

Mid-Jefferson County Retired School Personnel Minutes  
Tuesday, October 11, 2022

The business meeting of the Mid-Jefferson County Retired School Personnel was held at the Effie & Wilton Public Library in Port Neches on Tuesday, October 11, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by President Charlie Jehlen. President Jehlen also led the invocation and pledges of allegiance. The minutes of the September 13, 2022, meeting had been emailed to members. There being no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved by committee and floor as printed. Treasurer Wanda Borne presented the treasurer's reports for August and September of 2022, which stated that the total balance on hand as of September 30, 2022, was \$13,000.99 (which includes scholarship money). The report was filed for audit.

### **Committee Reports**

**Membership** – First Vice President Becky Dungan reported that our current total membership is 262 (this does *not* include members who are members of the state only). Of the 37 total educational personnel that retired from NISD and PNGISD, four joined our chapter. A drawing was held among these new retirees for one year's free membership for 2022-2023 (a \$45 value) and Laurie Graffagnino was the winner. Another drawing will be held at our December meeting among the members who have recruited either new members or delinquent members. The prize is a \$50 Walmart gift certificate.

**Programs and Book Project** – Second Vice President Cathy Purgahn stated that our next meeting will be held at the PNGISD Administration Building, 776 Magnolia Avenue, Port Neches, and our guest speaker will be PNGISD Superintendent Dr. Mike Gonzales. Cathy added that Philpott stated that they will donate \$500 to our Book Project.

**Retirement Education, Yearbook, Technology** – Immediate Past President Lynne James shared that four members of our chapter were responsible for scholarship ads that were sold: Linda Fong, Marty Godwin, Lynne James, and Donna Lumpkin. She encouraged all members to begin to sell ads for the 2023 scholarships. Lynne pointed out information for selling ads. Lynne also had the 2022-2023 yearbooks ready for distribution. She also shared several handouts entitled *FY 2023 TRS Annuity payment Calendar*, *TRTA Legislative Priorities*, and *TRS Retirees Need a Raise*.

**Legislative** – Chair Richard Briggs shared that there are four items that are important to members for this next legislative year: 1. COLA; 2. defined benefits; 3. Senate Bill 12 (passed in 2019 and critical in continuing our TRS Fund which legislators need to know about); and 4. TRS Care (benefits need to be adjusted to cover the insurance increase because of inflation). All four need to be brought to the attention of legislators before the 2023 session.

**Healthy Living** – Chair Helen Reynolds shared that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Breast cancer affects women across the world (2, 261,419 cases in 2020). In the US, women are diagnosed with breast cancer more than any other cancer besides skin cancer. This year 339,250 women and 2710 men will be diagnosed. Figures such as these show that much work is still needed to find a cure for this disease; however, good news is that deaths from breast cancer decreased 42% from 1989-2019 due to early detection and treatment improvements. Therefore, be sure to perform breast self-exams every month and get a mammogram every year.

**Informative & Protective Services** – Chair Mary Sue Carter shared a handout entitled *Falls and Fractures – Part One*, which gave nine points for preventing falls and fractures.

**Community Volunteer Services** – Chair Candye Martin shared a handout (which is also included in the yearbook) for recording volunteer hours for January 1 to December 31, 2022. She reiterated that each of us can count the time we leave home for each TRTA meeting until we return home from that meeting as volunteer time.

**Newsletter and Historian** – Chair Jolene Lemaire shared that submissions for the November Newsletter are due to her by October 24, 2022.

**Hospitality** – Chair Rosalie Reese stated that we can continue to provide snacks for our meetings.

**Memorials/Get-Well** – Reporting for Chair Linda Fong, Donna Lumpkin shared that for the first time since Linda has held this chairmanship there was no report of members being ill or having passed. However, two non-members, Don and Wanda Mott are in ill health.

**Member Benefits** – Handouts were sent by email entitled *Your Passport to Savings*, and *Guide to Your TRTA Member Benefits*, both of which name many benefits available for members.

### **President's Report**

President Charlie Jehlen stated that the goals for our unit remain the same (see below). Charlie reminded members about the survey that was sent regarding intentions of members to attend the TRTA Day at the Capitol in April. He also encouraged all members to volunteer their services for the various committees. Especially needed is a Scholarship Committee Chair.

### **2022-2023 Goals**

- Maintain and increase membership enrollment. TRTA Goal is 100,000 members.
- MJCRSP Goal is 300 members by December 31, 2022.
- Increase active teacher contact and encourage participation.
- Establish personal contact with government representatives at every level.

### **Unfinished Business:**

None

### **New Business:**

President Jehlen asked if our chapter could once again runoff handouts at Mid-County Teachers Credit Union. Rose Reese said she would look into it.

### **Program:**

Donna Lumpkin introduced our guest speaker, Dr. Lindsay Shafer, Au D, who discussed hearing problems, new products, general costs, etc., especially for the more mature adults.

### **Announcements:**

- **October Newsletter deadline:** Submissions to Jolene Lemaire October 24, 2022
- **Next MJCRSP Meeting:** November 8, 2022, PNGISD Administration Bldg., 776 Magnolia, Port Neches, 1:30 p.m.
- **Election Day November 8, 2022**
- **TRTA Day at the Capitol:** April 12, 2023
- **TRTA District 5 Spring Conference:** May 5, 2023, First Baptist Church, Nederland, hosted by MJCRSP

The meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m. with 20 members and 2 guests present.

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Donna Lumpkin, Recording Secretary

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Charlie Jehlen, President