

DeSalvio's Station in Latrobe was the cool setting for the December 10, 2010 meeting of the Westmoreland School Counselors Association. The meeting was hosted by Triangle Tech and organized by Nicole Nolfi.

WSCA President Sarah Switala called the meeting to order at 8:45 and welcomed all in attendance.

The secretary's minutes were accepted as presented.

Angela Margaronis' treasurer's report was accepted as presented. Sarah asked for two volunteers to review the treasurer's books. Bonnie Kline and Judy Hassinger responded to the request.

Corresponding Secretary Cassie Moorhead sent get well cards to past WCA President Vanessa Baugh, who is recovering from a recent stroke, as well as Bernie Hoffman.

### **Committee Reports:**

Executive/Programs – Vice President Lisa Maloney was able to assemble a committee of volunteers that will help in the planning of upcoming meetings. Those volunteers include Alan Hipps, Beth Butala, Jennifer Bauer, Kathy Sclesky, Julianne Scott and Melissa Ciesielski.

College Fair: Jeannette School District will be the organizer of the 2011 College Fair with assistance from Kiski Area School District.

Scholarship: Roger Downs announced a new deadline date of April 15 for the 2011 scholarships applications. Applications can be found on the WSCA website.

Uniserve representative Bonnie Kline announced that PSEA will be giving out five first time grants to PSCA members who are interested in attending the February 23-26, 2011 meeting at the Lancaster Hotel. One grant will be awarded in each region and will go to first time attendees. January 10, 2011 is the deadline.

A report by Beth Butala, co-chair of the Western Pennsylvania School Counselors Association planning committee, included the announcement of two keynote speakers. Christy Clapper will start the day and Dr. Russell Sabella will speak after lunch. Responding to the comments of past conference attendees, the breakout sessions will be longer. Because of the longer sessions, choices will be limited. Kathy Sclesky is coordinating the workshop speakers. The next planning meeting is set for March 2011.

### **New Business:**

An opportunity for training on the ASCA model is being planned. Working with Donna Cartia and the Private Industry Council, the training could start as early as the March 2011 meeting. It would be a joint venture with the counselors from Fayette County. Donna encouraged all counselors of WSCA from all levels to attend.

A moment of silence was held to observe the passing of former Derry School District counselor William Oleszewski. Bill was a long-time member of WSCA.

The association recognized members who retired after the 2009-2010 school year. RoseMary Sovyak, retired as counselor at Wendover Middle School, Hempfield School District. She was in attendance to receive a gift certificate on behalf of WSCA as well as to hear kind words from former co-worker Ray Killen. Although not able to attend, Eugene Lancas of Belle Vernon and Tom Judice of Greensburg Salem were also recognized.

Sarah took the opportunity to remind the membership of upcoming elections and to consider becoming more involved by holding an elected position within WSCA.

Following the final presentation of the day, Amy Salay asked that the business meeting be reopened and made a motion for WSCA to once again allot \$1,0000 apiece to send two executive board members to the ASCA conference. The motion was supported by all in attendance. Sarah and Angie will represent the association at the Seattle conference in June 2011.

**The day's presenters included:**

Jason Vallozzi from Triangle Tech welcomed the membership and used the opportunity to point out the many students from Westmoreland County who attend the sponsoring school. Katie Bittner used a power point presentation to highlight the many programs and opportunities offered at their branch schools.

Geneva College professor Dr. Joseph Peters addressed the association with his presentation, "Counselor Self Care."

Representatives from Westmoreland County Behavioral Health and Developmental Services were on hand to promote the campaign, "SPREAD THE WORD TO END THE WORD." Barb Kowalsky, Michelle Jones and Cheryl Roadman used a power point presentation to give a campaign overview.

Retired marine General Thomas Jones and his son Brandon talked to the membership about their program, Outdoor Odyssey. Outdoor Odyssey is a mentor program that reaches out to at-risk youth with a week long experience at their Laurel Highlands camp.

Amy Salay and Kathy Sclesky ended the day of presentations with a synopsis of the workshops they attended while at the 2010 ASCA conference in Boston.