



Carteret County Retired School Personnel
Minutes for Meeting on September 14, 2021

Welcome and Call to Order

Carteret County Retired School Personnel met in person at 11:30 a.m. on September 14, 2021, at Sagebrush Restaurant in Morehead City. Communications Chair June Merrill welcomed those present and called the meeting to order.

Devotion, Blessing, Pledge of Allegiance, and Humor

Jane Burbella presented the devotion and asked the blessing. She also led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag. George Burbella told 2 jokes to brighten our day.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report

The minutes of the last meeting, held in November of 2020, were accepted by acclamation. They were posted on the CCRSP website last November.

Treasurer Rebecca Lail reported the following balances:

Checking – 1,892.08
Share Account – 58.14
Dollars for Scholars (Carteret Community College Scholarship Account) – 116.90

Becky also presented the budget for 2021-2022. Since her computer was down, she could not provide us with a printed copy. Bonnie Ferneau moved, with a second from George Burbella, that we tentatively adopt the budget. The motion passed unanimously. Becky will have it in print for us to peruse at the November meeting.

Committee Reports

Legislative – Jackie Wooten: The Conference Committee is working to bring about a compromise budget on the recommendations from Governor Cooper, the House, and the Senate. Governor Cooper is asking the most for retirees and the Senate included nothing for retirees with the House in the middle. NC Retired School Personnel is urging its members to contact the members of the Conference Committee and tell their personal stories of need; retirees should ask for a 2% COLA and a 2% Bonus for each of the next 2 years.

It was suggested by June Merrill that members send 3 group emails: one to NC Legislators Phil Berger and Tim Moore, one to the House members from Region 7B, and one to the Senate members from Region 7B. We were given a sample message and a list of the legislators in each of the 3 groups. NCRSP Vice President Linda Gunter, State Legislative Chair Pat Randall, and Regional individuals helping them are doing more than a paid lobbyist would do if we had one. At the present time, the position of lobbyist is still vacant.

Membership – George Burbella, June Vann (absent): Membership at the beginning of the year, based on dues received in 2020-2021, stood at 64. CCRSP lost 3 members to death: Betty Quinn, Cherrie Piner, and Don Thompson; we gained 3 new members: Kathy Day-Ketel, Jan Johnson, and Carolyn Cooper. Nine did not pay their dues and Rita Mullins transferred to another county.

Cash pay members are to send their dues directly to Raleigh. We have 20 members who pay by check. Dues for new retirees joining the organization have increased to \$144.00 (NEA, 35; NCAE, 46; NCRSP, 46; Region, 7; Local, 10). The total can be broken down into 10 monthly payments.

Scholarships – Jane Burbella: Jane is ready to turn chairmanship of this committee over to someone else. No scholarships were awarded in May of 2021 because no one applied. The COVID-19 pandemic was a contributing factor. Recipient Maggie Guthrie, who is now teaching at Atlantic Elementary, sent a note of appreciation to Jane; Jonathan Merrill, a music education major in his junior year at Mt. Olive University, plans to reapply for his senior year; Jane has not heard from Rebecca Bretzke, now a sophomore majoring in elementary education at Appalachian State. Jane thinks the amount of the scholarships should be increased substantially this year.

Bonnie Ferneau told us that the Carteret County Foundation for Public School Children is considering a proposal to award a fully funded scholarship to a qualifying graduating senior.

Community Service – Meg Bradford (absent): NCRSP retirees across the state volunteered 37,435.25 hours in education and 96,922.22 hours designated as others. The value of a volunteer hour in the US has risen to \$28.54; therefore, NC retirees saved the state \$3,834,562.19. Our Carteret County retirees gave a total of 4,784 hours, thus saving the state \$136,535.36. Julia Thorn with 1,160 hours is our Top Volunteer for 2020; she saved the state \$33,106.40.

Communications – June Merrill: The website updates have been prepared and will be sent to Aaron Beasley along with the minutes of today’s meeting.

New Business

Open Enrollment: Open Enrollment will be held October 11-29, 2021, for benefits effective January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022. The 3 insurance choices are Humana Medicare Advantage Base Plan, Humana Medicare Advantage Enhanced Plan (premium), and 70/30 Blue Cross/Blue Shield. The Humana Base Plan is the best bargain; however, each person needs to consider which plan is best for that individual’s needs.

Convention: The 2021 NCRSP State Convention will be held as a virtual event on September 27-30. CCRSP is allowed 6 voting delegates and 1 alternate based on its membership of 64. Delegates are expected to log in at 2:00 p.m. on September 28 and again on September 29 for a 2-hour session. A registration fee of \$10 will be required, which CCRSP will pay. The treasurer will send in a single check and register the ones who agree to serve as delegates. Cathy Neagle, Meg Bradford, June Merrill, Jackie Wooten, and Julia Thorn have agreed to be delegates.

Any other paid member can be a nonvoting delegate by sending \$10 to the treasurer, who will handle the paperwork. If Becky needs help, Meg Bradford and June Merrill are willing to assist.

Meetings and Speakers: Four additional meetings are planned for the year. The meeting on November 9, 2021, will be devoted to filling the baskets of candy for American Education Week. There will be no speaker for this occasion. Members are encouraged to be very generous in their donations for this project. Neither is a speaker needed for the meeting on June 14, 2022, which will be devoted to awarding scholarships and recognizing our Top Volunteer and Member of the Year.

Speakers are needed for February 9, 2022, and April 12, 2022. Suggestions included Carteret County Superintendent Dr. Rob Jackson, NCRSP Vice President Linda Gunter, and wellness trainer Carl Whitfield.

NC Foundation for Public School Children: The group discussed the NCRSP request that local units send a \$50 gift card toward the convention project of raising money for the Foundation. Treasurer Becky Lail pointed out the danger of sending gift cards in the mail; out of caution, Jackie Wooten moved, with a second by Becky Lail, that CCRSP send a \$50 check made out to NCFPSC directly to the Foundation. The motion passed unanimously. The Foundation address is the same as that for NCRSP.

Officer and Committee Chair Vacancies: The last item of business was to fill the officer and committee chair vacancies that exist. Members came through and were happy to give President Meg Bradford their support by accepting the following positions:

Secretary – June Merrill

Quality of Life Chair – Jackie Wooten

We were encouraged to get the flu shot and to stay informed on the COVID-19 booster.

Dollars for Scholars Chair – George and Jane Burbella

Facebook Chair – Julia Thorn

Scholarship Chair – Lucy Bond (?)

Devotions Chair – Jane Burbella

Brag Board Chair – Julia Thorn

Julia will contact Meg who has the boards.

Committees need other members to help the chairperson. Anyone who can help in one of these areas is asked to call the committee chair and volunteer to serve on the chosen committee.

Adjournment

The in-person meeting can be described as a happy and informative occasion. Members were enthusiastic and ready to help our President return to the normalcy of meetings and activities enjoyed so much in the past. The meeting place seemed acceptable, the food was delicious, and Sagebrush service was impeccable.

Attendance

George Burbella

Jane Burbella

Bonnie Ferneau

Rebecca Lail

June Merrill

Julia Thorn

Jackie Wooten