

QACRSPA Annual Business Meeting

March 8, 2022

12:00 pm Richard McNeal, President, welcomed everyone to the annual meeting. Lunch was served.

12:45 pm Meeting was called to order and opened with the Pledge to the Flag. Richard explained that our association was required to hold a business meeting one time a year. He explained that during an odd year, an election of officers also occurs. He encouraged members to think about taking on a leadership role next year.

Queen Anne's County Goes Purple

Sandy Hartmann introduced the guest speakers, Warren and Kathy Wright from the Drug Free Coalition. The Drug Free Coalition has been in existence for 21 years. Kathy explained that the coalition monitors drug overdoses and deaths in the county. This information is shared with the public on overdose signs throughout the county. Kathy then presented about the QAC Goes Purple initiative. Last year the QAC Goes Purple event was held on Kent Island. This year's was held in Centreville. The coalition provided awareness materials free of charge to county residents. The coalition also holds the prescription round up the last week in October. There are also places all year round where old prescriptions can be dropped off. The coalition also speaks to groups like this. There is a strong focus on providing awareness to the students in the county. Each year a poster contest is held involving our 2 high schools and 4 middle schools. An opioid prevention grant provided a person who could go into the schools and provide opioid instruction for the students. The drama clubs at both high schools will be creating an awareness commercial. It is hoped that each high school will have a liaison to the coalition. In addition to these efforts the coalition also places newspaper and radio ads to increase awareness of the dangers of opioids and drug use. Warren then shared some statistics regarding overdoses and deaths in QAC.

	Opioid Overdoses	Opioid Deaths
2017	368	58
2018	122	16
2019	68	12
2021	47	12

Narcan has become readily available and has impacted the number of deaths. So far in 2022 there has been only 1 death. Warren also shared that they have testified against legislations regarding selling beer in grocery stores and in favor of giving local jurisdictions control over tobacco. There are currently 4 Marijuana bills being proposed in the legislature. The coalition is in favor of posing the question regarding the legalization of marijuana on the voting ballot. 58% of those surveyed in the State of MD indicated that they did not want marijuana legalized. They

preferred it be regulated. In QAC 48% felt similarly. Warren then shared various products that were available in the county and are being utilized by kids to obtain a high. Many involved large doses of CBD oil. He also introduced a new product Kratom. Local police will be receiving an inservice on this new product.

Finance Report

Lynn Linder shared the finance report. Lynn reported that the general fund had \$4729.16 and the scholarship fund had \$6452.18. She discussed expenditures from both accounts.

President's Report

Richard shared that he attends Board meetings each month. This is budget time for the BOE. There are two members of the board that have inquired about the money being designated for retired health benefits. Richard thinks everything will remain for this upcoming year but if the members need to become involved an email will be sent. Richard acknowledged what a great outing the December luncheon was. New business cards were created with the association information. Members were given a card and encouraged to share with new retirees. Richard has been meeting with Dr. Noel, the head of Human Resources. HR will provide a list of those retiring. Richard encouraged the group to share any names of future retirees they knew as well. The annual MRSPA meeting will be held in May. Their meetings have recently been held virtually but may be in person this time. QACRSPA is a \$300 sponsor of the QAC Employee Recognition Gala. Richard also shared information about the MD Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. It recognizes seniors who have engaged in voluntary service. Richard asked the group to let him know if they knew of a good candidate. The candidate must be 65 years old or older and the application must be completed by April. Richard shared that the old schoolhouse at QACHS will be open again. It had been closed during the pandemic. It will be open the 1st Saturday of the month from May through August. If anyone is interested in helping, volunteers would be appreciated. A new door was placed on the schoolhouse in October. It was designed in the old style of the time period. Richard acknowledged the helpful assistance that Labor First has provided as we shifted to a new health package. He encouraged members to contact them if they had any questions or concerns regarding health care bills. Richard congratulated Jeanne Hechmer on her quilt display at the Fiber Arts Center Eastern Shore. Several members attended to view her beautiful designs.

Scholarship Update

Bobbie Leaverton and Tomi Fabri provided an update on the status of the association's scholarships. They began by thanking everyone for their contributions. As shared in the finance report there is a over \$6000 in the account. The membership drive will be held in a few months as well. Bobbie shared that the executive team had recently reflected on how they were awarding the scholarships to students. Currently there is a book scholarship but they have found that textbooks are not the same as they used to be. Virtual learning has changed things. It was suggested that there no longer be a separate book scholarship and instead two \$1500

scholarships be given. In the past funds were divided in half and distributed during both the fall and spring semesters. Tomi shared that this is no longer the standard practice, and it was recommended that a lump sum be given to the college. A vote was held for approval. It was approved with no dissenting votes.

Legislative Update

Steve Strobeck shared a legislative update. He began by asking members if everyone had received their new MRSPA membership cards. Steve explained that there was a lot of legislation this year, but none was related to pensions. There is some focus on income tax but MRSPA is not in favor of the bill. Pension funding is doing well. It was 77% funded up from 67% funded. That is a positive trend. Steve was hopeful that there would be a substantial cost of living raise in July.

Communication: Facebook/Newsletter/Email

Jackie Wilhelm shared that she was hoping to have some more engaging activities on Facebook for the group. Everyone seemed to like the Halloween Family Feud. She also encouraged members to share celebrations on the page.

Madeline Hubbard shared that there are only 30 members still receiving mail vs email. That is down from 58. She encouraged anyone who had not utilized email to send their email address to her.

Recently Deceased School Personnel

Susan Boone shared the names of retired school personnel that we have lost since our last meeting. This included Robin Wollingham, teacher; Betty Ann Brooks, bus driver; Kathleen Garson, teacher; Rogers Smith, assistant superintendent; Mary Comegys, teacher and assistant to principal, William Malasky, teacher. Susan asked the group to inform her if she missed anyone. All of our deceased members names will be submitted to the state for a memorial presentation at the annual meeting.

Membership

Mary Holden asked members to encourage anyone retiring this year or previously to join the association and explain the group's purpose. She will be sending letters and membership applications to all 2022 retirees. Mary also shared that it appears that we have the most "new members" to join, 8 total, out of all the associations in the state. Last year we received a reward for the highest percentage increase and hopefully we are on track to do the same this year.

AMBA (Association Member Benefits Advisors)

Richard explained that MRSPA has associated itself with the Association Member Benefits Advisors group. This group will advise members of benefits that may be of interest to them such as various insurance policies. Richard encouraged everyone to look at any mail that is sent with their logo. It has relevance and is not just junk mail.

Portable Microphone

Richard suggested that the association purchase a portable microphone to ensure that speakers can be heard during meetings. The overall group agreed to the necessity. Richard and the executive team will research products and bring back a recommendation at the next meeting.

Hall of Fame

An idea was presented to Richard and the group by Jeff Miller in regard to having a Hall of Fame for retired school personnel. Jeff felt that there are many people who deserved this type of recognition. Richard shared that there were many aspects of creating such a recognition. Two major considerations would be criteria for such a recognition and where to display it. Richard shared that he was involved in the planning of the QACHS Athletic Hall of Fame and it was quite a complex process. Betty Lee, former athletic secretary, shared that the high school has run out of room to display any more plaques for their Hall of Fame. Richard also shared that there were plaques of deceased personnel in the QAC board room and those had not been kept up to date and were removed. Members were encouraged to ponder the idea and send any thoughts or ideas to him. Something will be sent out via the newsletter and it will be discussed again at the June meeting.

Memory Test Find the Twin

Out of respect for everyone's time and given the length of the meeting, the memory test was postponed.

For the Good of the Group

There will be a special 95th birthday celebration for member Madelyn Hollis. There will be a drive by at Heritage Hills on her birthday at the end of March. It was also suggested that members send her cards. More information will be shared via email.

There will be a celebration of life for both Bob and Kathleen Garson. More information will be provided.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Marge Felty, Secretary

