

Minutes from QACREA Meeting- December 13, 2016

11:30 Visitation

12:00 We enjoyed working together on 'messed up' song titles. Richard offered the blessing before the delicious ham and turkey dinner provided by Susie's Kitchen.

12:55 Meeting was called to order and began with comments by our new leadership.

Frances Miller (Fay), MRSPA President – Fay is from Kent County where she worked for 48 years. She has plans to visit all of the counties she represents in MD by June 12th. "Membership matters, especially yours," is her mantra for her 2 year term. Members are important, particularly in our influence over legislators. We have economic impact as well. Representatives are needed at the state committee level. Fay recognized Mildred Casey as an emeritus member who is still involved. Her final comment was: "The best insurance policy we have to protect our pension is our membership in MRSPA."

Shachar Weizman, Executive Director MRSPA - Shachar came on board in July from the business community. He has concentrated on redoing the website and putting the MRSPA name out there. He is considering an e-commerce website to put MRSPA logo on necessary items. Everyone needs to register to get into the area restricted to MRSPA members only. Shachar told a story about mass mailing in Kentucky to restore the pension, that illustrated the power of the association. He is trying to make the presence more web savvy through YOU TUBE channel and Facebook. Other areas under exploration are offering pet insurance, Fast Park in 2 locations, MRSPA credit card and an Annual Walk for Education to fund the scholarship. His watch words are Unity, Vitality and Visibility.

Debbie Chance, Area Director MRSPA- Debbie was introduced and welcomed everyone.

Treasurer's Report- Accepted as presented.

Richard passed a list around to have the members sign up for electronic newsletter if they had not signed up before. The target date for the first one is March. Sharon Darling recommended the newsletter be proofread before it's sent out.

Minutes- Accepted as presented. Jolly asked about membership cards. Rollover memberships don't expire. One card was issued the date you retired. This may need to be worked out locally.

Legislative Update-Steve reported that the legislature has not started to meet yet. There is no immediate worry about our pension since the pension bank is in good shape. The concern is more for those currently in the workforce. Steve distributed a brochure. He reiterated that pensions are not a guaranteed item and there are some current movements to eliminate pensions. Our concern is the preservation of the pension fund. It is currently 60% funded. The

goal is raising that to 80% funding and by 2034 to have it 100% funded. There will be a template on the website for members to use to contact legislators after registering.

Right now counties are funding a large share of retirees' benefits. To safeguard insurance coverage he suggested members attend commissioners and board meetings.

Steve will be attending 6-8 meetings during the legislative session. MRSPA's position on items under consideration will be posted on the website. Log in to the new website and register. Be aware that governors have borrowed from the pension fund in the past. At Jolly's suggestion, the group acknowledged Steve's commitment to his position on our behalf.

Captain Kelly was re-elected and is committed to our healthcare package.

Items for Discussion-

Superintendent's position is advertised this month for any interested in applying. In February the committee will meet to whittle down the list of applicants. The top contenders will be interviewed then two will be asked to visit. Richard has asked to continue on this committee.

Winter programs abound in QA Co. schools. We were encouraged to attend the wonderful programs put on by our local students. Richard read a list of performances and times.

March 2 will be READING in Schools Day. Contact the individual school if you're interested in going in to read.

Scholarship- \$217 was collected at the December luncheon.

Community Service- In March, canned goods will be collected to augment the food banks. June's donations will be school supplies so we'll have them in the fall. Richard took 60 books to Church Hill Elementary School last week. Books that were collected at today's meeting will go to Sudlersville Elementary.

The meeting ended with a rousing group rendition of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'.

Meeting adjourned 2:05pm.

Marge Felty, Secretary