

Minutes from QACREA Meeting June 13, 2017

11:30 Visitation and Lunch

Richard McNeal, President, greeted guest and members. Richard provided the blessing. We all enjoyed lunch provided by Susie's Kitchen.

12:48 Richard called the meeting to order. He thanked Dave VanWyck for putting together an entertaining powerpoint with short notice.

Minutes: Bobbie Leaverton, Vice-President, presented the minutes from the last meeting in the absence of Marge Felty, Secretary. They were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Lynn Linder, Treasurer, presented the report and it was approved. She reminded all members that local dues were now \$10. She also shared that our CD comes up for renewal in Aug. and the Executive Team is recommending to not renew it because of the small amount of interest it is earning. Rather, it is recommended that we put it in the general account to be used in the case of emergencies. The recommendation was approved. Lynn also recommended that we establish 2 different accounts in order to separate the scholarship funds from membership. This was agreed upon. Lynn will investigate account requirements to assure we will not be charged fees unnecessarily.

Scholarship Recognitions: Jean Cupani, Scholarship Chairperson, introduced Mary Mulligan, the scholarship recipient from KIHS. Mary thanked us all for the "faith to invest in my future," and expressed a strong desire to teach because she wants to change the world through teaching. Jean also read the thank-you note from Mary as well. Mary will be attending Mt. Saint Mary's College. Jean also provided information on the QACHS recipient, Sabanna Smallwood-Corcoran, who was not in attendance. Sabanna will be attending Wesley College.

State MRSPA Recognition: Richard shared that Lynn, Bobbie and he attended the MRSPA State Luncheon in May. At this meeting the QACREA received 2 recognitions related to membership. One was for the largest percentage increase in membership and the other was for largest numerical increase. The Association received certificates for both recognitions. Richard and Jean also mentioned that reaching out to new retirees at school-based celebrations was a powerful way to encourage them to join the association.

Health Care Changes: Robin Landgraff, Chief Financial Officer and Amy Poad spoke to the group about a change in how health care premiums can now be paid. Starting Sept. 1, premiums can be withdrawn directly from member's monthly retirement checks. By doing this, members will no longer have to write checks and can save on postage too. Many members spoke in favor of this change. Forms were distributed and need to be returned asap to Amy Poad. IF you have any questions, please contact Amy at 410-758-2403, ext. 123 or at amy.poad@qacps.org

Robin also shared that there is a slight increase in premiums this year. Monthly cost will increase from \$70.49 to \$72.14.

Service Recognitions: Richard expressed gratitude to the following members who were stepping down as committee chairpersons: Ava Honeycutt - Sunshine Committee; Ruth Ford - Newsletter; Jean Cupani - Scholarship; and Marcella Bordley - Necrology. Each of them received a card of thanks and flowers. Ava will deliver Marcella's in her absence. Richard announced that Kathy Draper will now be our Sunshine Committee Chairperson, Madelyn Hubbard will take over the newsletter responsibilities, Bobbie Leaverton and Tomi Fabri will co-chair scholarship and Susan Boone will be in charge of the necrology. He also shared that we will be establishing a way to communicate information about illnesses, etc. and to look in the next newsletter for more information. Bobbie mentioned that the Oct. meeting will include a silent auction to raise money for the scholarship account and additional information will also be in the next newsletter.

New Superintendent: Richard announced that no announcement has been made yet, but the BOE has a work session tomorrow and it may be announced then.

BOE Meetings: Richard spoke to the group about the importance of having a presence at the monthly BOE meetings. He usually speaks at these meetings as the President of the Association. He asked for volunteers from the membership to attend the meetings with him. Volunteers did not necessarily have to speak, but could if they wanted. He passed around a sign-up sheet for people to volunteer for a meeting this upcoming year. (Many people signed up and Richard thanked them and told folks he would send out reminders each month.)

Hope School: Richard reminded everyone that the school is open the first Saturday of the month through October, from 10 to 1:00. He thanked Susan Boone for the help she provided restoring some of the books.

Volunteer Hours: Members were asked to complete the # of hours they completed between Jan. to June (or the entire year if they didn't report in Dec.) and turn in to Lynn.

Waiver of Article VI and Election of Officers: Richard explained that we are out of compliance with our by-laws and should have held an election of officers in March. He asked for a waiver by the membership and all agreed. There were no nominations from the floor and the current officers will continue for the next year: President - Richard McNeal; Vice-President - Bobbie Leaverton; Treasurer - Lynn Linder; and Recording Secretary - Marjorie Felty.

Legislature: Steve reported that the next meeting will be in August. The priority will focus on the preservation of pensions. There are concerns that other states are adjusting/changing pensions, scaling back on COLA's, increasing costs of health care, etc. Mr. Smigo reported that our COLA is very meager this year, .0101625 (approximately!). Steve will have more information at the October meeting.

For the good of the group: Mr. Smigo received a scam phone call recently (soliciting money for an injured grandchild). He called and reported it to the Sheriff Dept.

1:50 Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbie Leaverton