



**Carteret County Retired School
Personnel**

Beacon

Volume XII, Issue 1, Fall 2021

Executive Board 2020-2022

President: Meg Bradford
Vice President: George Burbella
Secretary: June Merrill
Treasurer: Becky Lail
Past President: Cathy Neagle

Leadership Team

Community Service & Memorials: Meg Bradford
Quality of Life & Legislative: Jackie Wooten
Membership: George Burbella & June Vann
Scholarships: Lucy Bond
Budget and Finance: Becky Lail
Dollars for Scholars: George & Jane Burbella
Phone Tree: George & Jane Burbella & Becky Lail
Facebook, Photographer, & Brag Board: Julia Thorn
Devotions: Jane Burbella
Email Reminders: Pam Janoskey
NCAE Liaison: June Vann
Newsletter & Website: June Merrill & Meg Bradford
Historian, Communications/Media, & State Awards: June Merrill & Cathy Neagle

CCRSP Calendar – 2021-2022

Sagebrush Restaurant MHC, 11:30 a.m.

November 9, 2021 Prepare baskets for National Education Week

February 8, 2022 Linda Gunter
NCRSP Vice President

April 12, 2022 Dr. Rob Jackson
Supt., Carteret County Schools

June 14, 2022 Awards – Scholarships,
Member of the Year, & Top Volunteer

Legislative News

At last check NCRSP had not found anyone to fill the state lobbyist position. However, that fact has not stalled the organization’s efforts to advocate for a 2% COLA and a 2% bonus for North Carolina retirees for the next two years in the budget. Vice President Linda Gunter joined State Legislative Chair Pat Randall and regional legislative chairs to lobby for these benefits.

Governor Roy Cooper asked for both the COLA and a bonus whereas the House supported only a bonus but no COLA. The Senate included nothing for retirees in its budget.

NC has a surplus of revenue in the billions and would not be taking anything from any other project. This does not include funds received from the federal American Rescue Plan. The NCRSP Legislative Committee has provided a list of Conference Committee members and asked that we contact as many as possible and share with them our stories of personal need.

Message from the President



A new year has started for CCRSP! Members are ready to return to the meetings and activities that have been such a pleasure in the past. With COVID numbers above what we would like, the officers thought it best to lower the number of meetings to five.

Also, we lost our slot at the Sanitary to another group; thus, we have chosen the Sagebrush Restaurant for our new venue. Those who were present for the first meeting had nothing but praise for the meeting room, the service, and the food.

I want to thank you for your enthusiasm and willingness to serve wherever needed. The officer positions are filled and every committee has a dependable person as chair. Your President couldn't ask for more.

One of the greatest challenges we are facing is that of membership. After losing 3 members to death and 9 to nonpayment of dues, we are down to 64. We had 1 other member to transfer to a different unit.

It is obvious that we have quite a bit of work ahead of us as we attempt to rebuild our local unit. I am confident that we are up to the challenge.

Meg Bradford

Community Service

Each year NCRSP retirees across the state are asked to keep a record of the hours they donate to Community Service. Because of the pandemic, opportunities for volunteer work were greatly diminished for 2020. Retirees still managed to donate 134,357.47 hours, 37,435.25 in education and 96,922.22 designated as others, thus saving the state \$3,834,562.19. The value of a volunteer hour in the US has risen to \$28.54.

Our Carteret County retirees reported a total of 4,784 hours, 1,894 in education and 2,890 as others, saving the state \$136,535.36. Julia Thorn, with 1,160 volunteer hours, saved NC \$33,106.40. She will be honored in June as 2020 Top Volunteer of our local unit.

Community Service Chair Meg Bradford asks that you record your hours each time that you volunteer. If you wait until the end of the year and estimate your hours, you may shortchange yourself. Remember that hours spent tutoring students learning virtually, including family members, may be counted in your total.

In Memoriam

Arnold Kent Adams

November 3, 1943 – September 22, 2021

Cherrie Lee Piner

January 21, 1948 – May 16, 2021

Betty Anne Robinson Quinn

March 25, 1932 – March 15, 2021

Donald Hull Thompson

December 19, 1941 – February 7, 2021

American Education Week

American Education Week will be observed November 14 – 20 to celebrate free and public education in America. It has been CCRSP custom for many years to place baskets of candy in all of the schools and a few other locations in the school system to show our appreciation to those who provide an education for our youth. This year will be no exception.

Please be very generous in your donations of candy this November. When we meet on November 9, we will need lots of chocolate to fill 22 baskets with candy. The outpouring of candy last year made the baskets full and inviting. We will also need runners to deliver the baskets to the various locations and pick them up later for reuse the following year.

Julia Thorn is busy working on the mini brag boards that will accompany the baskets for each location. They, too, will need to be picked up for reuse the following year. The reward in doing this project is just hearing someone at each place say those words “We always love to see the Retired Teachers.” It means everything to be appreciated.

Visit us at

www.carteretcountyrsp.com

Like us on Facebook

Carteret County Retired School Personnel

NCRSP Website

www.ncrsp.org

Region 7B Website

www.region7Bncrsp.weebly.com



Convention Highlights

The NCRSP State Convention was held Sept. 27-30 as a virtual event with 220 registered delegates, 210 voting and 10 non-voting. The number in attendance on Tuesday was 189; on Wednesday, it was 159. Five CCRSP members served as delegates: Meg Bradford, June Merrill, Cathy Neagle, Julia Thorn, and Jackie Wooten.

Keynote Speakers

NCAE President Tamika Walker Kelly made opening remarks to kick off the convention.

Keynote speaker Matthew Aber-Towns recently became Executive Director of NCAE. As a college student, he wanted to become a union organizer, but realized unions were against the law in some states. He admires NCAE members for their commitment against all odds to win for students. He suggests that NCAE and NCRSP come together to rebuild the retiree group, overcome attacks on public education, and increase compensation for retired educators.

According to NCAE's Executive Director, it is time to sell the material foundation of NCAE, the building, and move on. Our next home will have adequate space for the NCRSP staff and someone will be provided to help the retiree group with membership.

Attorney General Josh Stein (known for his support of seniors) favors expanding Medicare and Medicaid, keeping all people safe from violence, providing a sound basic education for all children, and increasing pay for teachers and retirees.

Speaking from the NCAE building, NCAE Vice President Bryan Proffitt noted the loss of NCAE membership over the last 15 years. His view is that actives and retirees must work together in a joint effort to win for each other and the students.

NCRSP State Officers

President: Rev. Dr. Willie T. Ramey III
Vice President: Linda Gunter
Recording Secretary: Elvelon Mason
Treasurer: Ira Laverne Reed
Past President: Joan Bass

NCRSP State Committee Chairs

Legislative: Patricia Randall
Membership: Doris Cooper
Quality of Life: LaVeta Weatherington
Recognitions: Debera Cole-Jones
Community Service: Tama Bouncer
Communications: Ginger Sermons

NCRSP Staff

Executive Director: Teresa Evans-Hunter
Administrative Assistant: Carole McLamb
Administrative Coordinator: Tera Williams

Candidates for 2022 Election

President: Linda Gunter
Vice President: Lena Murrill-Chapman
Secretary: Dorsey Harris

New Business Items

1. Executive Director will work with webmaster and/or NCAE to have a "Donate Now" button added to the NCRSP website. [Passed]
2. An updated list of all NCRSP regional and local leaders and an updated list of NCAE local presidents are to be uploaded by August 15 of each year to the NCRSP website. [Passed]
3. A political action committee will be added to each local unit for a more coordinated effort in fundraising for political candidates supporting education. [Failed]
4. A state convention planning committee with 1 member from each region will be formed for gathering information on various components of the convention. [Passed]
5. All communications sent to local or regional officers by NCRSP staff will be copied to the NCRSP Board of Directors. [Passed]

Other Information

- Despite adding 199 new members, membership declined by 445.
- NCRSP made Zoom available to every local unit.
- 2022 state convention in March or April will be a hybrid event.
- NCRSP lost 3 past presidents: Ruth Watkins, Dwight Story, and John Hoffman.
- NCRSP raised \$18,740 for the NC Foundation for Public School Children.
- Treasurer Ira Reed can foresee a budget crisis that will be overcome only if the membership is rebuilt.

