

Minutes from QACREA Meeting – March 13, 2018

11:30 Welcome, Visitation, Fellowship and Introduction of guests – Faye Miller, President of MRSPA and Marsha McNeal, QAC Teacher of the Year.

12:00 St. Patrick's Day themed corned beef luncheon provided by Susie's Kitchen. Blessing offered by our president.

12:45 Meeting was called to order followed by the pledge to the flag.

Faye Miller handed out a paper called, "AARP in the States: SNAPSHOT: Maryland State Retirement and Pension System". It provides an overview of the retirement and pension systems and is a good recruiting tool for why retirees should join the Association.

Mrs. Miller congratulated Madeline on the quality of our newsletter.

She spoke about another initiative food drive called the "School Pantry Program" which will be explained further at the next Presidents' meeting.

She also provided information about the state sponsored scholarship program to folks working in the field toward certification or re-certification.

Marsha McNeal offered remarks about her busy year and wonderful experiences as Teacher of the Year.

Richard acknowledged and thanked members for their donations to the "Food Pantry" program.

Minutes – Approved as presented

Treasurer's Report – Balance forward was \$3,711.63. Deposits since the last meeting total \$800. Disbursements total \$3,516.72. The scholarship balance reflects several scholarship drives and totals \$4,886.39. Scholarship disbursements were \$1,00. Total balance for Scholarship is \$2,886.39. Total balance in account is \$6,403.11. Because of the wonderful support of the members, the scholarship for next year is already funded. Lynn reported that the books have been audited by Jen Boden and will be audited every March. The treasurer's report was approved as presented.

Current Business -- Richard handed out the revised by-laws. He thanked Ann Campbell, Susan Boone, and Ruth Ford for working with him on the revisions. He highlighted the changes made to the original by-laws. Sharon Darling presented the suggestion that this might be the appropriate time to align the title of our organization with that of the state. Instead of the QAC Retired Educators Association, the name should be changed to Queen Anne's County Retired School Personnel Association. After some discussion about the ramifications of a name change, such as banking issues, it was agreed that the matter needs further investigation. A motion was made and carried that the Association should have the name changed to align with the state. A second motion was made and carried that any changes will be tabled until the June meeting pending further inquiries. Additional grammatical and structural changes were noted and accepted. Mrs. Miller gave some examples of why it is important to locate the original by-laws available.

At our last meeting, members were asked to contribute to a clothing drive for elementary school health rooms. Richard has received many thank-you notes from the school nurses for our generosity.

Notable phone scams in the area include calls from the IRS, Lottery winners, and relatives in jail. Sheriff Hoffman wanted us to have a heads up about these scams.

Richard is looking for volunteers to serve as hosts for the One-Room school house for the first Saturday of the months from May – October. Sign-up sheets were available on the tables.

Richard also asked for nominations for the Maryland Senior Citizen Hall of Fame. The deadline for nominations is April 10.

Committee Reports

Legislative – Steve was not present for the meeting but sent the following:

“There seem no initiatives at the moment centering on pensions or threats to funding. The website is up to date and you can see MSRPA’s positions on considered bills. Our talks have been on bills related to quality of life issues – specifically on regulations on nursing homes and home care, and pharmacy benefits for seniors, secondly long term care-tax deductions for long term care, and limitations on long term increases by the insurance companies.”

Necrology – Susan read the list of names of members who have passed since the last report including: Anita VanSant, Ida Theresa Kearney Gabriel, Edward Walls, Jr., Norman Charles Blackiston, and Gloristeen Pinkett. She thanked Mildred Casey for calling her with news of members’ passings. Profile sheets were sent out with the last meeting reminder and many have been returned to Susan. Madeline will provide a list of members who do not have email so that they will receive a printed copy of the profile sheet to be sent back to Susan.

Communication – Richard congratulated Madeline on the quality of the newsletter. Madeline asked that she be notified of any changes to email or mailing addresses.

Scholarship – Bobbie reiterated her delight with the success of the scholarship drive and the achievement of the goal of having next year’s scholarships funded. We need to keep this momentum going. Tomi will be looking for members to review the scholarship applications. Bobbie suggested that letters of financial support for our scholarships should be sent to civil organizations and businesses. We were asked to offer suggestions of businesses and civic organizations.

Community service – Richard asked for a volunteer to chair this committee.

Pre-retirement – We need to find out earlier who is retiring from the school system. Last year, Richard was not given a list until late June which is too late to make personal contact within each building.

Madeline Hollis inquired whether any member might be eligible to attend special district or state meetings.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 12.

2:00 Adjournment