

## **Minutes for AREA Meeting - - April 13, 2022**

**Location: Highland Grille, Turner**

**Host: Crystal Ward**

**Attendance: 39 members**

- > **Rosita introduced the speaker, Wesley Clark who was accompanied by his wife, Melissa Clark. The Clarks own Clarks Farm Stand and Landscaping at 447 Auburn Rd, Turner. With engaging humor Westleigh described how he worked his way into the greenhouse business. After the presentation he and his wife gave each member a 6 pack of flowers.**
  
- > **Reports from the secretary, Linda DeSantis, and the treasurer, Gina Fuller, were accepted. Gina presented a breakdown of luncheon costs and explained that AREA pays for the meal gratuity and the cost of the site to reduce the amount that members pay for the meal. She asked if members wanted AREA to continue this practice and the general response was “yes”.**
  
- > **Rosita reminded us to forward ideas for AREA’S table at the MEA-Retired Convention on May 5 to Grace Keene asap.**
  
- > **Alfreda Fournier will begin bone marrow transplant. Cards and prayers would be appreciated.**
  
- > **Cindy Peters sent out 20 cards to spread sunshine as well as a thank you letter to last month’s speaker. She informed us that April 13 was the birthday of Thomas Jefferson who included the right “to the pursuit of happiness” in the Declaration of Independence. She pointed out how we all have been able to pursue our happiness through teaching.**
  
- > **Rosita led us in a moment of silence for educators and staff that died this past year: Dorothy Kern, Janice Rand, Amy Ashton, Bob Booth, Paul Belisle, Judy Holbrook, Larry Gordon, Ray Lemieux, Frank McConnell, Kathryn Sawyer, George Spivey, Mathew Closson, John Von Carr, Heidi Conn, Elaine Moreau, Ron Couture, Alouette Couture, Paul Douglas, Ruth Slovenski, Adel Silverman, Elaine Sylvester, Betty Dexter, Pat Clark, Leona Hendrick, Eleanor Gove, Sandi Coolidge and Catherine D’Ambroise.**
  
- > **Penny Jaskalen needs to know the membership’s number of hours given to community service, also, the number of hours devoted to exercise in the Silver Sneakers program.**
- > **Penny explained that last year’s recipient for the \$1000 scholarship forfeited the award because grades were not submitted by the deadline. Penny and Linda who read the two student applications for this year recommended that both students receive the scholarship because of their exemplary resumes. The membership voted to do this.**

- > **Roger Fuller encouraged the membership to check out AREA on Facebook.**
- > **Crystal Ward explained how the changes to the COLA formula initiated by the former governor are detrimental because our pensions no longer can keep up with the rise in the cost of living. LD 1227 would increase the amount for the MainePers pension not taxed by the state from \$10,000 to \$15,000, if approved. Anthems issue with Maine Med hospital does not impact people in the Anthem Medicare Advantage Plan but could impact those who get their insurance through their school. This does not go into effect until Jan.20239**
- > **Hugh Keene will present Bruce LePage's name for the leadership award at the upcoming convention in May.**
- > **Mona Morin mailed out a survey to determine why some members no longer attend meetings.**
- > **Sue Tymoczko reminded us to let her know if the newsletter is not being received via email and she will snail mail newsletters to those who do not use computers.**
- > **Rosita is looking for suggestions for locations for future meetings bearing in mind that site fees are often added. Ruben Cornelius suggested that churches may now be available because Covid restrictions are being lifted.**
- > **Gina would like to know how much AREA should pay toward meals. Crystal suggested capping the meal cost so members would know how much of the cost they would be responsible for.**
- > **Rosita is looking for ways to encourage new retirees to join AREA.**
- > **Raffle winners for Dairy Queen \$5 gift cards: Linda DeSantis, Roger Fuller, Angie Jipson, Nancy Kilbride, Sue Tymoczko, Donna Whelan, Charlie Douglas & Cindy Peters.**
- > **\$120 was collected by Penny for the scholarship fund.**

**Respectfully submitted by  
Linda DeSantis - recording secretary**

