



CarrollCountyrspa@gmail.com

### Co-Presidents' Letter February 2023

Hello Members,

We are pleased to announce that our next meeting will feature speaker Stephanie Rauen, our "guru" of CCPS retirements. We will meet at Bullock's on Wednesday, March 15 at 11 a.m. You may purchase your meal and enjoy it in the company of friends. The meeting will begin around 11:45.

Shepherd's Staff is requesting Easter baskets or buckets filled with any of these items: coloring books, Christian story books, crayons, stickers, puzzles, sports balls, jump ropes, small toys, bubbles, Play Doh, games, school supplies, non-candy snacks. Please donate if you are able.

Present members who now pay by check but switch to dues deduction will receive a one-time \$10 dues reduction. MRSPA also offers a \$10 gift card to the recruiter of a new member who signs up for dues deduction and gives their recruiter's name.

Remember our motto: **Each One Bring One!** Find friends retired from CCPS to treat to a lunch with fellow retirees; they may become members.

Sincerely,

Naudine Pheobus and Bonnie McElroy, Co-Presidents

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**Membership Meeting**

**Wednesday May 17, 2023**  
Location : TBA

### CCRSPA Luncheon Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Bullock's Country Family Restaurant  
2020 Sykesville Rd  
Westminster, MD 21157

Arrive and dine at 11:00 Business Meeting at 11:45  
Payment will be when you place your order.



However Bullocks would like us to notify them in advance of how many people to expect. By Wednesday, March 8, 2023 please either email or text how many in your party will attend.

- 1) Email Bonnie at: mrsmacwc@yahoo.com
- 2) Send a text message to: 443-536-9036 (Begin with: CCRSPA )



# Minutes for October 20, 2022

The meeting was called to order at the Westminster VFW at 11:25 a.m. by Co-President Bonnie McElroy, who offered everyone a warm welcome, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Co-President Naudine Pheobus. There were nearly 30 people in attendance, including two guests, MSRPA officers Sally Smith (Area 1 East Director) and Nancy Gordon (Vice-President).

*May 2022 minutes* were approved unanimously as written.

***Treasurer's Report (provided by Bonnie McElroy)***

***\*Current Balance \$3,265.1***  
***Debit Account Balance \$767.24***  
*\*To date, we have collected \$2,660 in dues from 266 people. There are 298 total members on the rolls at this time. Since our last meeting, we have increased 1.36% in membership.*

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

***\* Membership Committee***—Chair Jean Crowl read the names and job descriptors of the 21 members who have died in the last quarter, and a moment of remembrance was held in their memory.

***\*Consumer Report*** -- Dixie Elmes offered a report about food safety and explained the differences between Best By, Sell By, and Expiration dates. She also discussed and displayed a Banana Bag, which keeps bananas fresh in the refrigerator for several weeks. The Banana Bags are available for purchase at many websites online.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

***\*Newsletters and Recruitment Letters*** – A committee of volunteers came together to assemble and mail 138 Recruitment Letters and 300 Newsletters. Extra postage was required, but what a blessing to have grown in membership from these mailings! We unanimously approved to reimburse Co-President Bonnie McElroy for the almost \$47.96 she spent for the extra postage.

***\*Report on the July Presidents' Meeting and the September Leadership Conference*** – Both were Zoom meetings. Bonnie took away from these meetings the following key needs: to improve/increase the camaraderie, activities, and membership in our organization. One idea for a group activity would be for us to collect various types of books, fill laundry baskets with them, and place them in laundromats for patrons to read while waiting. Bonnie then offered this quote from George Denny about increasing membership—“You are the movers and shakers! Your job is to move and shake new members out of the trees!!”

## **NEW BUSINESS**

***\*Installation of New Officers*** – MRSPA Vice-President Nancy Gordon officially installed Susan Miller as Treasurer and Laurie Whitley Gouker as Recording Secretary for the years 2022 through 2024.

***\*Donations for 2022-2023*** – We voted unanimously to keep our donation recipients and amounts identical to those from the past year. Thus, we will donate \$250 each to Shepherd's Staff Back to

School Drive, Big Band Concert, Access Carroll, Literacy Council, Boys and Girls Club, and Carroll County Food Sunday. A motion was made by Karen Dulany, and seconded by Iris Wingert, to wait until January 2023 to decide the amount of our CCRSPA Scholarship. This idea was unanimously approved.

***\*Candidates Needed for Vice-President, Legislative Chair, Program Chair & Nominations Committee***– We were asked to please consider accepting one of the following four positions. The Vice-President will serve for 2 years training under the Co-Presidents, and then step into the Presidential position. The Legislative Chair does NOT need to go to Annapolis sessions, but must stay in touch with our representatives in the State Legislature and inform our group of changes and bills that would impact school personnel retirees. The Program Chair would be charged with scheduling speakers for our quarterly meetings. Bonnie also noted that we would like to form a Nominations Committee as well, so that Althea Miller is not always working solo.

***\*Comments by Guests*** – MRSPA Vice-President Nancy Gordon would appreciate more people getting involved with the MRSPA by stepping up to serve on committees, whose meetings are held mostly virtually via Zoom or a virtual/in-person hybrid format. She reminded us of the \$300 Mini-grants which are available to teachers to do small projects their school. There is one mini-

within their school. There is one mini-grant available per geographic area, and last year a Westminster High teacher was awarded one. Nancy also reminded us that there are three \$2000 scholarships available to current employees working on additional certification (teacher, guidance counselor, school psychologist, etc.). Nancy will spend much time connecting with newly elected delegates and senators after the November elections and keep the membership informed of changes via MRSPA channels. Next year, the MRSPA meeting will be held at Martin's in Hunt Valley on May 9, 2023. **MRSPA Area 1 East Director Sally Smith** applauded us for

our efforts thus far and urged us to be as active as possible. **CCPS Employee Benefits & Insurance Administrator Stephanie Rauen** was ill today, but will be our guest speaker at our February 2023 meeting.

**\*Discussion of possible new venue for our meetings** – Due to the rising cost of the meal from \$15 to \$25 post pandemic, we discussed finding a new venue with a less expensive meal cost. However, most venues discussed would not offer the generous meeting space nor the extensive parking available at the VFW Post, so our decision was to have Bonnie and Naudine investigate further, and we will revis-

it this topic at our next meeting.

After a delicious luncheon, the collection of at least 10 very full Senior Sacks for Christmas (Thank you all!), and the awarding of door prizes, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Laurie Whitley Gouker**



## Introducing our new Recording Secretary Laurie Whitley Gouker!

Laurie comes to us after 35 years working for CCPS. She worked for two years in Pupil Services as a Psychometrist, for 1 year piloting the Spanish program at MAMS, and 32 years at FSK teaching Spanish, French and Latin. After she retired in 2014, she moved to Washington County and worked for 5 more years teaching Spanish and Latin before retiring again in 2019.

Laurie is assuming the position from Susan Miller, who is taking on the office of Treasurer that has been vacant since the passing of our friend Pat Reisner. Our new officers were installed at our October 20 meeting by the Vice-President of MRSPA, Nancy Gordon.

