

## Minutes from QACREA Meeting June 12, 2018

11:30 Fellowship sharing of stories, grandchildren, pets, etc.

12:00 Meeting called to order

All were welcomed with a special greeting to Gretchen Blackiston and Alexis Kelsen, our scholarship recipients for this year. We enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by Susie's Kitchen.

12:45 Pledge to the flag

Tomi introduced Alexis Kelsen from KIHS. She will be attending Salisbury University with a major in elementary education. She has volunteered with children who have disabilities and did her internship in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Bobbie read the thank you note she sent.

Gretchen Blackiston from QACHS was introduced. She will be attending Stevens University. She interned in 1<sup>st</sup> grade at CES.

As a point of interest, it was reported that the first scholarship was awarded in 1994.

Cathy Wright and Sheriff Gary Hoffman gave a very informative presentation on QACo Goes Purple. It addressed the opioid epidemic that is sweeping the state, county and neighborhoods. We were told that opioids are purchased in Annapolis, Baltimore and Philadelphia. No one ever expects to get hooked. By saying, "He's just being a kid", families and friends become enablers. Community members notice thefts since heroin users are usually non-confrontational.

Narcan is one of the best things to help save lives. The problem is it gives a false sense of protection. The sheriff's department doesn't want to lock up people with addiction issues. They want to get them help.

September 2018 QACo will be going purple. The big kick off will be in November when a former sports star, who had a heroin addiction, shares his story at several venues.

Our area representative, Debbie Chance, was introduced. Debbie commended QACREA for 11 new members this year. Debbie relayed the theme of our state president, Ann Marie Downey. She has three key phrases: connecting, protecting and making a difference. It was also noted that MRSPA is looking for more people to serve on the legislative committee.

Minutes were presented and accepted.

Treasurer's Report was presented and accepted. The beginning balance was \$3,516.72. Deposits of \$540.00 and disbursements of \$824.02 left a balance of \$3,232.70. The scholarship fund currently has a balance of \$3,361.39.

Richard explained the \$25.00 spent for liability insurance. There was an additional expense for dinner to thank Jen for auditing the books.

Sharon Darling moved that the organization name be changed from Queen Anne's County Retired Educators Association (QACREA) to Queen Anne's County Retired School Personnel Association (QACRSPA). This is a more inclusive name and is in line with the state organization.

The motion was passed unanimously. There will need to be some changes on the website and at the bank.

There is a \$10 incentive for dues deduction being offered at this time. Currently local dues are \$10 and state dues are \$45. Richard explained that it's like purchasing an insurance policy for \$1.13 a week. Richard also noted how many pages of coupons are available on the state website.

Richard will be attending the Board of Education meeting tomorrow night representing this group. The county has gone to maintenance of effort since they received \$4 million less than was asked for.

Richard mentioned the history that has been found and sorted in the file cabinet. It is ready to pass on to the next group of officers.

Ann Campbell asked that we contact retirees who no longer attend meetings.

Steve Strobeck would like to continue on the Legislative Committee. He reported that this has been a quiet session with emphasis on elder care and long term health care. The committee will be getting ready for the new legislative session in August.

Bonnie Dixon reported on the Consumer Education Committee at the state level. There is a focus on falls after age 65 and how to prevent them. Another area of concern is fraud and scams: just hang up. If you can, go to the bottom of the phone screen and block the caller. Be aware of people coming to the door to offer to clean up after storms. They will ask for 50%, then not do the work.

Thank you to Madeline for taking all of the information and making it look professional in our newsletter.

Keep Susan Boone informed about the deaths of employees. She needs profile updates now so they are on hand. Mention was made that Marian Faulkner passed on March 24, 2018.

Kathy Draper shared her email address : [TOMKAT316@gmail.com](mailto:TOMKAT316@gmail.com). It was suggested that her email address be included in the newsletter. Kathy is chairing the Sunshine Committee and would like to be able to send cards for illness and deaths in the family. Please let her know when a need arises.

Meetings will be held on October 9, 2018, December 11, 2018, March 12, 2018 and June 11, 2018. October 9<sup>th</sup> will be a Silent Auction to benefit the scholarship fund. There will be an August newsletter.

The hat was passed for scholarship contributions. Sharon Darling shared that her grandson, Bryan Darling, will be teaching at QACHS this year. Richard's granddaughter will be teaching 2nd grade in Tennessee.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00pm