



**Carteret County Retired School Personnel
Minutes for Meeting on November 9, 2021**

Welcome and Call to Order

Carteret County Retired School Personnel met in person at 11:30 a.m. on November 9, 2021, at Sagebrush Restaurant in Morehead City. President Meg Bradford called the meeting to order and welcomed those present, including 1 new member and 1 guest. Those in attendance were the following: Lucy Bond, Meg Bradford, George Burbella, Jane Burbella, Geraline Castle, Sally Davis (guest), Kathy Day-Ketel (new member), Marie Hurst, Becky Lail, June Merrill, Ardith Propst, Jackie Ramus, Julia Thorn, June Vann, and Jackie Wooten.

Devotion, Blessing, Pledge of Allegiance, and Humor

Jane Burbella reminded us of a Veterans Day observance to take place at Bay View Cemetery in Morehead City on November 11, at 11:00 a.m. She then read a poem by Jill Eisnaugle entitled "Retired Teacher," which was dedicated to her 2 favorite teachers. Jane asked the blessing and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. George entertained us with a joke about a dentist and patient who had been classmates and had not seen each other in a long time.

Cares and Concerns

The three members mentioned were Marie Hurst, Julia Thorn, and Meg Bradford, all of whom were able to be with us for the meeting.

Dollars for Scholars

Collections for the monthly scholarship fundraiser yielded \$26.00. Jackie Wooten's name was drawn. Jane passed around a sign-up sheet for anyone who would like to donate a prize (not to exceed \$15.00 in value) for any of the next 3 meetings or present the devotion.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report

The minutes for the meeting on September 14, 2021, written by Secretary June Merrill, had been posted on the website soon after the meeting and emailed to members yesterday. Jackie Wooten moved, with a second by Marie Hurst, that the minutes be approved as written. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Becky Lail reported a balance of \$1,789.32 in checking, \$58.12 in the share account, and \$26.00 in Dollars for Scholars. She has a new computer and printer and promises to give us written reports in February, which will allow time for her to become more familiar with her new electronic equipment.

Committee Reports

NCAE Liaison: June Vann reported the lack of interest shown by active employees in NCAE. The Carteret County Association of Educators needs people to fill its leadership positions and members to support the leaders. June will seek additional information on the progress of CCAE.

Legislative: June Merrill shared information learned at the Region 7B Executive Board meeting about finding a new lobbyist. Applicants for the job have not been very promising thus far and the budget process has been going on for quite some time. Collections for membership have also fallen drastically since the onset of the pandemic. Thus, NCRSP is waiting until spring to hire a lobbyist. This delay will save money and give additional time to find someone more likely to do a good job. June noted that the legislative work had been done by State Legislative Chair Pat Randall, NCRSP Vice President Linda Gunter, and the Regional Legislative chairs. Region 7B needs someone to fill the position of 7B Legislative Chair.

Carteret County Legislative Chair Jackie Wooten talked about the possibility of a COLA for retirees. Redistricting is on the minds of legislators now, with little talk of a Cost of Living Adjustment. Cooper, Berger, and Moore seem to be talking about educator pay, policy provisions, and the Leandro case. Hopefully they can come together by November 15. Jackie reminded us that although the legislators may not read all of our emails, staffers do tally the numbers; it is important that we send the emails to the legislators.

George Burbella said that we could revert back to the old budget with no tax increases and no increases for retirees. He was also concerned about what NCAE/NCRSP is doing with the money that would be going to a lobbyist. That expenditure alone could range from \$20,000 to \$40,000 a year. George questions whether we even need a lobbyist based on the results produced so far.

Julia Thorn says that monetary donations get results although it is hard for us to compete with the big donors. She pointed out that we ourselves can follow the progress of bills on the General

Assembly website and know when to take action. We can do a lot of the work we would be paying a lobbyist to do for us.

Quality of Life: Jackie Wooten had prepared a 2-page handout for us on the topic of the month, which is Mental Health/Wellness. Various suggestions were given for us to maintain a healthy outlook on life as we age, as winter sets in, and as the pandemic continues. The source for the tips is an article in the AARP Bulletin titled "Live Longer Stronger Better," dated May 2021.

Membership: Meg reminded us that cash pay members should already have sent their checks to Becky, who sends them to Raleigh.

Community Service: Meg reminded us that Community Service forms are due to her in December. We may look for the form on the NCRSP website. The Other category allows us to include hours for church, taking people to the doctor, and tutoring students, including our grandchildren, on the phone.

Project for American Education Week

Julia Thorn had invested much time and money in making mini brag boards to place in the schools during American Education Week and larger brag boards to place at various locations in the county throughout the year. She will be reimbursed \$108.47 for her monetary expenditures in doing this project. Also for American Education Week, members brought candy to be placed in 20 schools and 3 other locations in the Carteret County School System. Locations for the 4 large brag boards are being worked on.

President Meg Bradford asked for volunteers to deliver the baskets of candy and stressed the importance of a follow-up visit to each location on November 19 to collect the mini brag boards and the baskets for reuse. We do not feel that we can ask the Central Office to be a gathering point for collecting these; thus, our runners will need to return to the site of delivery and complete this part of the responsibility. Brag boards and baskets can be returned to Meg for safe keeping.

Future Meetings

February 9, 2022 – Linda Gunter, NCRSP VP
April 12, 2022 – Dr. Rob Jackson, Carteret County Superintendent
June 14, 2022 – Scholarship, Top Volunteer, and Member of the Year Awards

Adjournment

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

