

AARSPA
Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association
General Membership Meeting/Luncheon Minutes
Two Rivers Steak and Fish House
September 28, 2017

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

Pledge of Allegiance: The pledge to the flag was led by Past President Barry Fader.

Greetings and Special Introductions: Co-President Dixie Stack welcomed the following:

- First timers: Louise DeJesu, Peggy Rudow, Connie Slezak, Amy Summey, Dave Summey and Chris Stockett
- Emeritus members: Mary Etta Dorr, Herb Sappington, Jean Trott, Jeanne Hartge, Harry Hendrickson, and Mary Ruth Tereshinski
- Guests: Lorraine Faris and Theresa Dunn, AACPS Benefits; and Justin Beiler, Homeless Project Coordinator

Overview of Activities: Co-President Bonnie Schmeltz presented a short overview of the day's activities.

Approval of the Minutes from the May 18th General Membership Meeting at Renditions:

Minutes were unavailable. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as available via Sharyn Doyle for anyone interested in reviewing them. A vote was taken and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Proposed Budget for 2017-2018: Rosemary Biggart was absent. Bob Kanach presented the budget update. The most significant difference for this new year's budget was the Executive Board's recommendation that a 4th scholarship be added due to the funds collected thanks to the generosity of our members this past year and the efforts of Tillie Barckley.

The Free School's budget line item of \$1850 was also highlighted. Current activities with our Board of Education for a new roof for the Free School and future possible plans with community groups were also reported.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the budget. Vote was taken and the budget was unanimously approved.

Committee Reports:

Community Service: Phyllis Cherry, Community Service Co-Chairperson and Consumer Education Chairperson, complimented and thanked the members for their contributions to projects. Members were reminded how just having a toothbrush with toothpaste is so very important to a homeless person, how our donated pet food will help the rescue animal shelters and the many pets who have lost their homes in the recent hurricanes, how obtaining foods from the Food Bank that don't need cooking are key for those homeless families living in their cars, and how the first grader who has no pencils or crayons for school can now have pencils and crayons to use for school.

Members were also encouraged to 1) identify candidates for the MD Senior Hall of Fame. No one from AARSPA was nominated this year and hope is someone will be nominated for the 2018 year and 2) support the "Walk to End Alzheimer's". Carla Duls, further discussed the success of the Walk from this past year, details of the walk this year and how members can assist and donate for this year's event.

Free School Museum: Karlie Everett, Free School Tour Chairperson, was absent. Bob Kanach reported again on the roof replacement and welcomed members to come visit and consider becoming a Docent.

"Voices in Melody": Rick Wiles, AARSPA Chorus Chairperson, introduced the chorus members and discussed the upcoming season. 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, reassured members that our pensions are safe for now and cautioned that legislative events must still be watched. Members were encouraged to contact their Congress members about the RAISE Family Caregivers bill and they were also invited to attend the MRSPA Legislative Workshop scheduled for November 14th.

Co-President Stack thanked all of the committee chairpersons for their efforts and discussed the need for more members to join committees and for members 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.

"The Informer": Carla Duls, Chairperson, reminded members that "The Informer" is published 5 times a year and she welcomes funny stories from retired members for the next issue with a deadline date of October 6th. She also spoke as **The Historian** Committee Chairperson and referred to copies of AARSPA archives available on the 50/50 raffle table.

Scholarship: Tillie Barckley, Chairperson, led the members in a cheer spelling K-I-N-D-N-E-S-S 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 at our various functions. 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 yellow envelopes were on each table to be used for new donations.

Remembrance Committee: Millie Zipay, Chairperson, thanked everyone for keeping her committee members notified of members' birthdays, anniversaries or their family member's death so appropriate cards could be sent. Members celebrating birthdays in June, July, August, September and October were reminded to put a ticket in the basket for some special prizes to be awarded later.

Trips and Travel Committee: Lucy Travers, Chairperson, discussed next week's bus trip to the 9/11 Museum, the December 12th trip to Winterthur with only 3 seats left, and the Harriet Tubman Back to Freedom Tour in May. Details of upcoming trips will be in the Informer.

New Business Items: Co-President Stack welcomed any new business items. Carla Duls reported that she is now our representative to United Seniors of MD since Susie Jablinski has moved out of state. Co-President Stack also reported that the Superintendent will be our guest at the November General Membership Meeting at CAT-N.

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: Anthony Anzalone shared his personal story with the Homeless Project and introduced Justin Beiler, Director of the Homeless Project. Justin discussed the purpose, the goals and the origin of the Homeless Resource Day, now in its 10th year of planning and having been the first event of its kind in the state of MD. Members were encouraged to join him on October 28th from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and volunteer to work with one of these very special homeless or at risk for becoming homeless people. There are about 500 people in A.A. County who are homeless or at risk for becoming homeless and about 150 homeless camp tents also exist in our county. Volunteer training will take place at the Pascal Senior Center on October 4th at 6 p.m.

On October 28th, volunteers will guide each person, 1 on 1, to various vendors who will be offering their services at no cost, e.g. barbers, beauticians, dentists, nurse practitioners, county government employees to issue social security cards, etc.

Guest Speaker: Charles Gable, Program Chairperson, introduced Lorraine Faris and Theresa Dunn from the Human Resources Office of AACPS. Lorraine Faris, reported no changes in our retiree benefits nor funding source. There will be a small increase to cover increases in costs. She also thanked Marie Diamond and her volunteers for their help preparing the benefits materials for mailing. Packets will be mailed on Saturday and members should expect to receive them mid-week next week.

Theresa Dunn was introduced by Lorraine Faris. Theresa reported she had only been employed by AACPS for a month now yet she had extensive experience with benefits. She also shared her request to contribute an article for each issue of the Informer.

LUNCH was served at 12:00 p.m. followed by music by Tim Amann from Pet Rock.

Birthday Drawing Winners: At 1 p.m., Millie Zipay Remembrance and Sunshine Committee Chairperson, awarded the Happy Birthday prizes to several lucky members celebrating birthdays in the months of June-October.

50/50 Drawing Winner: The total monies collected in ticket sales was announced and the winning ticket was selected with one half of the collected monies awarded to the winner.

Scholarship Collection Report: Tillie Barckley, reported a total of \$594.50 scholarship donations were collected today, including the 50/50 monies. Members were again thanked for their generosity.

Adjournment: At 1:12 p.m., a motion was made and seconded, followed by a unanimous vote to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

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