

AARSPA
Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association
General Membership Meeting/Luncheon Minutes
Center of Applied Technology North
November 15, 2017

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 10:30 by Dixie Stack, Co-President.

Pledge of Allegiance: The pledge to the flag was led by Bob Kanach, Asst. Treasurer.

Greetings and Special Introductions: Dan Scheffhauser, Principal of CAT-N welcomed members. Co-Presidents Dixie Stack and Bonnie Schmeltz thanked him for inviting us, telling him this is our largest attendance group yet and the school site is the reason. The following were also welcomed:

- First timers: Joanne Antkowiak, Gwen Atkinson, Susan Baugher, June Deshields, Maria Gaither, Irving Gaither, Jean Marie Hofstetter, Jane Horensky, Linda Johnson, Pam Jones, Gladiola Savage, Lorie Smith, Bob Wagner and Mildred Youse
- Emeritus members: Mary Etta Dorr, Herb Sappington, Jean Trott, Jeanne Hartge, Ethel Bohle, and Jacquelin Evans

Welcome to our Guests: Ruth Clendaniel, guest of Lou and Kathie Kamm, was introduced. Ruth is the President of the Retired School Personnel Association of Dorchester County.

Janet Williams, MRSAP Area II Director, was also introduced.

Dr. George Arlotto, Superintendent of Schools for Anne Arundel County, and Jessica Cuches, Director of Human Resources for the Anne Arundel County Public Schools, were to arrive later this morning.

Overview of Activities: A short overview of the day's activities was presented as listed on the agenda distributed to all members.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the September 28, 2017 General Membership Meeting at Twin Rivers were attached to the agenda and questions were welcomed. No questions were asked. Co-President Dixie Stack asked for a motion to accept the minutes. A motion was made and seconded. A vote was taken and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Rosemary Biggart presented the budget update. Copies of the Treasurer's Report were available on each table. Line 8A Excess in Scholarship Cont'd was highlighted, reminding members that one third of our annual \$15. membership fee is used for scholarships. Since there was an excess from last year, the Board has voted to offer four scholarships versus three scholarships this year.

Page 2 of the Treasurer's Report was also highlighted, with emphasis on the interest recently earned in the Gunson Fund. Roof repairs at the Free School may need to be using funds from this account and more will be shared later in the Free School Report. Questions were welcomed. Co-President Schmeltz asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion was made and seconded. Vote was taken and the report was unanimously approved.

Committee Reports:

Community Service: Phyllis Cherry, Community Service Co-Chairperson and Consumer Education Chairperson, shared her experience as a participant in the Homeless Resource Day project with a special homeless individual named Sarah, a mother of several children currently in our schools. She thanked Tony Anzalone for introducing this project to our membership. She also thanked our AARSPA members for their generous donations for our many projects such as toiletries for the homeless shelters, pet foods for the Animal Shelter, school supplies for our needy students, etc.

Free School Museum: Karlie Everett, Free School Tour Chairperson, welcomed members to come visit the school, now considered to be the oldest free school in the MD and currently housing school supplies and furniture from the 17th century. She also welcomed members to consider becoming a Docent or a School Marm for tours on the 2nd Saturday and Sunday of each month during the spring and summer months.

“Voices in Melody”: Rick Wiles, AARSPA Chorus Chairperson, introduced the chorus members and discussed the upcoming season. Performance dates were attached to the agenda. There is one more practice before their holiday performance season begins. There are currently 35 members, many of which have had no experience with singing. New members are welcomed and rehearsals are every Tuesday from 2-3:30 p.m. at Our Shepard Lutheran Church in Severna Park.

Legislative Committee: Virginia Crespo, Chairperson, summarized the MRSPA Legislative Workshop held yesterday in Annapolis. Accessibility to all legislative bills and related events are available on the MRSPA website and members are encouraged to follow the legislative session to begin in January. Copies of the MRSPA trifold with their legislative priorities listed were available on each table. Members were also reassured that our pensions are safe for now and cautioned that legislative events must still be watched.

“The Informer”: Carla Duls, Chairperson, reminded members that “The Informer” is published 5 times a year and is on our website. She also welcomed funny stories from retired members for the next issue.

Scholarship: Tillie Barckley, Chairperson, led the members in a cheer spelling E-M-P-O-W-E-R and thanked everyone for the huge donations received this past year in honor of and in memory of AARPSA members, as well as, donations made throughout the year that empower our young people who wish to become teachers. Again, awareness of now 4 scholarships, each of \$4000, will be awarded this new school year versus 3 scholarships in past years. Members were also reminded of the envelopes on each table to be used for new donations. By the end of the meeting, she reported a total of \$1278 was collected on this day.

Remembrance Committee: Millie Zipay, Chairperson, thanked everyone for keeping her committee members notified of members’ birthdays, 5 year interval anniversaries or their family member’s death so appropriate cards could be sent. Members celebrating birthdays in November, December and January were reminded to put a ticket in the basket for some special prizes to be awarded later.

Trips and Travel Committee: Lucy Travers, Chairperson, highlighted the recent very successful bus trip to the 9/11 Museum, the full capacity for the December 12th trip to Winterthur and the Harriet Tubman Back Road to Freedom Tour on May 16, 2018. With registration by April 16, 2018. Details of upcoming trips are in the Informer.

Committee Participation: Co-President Stack thanked all of the committee chairpersons for their efforts and discussed the need for more members to join committees. A guide to each of the committees was available to all members on each table. Members were also asked to help encourage other AACPS retirees to join our organization. There is also a vacancy for a Constitution Committee Chairperson on the Executive Board and if any member was interested, please see her.

Endorsement of AARSPA Members for MRSPA Positions: Co-President Bonnie Schmeltz asked for a vote to approve endorsement for these 2 AARSPA members to serve on the MARSPA Executive Board:

- Alicia Hardisky as the candidate for MRSPA treasurer for a second term
- Charles Gable as the candidate for MRSPA Vice President

Vote was taken and the endorsements were unanimously approved.

New Business Items: Co-President Stack welcomed any new business items. Bob Kanach spoke about the upcoming Florida trip.

Break and Conversation: Members were then excused to take a break and network amongst each other for the next 15 minutes after which time our guest speakers presented.

Guest Speakers: Charles Gable, Program Chairperson, introduced Dr. Arlotto. Dr. Arlotto discussed the new Strategic Plan, since the current one expires this year. Three focus areas were developed based on many small group discussions, website comments, focus groups held throughout the county with business representatives, students, teachers, administrators and parents, etc. The 3 focus areas are:

- *Continue closing the gap in reading.* All 2nd graders should be reading on level by the end of their school year. Currently 12% of our second graders are reading below level, a decrease from the earlier 25% below level, yet still needing to be addressed via different instructional strategies, support measures, etc.
- *Improve middle school math scores across the county.* The Common Core is even more rigorous than previous curriculum so more concentrated efforts in teaching strategies, emotional support, and addressing the difficult middle school years of growth are factors that continue needing to be addressed.
- *Moving all 9th graders to 10th grade.* The goal of 100% of our 9th graders proceeding to 10th grade has been set. Many students are lost in 9th grade academics. Students are now being identified in 8th grade as those having a “rocky start” so we can provide more emotional support and make a difference. We are already seeing a difference at Glen Burnie and Meade High Schools.

Dr. Arlotto welcomed questions for himself and for Jessica Cuches. Several questions were posed and responded to including:

“How are we supporting students who are average in achievement?”; “Is school safety a major concern for parents?”; “How are we providing training to the staff?” and “What are we doing to encourage the Arts in schools? “

Co-President Stack thanked Dr. Arlotto and Ms. Cuches and shared they would be joining us for lunch.

Janet Williams, MRSAP Area II North Director, was next introduced. She congratulated both Co-Presidents and thanked members for inviting her. She also discussed how she has been visiting each LEA Chapter of MRSPA and is thoroughly enjoying coming to events like this one.

Co-President Dixie Stack thanked the students and staff of CAT-North who are about to serve our lunch. **LUNCH was served at noon.**

At 12:50 p.m. Co-President Dixie Stack invited all of the students and staff responsible for our delicious lunch to come to the front of the room for members' appreciation applause and standing ovation.

The Chesapeake High School "**Evolve**" group was then introduced and entertained members while CAT-N students cleared the lunch tables. After the program was enjoyed by members, the students were also thanked, received a standing ovation and left for their bus ride back to school for dismissal.

Scholarship Collection Report: Tillie Barckley, reported a total of \$1278. for scholarship donations were collected today. Members were again thanked for their generosity.

Birthday Drawing Winners: Millie Zipay Remembrance and Sunshine Committee Chairperson, awarded the Happy Birthday prizes to several lucky members celebrating birthdays in the months of November – January.

Adjournment: At 1:25 p.m., a motion was made and seconded, followed by a unanimous vote to adjourn.

Dates to Remember: Upcoming meetings and events were printed on the second page of the agenda.