

CarrollCountyrspa@gmail.com

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Membership Meetings:

Winter: February ?, 2021

Spring: May ?, 2021

Presidents' Message:

Hello Friends,
We find ourselves in a very strange new world, don't we? We have missed seeing friends and family during this longer-than-expected pandemic, and masks are very uncomfortable but necessary. It comes as no surprise that we cannot have our usual meeting in October. This is disappointing but safer for all of us vulnerable seniors.

It is difficult to guess when we will meet again, but we hope to resume our normal meetings in February. In the meantime, we are mailing membership materials to 76 new CCPS retirees. If you know any retired school personnel who do not belong to CCRSPA, please encourage them to join. The more members we have, the better, to protect our pensions and benefits and, of course, to socialize and maintain friendships.

As this school year begins with virtual teaching, let us say an extra prayer for

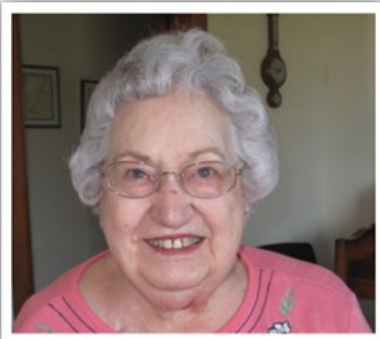
active teachers who are facing this challenge. Many of us cannot even imagine this additional burden in an already demanding job. We wish them well and hope for a successful school year.

We celebrate the life of Nancy Griesmyer, longtime treasurer and one-time membership chair of CCRSPA. Nancy led a very active and productive life and she will be missed by family and her many friends.

On a positive note, our 2020 scholarship winner is Miranda Ferrante, a permanent substitute at Manchester Valley High School. She is grateful for our support, as she states in the article in this newsletter.

Take good care of yourselves and stay healthy until we can meet again.

Sincerely,
Naudine Pheobus and Bonnie McElroy, Co-Presidents



Loss of Former CCRSPA Treasurer Nancy Griesmyer

We lost a dedicated CCRSPA member Nancy J. Griesmyer, who passed away August 31. She worked for Carroll County Schools until her retirement in 1995. Nancy taught seventh grade Science at North Carroll Middle School for many years and later was the media specialist at Freedom Elementary. She enjoyed sharing her love of books with children.

Nancy was very dedicated to her position as Carroll County Retired School Personnel (CCRSPA) Treasurer. She was an enthusiastic advocate of charitable donations, and she encouraged donations we still make today. She had a beautiful smile, an upbeat attitude and a lively spirit even when her health was failing. She will be missed. A \$50 donation was made to Carroll Hospice in Nancy's memory.



Minutes for February 12, 2020

CCRSPA Meeting—February 12, 2020

The Winter CCRSPA meeting was held at the VFW Post 467 in Westminster, starting at 11am. Those in attendance were asked to sign in and socialize until Co-

Presidents Naudine Pheobus and Bonnie McElroy welcomed everyone and led the Pledge of Allegiance at 11:30am.

Recording Secretary—Susan Miller, October 17, 2019 minutes as published in the newsletter were approved.

Treasurer—Pat Riesner stated that the current balance is \$3,974.90.

Membership and Necrology—Jean Crowl lit the memorial candle and led the remembrance in honor of Helen Plunkard, Dr. Bo Ann Bohman, Donna McCarty, Mary Rebecca Bruner, Betty Stiegler, Allen Haines, Helen Young, Mary Clare, Charlotte Dell, Josephine Nusbaum, Lewis Miller, Tivis Buckingham, May Elizabeth “Betty” Mercer, Deanna Grayson, David Rodetsky, Donna Dell Taylor Roop, Donald Zauche, William “Greenie” Green, Elinor Causey, Ed Horgos, Donna Sellman, Barbara McCourt, Nannie Larue Hyde, Blanche M. Fyler, Evelyn Ruby, Dr. Dean Griffin, Randolph “Randy” Gray Richardson, Doris “Dory” Shilling and Richard Edwards.

A February report from MRSPA indicated 4 new members and 26 Emeritus members in CCRSPA.

Scholarship Committee—Bonnie read Zeenie’s notice about the CCRSPA scholarship application, due by April 1. No applications have been received, as of now. There was an article and picture shared from the newspaper—“Wunder receives CCRSPA Scholarship”.

Consumer Education—Dixie Elmes shared with everyone about protection

from predispute forced arbitration as found in Consumer Reports, March 2020. More companies are taking away the right to sue, which prevents consumers from joining together to receive damages.

Old Business—Naudine discussed the MRSPA Legislative Workshop from November 2019. Go online to keep track of current legislation, using your MRSPA membership number. She was impressed with how diligent our MRSPA representatives are working for us, especially to preserve our pension benefits.

MRSPA awarded 6 mini-grants around the state, and Vicky Grant, South Carroll High School Special Education teacher was presented with a \$300 mini-grant for her “Cavalier Coffee and Confections” project. This award was presented at the SCHS December 11, 2019 faculty meeting by MRSPA President Ann Marie Downey, MRSPA Executive Director Wanda Twigg and CCRSPA Co-President Bonnie McElroy. Hopefully Vicky can share with us at a future meeting.

Susan Miller shared details from the CCPS Pre-Retirement Seminar, held at Winters Mill High School on January 29, 2020. Future retirees were greeted by Bonnie, Naudine and Susan as they attended the county meeting. Information about CCRSPA and refreshments were offered.

New Business—MRSPA Annual Business Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 13 at Camelot by Martin’s in Upper Marlboro, MD. MRSPA scholarship raffle tickets are available, \$2 each, 3 for \$5. The local organization was asked to donate \$50 towards this scholarship. The next scheduled CCRSPA meeting will be on Thursday, May 14, 2020.

MRSPA continues to offer a variety of benefits and discounts to members. 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.

There was no planned program for this month’s meeting. CCRSPA Officers were not sure of the arrangements since the VFW had recently experienced flooding, and the dining room area had undergone an extensive renovation. Even though we shared the meeting space with those from the restaurant area, we were pleased to see the beautifully painted and renovated room.

Contact Bonnie or Naudine, if interested in serving as the Program Chairperson, Legislative Chairperson or Vice-President. Consider filling a position, which can be shared with a friend. Remember our goal “Each One Reach One!”

Before the business meeting adjourned at 12:03pm, door prize winner names were selected: Dixie and Bonnie received Valentine flowers, and June Gordon, Donna Gable and Susan M received MRSPA raffle tickets. Then it was time for a delicious lunch of tossed garden salad, stuffed chicken, ham, sweet potatoes, green beans and a variety of desserts!

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Miller

Recording Secretary

Meet Our CCRSPA 2020 \$1000 Scholarship Winner, Miranda Ferrante

Miranda graduated Summa Cum Laude in 2007 from Towson University and lives with her husband and four children. After 8 years as a stay-at-home mom, she worked for 3 years as a substitute teacher in Carroll County Public Schools.

Her various positions as a substitute provided her with insight into the teaching profession and motivated her to pursue an MS from Walden University in Counseling. She was recognized for her compassion, positive attitude, humility, and relentless desire to help our students reach their fullest potential.

This fall Miranda will be the permanent substitute teacher at Manchester Valley High School. She will be able to work with students every day in various classrooms while she completes her graduate studies in counseling



CCRSPA's 2020 Donations

Each year CCRSPA donates to Carroll County groups. Our 2020 donations totaling \$1,800 include:

- 1) Shepherd's Staff Back to School \$300 and Festival of Trees \$250
- 2) Literacy Council of Carroll County \$250
- 3) Carroll County Food Sunday \$250
- 4) Boys and Girls Club \$250
- 5) Change, Inc. \$250
- 6) Access Carroll Integrated Health Care \$250.



Do you approve of making these same donations this year? We usually vote on them at the October meeting. Since we won't meet this October, it seems logical to donate to the same groups this year. If any member has an objection, please let us know by sending an email to the CCRSPA website or by contacting one of the officers.



CURRENT OFFICERS:

Co-Presidents: Naudine Pheobus and Bonnie McElroy

Vice-President:

Recording Secretary: Susan Miller

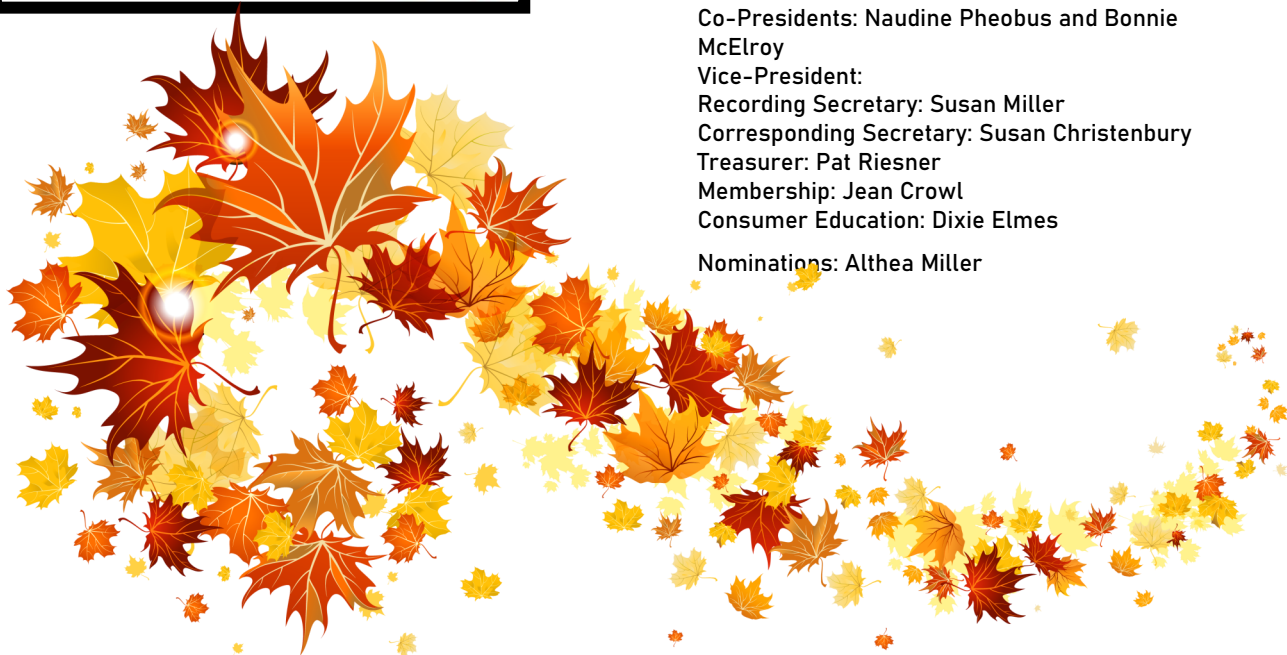
Corresponding Secretary: Susan Christenbury

Treasurer: Pat Riesner

Membership: Jean Crowl

Consumer Education: Dixie Elmes

Nominations: Althea Miller



Carroll County Retired School Personnel Association

*Susan Christenbury, Corresponding
Secretary*

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