



SENIOR SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 6, No. 2
August 2018



General Membership Meeting
Monday, 20 August 2018
Harford Community College
Darlington Hall, Room 202
6:45 Meet-n-Greet
7:15 Call to Order

**Topic: Citizen Science Volunteers and
the Zooplankton Monitoring Program
by Kathy Baker-Brosh, PhD**

Anita C. Leight Estuary Center on Otter Point Creek in southern Harford County is one of three sites in the Chesapeake Bay–Maryland National Estuarine Research Reserve. Their mission has four prongs: stewardship, research, training, and education. Our speaker is a research naturalist with the Reserve and the project coordinator for the plankton monitoring studies (as well as other projects). Of particular interest is Dr. Baker-Brosh's use of "citizen science volunteers" who contribute to the program with the collection, identification, and analysis of the plankton samples.

Senior Science Society Foundation comes to a close, while Senior Science Society has a huge year - a fact sheet and update on the organizations.

MISSION: The Senior Science Society Foundation (SSSF) and the Senior Science Society (SSS) share the same mission of existing "to leverage the information within the minds of Harford County senior scientists to benefit county youth, working with each other, Harford Community College (HCC) and within the educational community, business, and government organizations to foster and promote the scientific, rational and creative thinking processes through education, networking, advocacy, and professional and field development." The 2017-2018 program year for the SSS has been hugely successful.

FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIPS: SSS funds are held by the Harford Community College Foundation, a 501(c)(3) corporation. These funds may only be used within the legal scope of the HCC Foundation. Most of the time this presents no problem. However, after the SSS had been operating for a while, it became apparent there were a few SSS projects that were beyond the allowable scope of the funding. Two examples were paying to bring the Maryland Science Center presentations to a Harford County elementary school and the funding of scholarships to non-HCC students. While all parties agreed these were worthwhile projects, the HCC Foundation could not allow the SSS to spend HCC Foundation funds for these purposes.



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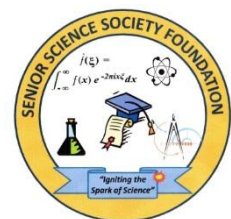
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SSSF comes to a close while SSS prospers (continued from pg 1)

HISTORY: SSSF bylaws were adopted on 9 November 2011 by action of the Board of Directors and attested to by signature of the Corporate Secretary (Dick Schwanke at the time). With considerable effort, mostly by Al Horst, Bruce Burns, Debi Gable, and Rob Lieb, the SSSF was incorporated, a 501(c)(3) designation was obtained from the Internal Revenue Service, and a sales tax exemption granted by the State of Maryland. Initially the officers for the SSS and the SSSF were identical, but later split. Susan Luckan has served as President for the past three years.

REALITY CHECK: The concept was to have the SSSF funded by external grants and donations, rather than member dues as is the SSS. There had been limited success in this area. The Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union continued to be particularly generous, due to the efforts of Clarence Fry. One year the SSSF was awarded a gift from Chesapeake Environmental Services in Bel Air. Several times individual SSS members made significant personal donations. However, all in all, effort expended did not seem to justify the continuance of the Foundation. At the 14 March 2018 SSSF Board meeting there was much discussion about the impact of consequences of deciding to shut down the Foundation. Specific issues included the inability to secure outside fiscal support, either by donation or grants; inadequate record-keeping; the failure to secure reasonable D & O insurance; and the general feeling of malaise. Therefore, upon proper motion and vote, it was decided to disestablish the SSSF by 30 June 2018.

THE PAST THREE MONTHS: No new projects have been undertaken by the SSSF. Efforts were concentrated on the scholarship program, both for 2018 graduating high school seniors and for the extension scholarship(s) offered to the 2017 SSS Transfer Scholarship awardees. The "States of Matter" video, which was funded by the SSSF, is to be completed and to be turned over to the SSS. There were requests from the SSS for funds to cover wristbands and postcards (now available for member use). The SSSF funded 2018 membership renewal in the Northeastern Maryland Tech Council (NMTC) and the SSS Liability Insurance. After considerable effort, mostly by Susan Luckan, financial records have been recovered and were audited by other Corporate officers at the May Director's meeting.



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THE NEXT COUPLE MONTHS: Susan and Al Horst are continuing to take the actions required to officially close the SSSF, such as the IRS Form 990N and termination notice with documentation filed with the State of Maryland. Once completed, all of the pertinent SSSF documents/files will be boxed, sealed and transferred to the SSS to retain for at least seven years from the date of document transfer. It is anticipated that SSSF checks will be written to purchase a table covering with the SSS logo for use at STEM nights and science fairs. There may also be the purchase of some replacement materials for the modules, such as a new (and higher quality) Newton's cradle(s), a Cartesian diver, and some other materials, depending on funding availability. All other SSSF actions, ad-hoc committees, grant writing, and studies have been terminated.

TAX IMPLICATIONS FOR SSS MEMBERS: With changes to the 2018 tax laws, there may be some members who no longer need tax deductible donations. Thus having the SSSF or the HCC Foundation as 501(c)(3) organizations is no longer part of an individual's calculation. This would permit the SSS to support activities outside of the HCC Transfer Scholarships. The SSS Board has applied for, and received, an IRS Employee Identification Number (EIN) in order to establish a checking account. As was noted at the 14 March 2018 General Membership Meeting, an ad hoc Treasurer position, as chairperson of the newly formed Finance Committee, is to handle non-tax-exempt funds donated to the SSS independent of HCC Foundation. Fred Robbins has accepted this position.

CHARTER REVIEW: With these funding and position changes, the existing Senior Science Society charter will need amending or replacing. A "Long Term Charter Review Committee" has been established with Bruce Burns as chairperson, Al Horst as Board of Director member, and Dave Webb as General Membership member. These three have had multiple meetings / discussions and will have some comments on the progress thus far at the 20 August 2018 General Membership meeting. Given the uncertainties in setting up the new account and of the current HCC support level, this will be a challenging task.

DUES FOR 2018: Like the State of Maryland and Harford Community College, the SSS fiscal year is 1 July to 30 June. This program year's dues renewal notice was mailed six weeks ago. Thank you to over half the membership who has already paid and we hope to hear from the remainder of you soon. SSS dues remain at a minimum donation of \$100 per year. Should you wish to donate more, it would certainly be appreciated. Checks may be written either to "Senior Science Society" or to "Harford Community College Foundation", as you prefer.

Special thanks to Bruce Burns, whose SSSF Board meeting minutes were invaluable in writing this fact sheet – Dick Schwanke, written 23 June 2018 with minor 15 August 2018 updates