



**Carteret County Retired School Personnel  
Betty Huffman Award, Legislative Starlight, Brag Board Award**

**October 8th, 2019  
Minutes for Carteret County Retired School Personnel**

**Call to Order and Welcome**

The October 8, 2019, meeting of Carteret County Retired School Personnel was called to order by President Cathy Neagle at 11:30 a.m. Cathy used her visual with the bundle of sticks to show that when we stand united, we are stronger and can accomplish more. She welcomed guests Bob Cavanaugh and Sally Rich and asked all of us to introduce ourselves.

**Devotion and Pledge of Allegiance**

Becky Lail presented a devotion on the importance of remembering names. She gave examples of how Jesus called forth individuals by name and of how he gave a new name to some of Christianity's most important figures. Anne Upchurch led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Humor and Membership Challenge**

George Burbella told a humorous story from his coaching days about a young athlete who took the joking words of his coach literally and stole a tall vaulting pole. The action caused a stir and taught a lesson at the same time.

George and Cathy are encouraging each one of us to invite a retiree who hasn't joined so that we can increase our membership. They gave us an empty notecard with instructions to write down the name of one person to go after for membership. Cathy had included on the agenda a list of 4 new retirees. According to Meg Bradford, Colleen Whildin is working at St. Egbert's and Nancy Diffie has moved back to Charlotte. No one knew Portia Blair or Cheryl Lewis.

**Presentation by Mr. Bob Cavanaugh, Carteret County Commissioner**

The speaker for the day was Bob Cavanaugh, substituting for Representative Pat McElraft. She and Senator Norman Sanderson could not be present because the General Assembly was in session. Senator Sanderson has promised to visit our November meeting.

Julia Thorn had the pleasure of introducing Mr. Cavanaugh. They became friends many years ago when Julia was in Japan. She had brought a butterfly collection that Bob gave to her those many years ago when he was serving in the military in Japan.

According to research conducted by Mr. Cavanaugh, the North Carolina Pension Fund is the 10<sup>th</sup> largest in the nation and the 26<sup>th</sup> largest in the world.

Mr. Cavanaugh showed us copies of the numerous notebooks presented to the commissioners as they prepare the county's budget; there are requests from the schools, from the fire departments, and from the Emergency Medical Services, etc. The money collected through payment of property taxes, fees, fines, forfeitures, and sales tax determines what can be appropriated.

Carteret County is hiring a new tax collector from Pamlico County. She is expected to usher in updated more realistic commercial property valuations and will be more aggressive in collecting delinquent taxes.

On the state level, Mr. Cavanaugh pointed out that the North Carolina General Assembly must operate with a balanced budget. Giving even a 1% COLA to NC retirees is very expensive; with the cost of the last 1% COLA spread over a 12-year period, it amounts to \$60 M being paid each year. NC retirees have received three 1% COLAs in the last 10 years. Any other amounts given were a one-time bonus, not the same as a COLA; a COLA is permanently added to the pension amount. If you do not receive any COLAs, your pension amount will never increase. Cathy Neagle reminded us that our purchasing power has been diminished by the 18% rate of inflation over the last decade.

On health care, Mr. Cavanaugh praised Dave Folwell for seeking ways to manage the system so that it can become more sustainable. Sadly, new hires as of January 2021 and after can expect to receive coverage only during the years of employment. Upon retirement, they will have to pay their own premiums.

The group thanked Mr. Cavanaugh for his presentation, noting that he was well informed and prepared.

### **Dollars for Scholars, Cares and Concerns**

Anne Upchurch reported the collection of \$13 for Dollars for Scholars. The prize, a beautiful potted mum, went to Becky Lail.

To show that we care and are concerned about our members, we signed cards for Eva and Dan McLaughlin, Hazel Balch, Carrie Campen, Louise Johnson, Jimmy Collins, and Dr. Rita Mullins.

### **Minutes and Treasurer's Report**

No printed copies of the September meeting were on hand; however, they are posted on the CCRSP Website: [www.carteretcountyrsp.com](http://www.carteretcountyrsp.com).

Treasurer Meg Bradford reported a balance in checking of \$2,244.72. The share account that goes with checking has a balance of \$57.74.

The following accounts have been closed out and the money transferred to checking:

Share Term Certificate	600.36
CCRSP, Inc., Money Market	1,090.12
SECU Shares for Inc.	26.78

Note: The monies in the 2 accounts -- CCRSP, Inc., Money Market and SECU Shares for Inc. -- will go to Carteret Community College. In other words, \$1,116.90 will go to the college at the end of 2019. The Share Term Certificate will remain in Checking.

The Dollars for Scholars money will go in Checking to accumulate until such time the group thinks the amount is sufficient enough to send to the college. Scholarship money managed by the NC Community Foundation continues to do well.

### Committee Reports

**Constitution Committee – Cathy Neagle:** The revision was sent in an email. We are to study it and vote in November.

**NCAE liaison – June Vann:** June was unable to attend, but had called Cathy to report that no meetings have been held.

**Community Service – Bonnie Ferneau:** Bonnie asked us to keep up with our volunteer hours and turn them in at the December 10 meeting, a social meeting. For that occasion, members are asked to wear a “fun” hat. There will be songs and a game called Mr. Left, Mrs. Right. You may bring a fun prize for the game.

### November Meeting

The next meeting will be on November 10, 2019. Travis Day, Chairman of the Carteret County Board of Education, will speak. Everyone is asked to bring bags of candy to fill the baskets for American Education Week.

### Attendance

Meg Bradford	George Burbella	Jane Burbella	Bob Cavanaugh
Bonnie Ferneau	Marie Hurst	Becky Lail	June Merrill

Teresa Murphy  
Sally Rich

Cathy Neagle  
Julia Thorn

Betty Quinn  
Anne Upchurch

Jackie Ramus  
Jackie Wooten