



CarrollCountyrspa@gmail.com

Co-Presidents' Letter

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Hello Friends,
 Welcome to Spring in Maryland with roller-coaster weather!
 Our March meeting at Bullock's was a success, and we voted to return for our next meeting Wednesday, May 17. Please join us.
 Stephanie Rauen was a dynamic speaker, sharing information and answering questions. Dixie Elmes shared valuable information about avoiding the latest scams. Excellent summaries of both speakers' presentations are included in the March minutes in this newsletter.
 Our delegation to MRSPA's Annual Business Meeting May 9 includes Susan Miller, Jean Crowl, Naudine Pheobus and Bonnie McElroy.

At the March meeting we voted to support the MRSPA Scholarship with a \$50 donation.
 There will be a vote on MRSPA's annual dues which have remained at \$45 for years. A \$5 increase has been proposed to cover rising costs of doing business. This would result in state dues of \$50 and local dues of \$10 beginning in membership year 2024-2025.
 Wanda Twigg will attend our May meeting and share information from MRSPA and state legislation. Join us to socialize and gain enlightenment.
 Remember: **Each One Bring One!**

Sincerely,
 Naudine Pheobus and Bonnie McElroy,

Membership Meeting

Wednesday May 17, 2023

CCRSPA Luncheon Wednesday, May 17, 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, May 10, 2023 please either email or text how many in your party will attend.

1) Email Bonnie at: mrsmacwc@yahoo.com





Minutes for March 15, 2023

The Winter CCRSPA meeting was held at the Bullock's Family Restaurant in Westminster, starting at 11am. The guest speaker, *Stephanie Rauen*, CCPS Employee Benefits and Insurance Administrator, was introduced.

Treasurer—*Susan Miller* stated that the current balance is \$2,228.54.

Consumer Education—*Dixie Elmes* shared 4 signs of scam: scammers pretend, often use a problem or prize to entice, pressure to act immediately and need to use credit or debit card, or gift card to pay. Beware of suspicious calls, texts or emails!

Old Business—*Bonnie* commented on a recent report from MRSPA which indicated a membership increase of 3.06% since July in CCRSPA, currently 303 members! Switch to dues deduction to receive a one-time \$10 deduction in state dues. The CCPS Pre-Retirement Seminar is now on video.

New Business—*Bonnie* stated that with recent problems using Staples as the printer for the local newsletter, she has contacted Village Printing in Westminster. Since we have postage stamps, they will print, fold and attach mailing labels for \$185. Once the stamps have been depleted, bulk mailing will be used, \$375.

Bonnie also reported on the MRSPA Presidents' Meeting via Zoom on March 14. A \$5 increase in dues from \$45 to \$50 is a proposal that will be voted on at the Annual Business Meeting in May.

Carroll County dues of \$10 will remain the same. Remember to be proactive and contact MD legislative officials whenever a request is sent from the state organization. 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 Bring One!***"

MRSPA Annual Business Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 9 at Martin's Valley Mansion in Hunt Valley, MD. Let *Bonnie* or *Naudine* know if interested in attending. MRSPA scholarship raffle tickets are available, \$10 each, 3 for \$25. *Naudine* reported that the local organization was asked to donate \$50 towards this scholarship, as well as \$25 to cover officers' insurance from MRSPA. Both of these amounts were approved by the members in attendance. MRSPA continues to offer a variety of benefits and discounts to members. Visit <https://www.mrspa.org> and access with your member number. Click on Member Benefits.

Stephanie Rauen was thankful to be included for our in-person luncheon. She stressed that the IRS, Social Security and Medicare will **never** call; will send a letter, to echo the scamming comments from earlier in the meeting. *Stephanie* talked about so many changes and challenges since the start of the COVID pandemic 3 years ago, including retirement conferences by phone and mailing papers

to sign, clerical staff completing electronic scans of all personnel files, staffing needed to continually clean buildings and supply food for distribution. CCPS did not require COVID vaccines for employees; however due to the ongoing stresses of virtual/hybrid/in-person teaching, there are now more retirements throughout the year, instead of typically in January and July. As of May 12, 2023 the Public Health Emergency will be over, so no costs for tests and vaccines will end. Some pharmacies may still have supply, and will not charge. *Stephanie* did say that telehealth visits will still be covered by Aetna through December 31, 2024. CCPS health rates are competitive—a bid for a new one-year contract with 4 year renewals was recently submitted, with a July 2023 Board of Education approval. *Stephanie* is definitely our "security blanket", and the best time to contact her with any questions is in the morning. Her final reminder was for everyone to tell family members to notify CCPS and the state retirement agency after an employee's death so records can be updated.

Thanks to everyone who contributed Easter baskets/basket fillers for Shepherd's Staff. We appreciate *Dixie's* willingness to deliver the donations.

Respectfully submitted, *Susan H. Miller*, Treasurer for *Laurie Whitley Gouker*, Recording Secretary