

Mid-Jefferson County Retired School Personnel Minutes
Tuesday, September 13, 2022

The business meeting of the Mid-Jefferson County Retired School Personnel was held at the Effie & Wilton Port Neches Library on Tuesday, September 13, 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 May 10, 2022, meeting had been emailed to members. There being no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved by committee and floor as printed. Secretary Donna Lumpkin read a thank you note from Beulah Thompson for the loving support from chapter members during her illness. Treasurer Wanda Borne presented the treasurer's reports for May, June, July, and August 2022, which stated that the total balance on hand as of August 31, 2022, was \$15,602.32 (this includes scholarship money). The report was filed for audit.

Committee Reports

Membership – First Vice President Becky Dungan reported that our current total membership is 257 (this does *not* include members who are members of the state only). Next month there will be a drawing from the names of new retirees who have joined. The winner will receive a one year's free membership (\$45). Becky also shared that letters have been sent to those for whom we have contact information but have not joined. At our December meeting we will hold a drawing among all those who have recruited members (either new members or members who are not current with their dues). For each person a recruiter is successful in recruiting, the recruiter's name is submitted in the drawing.

Programs and Book Project – Chair Cathy Purgahn shared that our October guest speaker will be audiologist Dr. Lindsay Shafer who will discuss hearing problems, new products, general costs, etc. Cathy also shared that our November meeting will be held at the PNG Board Room and Dr. Gonzales, PNGISD Superintendent, will be our guest speaker.

Retirement Education, Yearbook, Technology – Immediate Past President Lynne James shared that Retirement Education Zoom meetings will resume in October. Port Arthur TRTA wants to join the group. Classes are 90-minute sessions. Lynne said that she is still working on the yearbook. She also shared that Jolene LeMaire has made "scrapbook" DVDs for our chapter which were distributed for all members who wanted one.

Audit – Chair Loretta Morman stated that the books were in good order.

Legislative – Chair Richard Briggs shared information regarding contacting State Senators and Representatives. He cautioned us to *be brief, be accurate, and be courteous*. The upcoming legislative year will hopefully bring discussion about a COLA, our insurance, and defined benefits. There are those legislators who are trying to do away with our defined benefits. We do have hired lobbyists but we are *all* advocates! Richard reminded us that October 24th is the first day of early voting and urged us all to VOTE!

Healthy Living – Chair Helen Reynolds shared that because monkeypox has been in the news recently, smallpox has been as well. Both require the same vaccination, which we all had as children in the 1950's through 1972 when smallpox vaccinations were discontinued. Today, according to studies done, those who had the vaccination as children do still have some small amount of residual protection but not enough to keep us from contracting monkeypox. As more is learned about its spread, we will learn whether we might need another vaccination.

Informative & Protective Services – Chair Mary Sue Carter shared a handout entitled *BBB Scam Tracker/Risk Report* which highlighted several scams: online purchase, cryptocurrency, employment, home improvement, and investment. A second handout outlined *10 General Tips for Avoiding a Scam*.

Community Volunteer Services – Chair Candye Martin shared that new volunteer guidelines include being able to count the time spent preparing for and going to and from our monthly meetings. The handout she shared also reminded us ideas for where we can volunteer. She also stated that our total number of hours (from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022) need to be turned in to her by February 1, 2023.

Newsletter and Historian – Chair Jolene Lemaire reminded us that submissions for the newsletter need to be turned into her by September 24, 2022.

Hospitality – Chair Rosalie Reese shared that refreshments would be in the back of the room each meeting.

Memorials/Get-Well – Chair Linda Fong shared that Curtis Harrison (husband of member Linda) has been back in the hospital. Cathy Purgahn is having her 5th ankle surgery. Frankie Jeter lost her sister, Sheila Spikes, in August. Steve Comer broke his hip and is rehabbing at Bonne Vie. Kay Westbrook dislocated her elbow and broke her radius bone, then dislocated it again and had to have a second surgery.

Member Benefits – Reporting for Chair Shelley Dettman, Clara Graham shared that AMBA representatives will be visiting members.

Social Media – Chair Patricia Allen reminded us to check out our Facebook page at *TRTA District 5 MJCRSP*

President's Report

President Charlie Jehlen emphasized that the goals for our unit remain the same (see below). We need to get in contact with members to get them actively involved in the various committees.

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:

- **Consider 2022-2023 MJCRSP Budget:** Treasurer Wanda Borne presented the budget for 2022-2023 stating that a few line items had been increased to accommodate the needs of that committee or office. A new line item was listed for technology. The motion was made by Becky Dungan and seconded by Richard Briggs to accept the proposed budget. The motion was approved unanimously.
- **Consider Chapter Standing Rules:** A copy of the proposed changes in the Standing Rules for our chapter was sent out by email to members which complies with the TRTA State By-Laws. The motion was made by Richard Briggs and seconded by Lynne James to approve the changes made. The motion was carried unanimously.

Program:

Becky Dungan introduced our guest speaker, Senator Carl Parker, who enlightened us on the U.S. Constitution on this Constitutional Week.

Announcements:

- **October Newsletter deadline:** Submissions to Jolene Lemaire September 24, 2022
- **TRTA District 5 Fall Conference:** *Thursday* September 29, 2022, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Beaumont, 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- **Next MJCRSP Meeting:** October 11, 2022, Port Neches Library, 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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m. with 22 members and 2 guests present.