

Mid-Jefferson County Retired School Personnel Minutes
Tuesday, February 12, 2019

The business meeting of the Mid-Jefferson County Retired School Personnel was held at Ritter Senior Center in Nederland, Texas, on Tuesday, February 12, 2019, at 1:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Lynne James. The invocation was given by Linda Fong, and pledges of allegiance were led by Linda and Henry Pinner. Refreshments were provided by Gail Krohn (Chair), Patricia Allen, Donna Lumpkin, and Helen Reynolds. The minutes of the January 8th meeting were emailed to a few members with copies made available for reading at each table. There being no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved by committee and floor as read. Treasurer Loretta Morman reported that as of January 8, 2018, the total balance on hand was \$11,158.93, which includes scholarship money. The report was filed for audit.

Committee Reports

Membership – Lynne James, reporting for Chair Linda Harrison, shared that an incentive is being offered to those who join or renew in February or March. Two names will be drawn at the April meeting from those joining/renewing and winners will receive gift cards. More incentives will be offered throughout the spring.

Legislative – Chair Richard Briggs said that he visited with legislators (Representatives Deshotel, Phelan, and White, and Senator Creighton). He stated that TRTA is working to increase funding for TRS Retirement Fund and TRS Care. Both the House and Senate have presented bills to raise the base from the present 6.8%. Richard urged all members to contact their legislators. President James urged members to “tell their story” to the legislators.

Volunteer Services – Chair Beulah Thompson shared that voluntary work has been outstanding, almost doubling participating members and totaling 33,747 volunteer hours. Each volunteer hour is monetarily equal to \$24.69 which translates a worth of \$833,213.43 of service to the community. Two members have earned certificates of recognition for the amount of volunteer hours: Linda Fong’s time donation equaled \$2,428 and Carolyn Worsham’s time donation equaled \$2,060.

Protective Services/Memorials & Get Well – Chair Linda Fong shared that we lost members Alex Ramirez and Janearle Bland Turner. Sara Jo Murphy’s daughter will return to MD Anderson hospital on 02/19/19. Beverly Terrell’s husband will have his fourth knee replacement in April. Lynne James had a biopsy on her leg last August and is doing well. Marty Godwin also had a lumpectomy. Linda also had handouts regarding caregiving information available on the welcome table.

Healthy Living – Chair Helen Reynolds informed us heart disease, the leading cause of death among Americans, kills 1 in 4. Thus, stress relief is crucial. Laughter, a great de-stresser, provides this relief. The benefits of laughter are two-fold: short-term (stimulation of many organs, including the heart, lungs and muscles, soothing tension); and long-term (improvement of the immune system and pain relief). Therefore, stock up on jokes and funny stories to share because laughter is no joke to heart health.

Member Benefits – Dana Wasser reminded members that a benefits handout is available on the welcome table.

Book Project – Chair Linda Briggs shared that on January 15th, she and Richard Briggs presented the Groves Elementary 4th graders 200 new books. Mark Fiorenza was also there representing Philpott Motors as the co-sponsor of the project.

Programs – Chair Linda Briggs announced that David Hornack and Hank the Therapy Dog would be our guest “speakers” for March.

Scholarship – Co-chair Lynne James shared that scholarship forms have been delivered to high schools. There are enough ad monies to cover the two scholarships, however, we do have room for more ads.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

TRTA Bylaws change: President James asked the membership to be sure to read over the information in the First Quarter 2019 issue of The Voice, pp. 12 – 14 regarding changes in the bylaws. This will be discussed at the March meeting.

Gift Basket prize: A \$200 gift basket will be donated to the TRTA Foundation for a raffle at the state convention. Each district is asked to donate a gift basket valued at \$200 or more. Participation is voluntary. Gail Krohn moved that MJCRSP contribute \$20 from our unit for the District 5 gift basket and Wanda Borne seconded it. The motion was carried.

Program:

Program Chair Linda Briggs introduced our speaker April Monroe, Communications Outreach Specialist for the Specialized Telecommunications Assistance Program in Texas. April shared with us the many kinds of phones available entirely FREE for Texas residents who qualify. These phones are to aid those who are hearing impaired or have trouble seeing, speaking, thinking or walking.

Announcements:

- **Newsletter deadline:** Submissions by 02/21/19; assembly on 02/28/19 @ 9 a.m., PN Library
- **March 12, 2019 meeting:**
 - **Ritter Center in Nederland at 1:30 p.m.**
 - **Program:** David Hornack and Hank the Therapy Dog
 - **Refreshments:** Chair Gail Krohn, Donna Lumpkin, Helen Reynolds, and Dianne Trevey
- **TRTA State Convention: April 1 - 2, 2019, Austin; Roar at the Capitol, April 3, Austin**
- **Spring Leadership Conference: May 3, 2019, at First Baptist church, Nederland**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m. with 25 members and one guest present.

Donna Lumpkin
Recording Secretary

Lynne James
President
