



Carteret County Retired School Personnel

Beacon

Volume XI Issue 2 January 2021

Highlights of 2020 Spring Convention

NCRSP State Convention, which was not held until late September, was the first ever virtual event of its kind for the organization. As it ended up, anyone who wanted to was allowed to join the Zoom sessions. The main takeaway was the election of Linda Gunter as NCRSP Vice President. She won by a large margin over opponent Yvonne Williams; the election took place electronically, with only the delegates casting a vote. Linda plans to run for NCRSP President in 2022.

Much to Carteret County's disappointment, no awards were given out by the Recognitions Committee. Our unit had submitted entries for the Betty Huffman Recognition Award and for Legislative, Membership, and Communications Starlight awards. We would also have competed for Brag Board Recognition under normal conditions.

Julia Thorn only recently received her Medal of Recognition from NCRSP for being named Region 7B Top Volunteer. See page 2 for details.

FYI: State and local elections are held on alternate even years whereas regional elections occur on alternate odd years.

Message from the President . . .

Thank you to everyone who came to the November Meeting at No Name Pizza in MHC. A special thanks to all of you who have worked behind the scenes since then to support me and our organization. I am grateful for the many acts of kindness shown by my CCRSP family.



What a challenging year 2020 was for NCRSP and all the local units! The pandemic called for a new way of conducting business. The Zoom platform is now being used quite successfully on every level; even State Convention was held virtually with 3 afternoon sessions. Regardless, most members still prefer in-person meetings as soon as we can assemble again safely.

Until that time, please try to get the vaccine as it becomes available. Some members have already received the first shot. If you haven't had one and are not yet on a waiting list, you may call the Health Department at 728-8550, Option 2, as a starting point.

The News-Times is helpful in keeping up with what is available in Carteret County. You can click on carolinacoastonline.com and watch for info on upcoming clinics.

We will continue to work behind the scenes until we feel safe to be out and about again. You will receive an email alert to let you know of any future meetings.

2021 State Convention

The plan for State Convention to convene in March has been changed. Region 7B Director Sheila Mendoza, who participated in the NCRSP Executive Board Meeting on January 26, has informed us that the convention has been postponed until the third week of September. Over the summer a decision will be made as to whether it will be a face-to-face, virtual, or hybrid event.

Another change is that the number of delegates a unit is eligible for will be based on January membership this year rather than membership in December. The explanation given is the pandemic and trouble with the postal service.

And YES, the convention will still be held in Greenville. Our own George Burbella has long advocated for the event to be held in the eastern part of the state ever so often for the sake of fairness. His efforts will not have been in vain.

It is the hope of everyone that with the vaccine, it will be safe for us to attend our meetings and special events by September. As information on the convention comes in, it will be passed on to our members.

NCRSP Website: ncrsp.org

**Region 7B Website
Region7Bncrsp.weebly.com**

CCRSP Website: carteretcountyrsp.com

Julia Thorn Receives Medal of Recognition



Julia Thorn displays the Medal of Recognition recently received from NCRSP honoring her as Top Volunteer for Region 7B for 2019. Bonnie Ferneau, who was Community Service Chair at the time, helped Julia compile the hours and provide verification for them.

NCRSP encourages its members “to volunteer in their schools and communities to address current needs” and to coordinate with other like-minded groups who share their concerns. Delta Kappa Gamma activities provided Julia the perfect opportunity to accomplish the second part of the mission.

NCRSP members across the state reported a total of 342,426.3 volunteer hours. Julia accumulated 1,656 hours in Education plus 82.5 “Other” hours. At the rate of \$25.43 per hour, Julia’s service to the community is valued at \$44,210.06. The words of Sherry Anderson express the true value of Julia’s service in our hearts:

**Volunteers don’t get paid,
not because they’re worthless,
but because they’re priceless.**

National Education Week



Eleven members braved the pandemic and gathered at No Name Pizza in Morehead City to prepare the baskets of candy for National Education Week. The room smelled of delicious ingredients as those present filled all the baskets, which President Meg Bradford had already organized into zones for easy delivery after the meeting. The afternoon found several of us driving to the various locations throughout the county from White Oak to Atlantic to deliver the treats.

A small brag board showcasing CCRSP was taken to each location as well. Julia Thorn, Cathy Neagle, and Meg Bradford had updated all the boards, large and small, to raise awareness of our organization.

Thank you to the following for being the CCRSP runners: Meg Bradford, George and Jane Burbella, Bonnie Ferneau, June Merrill, Cathy Neagle, Jackie Ramus, and Jackie Wooten. Those who accept the baskets always say, "We look forward to seeing the Retired Teachers come to the school."

State Communications Zoom Session

State Communications Chair Ginger Sermons invited Regional chairs to join her for a short Zoom session to discuss Panorama and the NCRSP Website. Those attending, including June Merrill from Carteret County, acknowledged the shortcomings of the state website, which has the potential for being the state's most effective tool for communicating with NCRSP members.

Ginger had just been in a meeting with Rev. Ramey; however, the issue was not addressed. According to her, sufficient funds do exist to hire someone to do the work of updating the information on the site.

On a more positive note, Panorama continues to highlight the local units who contribute articles for publication. The fall issue included our article on the Recognition of Past Members of the Year. Another was recently submitted by June Merrill on Julia's Medal of Recognition for being named Region 7B Top Volunteer.

CCRSP Officers

President: Meg Bradford
Vice President: George Burbella
Secretary: Dr. Rita Mullins
Treasurer: Becky Lail



