

Mid-Jefferson County Retired School Personnel Minutes
Tuesday, February 14, 2023

The business meeting of the Mid-Jefferson County Retired School Personnel was held at PNGISD Administration Building in Port Neches, Texas on Tuesday, February 14, 2023. 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 January 10, 2023, meeting had been emailed to members. With a few corrections, the minutes were approved by committee and floor as corrected. Because of the sudden illness of Treasurer Wanda Borne, no treasurer's report was presented. However, it was stated that the finances of the chapter are good.

Committee Reports

Health – Chair Helen Reynolds shared handouts regarding "Heart Health" and stated that February is American Heart Month, a good time to remember that heart problems are the leading causes of death for males and females. It is important to know what we can do to keep our focus on heart health regarding diet, health conditions, and signs of heart attack for males and females (not the same).

Membership – Chair Becky Dungan reported that our official total membership for this year is 272 (this does *not* include members who are members of the state only). However, there will be more when we get an update of "State Only Members" from the state whose software is currently being updated. March begins our new membership drive. A drawing for "early birds" (those who sign-up by 05.01.23) will be held at our May meeting for a \$50 Walmart gift card.

Becky expressed special thanks to our Volunteer Chair Candye Martin and her committee and to all the members of the membership committee for making this year such a success.

Programs and Book Project - Chair Cathy Purgahn stated that books will be distributed to 4th graders at Groves Elementary in the next week. Our March guest speaker will be Lisa Boler, founder and CEO of Harvest House Ministry.

Retirement Education – Immediate Past President Lynne James stated that Zoom meetings have resumed and this education has been quite helpful for potential retirees to understand about COLA, Social Security, insurance, etc.

Legislative – Chair Richard Briggs urged all members to contact their state senator and representative. State Senator Robert Nichols is on the Appropriation Committee and Richard encouraged members to let him know that a COLA is a must. He also shared that State Speaker of the House Dade Phelan needs to be contacted regarding COLA.

Safety – Chair Mary Sue Carter shared a handout entitled "Home Safety Tips." The handout listed general in-home safety signs to look for in the bedroom, bathroom, kitchen and gave outdoor safety tips.

Community Volunteer Services – Chair Candye Martin shared that there were 88 members who volunteered 36,976.5 hours.

Newsletter and Historian – President Jehlen reported for Chair Jolene Lemaire that newsletter items need to be sent to her by February 24, 2023.

Hospitality – Chair Rosalie Reese shared that all the refreshments today were provided by Brenda Philyaw. Brenda's committee will provide refreshments for our March meeting.

Memorials/Get-Well – Chair Linda Fong shared that Becky Dungan had successful surgery for her heart. Walter Tucker lost his mother in January. Wanda Borne went to the ER on this week for blood pressure. And Loretta Morman fell and broke her jaw, but was present with us today. Linda herself has Giant Cell Arteritis which affects her vision. She also fell and broke her wrist.

President's Report

President Charlie Jehlen stated that the goals for our unit remain the same (see below). He also passed around a form to fill out if you plan to attend Day at the Capitol. He reminded members that our March meeting will be held at the Effie & Wilton Hebert Public Library and that there will be NO meeting in April because of the Day at the Capitol.

2022-2023 Goals

- Maintain and increase membership enrollment. TRTA Goal is 100,000 members. MJCRSP goal is 300 members by December 31, 2023
- Increase active teacher contact and encourage participation
- Establish personal contact with government representatives at every level.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

- **Lynne James** encouraged members to sign up for Day at the Capitol Attendance and gave information about travel to Austin. She also urged members to "Tell Your Story" to legislators.

Program:

Linda Briggs introduced our speaker, Shanna Briggs, who shared concerns about Alzheimer's. She shared a video and power point which stated that 6 million Americans are affected by Alzheimer's. After the presentation, Program Chair Cathy Purgahn presented Shanna with a Certificate of Appreciation stating that a donation was made in her honor to the Scholarship Fund.

Announcements:

- **January Newsletter deadline:** Submissions to Jolene Lemaire by February 24, 2023
- **Next MJCRSP Meeting:** March 14, 2023, **Port Neches Library**, 1:30 p.m.
- **TRTA Day at the Capitol:** April 12, 2023
- **TRTA District 5 Spring Conference:** May 5, 2023, First Baptist Church, Nederland, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; hosted by MJCRSP

The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m. with 22 members and 1 guest present.

Donna Lumpkin, Recording Secretary

Charlie Jehlen, President
