



CRSPA

CRSPA.Members@gmail.com



Service. Collaboration. Growth.

CRSPA Executive Board

2023-2024

President

Barbara McKimmie

mckimmiebj@yahoo.com

Vice President

Robert Riccardo

briccardo@aol.com

Immediate Past President

Dr. Vicky Karol

karoldv@comcast.net

Recording Secretary

Lori Idol

Loribidol@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary

Fran Armstrong

farmstrong@comcast.net

Treasurer

Merry Ellen McGown

mellen20639@yahoo.com

Website

Lynn Cox

lynncox17@gmail.com

Newsletter

Debbie Hance

debbiejhance@gmail.com



President's Message

Greeting to All!

As I sit down to write this message our Calvert County Schools are back in session. Summertime adventures are over and it's time to prepare for Fall and our four upcoming CRSPA meetings.

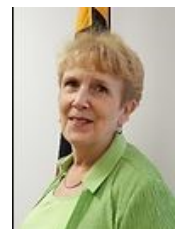
Your Executive Board met on August 30th to begin planning for our 2023-2024 year. There were nine members present and three by way of Zoom. Thanks to Lynn Cox and Mellen McGown for making this possible. I feel we had a good meeting with lots of ideas and thoughts shared and considered. We have invited Carla Duls, MRSPA President, who will join us at our October meeting. Wanda R. Twigg, MRSPA's Executive Director, will be joining us at our February meeting. Both ladies will bring us up-to-date on what's happening at MRSPA when they visit.

I want to give a special "Thanks" to our Newsletter Editor, Debbie Hance. She continues to send out a wonderful newsletter filled with information and up-dates on what CRSPA is up to. It comes out before our meetings along with a summer edition. Please take note of our Website and Facebook addresses which are given in the newsletter. You can always check us out or contact us. If you ever have an email change, please let us know.

As our first meeting of the year approaches on October 4th, please be sure to mark your calendar to attend and, if you plan on having lunch, call Loujeania Johnson at 410-586-1066 by October 2nd to reserve a meal. Our program and business meeting starts at 1:00 p.m. for those not able to come for lunch. If you know anyone who has retired, recently or in the past, and isn't a member of CRSPA, please contact them and let them know that we really would enjoy having them attend. Coming with someone they know makes their experience better. Increasing membership continues to be a challenge. There is strength in numbers and that strength gives us a greater voice when addressing issues that impact our retirement.

I look forward to seeing as many of you who are able to attend our October meeting. Thanks again for continuing your membership and support in CRSPA.

Barbara M. McKimmie
CRSPA President



In Memoriam



Zelma J. Brooks ***October 25, 1931 - June 29, 2023***

Zelma Jones Brooks, the eldest daughter of the late Jack and Susie Prout Jones, departed this life suddenly on Thursday, the 29th of June 2023 at her home in Chesapeake Beach, Maryland, surrounded by her loving family. Zelma was born in Washington, DC on October 25, 1931. She was the first child of seven children.

Zelma attended Randall Cliff Elementary School and Brooks High School in Calvert County. During her high school days, she baby sat at night for the Donovan's. From there, she attended Bowie State Teachers College, where she received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education.

Zelma was hired in 1954 by the Board of Education of Calvert County as an elementary school teacher. She worked under a wonderful principal, Mr. William Moore, at Appeal Elementary School. For many years she taught "Head Start" during summer school at both Solomons and Appeal Elementary School.

In 1956, Zelma married Donald W. Brooks and gained a daughter, Vera Gaines-Lyles, (A.K.A. Pinkie). In 1966, they were blessed with a son, Donnell E. Brooks.

During her 40 years of teaching, she was well liked by the community. During her first few years of teaching, her classes ranged from 35 to 38 students. She was Vice President of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) at Appeal Elementary School. Zelma retired from teaching in June 1994 from Patuxent Elementary School under her principal and cousin Geneva Wallace.

Zelma leaves to cherish her memories: son Donnell E. Brooks and his wife Linda; daughter Vera Gaines Lyles and her husband Otho; and four grandchildren. She was laid to rest on July 11, 2023 at the Ernestine Jones Cemetery in Chesapeake Beach, Maryland.



Rose Marie Mraz ***June 16, 1942 - October 31, 2022***

Rose-Marie Mraz, 80, of Mount Joy, passed away October 31, 2022. Born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, she was the wife of Joseph G. Mraz, with whom she shared 58 happy years of marriage. She will be missed by her three children Jennifer Mraz, of Mount Joy, Joseph Mraz, of New Jersey, and Beth Ann Conway, of Elizabethtown; and four grandchildren.

Rose-Marie was a graduate of Bethlehem Catholic School, class of 1960. She worked for Dotson Coal Company, in Bethlehem, as a secretary for five years. Later, Rose-Marie moved to Prince Frederick, Maryland, and was employed as a school aid at Northern High School until her retirement.

She and Joseph moved to Elizabethtown in 2000 and Rose-Marie worked for St. Anne's Retirement Community in Columbia as a secretary for 10 years. Rose-Marie enjoyed being able to plant trees in her yard, spending time with her pet cockatoo Tessa, and numerous dogs. But her greatest love was being able to spend time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

Rose Marie was laid to rest November 4, 2022 at Fort Indiantown Gap National Cemetery in Annville, Pennsylvania.



CRSPA's Next Meeting



Inside this issue

President's Letter	1
Board Members	1
In Memoriam	2
October Meeting Info	3
Save These Dates	3
Community Outreach	4
Treasurer's Report	4
Day Trippers	5
Reading Camp Calvert	6
Birthdays	7
Emeritus	7
April Meeting Pictures	8
Legislature	9

Safety Tips

Never make a quick decision when it involves money. If any caller says you have to "act now" or you'll miss the opportunity window, it's a sign to walk away immediately.



Date: Wednesday, October 4, 2023

Place: Christ Church Parish – Port Republic, MD

Time: 12pm Lunch; 1pm Meeting

Program: Welcoming Fall and Friends

Guest Speakers: Carla Duls, MRSPA President

Menu: Mashed Potato Bar w/ 6 toppings, Fried Chicken, Garden Salad, Dessert, Iced Tea, Coffee, and Water

Cost: \$20

RSVP by October 2, 2023. Call Loujeania Johnson at 410-586-1066 or email her at lsjohnson58@verizon.net.

Save These Date

2023-2024 CRSPA Meeting Dates

Executive Mtgs./Zoom

- December 5, 2023
- February 7, 2024
- March 20, 2024

General Meetings

- October 4, 2023
- December 13, 2023
- February 14, 2024
- April 10, 2024



CRSPA is in need of a Bylaws Chairperson.
[Click here](#) for a description of this position.



April Meeting Door Prize Winners



Loujeania Johnson
 Fran Armstrong
 Barbara Brown
 Melissa Rottman
 Jack Brown
 Sandy Derr

JoAnn Hill
 Phil Bikle
 Bridget Scott
 Ellie Girsang
 Bernadette Hagar
 Gayle Reid

CRSPA: Community Outreach Fall Project



Our *Fall Project* will be a monetary donation to the Calvert County Meals on Wheels. Their goal is to ensure that homebound persons receive nutritious meals 5 days a week with a smile in Calvert County! If you would like to donate to this worthy cause, you may (1) drop off a check at the Shore United Bank, formally Community Bank of the Chesapeake, (2) mail your check to Merry Ellen McGown, CRSPA Treasurer, 9140 Nana Russell Road, Owings, MD 20736, or 3) bring a check or cash to our October 4th meeting.

Make all checks payable to CRSPA and please put in the check memo line Meals on Wheels. **If you donate, you get an extra ticket for a door prize at the October meeting! **Donating starts today and ends October 4, 2023.****

***CRSPA was recognized at the Annual
Meals on Wheels Appreciation
Luncheon on September 11, 2023***



Treasurer's Report August 2023

Balance: \$8561.52

Important Message from our Treasurer!

The merger between Community Bank of the Chesapeake and Shore United Bank is in process. There is period of transition between the merger and the conversion of the bank systems. This will not affect any deposits that we might make for our Community Outreach Fundraiser. You can still visit the Community Bank of Chesapeake location of your choice.

Important Links

Website: <https://lynncox1.wixsite.com/calvert>

FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/calvertretiredschoolpersonnel>

MRSPA: <https://www.mrspa.org/>

CCPS: <https://www.calvertnet.k12.md.us/departments/human-resources/>
Retiree Benefits

SRA: <https://sra.maryland.gov/>
State Retirement and Pension System

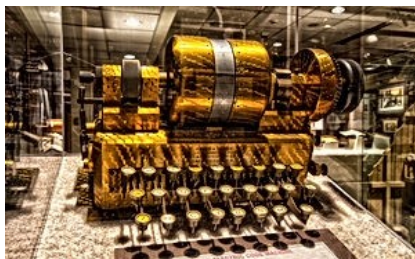




Fall Trips for 2023

Click on each picture to learn more.

September 27th



National Cryptologic Museum

October 18th



Philip Merrill Environmental Center

November 29th



Longwood Gardens at Christmas

Facebook News



HEY CRSPA-ers! Do you follow our Facebook page? We try to put timely reminders between meetings and links to important information on there. Through Facebook, you'll find it easier to share our posts with friends who aren't members and who are still welcome to many of our activities.

So, if you haven't **LIKED** the page yet, do this: Open Facebook. In the search bar top left put: **Calvert Retired School Personnel Association**. Then click on our crab logo to get to the home page. Under the cover photo and on the right **click the LIKE button**. Our posts should show in your feed in the future.

If you've already **LIKED** the page but aren't seeing our posts, choose a post or two and **COMMENT** randomly. Facebook stops showing posts if viewers don't continually interact with them - and a thumbs up isn't enough, apparently.

If you have already **LIKED** our page, please take a couple of minutes to **invite your friends** to like our page. **THEY DON'T HAVE TO BE MEMBERS**, and really it would be great for currently active and retired school personnel who haven't joined to see what we're all about. To invite your friends, click on the three dots on the right (under the search button). You'll see the option to invite friends. That will take you to your friends list and you can select which friends might be interested. **THEN**, click Send Invites and you're done.

Help a fellow CRSPA-er out and send out some invites. It only takes a couple of minutes!



“The One Room School Still Teaches”

has been our ongoing theme. Port Republic #7 is the only remaining school-house in the county still standing in its original spot. It has hosted 4th grade classes each fall and spring for over 20 years. Volunteers are always needed and welcomed. Call Carol Khalili at 410-474-2692. You can also join “*Friends of the One Room School House, Inc.*” or give a monetary donation by sending a *tax-deductible* check payable to “*Friends of the One Room School House, Inc.*” to P.O. Box 431, Port Republic, MD 20676. <https://calvertoneroomschool.org/>

Reading Camp Calvert

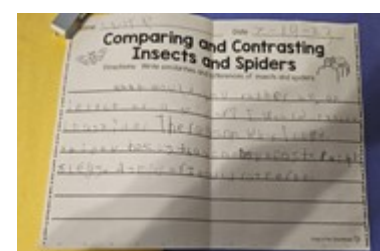
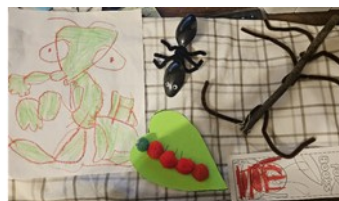
Submitted by : Carol Howard

Thank you, CRSPA members, for your generous support of Reading Camp Calvert. RCC is a non-religious literacy program for students who need extra help with, and reinforcement of, basic reading skills. Reading Camps are held in most counties across the state each summer. This past July two week long camps were held: one for Prince Frederick and north and the second week was held for students attending schools in the southern end of the county.

The theme for both Calvert camps this year was "Catch the Reading Bug" which was integrated into many activities for the mainly 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders and included the camp song. In the south, we welcomed 30 campers this year- not only a camp high for the county but also the state! Mornings were the "academic" part of each day with the campers rotating between reading, writing, pleasure reading and art activities. The afternoons varied depending on the camps. At the southern end, a naturalist from the U of MD visited us and brought a collection of moths and butterflies that she caught and mounted. We also had DES retired teacher and local author, Nocola Williams, share about writing her new book, The Legend of the Sleep-Eating Elephant. Nocola is also beekeeper and we were able to complete her Book Walk that incorporated factual information about bees as well as comprehension story strategies. The campers played corn hole and bocce ball, and were instructed in Tae Kwon Do and chess. The camp culminated in small skits about bugs performed for parents. Each child not only took home an autographed book but also had a book bag filled with self-selected books and included a chess set!

As this is a READING camp, we encouraged and tracked everyone's independent reading done outside camp. The campers read a total of 65 hours! The top 4 readers read a total of 1201 minutes with our top reader in the south reading 6 hours alone!

Our success is due to lots of community support through donations and a volunteer staff of current and retired CCPS staff and teen counselors (some who even were campers when they were younger!). I want to especially acknowledge these CRSPA members: **Lou Banks, Pam Mackall, Mike Shisler, Gayle Reid, JoAnn Hill, and Bridget Kluwin** for their additional support. We will be looking for people who may want to share their talents or hobbies, know about Olympic sports, or traveled to Paris and/or know about French culture because next year's theme will be about the Olympics. We will also need volunteers to assist with reading to and/or with campers in the Pleasure Reading Room. If interested, contact Carol Howard at cah4literacy@yahoo.com.



Happy Birthday CRSPA Members

September

Glossie Leake 1
 Marquerite Kaupp 2
 Carolyn DeBolt 4
 Loujeania Johnson 4
 Margaret Jenkins 5
 Jean Phillips 5
 Lorraine Shamberger 5
 Gene Bridgett 7
 Mark Hammersla 8
 Geraldine Lee 8
 Patricia Erly 12
 Joe Clark 13
 Jeanne Bass 15
 Sharon Whalen 15
 Carol Schmitz-Korken 18
 Cathy Page 18
 Cheryl Lord 21
 Pat Quinn 21
 Vicky Karol 22
 Carolyn Sacker 23
 Carol Khalili 24
 Nancy Zinn 26
 Carol Ann Howard 27
 Art Hefferon 28
 Maureen Sengstack 28
 Anne Weems 29

October

Lloyd Robertson 1
 Pat O'Brien 3
 Lamar Giles 4
 Jan Travers 4
 Cheryl Blockland 6
 Gwendolyn Brooks 8
 Judith Buckler 8
 Ron Saunders 10
 Donna Boylan 13
 Don Phelps 14
 Fran Armstrong 15
 Becky Lebow 19
 Elaine Bradley 20
 Eva Cox 20
 Ellen Hahn 21
 Valerie Weems-Garber 27
 Kim Roof 27
 Jackie Gray 29
 Christine Blesy-Krohn 29

November

Dorothy Greene 1
 Barbara Thompkins 2
 Justine Novy 3
 JoAnn Roberts 4
 Diane Workman 4
 Carma Latvala 5
 Robert Conway 6
 Gary Graff 8
 Juanita White 9
 Ellie Girsang 10
 Christine Schmidt 10
 Anita Shepherd 10
 Judith Haines 14
 Louvenia Banks 24
 Oreal Morsell 27
 Jeff Walker 29
 Jack Brown 30



Honoring our Emeritus Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Membership Date</u>
Jane Fletcher	1981
Vivian Jones	1981
Glossie Leake	1991
Eugene A. Uhlan	1994
Beatrice Simpson-Brown	2007

More good times at our April Meeting.....



CRSPA's next meeting is Wednesday, October 4th, 12pm, at Christ Church, Port Republic. Call Loujeania Johnson at 410-586-1066 or email lsjohnson58@verizon.net by Oct. 2nd.



2023 Maryland Legislation



At the MRSPA Annual Business Meeting in May, attendees were informed of the actions of the MRSPA Legislative Committee on bills in Maryland. You can see all the actions the committee took this year by going to the MRSPA website and clicking on the Legislative Committee. The final update for the 2023 session (with bills approved by the governor highlighted in yellow) is in pdf format under Legislative Updates June 19, 2023.

One specific item mentioned was the “Stop the Spam Calls Act of 2023” which has been signed by Governor Wes Moore. This act brings new telemarketing regulations to our state. If you want to know more see this link: <https://www.dnc.com/news/maryland-governor-signs-stop-spam-calls-act-2023-law> .

Federally, Adam Goldberg of NRTA (National Retired Teachers Association, AARPs Education Community) reported to those present that they continue to work on legislation to lower prices for prescription drugs.

The MRSPA Legislative Committee met the first week of August to discuss the Legislative Priorities Brochure for 2024. A minor change in wording under Heath Care was developed. It is not on the website yet; paper copies of this brochure will be available soon. The date for the MRSPA Legislative Workshop is January 30, 2024. There is a chance this meeting will be virtual-stay tuned as we get closer to the date.

Carol Ann Howard

Legislation Chair

Switch and Save Invitation:

MRSPA has extended an invitation to cash members to switch to dues deduction for 2023-2024. If they make the change, they are eligible for a one-time \$10 reduction in state dues. They would pay \$35 for state dues for 2023-2024, plus their local dues amount. Members need to complete and return the Dues Deduction Authorization Form, which is available on the MRSPA website under Switch and Save (<https://www.mrspa.org/switch-and-save>).

VISIT

www.crspa.org

For the latest newsletter, meetings, legislative updates, Day Trippers, photos, and more

The CRSPA Newsletter is published in September, November, January, and March. Copies are emailed and mailed and can also be found on our website.

CRSPA

4805 Regal Lane
Dunkirk, MD 20754