorder 1-24-20) Baltimore's murder rate (348 homicides in 2019) prompted some of this legislative concern.*

Senator Jack Bailey (R-St Mary's-Calvert) "One of the biggest hurdles in this legislative session is accountability and fairness with the Kirwan Commission." (Recorder 1-8-20)

Del. Jerry Clark (R-St. Mary's-Calvert) said, "I would support a bill that would improve education without significant tax implications to citizens in Calvert and St. Mary's counties." Referring to the Kirwan Commission, he added, "I would prefer not to see revenue from these counties sent elsewhere in the state but rather keep the money local." (Recorder 1-8-20)

Commenting on Gov. Hogan's \$49.9 billion budget, Senate Majority Leader Guy Guzzone (D-Howard) said that mandatory spending required by laws means that education spending "effectively goes up every year."

State Senator Arthur Ellis (D-Charles) commented that the (current) budget focuses on education, but there isn't any funding for commuter transit improvements in Southern Maryland. Ellis proposed a 19-mile Metro extension from Waldorf to White Plains. (Recorder 1-17-20)

Governor Hogan said, "The simple question that nobody has been willing to answer at this point is, "What taxes are they (Democrats) going to raise?" (Sun 12-5-19)

Del. Jerry Clark (R-St. Mary's-Calvert) commented, "The money is going to come from the citizens of this state in some way, shape, or form, whether it's an income tax, a property tax, taxes on things (sales tax), sports betting, or legal marijuana sales." (Calvert Co. Times 1-9-20)

Senator Jack Bailey (R-St. Mary's-Calvert) noted, "We want to make sure that we are not going to throw good money after bad the way that has been happening in Baltimore city. That is exactly what we have been doing, and we need to learn from the past and have some accountability." (Calvert Co. Times 1-9-20)

Senator Mike Miller (D-St. Mary's, Calvert, Prin. Georges Co.) said, "We're going to have pre-K for everybody in Calvert County. What it means is you are going to increase teacher salaries (\$60,00 beginning salary) and more resources for education." Miller, Clark, and Bailey talked about tensions between urban and suburban areas (most notably Baltimore city) and the rural areas like southern Maryland over funding, including paying for the educational reform initiatives of the Kirwan Commission. There appeared to be unanimous support among the three for the commission's goals but concern over the funding. (Calvert Co. Times 1-9-20)

Michael A. Jackson (D-Calvert, Prin. Georges) stated, "This (2020) is going to be a pretty good year, but 2021 and 2022 are going to be tough fiscal years." He also said that transportation and making sure the state pension system stays solvent will be other areas of focus. (Recorder 1-8-20)

Delegate Matt Morgan (R-St. Mary's) showed that for every \$100 taxpayers from Baltimore provide, the city gets back 82 cents while Calvert gets back 35 cents for the same \$100. (Calvert Co. Times 1-9-20)

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Odenton, MD 21113

Questions: Email MRSPA at mrspa@mrspa.org or call MRSPA at 410-551-1517



Connecting. Protecting. Making a Difference

CRSPA

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