

Queen Anne's County Retired School Personnel Association

Minutes from QACRSPA Meeting of October 12, 2021

11:30-12:00 Member visitation and conversation

12:00 Richard called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. After the pledge to the flag, Richard introduced QA County's new superintendent, Dr. Saelens. In her remarks, Dr. Saelens said she was joining her third educational family, having previously worked in Worcester and Caroline Counties. Dr. Saelens mentioned strategic planning, pre-k for all students and building relations as focus points.

Betty Weller, our area representative from Kent County, was also introduced. So nice to have both of these ladies join us for casual conversation and lunch.

Richard blessed the food and we enjoyed a delicious lasagna lunch prepared by Susie's Kitchen.

Minutes were presented informally. The executive committee has been actively planning for the new year. The 'We're Not Going Back To School Breakfast', at Denney's on Kent Island, was well attended and enjoyed by all. We had a separate room with efficient wait staff. The food was served promptly and the conversation flowed with several new retirees in attendance. Different venues are under consideration for future meetings. Plans are being made for our traditional Christmas meeting. Prospect Bay was mentioned as a possibility. More details as they become available.

Treasurer's Report

General fund	\$5,383.08
Scholarship fund	7,804.24
Total	\$13,187.32

Loss of Members Richard asked that Susan Boone be notified of any deaths of school personnel, not members only. Also, let Kathy Draper know about anyone is ill. We want to honor all of our colleagues. Since our last meeting, two members have passed.

Dorothy Madison - PE teacher at Sudlersville High School

Nancy Scott – 1st grade teacher at Sudlersville Elementary School

Scholarship Bobbie thanked the membership, saying it had been a barn buster year for scholarship contributions. Lynn mentioned to her that several members were also adding extra to their payment for lunches, asking that it go to the scholarship fund. The committee asked for recommendations for expenditure. Parents of students and the students who received scholarships this year wrote thank you notes to QACRSPA. Tomi took flowers to the guidance

secretaries at the high schools to thank them for their help in getting the information out to potential applicants.

Facebook Jackie is keeping active on Facebook. She shared pictures that were taken over the summer. Members were asked to vote for their favorite in two categories, family and landscape. Prizes were awarded at the end of the meeting. Jackie is requesting recipes for a Thanksgiving/Christmas posting.

Membership Mary reminded everyone that our health insurance is not a given. There is nothing that states you will get this amount for the rest of your life. Everyone is encouraged to join to protect their pension and insurance benefits at a cost of about \$1 a week. Mary had applications available for members to take. Remember to put your name at the bottom of the application. The State Department will give you a \$10 gift card to Walmart for getting a new member to join.

Newsletter Madeline suggested going to QACRSPA.org as another option for getting a copy of the membership form. The newsletter is emailed before each meeting. Even if a member is getting the newsletter by postal mail, Madeline would still like to have an email address for them. Of 171 members, only 42 newsletters are mailed out.

Legislation Each member received a brochure from Steve. He highlighted the names on the back and the responsibilities of each committee member. Pension protection remains the most important issue. Health care is a local issue, not statewide. There are 9 legislative priorities listed in the brochure along with MRSPA's position on each. The committee will meet in January to discuss any legislation relevant to these priorities.

Community Service Sandy will have ideas to share before the December meeting.

For the Good of the Group Jane Young said Bill is doing better but still has a long way to go. He has returned to Symphony Village and is walking with a walker. Appreciates the cards and phone calls.

Pumpkins Marge will write a thank you note to Lowery's Produce for the discounted pumpkin price. Lynn shared the decorations available and the creative juices flowed. We enjoyed seeing the finished products before they were boxed and taken to the nursing home. Richard reported the excitement of the residents as the pumpkins were put on display.

Marge Felty, Secretary