

# MESSAGE BOARD

**In the News**

○ **TABCO HAS MOVED!** The TABCO office moved during the week of September 10. The new address is 1220 C East Joppa Rd., Towson MD 21286. The telephone number remains the same: 410-828-6403. The new location provides for all offices to be on one main floor, with a large meeting room and more accessible parking.

○ The TABCO-Retired Steering Committee welcomes Julia Hinton-VanHook, Roxann Russo and Jane Sacks. They are continuing their association involvement as retired members and bringing their skills to our committee.

## MEMBER BENEFITS

- ⇒ Don't forget your member benefits when making travel plans. Find details at <https://www.neamb.com/travel.htm>
- ⇒ TABCO-R members are entitled to purchase discounted Cinemark movie tickets for \$8.00 at the TABCO office. Locations: Cinemark Towson or Cinemark Egyptian

**KEEP IN TOUCH!** PLEASE HELP US keep in touch with you by sending your updated email address to the TABCO-R Chairperson at [bookends68@comcast.net](mailto:bookends68@comcast.net).

## TABCO-R crosses the bay for a day

On Thursday, September 20, TABCO-R members and their guests traveled to The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center south of Cambridge on Maryland's Eastern Shore. The visitor center traces Harriet Tubman's life and achievements symbolically, using south to north movement within the building, as well as moving from darkened spaces to those in full light. A series of bronze statues highlights events in her story. Exhibits include auditory and visual experiences complimented by musical accompaniment. Visitors really get a feel for her desire to bring others to the freedom she gained for herself.

The natural beauty of this area has been virtually unchanged for over 200 years, and it was easy to imagine the struggles of Tubman's trips to bring other slaves to the north.

Following more than an hour of exploration at this National Park site, participants re-boarded the bus and traveled through the beautiful Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge to Hooper's Island, where they enjoyed lunch at Old Salty's Restaurant.

Reaction to this trip by attendees was very positive and we hope to provide more such opportunities for learning and socializing. Two of our steering committee members, Carol Dann and Barbara Tyler, are to be

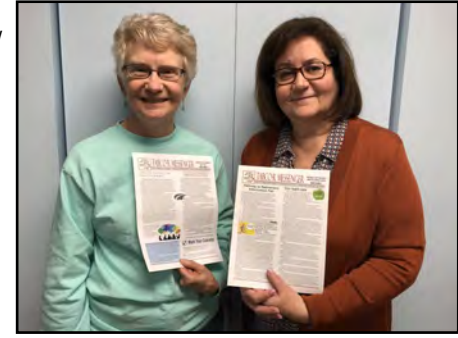
*"I had reasoned this out in my mind; there was one of two things I had a right to, liberty or death; if I could not have one, I would have the other; for no man should take me alive."*  
~Harriet Tubman



thanked for doing a great job of organizing this outing. We are looking for suggestions for destinations of interest to our members for future trips. Please email your ideas to the chairperson: [bookends68@comcast.net](mailto:bookends68@comcast.net).

## TABCO-R Messenger receives recognition

Our retiree newsletter, *The TABCO-R Messenger*, received national recognition for retiree newsletters at the July 2018 NEA Convention in Minneapolis. A plaque was presented to President Abby Beytin at the convention on our behalf, and will be displayed at the new TABCO office. This was our first year to enter the newsletter competition and we plan to submit *The Messenger* again in the coming year.



Co-editors Stephanie Foy and Angela Leitzer display the editions of *The Messenger* that were submitted for judging.

## ASSOCIATION WEBSITES—RETIREE INFORMATION

- TABCO [www.tabco.org](http://www.tabco.org)
- <http://tabco.org/about-us/tabco-retired/>
- MSEA [www.marylandeducators.org](http://www.marylandeducators.org)
- <http://www.marylandeducators.org/retired>
- NEA [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org)
- <http://www.nea.org/home/1598.htm>



# TABCO-R MESSENGER

RETIRED~NOT EXPIRED  
FALL 2018  
volume 4 number 1

TABCO-RETIRED MEMBERS ~INFORMED, INVOLVED, CONNECTED AND PROTECTED!

## "I haven't been everywhere, but it's on my list." TIPS FOR BUILDING A TRAVEL BUCKET LIST

The Annual TABCO-RETIRED FALL FORUM will be held on November 1, 2018 at the Oak Crest Village Retirement Community, 8820 Walther Blvd, Parkville, MD 21234.

We are excited to have several presenters who will bring information on a variety of travel types and tips to enhance our travel experiences. The retiree band *Stonehaven Road* will be entertaining during the registration period.

The Annual Book Exchange returns for your reading pleasure. Bring your unwanted books to share, or just choose from the ones we collect. Last fall, we were able to donate many children's books to *Turning Pages*, a wonderful program that brings children together to enjoy reading with incarcerated fathers. Susan Goodman, a



TABCO-R member, is a program director for this worthy cause.

The book exchange is a great opportunity to trade in a book for something you haven't read, or to donate. Be it a mystery, a biography, a cook book, or a children's book—whatever—bring those books along.

SHUTTLE: Once again, members of the TABCO-Retired Steering Committee will run a shuttle service to and from the parking lots to the Garden Room.

The registration form is enclosed with this newsletter. Come and join us for this fun, informative, free-to-members program.

## TABCO'S centennial celebrations at hand



One hundred years after the sweet-faced daughter of Irish immigrants set out to form an association to address the needs of public school teachers in Baltimore County, over 8,000 active and retired educators comprise the membership of the small organization she founded. M. Ellen Logan stood up and spoke out on behalf of teachers at a time when teachers—and women—were marginalized. The history and progress of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County over these past ten decades is truly worthy of celebration.

With this in mind, a committee of both active and retired members has planned several activities to commemorate the 100th anniversary. The big event is the celebration on **Friday, November 9, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.** at the new TABCO office location. A joint Grand Opening and 100th Anniversary Open House will feature hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, desserts and beverages, as well as a ribbon cutting and program at 7:30. Registration for this event is **required**, and may be accomplished by one of three methods:

- Email Stacie Strickland [sstrickland@mseanea.org](mailto:sstrickland@mseanea.org)
- Or, reply online at this link—

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tabco-100th-anniversary-celebration-tickets-48841253504>

- Or call Stacie at 410-828-6403.

Registration must be completed by **October 26**.

The committee has also undertaken to preserve important TABCO historical documents and artifacts, some of which will form a display at the new office. In addition, we, as a retired membership, have had a large photograph of the founder printed on canvas and framed, to be hung at the new office. Members of TABCO-Retired are being asked to donate toward the cost of this portrait, in honor

of the 100th anniversary (please see the enclosed donation form).

A scholarship in honor of M. Ellen Logan has existed for a number of years; this year we are hoping to build up the fund and enable more children of Association members to attend college—with a little help. We are reaching out to members and to our endorsed vendors to ask for donations for this, too. What better way to recognize the importance of our education association than by promoting higher education for students?

Those who attend the November 9 event will receive a commemorative publication which will include articles on TABCO history, commentary from past presidents, and will acknowledge those who donate, as detailed on the donation form.

A slide show of TABCO photographs is being prepared for the celebration. If you have an interesting photo, perhaps from a rally, a special event, etc., or an artifact or significant document, and are willing to share, please contact Angela Leitzer at [bookends68@comcast.net](mailto:bookends68@comcast.net).



Are you in this photo? There are at least 3 past TABCO presidents in this group of convention attendees. Can you identify them?





# ESCAPE TO...ALASKA

IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TO ALASKA, DON'T MISS IT!

By Stephanie Foy

The last week of May found my husband, daughter, son-in-law and me on an airplane bound for Vancouver, BC to board a Celebrity Cruise of Alaska's Inner Passage. We allowed for a two night stay in Vancouver to take in its sights. I would highly recommend a bike ride around the peninsula on which Stanley Park is located and a trip to the Capillano Suspension Bridge. The food in Vancouver is outstanding. Enjoy!

We boarded our ship on a Friday with 14 other members of my husband's extended family. We didn't realize it then, but this cruise would turn out to be an experience like no other. After a day of cruising our first port was Ketchikan. Our excursion on the DUCK tour was quite enjoyable, even in the rain, getting quite close to numerous bald eagles.

Next stop was Icy Strait near Hoonah, Alaska. This is a port run by Native Americans of the area and was developed specifically to attract cruise ships. Booked as "the real Alaska," it afforded an historic look at the salmon canning factory that once provided jobs for most of the population of Hoonah. That factory has been restored as a museum and shops. Here we were able to see whales right from the shore and some in our party did whale watching excursions that were outstanding. Much of Alaska is actually very depressed. This port gives hope that the native population can cash in on the tourist industry.

Juneau was our next port. My bucket list includes visiting all 50 state capital buildings and this was #33 for me. It's a nondescript building as capitals go, but now I've been there! We did a sea plane excursion, flying over 5 glaciers in 40 minutes. Both my husband and I were thrilled with the experience. The natural beauty of Alaska is overwhelming. Every view whether from air, sea, or land supports this statement. Hard to imagine that the next view always seemed to be more awesome than the last.

Skagway was a great little town. We were supposed to ride on the White Pass Railroad, but a rock slide cancelled that excursion. We went to the top of White Pass on a bus instead. Scenery again breathtaking.

The next day included our complete ship rotation at Hubbard Glacier. We got within 2 miles of the glacier in

its ice field due to the combined expertise of our local pilots and captain. We witnessed the glacier calving and it was a perfect day weather-wise. Everyone in the crew said it was as good as it gets. Cruising from there and through the night led to an early debarkation in Seward, Alaska where we visited The Alaska Sea Life Center and Exit Glacier and then drove to Anchorage in a rental car.

We stayed 3 more nights, using Anchorage as a base. The trolley tour of Anchorage was enjoyable. Day trips included going as far north as Talkeetna which is 60 miles from Denali and, once again with perfect weather, we got great photos of North America's tallest peak. We also went south to Whittier (via one-way shared train/auto tunnel) and Girdwood viewing Turnagin Arm going to and fro.



So, here are my takeaways from this fantastic trip. When I go to Alaska next time, I am going to do the trip in reverse with some changes and additions.

1. I am going to go mid to late June or early July. Warmer, still long days, and Denali should have all parts open.
2. I will fly into Fairbanks.
3. I will take the train south allowing 2 to 3 days to explore Denali National Park.
4. I will get a rental car in Anchorage and spend 3 to 4 days visiting other sites on the Kenai Peninsula including a cruise of Kenai National Park.
5. I will board a south bound cruise ship in Seward or Whittier. Quite frankly, I think all the major cruise lines are comparable, so I will shop the best deal for an outside cabin with a veranda. Ports that I would revisit include Skagway and Juneau, and would like to experience others. It would be nice to end in Seattle since I have already been to Vancouver.

6. In short, if you think you'd only go once, do the trip southbound as I have just described, but end in Vancouver. Allow 2 weeks minimum.

Wanna pick my brain?

Email me at: [stephaniefoy82@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniefoy82@gmail.com)

Would you like to tell your retired colleagues about a worthwhile travel experience? Email [bookends68@comcast.net](mailto:bookends68@comcast.net).

TABCO-Retired is a class of membership that is affiliated with MSEA-Retired and NEA-Retired.

TABCO-R Steering Committee Members:

Chairperson: Angela Leitzer, [bookends68@comcast.net](mailto:bookends68@comcast.net)  
Elizabeth Ceanfaglione, Carol Dann, Stephanie Foy  
Julia Hinton-VanHook, Edward Kitlowski, Cindy North  
Roxann Russo, Jane Sacks, Barbara Tyler,  
Mary Ellen Vecchioni, Cheryl Vourvoulas

Messenger Editors: Stephanie Foy, Angela Leitzer  
Contact person for TABCO-R at the TABCO office:  
Stacie Strickland [sstrickland@mseane.org](mailto:sstrickland@mseane.org)

TABCO office: 410-828-6403 fax: 410-337-7081  
NEW: 1220 C, Suite 514 E. Joppa Rd. Towson, MD 21286  
TABCO Office Hours MON-THU 9:00am to 5:30pm FRI 9:00am to 5:00pm

The TABCO-R Committee operates under the direction of TABCO elected leadership:

President Abby Beytin,  
Vice President Marcie Cooke  
Treasurer John R. Wilkins, Secretary Lora Zerlout  
& TABCO Board of Directors

## Making a difference begins at the ballot box

As TABCO-Retired members, we have made the choice to remain connected. Over the many years of our involvement, we have learned that every decision that affects public education is a political one first, that the teaching and learning environment in schools is a direct result of decisions made by elected officials. Those of us who continue to care about public schools, and about our active colleagues, must use our votes to elect candidates who will support the best conditions for teachers and students.

For the first time, seven of the twelve members of the Baltimore County Board of Education will be elected, rather than being appointed by the governor. We are fortunate to have outstanding candidates running for those positions: Edward Kitlowski (District 6) and Paul Konka (District 3).

Ed Kitlowski is a recently retired BCPS teacher and ardent teacher advocate, who is currently serving as the Director of Pipes and Drums at the U.S. Naval Academy. He is also serving as a member of the TABCO-Retired Steering Committee, helping to define new roles for retiree involvement. Ed's information may be found online, including at:



<https://elections2018.news.baltimoresun.com/baltimore-county/board-of-education/district-6/edward-kitlowski/>  
See Ed's article, written for us, in the next column.



Paul Konka is a BCPS teacher and adjunct professor with the University of Maryland University College and a retired Navy Captain. For more information on Paul, several articles are available online, including at:

<https://elections2018.news.baltimoresun.com/baltimore-county/board-of-education/district-3/paul-v-konka/>

Both candidates have been recommended by the leaders and membership of TABCO.

## HELP OUR CANDIDATES!

### LET'S MOBILIZE THE POWER OF RETIRED MEMBERS

We want to let voters know whom we identify as public education endorsed candidates—and that means WE NEED YOU!

Please let us know if you can give an hour or two at one of the Early Voting Locations any day between October 25-November 1. As soon as possible, please contact TABCO-R Government Relations liaison, Barbara Tyler, at [bt Tyler9@comcast.net](mailto:bt Tyler9@comcast.net) to offer your help!



## WHY I AM RUNNING

By Ed Kitlowski

I am not running because I want a political career. I am running as a statement of my commitment to education.

Baltimore County Public Schools is at a crossroads. The current administrations at the state and federal levels promote plans that weaken public schools. The Supreme Court, in a blatant political maneuver, ruled in a case that weakens the collective power of educators. The working conditions of many teachers has become dangerous and disempowering. It doesn't look good.

In the darkest moment of the American Revolution, an Englishman wrote an essay that changed the momentum. I am borrowing his spirit with the following:

*These are the times that try a teacher's soul. The powers that be are attacking not only our profession, but our judgments and intelligence. We have become a line item in the data management of education. It is easier to voice anger at those who impose their power but have never stepped into our shoes, but language is insufficient. And there are those who comfort themselves by shutting their doors and existing only within their classrooms, hoping things will get better. The power of politicians may seem insurmountable, but that is an illusion. It will be inconvenient, but the greater the struggle, the more glorious the victory.*

For the first time, the citizens of Baltimore County will have a say in choosing the people in charge of the school system. Several of those running are educators or former educators. Imagine having a real voice on the Board of Education. Think of the shift that would occur. The Master Agreement would be meaningful. Involuntary transfers would no longer be a weapon of bullying administrators. The people on the Hill would become accountable to the people in the schools. Imagine being able to tell the superintendent what does and does not work. Imagine our voices making a difference.

There are those running for the Board who are not interested in what teachers say. One candidate even said it was a good thing she was not a teacher. Several of those running would perpetuate the political posturing at the expense of teachers, both literally and figuratively.

Many teachers say, "I hope you win. Good Luck." They don't realize this race is not about me. It is insufficient to say, "Good luck, I hope you win." Are educators willing to let the profession (and teachers' lives) be determined as if it were the lottery?

Now is the time for action. Often the most momentous events in life are unplanned and inconvenient. This is it. Now is the time to stand for our profession.

