

Minutes from QACRSPA Annual Business Meeting - March 22,2023

11:30 Welcome to Spring with lively conversation

12:00 Richard blessed the food after welcoming everyone, especially first-time attendees. We enjoyed the ham, macaroni and cheese, green beans, salad, pretzel salad, rolls and cookies prepared by Helen Todd.

12:45 Meeting was called to order.

Minutes The minutes from December were summarized. Members were made aware there will no longer be paper copies available at the meeting. Minutes will be sent by email, by mail to those members who request them or on the QACRSPA website.

Treasurer's Report Sue Miller, acting treasurer, was unable to attend as she was in surgery. She gave Richard her report but it was temporarily misplaced. He assured everyone we do have money!

Necrology Susan Boone shared, those who worked with us and have passed since our last meeting are:

Warren Jay Baird	Cathy Pfeiffer
Chester (Chet) Knight	Iris Steel
Mary Ann Amirikian	Tom Breit
Lisa Schrader	

Richard thanked Susan for making sure their names are entered in a Memorial Book at the next Annual State Meeting.

Scholarship Bobbie Leaverton reported scholarship letters were sent out on 2/22. She thanked members for their generosity. As of this meeting she had received \$4,180 in contributions. Encourage any graduating senior, considering a teaching or counseling career, to apply for the scholarship.

Membership Mary Holden reported 12 people have joined in the past year. She shared the membership form that makes current members eligible for a \$10 Walmart gift card. Encourage a retiree to join, give them the form with your information at the bottom. When they complete and submit it, you will receive a gift card.

Legislation Steve reported the legislature has considered 2,300 bills this session, none of them related to pensions. Items that have been considered that are of special concern to us are broadband expansion, mental health, emergency room wait times and state vs local control

over curriculum. It was proposed that the state superintendent could exact penalties on local boards who do not follow state curriculum. Our expressed position was to support local control.

For the first time our guest speaker was available on Zoom. Madeline handled the access, for those out of state or unable to attend. There was a positive response to the question and answer program on health care.

Health Care Program Tyrell, client service director, distributed papers that answered many of the most frequently asked questions. He is going to make that available in a digital format. He explained that Labor First is a health care benefit service, not an insurance program, that is dedicated to answering questions and handling all kinds of issues in conjunction with Care First. Medicare Advantage has to provide equal or better benefits than what we previously had. It is a Passive PPO so any provider that accepts Medicare or is willing to bill the plan will be paid. Many members commented about how quickly questions were answered when they contacted Retiree Services with Labor First. Everyone received a magnet with the contact information and the promise that when you call the number you will talk to a live person.

A question was asked about the money that is withheld from SS. Since we no longer have Medicare, per se, where is that money going? Tyrell explained you have to have Medicare A&B in order to be covered. The plans work together and it must be paid in order to be enrolled in Medicare Advantage. Keep your Medicare card in the event there is a future change in policy. In the meantime, show the Care First BC/BS card. Our dental and vision has not changed. There were no prescription plan changes. Our carrier is Express Scripts and the copays remain the same.

Bobbie brought up the Silver Sneakers benefit that she had recently accessed. It's available on line as well at local gyms and easy to enroll.

Community Service Projects Sandy Hartmann reported on our community service projects for this year. The October water bottle drive was greatly appreciated by school nurses and will probably be repeated this year. Mittens and gloves were filled with candy and tied with ribbons in December. Materials were collected for the Family Life Center in Sudlersville that serves prenatal through 3 years of age at today's meeting. Sandy commented on the generosity of members that has made it possible to help many sites.

Election of Officers Jackie Wilhelm, head of the nominating committee, acknowledged the help she received from Kathy Draper and Susan Boone, before explaining the voting process for today. Elections are held every two years on odd years. Slates were distributed with the committee's nomination for each position. Current officers were willing to continue in office except for vice president. We reluctantly say goodbye to Bobbie who has done an outstanding job. Fortunately for us, she will continue as Scholarship Chair with Tomi. Dave Brown accepted the nomination from the committee and was listed on the ballot for vice president. There were no additional nominations from the floor. The slate was voted in unanimously.

Richard asked for volunteers who would be willing to secure food providers and choose menus for future meetings. Jackie said she had mentioned it to a few people in her quest for candidates. This will be revisited in the future.

1:42 Meeting adjourned

Marge Felty, Secretary