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Membership Meetings:

Fall: October 17, 2019

Winter: February 12, 2020

Spring: May 13, 2020

Presidents' Message:

Welcome, fellow retirees, to a new school year. We wonder how many total years our 300+ members accumulated over our time as educators. Some of us still actively participate as substitutes and volunteers, so our work is not complete.

Last year we had several interesting programs including Jackie Hering's presentation about her time as a "code girl" at Western Maryland College. The new CCPS superintendent, Dr. Steven Lockard, visited as a guest speaker. Our first scholarship awards were granted to two well-deserving teachers from Mt. Airy Elementary School, Elizabeth Snively and Kellsye O'Sullivan. A number of officers participated in several MRSPA meetings and a "Membership

March Across Maryland" workshop. Good News: We will have our October meeting at Bullock's. Members enjoyed that location last year—the food is delicious and diners can select exactly what they want. We have reserved a section with a privacy curtain, unless a larger group reserves the same night. The larger our turnout, the better our chance for a more private meeting. **Each One Bring One** is a helpful way to involve more members, so please try to bring a friend!

We hope that our 2019 scholarship winner, Kelly Wunder, will be our guest speaker. Kelly has taught 6th grade science at Northwest Middle School since 2011. She has her BA from McDaniel and is using our

Reservation Form for CCRSPA Dinner Thursday, October 17, 2019

CCRSPA Dinner Thursday, October 17 — Bullock's Country Family Restaurant

2020 Sykesville Road, Westminster MD 21157

5:00 p.m. – Dinner

5:45 p.m. – Business Meeting Send **no money** now—pay when you make selections

Name: _____ Phone Number/email: _____

Name: _____ Phone Number/email: _____

Please detach and return with your reservation no later than **Thursday, October 10, 2019** to:

CCRSPA Dinner Reservation – P.O. Box 1864 – Westminster, MD 21158

Or to make your reservation by phone, call Bonnie McElroy at 301-829-2686



Minutes for May 9, 2019

The Spring **CCRSPA** meeting was held at the VFW in Westminster. **Co-Presidents** *Naudine Pheobus* and *Bonnie McElroy* welcomed everyone and led the Pledge of Allegiance at 11:25am. *Naudine* introduced our guest, **MRSPA Area I East Director**, *Sally Smith*.

Recording Secretary--*Susan Miller*, February 13, 2019 minutes as published in the newsletter were approved.

Treasurer—*Pat Riesner* stated that the current balance is \$5294.60.

Membership and Necrology—*Jean Crowl* lit the memorial candle and led the remembrance in honor of *Roberta Jean Kraynick, Nancy Olsen Southworth, Charles Gist, Timothy Karr, Gloria Jean Wike, Brigitte Smith, Susan E. Sullivan, Richard Schanberger, Jr., Mildred Davis, Mary Melanie Webster* and *Edwin Dewitt Bennett*.

Scholarship Committee—There were 4 applicants for the scholarship, and 1 winner was chosen. This recipient has not yet been notified.

Consumer Education—*Dixie Elmes* shared information about 2 particular chemicals found in sunscreen—oxybenzone and octinoxate—which are harmful to coral reefs. Some beaches are banning sunscreen with these chemicals. Check labels, and be aware when purchasing.

Dixie also commented that the USA uses 1 billion plastic bags, as reported in *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine. That amount would circle

the Earth 373 times! It's much better to use reusable bags and foldable bags which can be stored in a small pouch.

Old Business—The rescheduled CCPS Pre-Retirement seminar was held on April 9 at Winters Mill High School. **CCRSPA** officers, *Bonnie, Naudine* and *Susan* were there to share information with future retirees—**MRSPA** retirement folders and applications. It was a good opportunity for positive outreach, while providing details about our organization and its importance.

New Business—**MRSPA** held the annual business meeting on Wednesday, May 8 in Bowie. **CCRSPA** representatives included *Bonnie, Naudine, Jean, Susan* and *Althea Miller*. Increasing membership continues to be a goal throughout the state organization. The new member recruitment incentive is still in effect: earn a \$10 Walmart gift card for each new member you sign up as an automatic dues deduction member. Our ongoing motto "Each One Reach One" does work. **MRSPA** continues to offer numerous benefits and discounts. Take advantage of your membership with your member card number on the state website <https://www.mrspa.org>, access with your member number and click on Member Benefits.

Contact *Bonnie* or *Naudine*, if interested in serving as the Legislative Chairperson for **CCRSPA**. A Program Chairperson is also needed. Share any ideas with **CCRSPA** officers.

There was discussion and agreement about having the upcoming October meal and meeting in the evening so our scholarship winner can be present, and introduced to the group.

Before the business meeting adjourned at 12:05pm, *Nancy Griesmyer* selected door prize winners: *Nancy* received a free meal for the next meeting, and *Margi Petrella* and *Richard Hill* received patriotic decorations. Donations of school supplies were collected to be shared with Shepard's Staff Backpack Project. *Susan* shared a blessing before the buffet-style meal was served, and everyone enjoyed the time for socializing while eating.

After lunch, *Dixie* introduced the guest speaker, *Jackie Hering*, Western Maryland College, Class of 1951, who was featured as part of "The Ladies of Lewis", an award-winning article in the college's *The Hill* magazine, Spring 2018. *Jackie* presented a fascinating view of her top-secret work in the subbasement of Lewis Hall of Science on campus from 1977-1997. As a WMC graduate in Home Economics, *Jackie* taught grades 6-12 at Taneytown High School. She has 2 daughters who attended CCPS, and is now a grandmother and great-grandmother. She is active as a member of Westminster United Methodist Church, and participates with GFWC Woman's Club of Westminster, and Read Across America.



Jackie was first approached by her friend, Marjorie Spangler, WMC's assistant registrar if she would be interested in a part-time job 2 days per month for minimum wage which would require a top-secret security clearance from the FBI. Jackie was surprised to find that 2 other friends, Jeanne Herr and Betty Mathias were also involved. For years, the women never told anyone what they were doing on campus as they participated in practices using codes to send and receive messages in case of a national emergency/attack. The "Ladies of Lewis" used early versions of computers, and sent encrypted messages on the KL-7, a cipher machine developed by the NSA. It took a while to learn how to recognize words, and what was being transmitted. They also attended week-long sessions with government officials at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, MD. Jackie had a chance to visit the 1st level bunker (secure facility for all

of the members of Congress) underneath the Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs, WV. After that visit, she truly realized the seriousness of their responsibilities. Fortunately there was never a need to activate all of the plans put into place, and the facility was closed in 2000. After that time, the ladies were finally able to share their experiences. However, there are still secret government relocation sites around the country.

Lewis Hall was classified as a 3rd level bunker, to be used as an emergency base for the Department of Agriculture. The federal government spent \$100,000 to create this secure location after moving it from the basement of Thompson Hall, the college's infirmary. Jackie was not sure how WMC was chosen as a secure location as a result of the Korean, Vietnam and Cold Wars. She described the

basement bunker with its different vault doors, which opened with a combination lock. There were tables, chairs, filing cabinets, stacked cots, a pantry with canned goods, the kitchen and a bathroom, complete with a decontamination shower. Another secure room contained the phone and keyboard machines, hooked up to wires and panels. What an experience to hear about the secrets contained on campus for years, and to have such a wonderful eye-witness account!

After Jackie's informative presentation, **CCRSPA** presented her with a \$50 donation for the GFWC Woman's Club of Westminster for their reading outreach program.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Miller

Recording Secretary



Presidents' Message continued:

Your executive board mailed membership materials to 90 new CCPS retirees. If you know school personnel retirees who do not belong to CCRSPA, please encourage them to join. The more the better to protect our pensions and benefits and, of course, to socialize and maintain friendships.

This coming year is an important one. We hope to continue having inspirational programs and delicious

meals. However, this is an election year for us. If our association is to prosper and continue to protect our local and state benefits, we must ALL be willing to step up and help.

Sincerely,

Naudine Pheobus and Bonnie McElroy
Co-Presidents