

Mid-Jefferson County Retired School Personnel Minutes
Tuesday, October 12, 2021

The business meeting of the Mid-Jefferson County Retired School Personnel was held at the Port Neches library on Tuesday, October 12, 2021. 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 the September 14, 2021, 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 report for September 2021 which stated that the total balance on hand was \$12,313.65 (which includes scholarship money). The report was filed for audit.

Committee Reports

Audit – Reporting for Chair Loretta Morman, Wanda Borne stated that the audit went well and that everything was in good order.

Membership – Chair Becky Dungan reported that our current total membership is 252 (this does not include members who are members of the state only). Becky introduced our guests (new retirees) and reiterated the benefits of joining TRTA. She stated that the membership committee continues trying to contact retirees from 2020 and 2021. She also reminded everyone that there would be a drawing from the new recruits from 2020 and another from 2021 with winners receiving a year's free membership. Another drawing would be from the group of present members who have recruited new or renewed members with the winner receiving a Walmart gift card.

Legislative – Reporting for Chair Richard Briggs, Charlie Jehlen stated that legislators worked hard for our thirteenth check which should arrive in January of 2022. COLA (cost of living adjustment) wasn't passed but they are still working on it. AMBA benefits are still good for the time being. Charlie also recognized and thanked Richard Briggs for his tireless efforts contacting our state government leaders on our behalf.

Nominations – Chair Lynne James stated that the 2022-2023 officers will be elected in January 2021 and she will be contacting the present officers to see if they want to continue in their office. Others will be contacted to fill the places of those who would like to step down from their position. In February, five delegates will be chosen to represent our unit at state convention.

Yearbook/Scholarship (ad sales)/Retirement Education/Newsletter/Technology – Chair Lynne James shared that the 2021-2022 yearbooks are ready for distribution along with packets for renewing ads for those who sold ads last year which fund our scholarships. Lynne also shared that she will continue the Zoom meetings on Tuesday evenings for those possibly retiring from teaching. She reminded members that there is more information regarding scholarship ads in our newsletter and that handouts for meetings will be emailed rather than printed since we do not have access to MCT printing.

Hospitality – Chair Rosalie Reese said that she and Candye Martin provided cookies for today's meeting.

Healthy Living – Chair Helen Reynolds shared that a healthy breakfast is a must for everyone, including senior citizens. *Healthy* means food with protein, fiber, and calcium. YouTube has many videos for healthy breakfasts, so check them out for new suggestions for fruit smoothies, fruit and yogurt parfaits, and much more.

Informative & Protective Services – Chair Mary Sue Carter provided a handout concerning "Back pain myths: Fact or fiction?" which answers many questions regarding back pain.

Memorials/Get-Well – Dana Wasser, reporting for Chair Linda Fong, shared that in September, member Cathy Purgahn lost her sister; member Diane Giblin lost her husband, Judge Leonard Giblin (he was the father of associate member Julie Gauthier); and non-member Joanne Mertens Dockens also passed away

Community Volunteer Services – Chair Beulah Thompson shared the motto for our Volunteer Program "If it is to be, it's up to me!" and this is in regards to serving as a committee member or officer of MJCRSP, and serving in our neighborhoods, communities and families. One volunteer hour is valued at \$28.54 for 2021 in the state of Texas and the state acknowledges our efforts on the floor during legislative sessions. It helps influence legislators' attitudes whether to consider a COLA or a 13th check, etc. Guidelines for

reporting volunteer hours as well as a chart to record hours of service can be found in our yearbook, pages 56-59. Hours recorded are from January to December each year.

President's Report

President Charlie Jehlen stated that the goals for our unit remain the same (see below). He also shared that Wanda Borne will remain as District 5 Treasurer and Lynne James will be our new District 5 President. He also shared that the TRTA State Convention registration is now open.

2020-2021 Goals

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

Unfinished Business:

- We do not as yet have a guest speaker for November. Several members have said they are "working on it."
- Jerry Miller will be our guest "speaker" for December

New Business:

- *Should we offer refreshments at future meetings?* Members agreed that refreshments being served will depend on where the meeting will be held.
- *Should we continue hosting Retirement Luncheons?* Members agreed that the Retiree Luncheon will be held sometime in the spring.
- *Drawing winners:* 2020 retirees – Brenda Holmes
2021 retirees – Brenda Duhon
Recruiter member – Lynne James

Program

Educator, author, and member of our local unit, Frances Thomas shared a few of thoughts from her book *Eight Miles from Nowhere*. It is a delightful, insightful book of her recollections of her childhood. She especially recalled her education in a one-room school house here in Texas.

Announcements

- **Next MJCRSP Meeting:** November 9, 2021
Bonne Vie Luncheon? 11:30 or 1:30? Guest Speaker Dade Phelan? [TBD]
- **November Newsletter deadline:** Submissions by October 25, 2021
- **TRTA State Convention:** April 11-13, 2022, Anatole Hotel, Dallas
- **TRTA District 5 Spring Conference:** May 6, 2021, First Baptist Church, Nederland, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; hosted by MJCRSP

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m. with 26 members present.

Donna Lumpkin, Recording Secretary

Charlie Jehlen, President
