



**Carteret County Retired School Personnel
Minutes for April 9, 2019
11:30 a.m., Sanitary Restaurant**

Call to Order was given by CCRSP President Cathy Neagle. Cathy asked June Merrill to show our certificates won at the NCRSP Convention for the Brag Boards by Julia Thorn, for Legislative Star Light, and for the Betty Huffman Award. Cathy thanked June for her hard work in assembling the materials for qualifying for the awards. Cathy Neagle made a motion which was seconded to place the certificates in the home of June Merrill. The members agreed. June was presented with a pewter tankard in appreciation of her efforts. She also received a glass star and a certificate of appreciation for her years of dedicated work for CCRSP.

Cathy Neagle demonstrated again the strength of multiple wooden skewers as opposed to a single one. She reflected again that we educators must stand together.

Members present for the meeting were Rita Mullins, Meg Bradford, Marie Hurst, June Merrill, Jackie Ramus, Jane Burbella, George Burbella, Ardith Propst, Bonnie Ferneau, Unita Hayden, Betty Quinn, Anne Upchurch, Julia Thorn, Jeannie Potter, Martha Harrelson, Geraline Castle, and Joanne Rittschof. Our guests were Reverend Dr. W. T. Ramey III, President of the North Carolina Retired School Personnel (NCRSP) and Melinda Simon, a close friend of Martha Harrelson.

Meg Bradford presented our devotions, "A Prayer in Spring." The blessing was given for the food.

An article about Meg Bradford's husband was passed around the room.

President Cathy requested that members complete the support documents requesting a five percent cost of living adjustment (COLA). These cards will be given to Rev. Dr. Ramey to take back to NCRSP headquarters.

Cards were sent to CCRSP members Ann Hill whose husband Charles Hill died recently and to Jackie Wooten whose aunt died while the group was attending the NCRSP Convention.

Our speaker was Reverend Dr. W. T. Ramey III, President of NCRSP. Dr. Ramey was introduced by George Burbella. George shared a humorous talk about his encounters with former students.

Dr. Ramey thanked our members for dedication to children and for the work we do in support of public education. He made a number of points during his presentation:

- 1) NCRSP--\$12,289.00—amount donated to the NC Foundation for Public School Children.
- 2) NCRSP--9,107 members—number of current members of NCRSP
- 3) No membership loss this year, but no gain. 249 new members, but lost 246 members through attrition, deceased members, etc.
- 4) Membership and educational legislation will be emphasized this year.
- 5) This year no money is being received from NEA, AARP, or NCAE. The Panorama costs \$5000 for publication, and we no longer receive funding from any of these three organizations which was previously used for communication with members. The Panorama is replaced by monthly and weekly news reports delivered digitally.
- 6) One of the bills being considered in the NC Legislature which affects our health care deals with cuts to hospital payouts for services. This will negatively affect small-town hospitals and may lead to hospitals refusing services to retired school personnel.
- 7) A COLA is important because retired school personnel will receive the same amount of retirement without a cost of living increase. Our convention voted that we should ask for the 5% COLA, despite it not being in the governor's budget.
- 8) Electronic voting—not a problem for Carteret County membership.
- 9) In 1968, 2049 retired school personnel individuals were 90 or older and receiving benefits; in 2017, 7000+ individuals were 90 and above and receiving benefits.
- 10) State pays \$347 per month for our health insurance. According to Dr. Ramey, "We are a liability to the state because we are living."

- 11) Van Arden has been the auditor for NCRSP, and the cost was \$30,000. NCRSP was doing all the work. All personnel in our office are part-time. The decision was made to increase the number of hours for those personnel: 20 to 25 hours; 25 to 30 hours, etc. and conduct our own audits.

Dr. Ramey took questions from the group:

Julia Thorn asked: What are the responsibilities of our lobbyist, and how much is that person paid?

Dr. Ramey responded: The salary of that individual is \$30,000 per year. That individual's responsibility is to keep us apprised of all bills which affect education and especially retired personnel.

Money was collected for the Carteret County Public School Foundation for Hurricane Relief.

Members of our group ordered lunch.

Secretary Rita Mullins distributed copies of the CCRSP Minutes for our March 12, 2019, meeting. There were no changes. The minutes have been posted on our CCRSP website. Twenty members and two guests attended our meeting.

Our Financial Report was presented by Meg Bradford. The checking balance was \$1,132.56. The Share Account totaled \$57.53, and the Share Certificate had \$600.00 (expires June 1—must decide whether to renew). The SECU Money Market account had \$1,023.39.

Committee Reports

- **NCAE Liaison—June Vann is ill and not present.**
- **Legislative Committee—Joanne Rittschof: Several legislators will be running for the District 3 seat held by Walter Jones, Jr. April 30 will be the primary voting date for this position. 7:00 a.m. to 4. One Saturday early voting. There are 17 candidates from Republican party and 6 from the Democratic Party.**
- **Membership—George Burbella: Welcomed new faces to our group.**
- **Dollars for Scholars—Anne Upchurch: \$33.00 was collected for Dollars for Scholars. The winner of our drawing was Martha Harrelson. The gift was provided by Becky Lail.**
- **Scholarships and Communications—Jane Burbella—Interviews of scholarship candidates will take place within two weeks. The final recipients will be introduced at our next meeting.**

- **Community Service Volunteer Hours—Bonnie Ferneau and Mildred Lancaster: They reiterated that members should keep an on-going record of volunteer hours for the end-of-year report.**

Announcements:

May 1: Red for Ed Rally in Raleigh

May 9: NCRSP Committee Day

May 14: 11:30 a.m., CCRSP meeting at the Sanitary Restaurant. We will recognize our scholarship recipients and will memorialize three of our members.

May 15: Leadership Workshop for Region 7B

May 29: Carteret County Retirement Seminar, West Carteret High School, 3:30 p.m. Volunteers are needed to bring refreshments.

Dates to Remember:

Month

May

Bring Door Prize

Joanne Rittschof

Devotions

June Merrill

CCRSP Officers and Committee Chairs

President

Vice-president

2nd Vice-president

3rd Vice-president

Secretary

Asst. Secretary

Treasurer

Community Service

Quality of Life

Legislative

Membership

Communications/Media

Scholarship Chair

Dollars for Scholars

Devotions

Brag Boards

Email Reminders

NCAE Liaison

Phone Tree

Cathy Neagle

Anne Upchurch

Jane Burbella

George Burbella

Dr. Rita Mullins

Joanne Rittschof

Meg Bradford

Mildred Lancaster & Bonnie Ferneau

Dr. Rita Mullins

Joanne Rittschof

George Burbella

June Merrill

Jane Burbella

Anne Upchurch

Betty Quinn

Julia Thorn

Pamela Janoskey

June Vann

George & Jane Burbella, Gail Barnes

www.carteretcountyrsp.com

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