

Minutes from QACRSPA Meeting – June 13, 2023

11:30 Lively conversation and renewing acquaintances

11:58 Richard welcomed everyone. He thanked Jackie & Mark Wilhelm and Sharon & Dave Brown for helping to set up the room for today's meeting.

Susie served a traditional, delicious picnic lunch to go with the red, white & blue theme.

Pledge to flag

The meeting was opened to Zoom participants at this time.

Sue Miller, treasurer, reported a total of \$4,910 in the account.

Bobbie thanked members for their generous contributions to the scholarship fund. More than \$4,000 was raised in the latest campaign. The selection committee, composed of Carol Williamson, Michelle Hustead, and Madeline Hubbard, was thanked for their part in scoring the numerous applications. Tomi introduced the winners, Emily Crossley QACHS and Kit Alvarenga KIHS. Kit will be attending Liberty University with plans to become a math teacher. Emily will be attending West Virginia University with an interest in agriculture. Each winner shared a particular person, at the school level, who had been an influence in their decision to teach.

Susan Boone said she had no Necrology report until Monday when she was told Sterl Mock had passed. A member let us know that Joan Berwick's sister had also passed since our last meeting.

Mildred Casey sent a thank you to everyone for her 99th birthday cards. Richard was at the Board Meeting last week when Mrs. Casey was recognized and a proclamation was read in her honor.

Mary Lou shared information about an upcoming walk for ALS. Two QACPS educators have been affected by this disease, Andy Schipul and Pam Edwards. There will be a local walk at Rt. 18 Park on October 22nd with a goal of raising \$50,000 for research and finding a cure. Madeline emailed the information Mary Lou was distributing to everyone.

QACRSPA was recognized again this year for membership growth at the state level. Richard reiterated, it's not for the honors or numbers but we need members to protect our pension and insurance plans. The \$1.07 weekly cost of membership is money well spent! The Board will be recognizing 2022-2023 retirees on June 21st at the Board Office. Mary has sent information and invited all new retirees to join. Mark Wilhelm was the only new retiree in attendance today. Dave Brown is going through the list of retirees, from the last 10 years, to identify those who have not joined so Mary can encourage them to so.

Sandy introduced our speaker, Julie Killi, the Opioid Intervention Coordinator for the school system. Julie explained her leadership program, Drug Free Student Ambassadors. Her program educates these students so they can share information with their peers and the community. It started last year with the high school and has expanded with more high school students this year and includes middle schoolers now, too. The ambassadors put messages on purple necklaces and candy to distribute at last year's tree lighting ceremony and participated in the Christmas parade in Centreville. The group has been recognized by the County Commissioners for their work. Julie has started a Living Naturally High Club and is appreciative of any volunteers to help with the ambassadors many projects.

Richard said he requested the Board grant writer include a request for funds to help repair the one room school house.

Everyone was encouraged to put the 'We Don't Have To Go Back To School Breakfast' at Denny's, on Monday, August 28th at 8:45 on their calendars.

There was discussion about a postcard members received concerning prescription drugs. Richard was unable to contact the website but Dave Rose said he had and the site was active now. Several drugs are no longer being covered. We were reminded to contact Labor First/Retiree First with questions. Jackie shared her experience of having to prove that this is the ONLY medicine that will work.

The business portion of the meeting ended and BINGO for prizes began. Dave Brown called the games and kept the winners coming.

Marge Felty,
Secretary

