

## **SCA General Membership Meeting Minutes 17 September 2019**

Meeting convened at 7:30pm in Crestwood Elementary with Pledge of Allegiance.

### **President's Opening Remarks**

New SCA President Gail Nittle welcomed the members and the evenings featured speakers, principals from Crestwood Elementary, Lynbrook Elementary, Key Middle School, and Lee High School.

### **Treasurer Report**

Sandy Frieswyck reported a starting balance from last report of \$8,571.24. A total of \$1,300 was taken in for newsletter advertising and \$30 from dues since last report. A total of \$68.91 was expended to include: \$11.65 for beautification award frames; \$14.83 for newsletter mailing labels; \$7.70 for newsletter postage, and \$34.73 for newsletter printing. The current SCA account balance is \$9,832.33. Sandy reminded members that annual dues is \$15 per household.

### **Lake Accotink Park Update:**

Tony Volmer, Interim Director of Lake Accotink Park, provided an update on park activities. He noted the park's "Color Me Autumn" event will be held 19 Oct 1-7 pm to celebrate fall and wrap up of the 2019 marina season. More information on this family event can be found at the Lake Accotink Park link of the Fairfaxcounty.gov website. Mr. Volmer noted the park is has a sign-up list for volunteers to man the visitor center main desk on weekends for 2.5-hour shifts. He noted this is a great opportunity for school aged children to earn community service hours.

### **GrandInvolve Update:**

Liz Murphy provided background on the GrandInvolve program which recruits older adults who would like to become mentors, readers, math helpers, and classroom assistants. She noted that Crestwood Elementary was the pilot location for this program which started in 2014. Presently, GrandInvolve is in 19 Fairfax County Public Schools and it has started in Lee High School this year. Volunteers typically commit to two hours a week or more as schedules permit. More information about the program can be found at the website [grandinvolve.org](http://grandinvolve.org).

### **Halloween Decorating Contest:**

Mike Slater provided an overview of the SCA-sponsored Halloween Decorating Contest. Deadline to enter the contest is 25 Oct. Mike and a small team of volunteer judges will judge the entrants on 27 Oct between 6-9pm. Proposed contest categories include: best pumpkin, best doorway, scariest, most creative, and judge's favorite. Last year SCA did not sponsor the event and no cash prizes were awarded. Yard signs will be presented to the winner of each category.

### **Crestwood Entrance:**

A member provided thanks to Kurt Doehnert for mowing the entrance of the neighborhood at Hannover and Old Keene Mill Rd.

**Franconia Station Update:**

Capt Greg Fried, Commander of the Franconia District Station, introduced the station's new Crime Prevention Officer, Master Police Officer Tommy Thompson. PFC Thompson replaces MPO Allie Eggers who is retiring. He has been a Fairfax County Police Officer for 17 years. He spent two years with New York Police Department as well. He has spent most of his career as a patrol officer. He is married to a police officer. In his new capacity, Officer Thompson will work to maintain a positive and healthy relationship with the community through communication and education.

Captain Fried noted he would be hosting a Bias/Hate Crime and Resiliency Forum on 19 Sep. He also encouraged members to sign up for Franconia Station's monthly newsletter and the county's daily crime reports. He took questions from the membership regarding homeless sleeping in central Springfield and people panhandling near Springfield Plaza and the Town Center. He noted the county is looking into the panhandling issue and noted the county does not encourage donations.

**Crestwood Elementary Parent Teacher Association Update:**

Cassie Planakis noted that the role of the Crestwood PTA is to support scholars and teaching staff. The PTA hosts events and offers manpower as required. Recently, the PTA supported popsicle on the playground to welcome new kindergarten class, bike rodeo, and worked to paint the staff lounge. Cassie noted that community members interested in supporting Crestwood Elementary School can join the PTA becoming "Friends of Crestwood" for an annual \$10 donation fee. The Crestwood PTA holds restaurant fundraisers once a month on the second week of the month, normally Wednesdays. Participating restaurants typically donate 20 percent of their profits to support these fundraisers.

**Key Middle School Update:**

Dr. Aimee Holleb, Principal of Key Middle School, introduced herself and provide an update of activities at Key Middle School. Dr. Holleb is serving her third year as Principal and is a resident of Springfield. She noted Key Middle School has 800 students and is the smallest middle school in the area. Dr. Holleb briefly spoke about the Patriot Pride After School Program that takes place 2:30-6:00 pm. She noted that academics is her number one priority and described elements of the schools International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program. She noted that Key Middle School focuses on developing ready, respectful and responsible community of citizens. Key Middle School creates an environment where students can learn from mistakes. It also has cards that acknowledge good behavior. Dr Holleb noted collaboration is very important and Key Middle School produces an email every Friday to help parents/teachers stay connected. Dr. Holleb told the membership that Key Middle School is always looking for volunteers to serve as cafeteria supervisors from 10:00-1:00pm.

**Lynbrook Elementary School Update:**

Principal Jay Nocco provided an update of activities at Lynbrook. He is now serving his fifth year as Principal of Lynbrook Elementary. Principal Nocco noted Lynbrook is fully accredited and all students are passing. He focused his presentation on five Lynbrook projects: 1) Portrait of a Graduate which focuses on communication, collaboration, problem solving and how to work well in a group; 2) Positivity Project; 3) After School Program (of 250 of 572 students participate

int his program); Advanced Mathematics; and Model Language Art Site for Fairfax County Public Schools.

**Crestwood Elementary School Update:**

Principal Marguerite Saitta started her presentation with a video that provided a peek inside a Crestwood classroom. Principal Saitta noted Crestwood promotes a schoolwide community culture. The school holds morning meetings at start of each day and closing circle to reflect on the day. Crestwood host one of only three early headstart programs in Fairfax County. This program prepares children for kindergarten. Principal Saitta provided an overview of Crestwood's Young Scholars Program and STEAM Program. The Crestwood Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) Program is designed to support students with problem solving and creating. Principal Saitta spoke proudly about Crestwood's Parent Center. The school's Parent Liaison has served in this capacity for 33 years. The Parent Center provides English classes, supports literacy and offers homework club services. Crestwood was the pilot school for the GrandInvolve program in which intergenerational volunteers support student learning. Principal Saitta praised the PTA for its work in updating the staff lounge and assisting with moving the school's library to a new location.

**Lee High School Update:**

Principal Dierdre Lavery spoke about good things happening at Lee High School. She provided a flyer highlighting the great things happening which including information about scholarship recipients, International Baccalaureate Programs, and Student and Teacher Awards/Recognition. Principal Lavery noted the College and Career Specialist for Fairfax County works at Lee High School and based on this resource scholarships have increased for Lee High School students. She noted applications/selections of Posse Scholarships have increased which have resulted in Lee students receiving four-year scholarships from this competitive program. Principal Lavery noted Lee offers both International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Lee students can craft individualized schedules (ala cate) from IB and AP offerings.

The meeting adjourned at 2100.