



June 11, 2019

Minutes for Carteret County Retired School Personnel

Call to Order and Cares and Concerns

The June 11, 2019, meeting of CCRSP was called to order by President Cathy Neagle soon after 11:30 a.m. with 16 attending. The meeting was a Legislative Working Session combined with planning for the upcoming year 2019-2020. It was a good time to think of members who had been unable to attend or had not been with us for a while: Rita Mullins in Crystal Bluff with hip slow to heal, Dan and Eva McLaughlin, Hazel Balch, Carrie Campen, Louise Johnson, Ann Hill, Arnold and Becky Adams, Jimmy Collins, Faye Nelson with a broken foot, and Cathy and Yates Neagle with new health concerns.

Directory Updates

Members were asked to check their information in the directory and make any needed corrections.

Report on March in Raleigh

Jackie Ramus and Jane Burbella reported to the NCAE building and then marched to the Legislative building where they were asked to stay outside until someone came for them. As no one ever came, they primarily stood by their sign. George Burbella noted that there was good television coverage. Two Democratic representatives said the march would not influence their thinking. The event at least caught the attention of parents who had to find child care on that day.

Continuing the conversation, George shared statistics from neighboring states on pay raises for retirees. Virginia retirees are currently receiving 2.13% and on July 1 it will increase to 2.44%. These raises are based on U.S. Bureau of Labor statistics, which are updated every July 1. South Carolina retirees get 1% every year, beginning in July. Tennessee bases its increase on the Consumer Price Index for the previous year up to 3% annually.

We probably will not get a COLA. What we are doing isn't working. Rev. Ramey said our lobbyist lets us know what bills are coming up; we can look that up on line. We need a "bulldog" lobbyist to stand up to our cheap legislators. It is irksome to think of all the volunteer

work that we do and then get nothing in return. Young people going into education will have to have something else for retirement. Nancy Ustach asked what the neighboring states are doing about health care for retirees. Cathy Neagle reminded us that the state pays an average of \$384 a month to cover the health care benefit.

Legislative Session

President Cathy Neagle stated that we don't want the legislators to say they did not hear anything from us. She turned the work session over to Legislative Chair Joanne Rittschof. Joanne began with a New York Times article written by a researcher at MIT which gave living wage categories in Carteret County for various expenditures for different household sizes or makeup. For example, the yearly amount given for food for a household with one adult was \$2,900. The required income was \$29,000. The figures presented came from a federal study.

In calling Senator Sanderson and Representative McElraft, we can say, "I am below a living wage and if expenses continue to go up and my income doesn't, it will be hard to make it." Also use the statistics showing that Cost of Living increases have amounted to 18% over the last 10 years with only three 1% increases. We have lost 15% of our buying power.

In addition to calls, post cards are effective. Members can also sign a petition as a group, which we did at the end of Joanne's session.

Cathy Neagle had prepared scripts for us to use when calling the 2 representatives. Then we could add our own personal stories. Anne Upchurch asked us to locate educators who have a story of great need. They definitely need to share their stories.

Joanne pointed out that property taxes are increasing; this fact can be another talking point.

Cathy reminded us that the budget is finalized by the conference committee. The House and Senate come to a compromise on the final budget.

The number of calls we make will matter. If our representatives receive lots of calls, they say they think about it (our plea for a COLA). The legislative assistants who answer your calls are polite and we should be also. We can always include in our conversation that we appreciate Senator Sanderson's and Rep. McElraft's service. At the end of Joanne's presentation, we were asked to let Cathy and Joanne know when we have made the calls to the 2 representatives.

Proposed Calendar

Cathy handed out a calendar listing the proposed meeting dates for 2019-2020. All were in favor of adopting the calendar dates as official. After adopting the dates, the group considered

programs for each meeting. The speakers will have to be contacted before the programs are finalized. Anne Upchurch will call Asa Buck for September; Lucy Bond will contact Carol Geer from the League for March.

Carteret County RSP Meetings and Events

September 10, 2019	Sheriff Asa Buck, "Opioid Crisis"
October 7, 2019	Region 7B General Meeting, King's in Kinston
October 8, 2019	Representative Pat McElraft Senator Norman Sanderson
November 12, 2019	Travis Day, Carteret Co. Board of Education (Baskets of Candy for National Education Wk.)
December 10, 2019	Christmas Social, Volunteer Hours
February 11, 2020	Dr. John Hauser, President, Carteret Community College
March 10, 2020	League of Women Voters – 100 th Year of Women's Right to Vote
March 19-20, 2020	NCRSP Convention, Sheraton, Durham
April 14, 2020	Carl Whitfield, Fitness
April 30, 2020	Committee Day in Raleigh
May 12, 2020	Scholarships, Memorials, and Awards
June 9, 2020	Legislative Session and Planning
July 14, 2020	Planning
August 11, 2020	Mailing to Members (volunteer forms, newsletter, etc.)

Volunteer Hours

Community Service Co-Chair Bonnie Ferneau received information from only 16 people. The forms must be in on time and more people must report their hours. Hours are broken down into "Education" and "Others."

Carteret County had 780 hours in education and 2,347 other hours for a total of 3,127. Sylvia Widgeon reported 616 hours. We can remind members by email and tell them how to find the form on the NCRSP website.

Door Prizes and Devotions

Members were asked to sign up for door prizes and devotions for each month.

Convention

George Burbella and Cathy Neagle spoke at the NCRSP Convention about having Greenville for a convention location in 2021. It would be in competition with 5 other cities. The 2020 convention will be in Durham. Use of the Greenville Convention Center is very expensive.

Adjournment

Marie Hurst asked the blessing and the meeting was adjourned.

Attendance

Claudia Beamon, Lucy Bond, Meg Bradford, George Burbella, Jane Burbella, Bonnie Ferneau, Ann Hill, Marie Hurst, Becky Lail, June Merrill, Cathy Neagle, Jackie Ramus, Joanne Rittschof, Julia Thorn, Anne Upchurch, Nancy Ustach

