

AARSPA Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, January 13, 2022
ZOOM Meeting

Attending: Tillie Barckley, Virginia Crespo, Millie Gardner, Bob Kanach, Leslie Schell, Rick Wiles, Charles Gable, Dixie Stack, Deb Ahalt, Marge Smith, Phyllis Cherry, Sharyn Doyle, Carla Duls, Anthony Anzalone, Sandra Edmonds, Susan Baugher, Lucy Travers, Carolyn Smith, Dr. Arlotto, Zetta Hart

Charles Gable and Deb Ahalt called the meeting to order at 10:04 am followed by the pledge to the flag lead by Rick Wiles. The minutes from the previous meeting had been approved through email.

Recording Secretary

The minutes from the October 7, 2021 meeting was presented. One error was noted. Debbie Ahalt made a motion to accept the minutes with the change and Brenda Gibson seconded the motion. The board members accepted the minutes as corrected.

Treasurer's Report

Robert Kanach gave the Treasurer's Report. He reviewed the current membership numbers as related to the funds in our treasury. The scholarship funds are strong which allows us to offer four \$4000 scholarships in 2022. Money from the 2021 budget will carry over into the scholarship funds. The Gunson fund continues to do well. Mr. Kanach requested that committees forward their budget requests to the treasurer by the end of February. An accountant will be needed to review our books this year.

Corresponding Secretary

Brenda Gibson asked that if board members need correspondence sent out, to please contact her.

Committee Reports

AARSPA Voices in Melody

Rick Wiles reported that the chorus enjoyed opening our last business meeting. They are still in need of a director. Rehearsals will begin in February at the same church they have been using. Four concerts have been scheduled.

By-Laws Committee

Dixie Stack reported that the committee has not met and a meeting is yet to be scheduled.

Community Service/Consumer Education Committee

Phyllis Cherry reported that we will support The Mama and Baby Pantry at our next business meeting. They provided diapers and feminine hygiene products for needy families. As a Consumer Education message, Ms. Cherry reminded us to clear our vehicles of snow before we head out to the road. This is a safety issue for you and other drivers.

Educator/Employee of the Month Committee

Anthony Anzalone reported that his committee is doing well. He stated that the presentations are highlights at the School Board meetings. March will be Read Across America month and a reading teacher will be honored that month.

Free School Museum Committee

Robert Kanach gave the report on the Free School. He stated that John Hammond and his family did a thorough cleaning of the facility. The building grounds were used at Halloween by the community. Some individuals inquired about touring the facility and possibly adding a Little Free Library to the grounds. Permission for the library would need to be decided by the Historical Foundation. Paperwork would need to be submitted with actual drawings of the planned structure.

Historian and Editor of the Informer Committee

Carla Duls reported that she has completed the six-year history of AARSPA and needs to proofread the document. It should be ready for a release in May. Although the February issue of the newsletter was dropped in 2021 due to Covid, the regular 5 issue format will be followed this year with a return of a February newsletter. April 1st will be the deadline for the next newsletter. There will be a short remembrance message in that newsletter.

Legislative Committee

Sharyn Doyle/Virginia Crespo updated the board members of the events for this legislative term. The Legislature started on January 12th. The House will be locked down and virtual. There will be no receptions in the building. The Senate will also conduct business virtually. Their focus for August is Civic Participation. If you visit the MRSPA website, information is posted about long-term healthcare (HB62) and tax credits. The current budget has a surplus and it is hoped that funds will be put to our pension fund which is now funded at 76%. Chris Van Hollen will hold a meeting with AARP to discuss prescriptions.

Membership Committee

Leslie Schell reported that we have 1,689 members, but MRSPA reports 1,487. Thirty-three memberships were canceled by MRSPA for non-renewal. Letters will be sent to these individuals outlining the benefits of belonging to both organizations. There were 99 new retirees in January. Information will be sent to them via our newsletters for one year. There was a discussion about having a meeting on the Eastern Shore to accommodate our membership living across the bay. A survey will be sent out by mail and electronically through Survey Monkey to determine interest from the eastern shore members. This survey will help the committee decide if a meeting should be held on the eastern shore.

Pre-retirement Committee

Susan Baugher reported that she has met with her committee (C. Gable, D. Ahalt, L. Schell, M. Smith) to revise a brochure to be given to new retirees. This brochure will identify the benefits of being a member of AARSPA and MRSPA. Jen Hauck in AACPS Print and Design will create the brochure and it should be available by April. The spring retirement reception is still in question and may be held virtually. Many decisions are now still up-in-the-air and will be impacted by the Board of Education.

Program Committee

Dixie Stack shared that she has contracted Vince Leggett for a 30-minute talk at our next business meeting at The Blue Dolphin. It was decided that a stipend and lunch could be provided for Mr. Leggett

Publicity Committee

No Report

Scholarship Committee/Raffle

Sandra Edmonds continued to encourage support of the Raffle Committee as it adds to our scholarship funds.

Tillie Barckley thanked the group for our continued support of the Scholarship Committee. She has sent letters to the previous winners for updates on their progress. The application for future scholarship seekers will be updated. Plans are still being completed for the Dining Out fundraising experience.

Sunshine/Remembrance Committee

Millie Gardner shared that Christmas cards were sent out to some emeritus members. Some cards were returned and she is investigating to see if they have moved or passed away.

Trips and Travel Committee

Lucy Travers and Carolyn Smith reported that plans for a fall trip will be made during February and then shared with the board.

Old Business

Robert Kanach reported that approximately 18 members have currently registered for the Florida trip. There has not been any decision about the number required for the trip to happen. There was no deposit required by the restaurant and they have an outside facility for dining. There are three entrees to choose from.

Robert Kanach provided treats for the Mail Room/Print Shop thanking them for their help with AARSPA needs.

Rick Wiles offered to teach CPR classes if requested. Groups are limited to 10. A book is required for certification (\$13-\$20). He will conduct classes at his house. This is open to executive board members first and then to other members.

New Business

Superintendent Dr. George Arlotto joined our Zoom meeting for a brief discussion. He stated that the school system is in need of bus drivers, food services employees, substitutes, and teachers. At this time, they are 90 teachers short. He suggested that retired employees could possibly help by mentoring new teachers. When asked what skills would be needed to volunteer, substitute or mentor, Dr. Arlotto stated he would put the suggestion out to two of his deputy superintendents for discussion. He could share this information in our newsletter if it is accepted by the school system

A motion to adjourn was made by Dixie Stack and seconded by Leslie Schell. The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 pm.

Dates to Remember

- February 10, 2022 General Membership Meeting and Luncheon – Blue Dolphin Restaurant, Registration 9:45 a.m. Meeting 10:30 a.m. (Snow Date 2-17-22)
- April 7, 2022 AARSPA Executive Board Meeting, BOE, Center 2A, 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted
Zetta Hart