

Mid-Jefferson County Retired School Personnel Minutes
Tuesday, November 10, 2020

The business meeting of the Mid-Jefferson County Retired School Personnel was held virtually on Zoom on Tuesday, November 10, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by President Charlie Jehlen. President Jehlen also led us in the invocation and pledges of allegiance. The minutes of the October 13, 2020, meeting were emailed to members. There being no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved by committee and floor as printed. Secretary Donna Lumpkin read an email from Candice Zummo thanking us for the yearbook that was sent to her. Treasurer Wanda Borne reported that as of October 31, 2020, the total balance on hand was \$12,736.10 (which includes scholarship money). The report was filed for audit.

Committee Reports

Membership – Chair Gail Krohn reported that our current total membership is 279 (this does not include those who are members of the state only). Gail also stated that she will look into having a representative at faculty meetings to give active teachers information about TRTA.

Newsletter/Yearbook – Chair Lynne James shared that we are still accepting ads for the scholarship fund. Linda Fong stated that James Carpenter from Farmers Insurance requested a \$200 ad for our yearbook as did Market Basket.

Legislative – Chair Richard Briggs reported that State Representative Dade Phelan is willing to meet with Tim Lee and him but for now, Rep. Phelan is quite busy.

Book Project – Chair Linda Briggs said that we have received \$500 for our Book Project from Philpott Ford.

Healthy Living – Chair Helen Reynolds shared that changes caused by COVID-19 can be overwhelming and depressing but we can help ourselves in simple ways by taking stock of what we *can* control. Don't stress over those things you cannot. Also, remember that laughter is beneficial in many ways. So, maybe watching funny movies and getting a good belly laugh can brighten your day!

Informative & Protective Services – Chair Mary Sue Carter shared handouts one of which was entitled *The Smoke Screen* stating that smoking is hazardous to both smokers and non-smokers. Another handout, *Seeing a Loved One Through SAD* which speaks to Seasonal Affective Disorder, refers to a change in one's outlook during different seasons of the year.

Memorials/Get-Well – Chair Linda Fong shared that Debbie Elliott lost her dad, Nolan Landry; Walter Tucker had surgery; and Carolyn Wilkerson lost her home due to fire.

Community Volunteer Services – Chair Beulah Thompson shared that our total CVS hours depend on how many members participate. Many members have done a great job of adjusting to different types of activities to fit the COVID-19 situation. Beulah reminded us that at the end of December we should begin turning in our individual total hours. Also, listing the activities is impressive but not necessary. Committee members include: Mary Sue Carter, Linda Harrison, Clara Graham, Becky Dungan, Cathy Purgahn, and Beulah Thompson.

Retirement Education – Chair Lynne James shared that she will be giving retirement education presentations to faculty of both PNGISD and NISD. They will be conducted through Zoom and will cover the background of TRS and TRTA and how they work together; benefits from TRS and guarantees not provided through TRS; and the extra benefits to which TRTA members have access.

Member Benefits – Chair Shelley Dettman shared a handout that included a link for Apple products. Members will receive preferred pricing on some of the latest Apple products and accessories at this link.

Publicity/Scholarship – Chair Gail Krohn shared she will publicize that our meetings are via Zoom and that the connection information is included on our newsletter each month.

President's Report

President Charlie Jehlen encouraged members to contact those from the membership roll of 2019-2020 [see the comprehensive list provided by Lynne James in a previous email] who have not renewed their membership this year. He also stressed the importance of membership during the legislative session and the membership drive closes at the end of December.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

None

Program:

President Charlie Jehlen introduced our guest speaker Nancy Byler, TRTA State Legislative Coordinator, who explained how the State Legislative Committee works. She did share that we most likely will continue meeting via Zoom for the foreseeable future. Also, she spoke of a Rally Zoom Week maybe being an alternative to Rally Day at the Capitol.

Announcements

- **Next MJCRSP meeting:** December 8, 2020, via Zoom at 1:30 p.m.
- **TRTA Day at the Capitol:** Pre-Rally social event from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on April 6, 2021, Downtown Hilton Hotel; Rally at the Capitol on April 7, 2021
- **TRTA District 5 Spring Conference:** May 7, 2021, @ First Baptist Church, Nederland; 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; hosted by MJCRSP

The meeting was adjourned at 2:54 p.m. with 14 members and 1 guest present.

Donna Lumpkin, Recording Secretary

Charles Jehlen, President
