

Mid-Jefferson County Retired School Personnel Minutes
Tuesday, January 12, 2016

The regular meeting of the Mid-Jefferson County Retired School Personnel was held at Ritter Senior Citizen Center, Nederland, Texas, on January 12, 2016, at 1:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by President Gail Krohn, and the invocation was led by Mary Beth McDuff. Pledges of allegiance were led by Candice Zummo. Refreshments were prepared by Chairman Rose Reese, Linda Briggs, Becky Dungan, and Linda Fong. The minutes of the December 8th meeting were emailed to a few members with some distributed for reading at each table. There being no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved by committee and floor as read. Treasurer Mary Beth McDuff reported that, as of December 31st, the balance on hand was \$6,987.91. The report was filed for audit.

Special guest, District President R.A. Hidalgo, stressed the importance of being aware of the platforms of each state candidate for office. There are legislators who are opposed to almost anything benefitting active as well as retired teachers. He also encouraged all to read the voter's guide on candidates.

Committee Reports:

Membership – First Vice President Clara Graham reported that we still need to recruit members for our group.

Legislative – Richard Briggs stated that we (retired teachers) are in "bad shape." The governor has nominated Josh McGee to head the committee that is overseeing our benefits. He is affiliated with the Arnold Foundation, which is not a "friend" of retired teachers. Richard urged all members to contact Brandon Creighton to vote against this nomination.

Community Volunteer Services – Chairman Jessie Howard is still collecting volunteer hours from the membership. Her report is due February 1st, so she needs everyone to turn in these hours ASAP.

Health Care – Chairman Helen Reynolds shared that for a daily sense of peace and well-being, take a short mental vacation, i.e., daydream out a window, listen to a relaxing CD, remember an enjoyable time/place, get lost in a good book, or take a walk. This is cost-free and can be repeated anytime and anywhere.

Protective Services/Memorial & Get Well – Chairman Linda Fong reported that a memorial was sent in memory of faithful member Betty Cowan. Also, another teacher, Shirley O'Brian died December 2nd. Becky Dungan has had knee surgery. Ellen Thornton had been in The Medical Center for tests due to blockage and severe pain in her legs, but was welcomed back at this meeting. Linda also shared to be aware of a scam involving overpayment (of late fees) on credit cards. She also reported that the Wounded Warrior Project is not really helping wounded veterans.

Technology – Chairman Lynne James reminded us that the newsletter would be assembled on 01/28/16, and that all articles must be sent to her by 01/21/16.

Convention – Delegates elected to attend the state convention are Lynne James, Linda Fong, Clara Graham, and Becky Dungan.

Unfinished Business:

The new officers elected for 2016-2017 are: Lynne James, president; Linda Harrison, 1st vice-president; 2nd vice president TBA; Mary Beth McDuff, treasurer; and Donna Lumpkin, secretary.

New Business: none

Program:

Chairman Dianne Trevey introduced our speaker, Wayne Moore, from Christus St. Mary Hospital, who spoke about the changes in St. Mary's programs as they affect health services they offer in South Jefferson County. President Krohn also handed out information from the many area "urgent care" facilities regarding the services they offer.

Announcements:

- Frances Glaze will celebrate her 90th birthday on Sunday, 01/17/16, at United Methodist Temple, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- News items for the newsletter due by 01/21/16; printing and assembly on 01/28/16.
- Richard Briggs shared that Linda Briggs is now a Life Master in bridge.

The business meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m. with 25 members and 4 guests present.