

QACRSPA Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, March 13, 2024

11:30 Conversation and renewing friendships

11:55 Welcome Gold coins were distributed to award 10 door prizes. Richard blessed the food. Susie decorated the tables with lovely spring flowers and served a bountiful breakfast for lunch. Helen made and filled a spring basket favor for each guest.

12:38 Meeting called to order – Richard reminded everyone that next year will be an election year for new officers. Information will be forthcoming. During the annual business meeting each chairperson gave a summary report.

Marge Felty Secretary Has nothing to say, just reports what she hears!

Susan Boone Necrology Susan recognized each person who had passed in 2023 by name. Since our last meeting in December, she had not received notification of any deaths.

Sue Mille Treasurer's report As of February 29, 2024 the accounts at Shore United Bank show

QACRSPA	\$4,345.06
Scholarship	\$8,882.03
Total	\$13,227.09

Sandy Hartmann Program and Community Service Richard shared the beneficial community projects and programs Sandy has organized this year in her absence. Wishing you a speedy recovery and healing.

Mary Holden Membership Mary congratulated everyone who reached out to friends to continue our membership growth. She shared a new incentive – from March 1- May 31 if you have never belonged to the association or are rejoining, Local Membership is \$10 and State Membership is \$10. Mary encouraged everyone to sign up for automatic deduction.

Bobbie Leaverton Scholarship From Jan-Dec 2023 members donated \$4,970 to the Scholarship Fund. Bobbie shared there were 5 applicants in 2023 – 3 from QACHS and 2 from KIHS, which necessitated a selection committee to decide who the 2 recipients would be. She reviewed the new working procedure in the event there was no applicant from one of the high schools. As of today, over \$3,000 has been donated to the Scholarship Fund this year.

Madeline Hubbard Webmaster, Newsletter We currently have 178 members, approximately 25 who do not have a shared email address. They receive newsletters by postal mail. The QACRSPA.com website is updated with new information regularly and Madeline encouraged members to check it. She shared her experience of contacting a potential member by mail, then on Facebook and he is now joining. Way to go, Madeline!

Steve Strobeck Legislative The last day bills can be signed is midnight on April 8th. There have been no pension bills of significance. The MRSPA Legislative Committee opposed restrictions on voting and mandated State curriculum. They supported efforts to control prescription drug prices, fair share act (making sure wealthy pay their fair share) and Juvenile Justice House Bill 814 that allows children who are 10, 11 and 12 years old to be criminally charged. He pointed out that the state is currently dealing with more expenses than revenue. The Blueprint for Success in Education has been very costly and puts stress on local systems. We have the best health care in the state and need to be vigilant in protecting it.

Helen Benchoff Event Coordinator Helen thanked Susie for today's lunch. She asked anyone who might have an idea for a luncheon theme to let her know.

Jackie Wilhelm Facebook Manager There are currently 139 members and potential members who belong to the Facebook group. She encourages members to post information and promote interaction with colleagues. The St. Patrick's Day Family Feud game wrapped up with awards presented to 3rd place- Dave Brown, 2nd place- Pete Carlo and 1st place- Betty Lee

Richard McNeal President Richard attends the Board Meetings to make sure they see us. As budget decisions are made, the members look at what is allocated for our insurance and may question the value of the money they are spending. Our contributions have been many over the years and we continue to be active in the educational community. Richard wrote 2 grants this year to improve/repair the schoolhouse. Unfortunately, one was denied because he didn't ask for enough money so he completed another grant in February. The schoolhouse will be open the first Saturday each month from May until October. Richard attended 4 state meetings.

A guest shared her concerns about needing approval for podiatric treatment for the first time after 15 years with the same facility. She wanted everyone to be aware of the situation since it could escalate to more significant services. This was resolved but took contacting Retirees First and others. Her final comment was appreciation that the Association is watching out for our insurance benefits.

Bobbie shared a list of vaccines that are free if you get them at the pharmacy but cost at a doctor's office. Madeline is sending the information out by email to everyone.

Jackie and Mark Wilhelm gave an OUTSTANDING presentation about Cash Back Apps. They were explained in detail and Jackie provided a handout further explaining Rakuten, fetch, ibotta, upside and amazon shopper panel. She graciously helped members with setup and questions. The amount of money they have saved got everyone's attention!

The door prizes were awarded to 11 (both bottles of wine were supposed to go to one winner, oops) lucky winners. Thanks to Richard for procuring and the businesses who contributed.

Marge Felty
Secretary