



TALBOT COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

February 2026

Dear TCRSPA Member,

Happy new Year! I hope you are all able to stay warm and safe during this harsh winter we are experiencing. Thank goodness we had a nice day for our Holiday Luncheon. About 40 of us gathered together on Dec 11th at Chesapeake Landing. We were joined by the TCPS Teacher of the Year, Lauren Rose, Support Staff of the Year, Giovanni Wynn, who were introduced by Superintendent Dr. Sharon Pepukayi. All three of these women are so impressive in their dedication and professionalism. They are a great credit to our profession. And of course, Sharon is one of our own! The social committee should be commended for a job well done. Attendees brought nonperishable food for the Neighborhood Service Center Food Pantry and raised funds for our Martha Green summer camp scholarship. A great time was had by all. Please plan to join us for our March Luncheon. Details to follow.

As can be seen in the remainder of this newsletter, our organization is alive and thriving. There are many opportunities to get involved. All members are encouraged to attend the quarterly executive meetings. The next meeting will be held on May 11th at 9:30 at the TCEC. Keep watch for important legislative advocacy opportunities.

This month we will once again host the TCPS Preretirement Meeting and provide goodies from the Culinary Arts Program. Judy, Tonya and I go and talk about our organization and encourage retirees to join. If you know anyone who will be retiring this year, please encourage them to join.

Please stay warm and safe,

Sherry Sutton

President

Urgent Portal Directions - Update

While it is a good idea for all of our members to set up a portal with the state pension system, the State is backing off about making it mandatory. You will continue to receive any paper reports that you are used to receiving. Go to: <https://sra.maryland.gov/mysrps> to set up your portal.

TCRSPA Talbot Interfaith Shelter Team

Our house sitters and cooks are still actively supporting the Shelter each month. Our team consists of Sue Tucker, Tonya Hayman, Jean Carrion, Cindy Jump, Jean Start, Peggy Ford, Debbie Chance, Nancy Phillips, Alana Turner, Vickie Wilson, Tracey Talbott and Sherry Sutton. Our association is responsible for manning the phone and front door and accepting donations for the family home on the 20th of each month. The day is divided into three shifts of 8:00 – 11:00 am, 11:00 – 2:00, and 2:00 – 4:00pm. We also provide the evening meal on the 23rd of each month.

Please consider joining the team as a house sitter, cook or both. We can arrange for you to job shadow another team member to get you started. For more information contact Sherry at (410) 924-8110.

Bingo Fundraiser for Talbot Interfaith Shelter

The Shelter is hosting a series of Bingo Nights to raise funds. Wouldn't it be fun to have a table of our Membership showing support? The Bingo Nights are held at the Easton Fire Hall from 6-9 on Fridays, March 13 and April 10. The cost is \$25 per person. If you would be interested in joining the fun, please contact Sherry at 410 924 8110 or suttonsherry2068@gmail.com.

Book Club

All our members are invited to participate in the TCRSPA Book Club which meets on the third Thursday of each month, at 12:30. The March book selection is *Fever*. We are a very informal group, and members attend when personal and travel plans allow. We do talk about the books as we are all avid readers! Please contact Carolyn Johnson if interested at cjohnson19570000@yahoo.com.

Health Care Update

TCPS retirees we have a new Primary Care practice open to us. Marathon Health at 508 Idelwild Avenue is accepting new patients and no copays. For more information call 410 770 – 2884.

Legislative Committee

Jean was on her way south, lucky soul, so Alana, Debbie Chance and I attended the ZOOM legislative workshop. Our State Legislative Committee keeps a close eye on our MD State Legislature during the legislative session. Three of the priority areas are pension protection, health care and any education bill, particularly those that affect the Blueprint. Currently our pension account is in good shape but one of the ways our Governor has balanced his proposed budget is to decrease state funding of our pensions by 50%, passing the cost on to the locals. We as an organization are very concerned about how this would impact local budgets. More information to come.

One bill that directly affects our pensions is about to be introduced. It has to do with how our Cost-of-Living increases are figured. This past year when the government was shut down, no economic data was published for the month of October. The way our COLA is

figured is by averaging the monthly SPI. If a 0 is averaged in for a month with no data, it would bring down our COLA considerable for 2026. Remember the whole death by zero discussions when it comes to grades! US Government shutdowns seem to be an ongoing risk. The bill that will be introduced would fix this. As soon as this bill is introduced as emergency legislation, we all need to call and email our legislators and ask that the Bill be supported and passed without amendments. We will get information out to you immediately when the bill is introduced. You will want to reach out to any legislators, who you know personally.

We will keep you up to date on legislation that affect us as retirees, public education and children.

TCRSPA Website

Thanks to Alana our Website is new and improved. Check it out. There are great resources. This time we are alerting you to the great information in the link to Consumer Connections. To read the MRSPA Consumer Connection online, unfollow these simple steps:

- Go to tcrspa.org
- Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on MRSPA.
- Along the top bar click on Committees and on the drop down menu select Consumer Education Committee.
- Two lines above the boxed message click on the highlighted months to get the current issue.

Social Committee News

What: Spring TCRSPA Luncheon and General Meeting

When: Tuesday, March 10, 2026. 11:30 am

Where: Easton Diner, 8475 Ocean Gateway, Easton, MD

We will gather in the back dining room.

Details: Each person will order and pay for their own meal, drink, tax and gratuity from the Easton Diner Menu. It is reasonably priced. You may visit the restaurant website, eastondinermd.com, to see the menu. Please call in your reservation to attend by Monday, March 2nd to:

Chic Harrison (410-822-1209)

Pat Chapman (443-786-8617)

Debbie Dyott (410-463-6286)

Please leave us a message if we do not answer the phone.

Pat and Debbie can accept text messages.

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

Community Service Committee (Bennie Milton and Doris Roach)

At our next luncheon, we will be collecting items for Talbot County Mobile Integrated Health. They are in need of the following items:

Nightlights, non-slip socks, shampoo, lotion, dryer sheets, paper towels, dish soap, trash bags, disinfectant wipes, bandages, gauze, toilet paper, body wipes and AAA and AA batteries.

CarePacks Packing

Once again we will be packing as a group in April. Please come to the Anchor Church on Goldsborough Street either for the 8:30 or the 10:30 – 12:00 shift. It is great fun and shows our continued support for the vulnerable children in our schools. We would like 5 people for the early set up shift and about 30 for the actual packing. The exact date will be sent out in an additional email when available. Contact Sherry to register at 410 924 8110 or suttonsherry2068@gmail.com.

Non-profit Status Reminders

If you need a check, a bill paid, or reimbursement please contact Jan McCrea. Checks must be made payable/mailed to the Mid-Shore Community Foundation, 102 East Dover Street, Easton, MD 21601 and the TCRSPA should be noted on the memo line. Through the Foundation we now can accept credit card donations online as well.

The Talbot County Retired School Personnel Association is a non-profit organization comprised of retired school system personnel. It serves as an advocate for its members. The Organization is dedicated to excellence in education and lifelong learning. It promotes community service by its members through a myriad of volunteer activities.