

AARSPA
Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association
General Membership Meeting/Luncheon Minutes
Center of Applied Technology North
November 15, 2018

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 Barry Fader, Past President.

Greetings and Special Introductions: Co-President Dixie Stack welcomed everyone on this inclement weather morning and also welcomed:

- First timers: Janet Baker, Ray Bibeault, Kim Bibeault, Florie Bozzella (Absent), Lillie Caldwell (Absent) Terri Chasson, Paula Davis, Victoria Dundics, Mary Dobish, Janet Gender, Jean Prigelmiller, Mary Ann Rohr and Linda Williams
- Emeritus members: Ethel Bohle, Mary Etta Dorr, Mary Ruth Terashinski (Absent), and Jackie Evans (Absent)

Welcome to our Guests: Anne Marie Downey, President, Maryland Retired School Personnel. Wanda Twigg, Executive director, Maryland Retired School Personnel and Dr. Dawn Luccerelli, Associate Superintendent of Schools for Anne Arundel County. Dr. Luccerelli will arrive a little later.

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

The Special Fundraiser at Brian Boru Restaurant and Pub was also introduced with more information to be shared later in the program by our Scholarship Committee spokesperson and listed on page 3 of the agenda.

Before the many reports were to be given, a special thanks were extended to Patricia Caldwell and Yvonne Henry for the wonderful table decorations and also to the leadership and committee chairs read aloud as listed on page 3 of the agenda.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the May 10, 2018 General Membership Meeting 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:

Max Muller presented the budget update. Copies of the Treasurer's Report were available on each table. Page 1 Line 1 reflected the need for 69 more members to join AARSPA since our budget is based on 1800 members' dues and otherwise similar costs as in previous years. Page 2 of the Treasurer's Report was also highlighted, with emphasis on the Gunson Fund, some of which will be used for the recent roof repairs at the Free School. Questions were welcomed and a request for a motion to be made

to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion was made and seconded. Vote was taken and the report was unanimously approved.

Co-President Bonnie Schmeltz now welcomed Committee Reports.

Committee Reports:

Community Service/Consumer Education: Phyllis Cherry, Community Service Chairperson, reported on the Walk for Alzheimer event and how AARSPA was the 4th largest donating team out of 165 teams, earning \$3,730. for that event. She also thanked AARSPA members for their generous donations for our many projects. She reported that the Marley Elementary counselor was overwhelmed with the quantity of school supplies; Deb Ahalt received a big hug when she turned in the pet supplies to AASPCA; and places like Sarah's House and Samaritan House which support people of all ages greatly appreciated the toiletries. The STAR program which services 2nd graders below reading level is now seeking volunteers at Lothian Elementary on Wednesdays and Thursdays after school from 4 – 5 p.m.

Two new initiatives were also reported. Volunteering at the scholastic Book Warehouse on December 5th thru the 15th (12 noon – 8 p.m. Monday-Friday, Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.) so we can obtain some free books to donate to schools and CAT-N making a Little Library Box for us in the spring as we join more than 75,000 registered Little Free Library book exchanges in 88 countries worldwide.

Members were also asked to vote on donating underwear and socks for the shelters, using the forms on their tables. Ballots would be collected and results shared with committee members.

Consumer Education topic on scams was also discussed and it was reported that over \$2 billion is lost to scams each year. Personal experiences were also shared.

Free School Museum: Bob Kanach reported that the Free School building is "bone dry" with the new roof.

Trips and Travel Committee: Lucy Travers was unable to attend so Bob Kanach reported for her. Members were encouraged to sign up now for the Florida trip March 20 -21, 2019 since hotels are already busy with other events in Mt. Dora at the time of our trip. More information is in the Informer and on page 3 of the Agenda. There is a waiting list for our trip to Gaylord for the Ice Show and on May 15th we will be visiting historic Cape May N.J.

"Voices in Melody": Rick Wiles, AARSPA Chorus Chairperson reported that their last practice for the season was scheduled for next Tuesday. Performance dates were attached to the agenda. There is one more practice before their holiday performance season begins. There are currently 36 members and when he started there were only 25 members. More are always welcome and he will be recruiting during the breaks.

Legislative Committee: Virginia Crespo, MRSPA Legislative Aide, 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. Sharyn Doyle, AARSPA Legislative Chairperson, also spoke...thanking members who volunteered to serve on the Legislative Committee for their efforts with educating voters about Question 1 Constitutional Amendment. She also told committee members there is still more work to do and members will be asked to soon write a letter to their legislators, introducing themselves and notifying the legislators that they will be watching the progress of bills that affect us such as health care, pension funding, etc.

“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 that has a due date of January 2nd.

Scholarship Committee: Tillie Barckley, Chairperson, led the members in a cheer spelling V-A-L-U-A-B-L-E and thanked everyone for the huge donations received this past year. Members were also reminded of the envelopes on each table to be used for new donations, check that can be written and cash that would be accepted. By the end of the meeting, she reported a total of \$1140 was collected on this day. She also reviewed the fund raiser at Brian Boru Restaurant and Pub that was mentioned earlier in the program.

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 October, November and December were reminded to put a ticket in the basket for some special prizes to be awarded later.

New Business Items: Co-President Stack welcomed any new business items. There were no items.

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 speaker Dr. Luccerelli will be presenting.

Guest Speakers:

Dr. Luccerelli extended Dr. Arlotto’s apology for not being able to attend this luncheon. She reported there are about 83,000 students and more than 6000 employees at this time. She also led members in an enjoyable activity relating our happiness to students in AACPS.

Anne Marie Downey, MRSAP President spoke next and introduced herself and discussed the need for additional MRSPA members. Wanda Twigg, Executive Director MRSPA, also spoke and summarized how representatives from all of the LEAs participated in a retreat and discussed several ways to possibly increase membership locally and for the state. She also shared the current program incentive as seen on the website.

Co-President Dixie Stack thanked the presenters and the students and staff of CAT-North who are about to serve our lunch. At the same time, members of the Old Mill High Steel Drum Band set up their instruments.

LUNCH was served.

After lunch, Co-President Dixie Stack invited all of the students and staff responsible for our delicious lunch to receive members’ appreciation applause and standing ovation. Dan Scheffhauser, Principal of CAT-N also welcomed members and said it was one of the first times he was glad school was not delayed or cancelled due to inclement weather.

The Old Mill High Steel Drum Band 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 1:30 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 and third pages of the agenda.