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[www.carrollrspa.org](http://www.carrollrspa.org)

## Presidents' Letter February 2017

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### Upcoming Events

- Annual MRSPA Business Meeting Turf Valley May 9, 2017
- CCRSPA Spring Meeting at Carroll County Career and Tech Center 4:30 PM May 10, 2017
- CCRSPA Executive Board Meeting August, 2017 tba

Welcome to 2017! We look forward to another year of enjoying our group, socializing with fellow retired educators, and staying abreast of current issues that may affect our pensions and benefits.

CCRSPA has a new logo! It appears at the top of this page, and we now have badges and a banner made for display. We used our new materials at the pre-retirement seminar at Winters Mill High School on Friday, January 27 to recruit new members. Sue Miller joined us as we enjoyed seeing old friends and making new ones. Also, Sue Christenbury visited to share the new website that she is in the process of developing. We will let you know when it is ready to debut.

A number of donations approved at the October meeting have been made to local groups: Shepherd's Staff Back to School, Festival of Trees, Carroll Live on Stage, Literary Council, CCCTC Culinary Arts Program, Access Carroll Big Band Concert, and MRSPA Scholarship Fund.

A Scholarship Committee has been established to plan and implement a program to support current educators. We would welcome ideas and input from members.

Our next luncheon meeting will be at the VFW on Wednesday, March 8 with a snow date of March 22. The business meeting begins at 11:15 with lunch served at noon. We will have raffle tickets for the MRSPA Scholarship Fund available for you to purchase. Raffle tickets and Carroll Live on Stage concert tickets will be given as door prizes.

We are still trying to plan a few bus trips. Following the escape route of John Wilkes Booth through Southern Maryland is being planned for September. Other trips will be mentioned at the meeting.

We are still in need of members to fill the following positions: Vice-President, Program Chair and Legislative Chair. Please consider helping our organization to stay strong by offering your time and energy!

*Naudine Pheobus and Bonnie McElroy, Co-Presidents*

### **RESERVATION FORM for Dinner Wednesday, March 8, 2017**

CCRSPA Luncheon Wednesday, March 8 at VFW Post 467, 519 Poole Road, Westminster

11:15 a.m. – Business Meeting      12 Noon – Lunch Served      Cost – \$15 per person

Menu: Baked Ham, Stuffed Chicken Breast, Potatoes au Gratin, Succotash, Salad, Dessert, Beverages

Please send reservation form or facsimile no later than **Wednesday, March 1, 2017**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number/email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number/email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send your check, payable to CCRSPA c/o Nancy Griesmyer**

**PO Box 1864 Westminster, MD 21158**



## Minutes for October 26, 2016

The Fall **CCRSPA** meeting began at 5pm in Westminster at the Carroll County Career and Technology Center when **Co-President Bonnie McElroy** welcomed everyone, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Invited guests included:

**MRSPA President Fay Miller** and her sister, **Winnie Walters**, **MRSPA Area I East Director, Eugene Streagle**, and **Academy Financial Inc.**, Financial Planner, **Richard Craft**. **Co-President Naudine Pheobus** led the invocation before the meal which was prepared by 6 senior students in the Culinary Arts program. Their teacher, **Tim Norwood**, is a graduate of Francis Scott Key High School and the Culinary Arts program at CCCTC.

**Co-President Naudine** introduced the new **MRSPA President, Fay Miller**, a 2010 retiree from Kent County with 48 years of service. She shared her greetings with CCRSPA. She stated that by Thanksgiving, she will have already visited 14 different county meetings. She also explained that MRSPA is updating the website to be more user-friendly. Log-in will now use email address and a password. Check the website for updates, including member benefits and legislative issues. Additional new leadership positions with MRSPA include Executive Director, **Shachar Weizman** and Legislative Aide, **Dr. Vera Torrence**.

**MRSPA Area I East Director, Eugene Streagle**, said that he enjoys coming to CCRSPA meetings because the students prepare a delicious meal for a great price. Although there are no worries at this time with the pension, he emphasized that the organization's membership dues should be considered as pension insurance.

**Richard Craft**, representing **Academy Financial Inc.**, provided information on insurance options, including 3 different

dental plans, a vision plan and long-term care. He can be reached at 410-372-3229, email [Richard.Craft@LFG.com](mailto:Richard.Craft@LFG.com). Committee reports were then shared: The minutes prepared by **Recording Secretary, Susan Miller** from the previous meeting on May 11, 2016 were published in the newsletter, and they were accepted as printed.

**Treasurer, Nancy Griesmyer**—discussed income and disbursements, with a current balance of \$10,293.46. A \$150 donation was presented to the Culinary Arts program at CCCTC. Other community donations include: Big Band Christmas \$250, Shepherd's Staff Back-to-School \$300, Shepherd's Staff Festival of Trees \$250, Literacy Council \$200. **Terry Eckard** proposed a \$50 increase to the Literacy Council, and a donation of \$250 to Carroll Live on Stage—both motions were approved. Suggestions for additional community donations can be submitted to the Executive Board.

**Corresponding Secretary, Susan Christenbury**—stated that the group's online presence will be moving to a state website, approximate annual cost \$100. It is currently a "work in progress", but will allow Susan to upload information to the website herself.

**Consumer Education, Dixie Elmes**—shared a handout entitled "Tax Hike on Medical Costs" from the AARP Bulletin, September 2016. She also stressed adding ICE—In Case of Emergency-- to cell phone contacts.

**Membership and Necrology, Jean Crowl**—The memorial candle was lit, and a moment of silence was observed in honor and remembrance of **Carmen Louise Alban, Joretta Allwine, James Gilbert Baldwin, Aileen Bair Barnhart, Patrick Floyd, Anna Mae Franklin, Joan Harrington, Joe Hawkins, Eleanor Jamison, Lois Knights, Janice Leatherwood, Earl Harvey Miller, Sr., Virginia Reese, Helen Snyder**

and **Mary Jane White**.

**Bonnie** introduced **Pat Riesner** as a new CCRSPA member. A reminder was shared with the group that members are still needed to serve as Vice-President and as Program Committee and Legislative Chairpersons. A Vice-President is especially needed to prepare for the role of President after **Naudine** and **Bonnie** complete their co-presidency. Invite other retirees to attend, and become more involved.

**Old Business**—the annual MRSPA Leadership Workshop was held in Hagerstown in September 2016. CCRSPA officers who attended were **Bonnie, Naudine, Jean** and **Susan Christenbury**.

**New Business**— It is time to inject new energy into CCRSPA, so sign-up/suggestion sheets were placed on the tables for program, membership, scholarship and community service ideas and volunteers. Volunteering at local Westminster events will give CCRSPA opportunities to bond together and be a positive presence in the community. CCRSPA would also like to organize more "fun" activities, such as participating in trips already planned by local bus companies. Plans are underway for a John Wilkes Booth tour.

Before adjournment, a door prize was awarded to **Mary Snyder** for a free meal at the next meeting. Other raffle prize winners were **Winnie Walters** and **Terry Eckard**, and a floral bouquet went home with **Karen Kotarski**.

An ongoing goal: **Each One Reach One!** Bring a retired friend as incentive to become a new member.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Miller

Recording Secretary



## NEWS YOU CAN USE!

### At the State MRSPA:

Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (<http://www.mrspa.org/>) has a newly updated site. Previously, in order to get access to any information, you had to locate your member ID number. Thanks to our Executive Director Shachar Weizman, the site has become more user-friendly.

General information can now be accessed without logging into the site. However, to have full access you simply log in using your email address, create your own password and wait for a return email for member verification. This takes about 24 hours and becomes your all-access pass to the site.

To receive the MRSPA e-Newsletter, saving resources and time, send email to: [mrspa@mrspa.org](mailto:mrspa@mrspa.org)

*Subjectline: Newsletter by Email.*

Include your full name and email address.

### In Carroll County:

We thank Bonnie's daughter Tracey for the design of our own CCRSPA Logo. You will see it on our site, our newsletter, our outreach banner and buttons. The hope is that this will give us a real identity within our Carroll County community.

Coming soon is our own updated site. It is newly created for ease of communication. Once uploaded, if we have an email address from you I will send notification and a link to our site.

This new site allows for immediate updates so information is current.

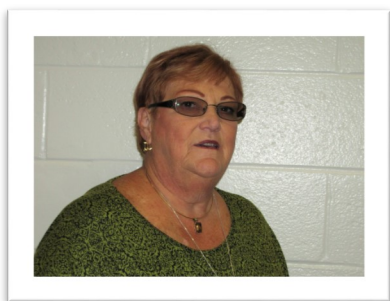
Our objective is to raise our profile in our community as well as communicate more effectively with our members. To that end, our web site is designed to provide you with information about:

- How to access to our digital newsletter
- Meetings Calendar
- Our current community service event
- Committee updates and information
- Events in our schools
- Regional/local events
- Social events for members and their friends

*Do we have your most active email account?* So much time, energy and money as well as resources are saved when newsletters are electronic. Send any updated email address you would like us to use.

Our site is linked to the MRSPA site. Select **Locals** from the black bar on the top of the Home Page. From the drop-down menu select **Area 1 East/West** and scroll down to **Carroll County**.

*Susan Christenbury, Corresponding Secretary*



*CCRSPA welcomes **Pat Riesner**, as a new member.*



***Francis (Fey) Miller**, the MRSPA President with **Bonnie McElroy** at our fall meeting in Westminster.*