

Mid-Jefferson County Retired School Personnel Minutes  
Tuesday, October 10, 2017

The Mid-Jefferson County Retired School Personnel held a luncheon for the newly retired school personnel at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Nederland, Texas, on October 10, 2017, at 11:30 a.m.

President Lynne James welcomed special guests and all in attendance. The invocation was given by Gail Krohn and Pledges of Allegiance were led by Linda Pinner. Special guests were then introduced, which included State Representative Dade Phelan, Jennifer Pate (State Senator Brandon Creighton's district director), Justice of the Peace Brad Burnett, and Commissioner Brent Weaver. Other special guests were Nederland ISD Superintendent Dr. Robin Perez, Assistant Superintendents Dr. Stuart Kieschnick and Michael Laird from Nederland ISD; Port Neches-Groves ISD Superintendent Jimmy Creel, Assistant Superintendents Dr. Brenda Duhon and Dr. Marc Keith from Port Neches-Groves ISD; and June White, District V President. New retirees Roxanne Boyd, Nelsy Brent, Ginger Cooper, Barbara Damath, Kenneth German, and Greg Poppke were then introduced and recognized by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Linda Harrison and Beulah Thompson (filling in for Retirement Education Chairman Rose Reese). Ginger Cooper's name was drawn for the free one-year membership incentive. Officers and committee chairmen were also introduced.

The luncheon meal was provided by all members present and special thanks was given to Hospitality Chair Beverly Minaldi and her committee (Mary Sue Carter, Linda and Curtis Wayne Harrison, Jolene Lemaire, Candye Martin, Loretta Morman, Beulah Thompson, Linda Pinner, Dana Wasser, and Candace Zummo) for organizing the luncheon. Special guests and new retirees were then invited to be served first.

Upon completion of the meal, Legislative Chairman Richard Briggs introduced our speaker, State Representative Dade Phelan. Representative Phelan spoke to the legislative issues and their impact on retired school personnel and the impact of Hurricane Harvey on all our area. He then fielded questions regarding other concerns of the members. A United States flag that has flown over the nation's capitol was presented to Representative Phelan to thank him for speaking at our luncheon by Richard Briggs.

President Lynne James called for a 5-minute break before beginning our business meeting.

The minutes of the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting were distributed for reading at each table. There being no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved by the floor as read. Treasurer Loretta Morman reported that as of September 30, 2017, the balance on hand was \$8,683.07. The report was filed for audit. The 2017-2018 budget (attached) proposed by Executive Committee was then approved as presented.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Audit Report** – Chairman Wanda Borne stated that the books are well-planned and ordered, and the audit was approved by the Executive Committee. She applauded Treasurer Loretta Morman's efforts.

**Book Project** – Chair Patricia Allen stated that books will be given later to third and fourth graders at Langham Elementary.

**Community Volunteer Services** – Chair Beulah Thompson shared that our unit recorded the highest number of volunteer hours in District 5, that being 13,949 hours. Carolyn Worsham and Donna Lumpkin reported the most. Each volunteer hour is worth an estimated \$24.66, meaning that \$343,982.34 in financial aid was rendered from our unit. Beulah reminded all present to record all the volunteer hours given this year because of Hurricane Harvey.

**Foundation** – Chair Clara Graham reminded us that the TRTA Foundation can give financial aid to those who suffered damage from the hurricane.

**Health Care** – Chair Helen Reynolds explained that the transition to Humana Medicare Advantage should be smooth and successful. Those already on this plan will have very few concerns. However, if the concern is regarding the cost of the plan for you and your spouse, TRTA has set up a plan with Aetna that may be more cost effective.

**Hospitality** – Chairman Beverly Minaldi thanked her committee and all the others for their help in organizing and preparing for the luncheon.

**Protective Services/Memorial & Get Well** – President James, reporting for Chairman Linda Fong, shared recent losses within our membership: Ruth Samford and James Green. Also, the loss of Linda Fong's husband, John, and Rosalee Reese's husband, Darrell.

**Legislation** - Chair Richard Briggs distributed a handout entitled "Legislative Talking Points for 2017 Fall District Conferences," which recapped the 85<sup>th</sup> session of the legislature (see attached). He restated that although TRTA voices were heard (especially by the governor), our work is not done! He reminded us to stay involved and informed!

**Member Benefits** – Chairman Dana Wasser called to our attention to a handout available listing all the area businesses that offer discounts to TRTA members (see attached).

**Membership** – Chairman Linda Harrison shared that we currently have 306 members and reminded us that "Each One Bring One" forms were distributed at each table. If one is responsible for a new member joining, he/she is eligible for a \$100 drawing at the district caucus of the TRTA annual convention.

**Programs** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Linda Briggs shared that there has been a change in the program schedule for 2017-2018 meetings. At our November meeting, our speaker will inform us regarding our insurance and health care benefits. The original program for November has been moved to January.

**Yearbook** – Chairman Becky Dungan had hard copies of the 2017-2018 Yearbook available for distribution. She asked that we check our personal information in the new yearbook and inform her of any changes that need to be made. Lynne James said that the online version of the yearbook is now available.

**President's Report** – President James emphasized her goals for our unit for the upcoming year: to increase active teacher contact and encourage participation; to maintain and increase membership enrollment; to establish personal contact with legislative representatives; and to inform members and non-member retirees of legislative issues of importance (health care and benefits).

#### **Unfinished Business:**

None

#### **New Business:**

**Bylaws changes** – Copies of the changes being proposed by President James and the Executive Committee were available to all members. With a brief discussion as to these changes, Richard Briggs moved that these changes be made. Linda Harrison seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

**New Slate of Officers** - Nominations chair Gail Krohn will present the slate of officers at the December meeting.

#### **Announcements:**

- **Newsletter deadline:** Submissions by 10/26/17; assembly 11/02/17 at 9 a.m. at PN Library
- **11/14/16 meeting:** Speaker will inform us re: our health insurance
- **Refreshments:** Chair Candye Martin, Linda Harrison, Beulah Thompson, Helen Reynolds, and Jolene Lemaire

The business meeting was adjourned at 1:47 p.m. with 27 members, 5 new members, and 11 special guests attending.

Donna Lumpkin  
Recording Secretary

Lynne James  
President