

Mid-Jefferson County Retired School Personnel Minutes
Tuesday, September 14, 2021

The business meeting of the Mid-Jefferson County Retired School Personnel was held virtually on Zoom on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, due to impending bad weather and COVID-19 concerns. 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 May 11, 2021, 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 reported thank you notes were received from our 2021 scholarship recipients, Langning Luo and Breelyn Brittain. Linda Fong also reported that she received thank you notes from the families of Linda Howard Moore and Dorothy Duschmann. Treasurer Wanda Borne presented the treasurer's reports from May, June, July, and August of 2021. She also reported that as of August 31, 2021, the total balance on hand was \$12,223.50 (which includes scholarship money). The report was filed for audit. Wanda also presented the 2021-2022 Budget and a few amendments were made concerning the money contributed by Philpott for our Fall Conference since it will be via Zoom and no meal will be served. Lynne James moved that we accept the 2021-2022 Budget as amended; it was seconded by Richard Briggs. The amended budget was accepted unanimously.

Committee Reports

Audit – Chair Loretta Morman presented the audit and said that all was in order. Dana Wasser moved that we accept the audit; Mary Sue Carter seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Membership – Chair Becky Dungan reported that our current total membership is 243 (this does not include 12 members who are members of the state only). We can contact these state members to consider local membership. Becky shared that her committee is in the process of contacting all the new retirees and those who have not renewed their membership. At October's meeting there will be two drawings for new retirees who have joined. Winners will have the choice of being reimbursed for their membership fee or receive a one-year free membership. Also, in October and November there will be a drawing from "recruiters" who have recruited new/renewed members. Membership forms that have a recruiter's name on them must be received by Treasurer Wanda Borne by 10.01.21. Winners will receive a Walmart gift card.

Legislative – Chair Richard Briggs reported that even though it does not look like we will receive a COLA this year, a thirteenth check seems very probable after January 2022. There will be another special session during which redistricting will be considered.

Yearbook/Scholarship (ad sales) – Chair Lynne James shared that the 2021-2022 yearbook will be ready for distribution at the October meeting. In regards to scholarships, Lynne stated that more ads need to be sold due to many ads not being renewed for various reasons (mostly related to circumstances of the pandemic).

Programs/Book Project - Chair Linda Briggs stated that she is still accepting ideas for programs. Lynne James is in charge of programming for the October meeting, Charlie Jehlen is in charge of the December program, and Helen Reynolds is in charge of the January program. Several other members said they are working on programs for other months. Linda shared that she will begin to purchase books for the Book Project at the first of the year and those books will be distributed to 4th grade students at Helena Park Elementary in the spring.

Hospitality – Lynne James, reporting for Chair Rosalie Reese, said that Rosalie suggested that those wanting to eat before the meeting could meet elsewhere to eat then come to the meetings.

Healthy Living – Chair Helen Reynolds shared that for those who are 65+, a good night's sleep is 7-8 hours – no more, no less – unless one has a special medical concern and requires medication that affects sleep. Our bodies need sleep for many reasons besides rest; for example, our brains need to reset every night as we escape our sometimes-stressful daily lives in healing sleep.

Informative & Protective Services – Chair Mary Sue Carter had a handout emailed to members entitled "Back Pain Myths: Fact or Fiction?" which discussed many questions regarding back pain. She said good posture plays a big part in preventing back pain.

Memorials/Get-Well – Chair Linda Fong shared that many members have been affected with illnesses and death: Olive Hall is doing better and is home; Wanda and Thad Borne and Donna and Lee Lumpkin lost their sister-in-law, Tookie Schamber, on July 26th; Earl Jeffery has multiple myeloma; Carrie Sowell lost her mother-in-law August 19th; Nellie McCoy's husband had a stroke but is home now; Dixie Tucker lost her nephew, Stephen Dowden, also on August 19th; Gail Krohn lost her son, Larry Davis, August 23rd; and Cynthia Weeks broke her hip while in Austin but is home now. Members we have lost this year: Michael Guidry (state only), October 1, 2020; Linda Howard Moore,

January 16, 2021; Frank Stanfield, March 19, 2021; Joyce Russell (state only), May 16, 2021; and Dorothy Duschmann, July 13, 2021.

Community Volunteer Services – Chair Beulah Thompson shared that several of the members of her committee have requested to step down from her committee after many years of dedicated service: Cathy Purgahn because of family COVID illnesses; Becky Dungan because of accepting the office of Second Vice President; and Clara Graham because of many family illnesses and hardships. Beulah lauded these ladies and their service to her committee and to our unit of TRTA! Other faithful members of her committee include Linda Harrison and Mary Sue Carter. She said that if any member would like to assist her in making calls to collect VCS hours to contact her.

President's Report

President Charlie Jehlen stated that the goals for our unit remain the same.

2021-2022 Goals

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

Unfinished Business:

- None

New Business:

- *Should we offer refreshments at future meetings?* After much discussion, it was decided that members will bring their own refreshments for the October meeting and we will revisit this question at that time.
- *Should we continue hosting Retirement Luncheons?* Again, after much discussion, Lynne James proposed that our retirees' luncheon be moved to May rather than the fall when we are under hurricane possibilities. However, we will revisit this at a later date. It was also decided that our November meeting will be at Bonne Vie with members only and Dade Phelan will be our speaker.

Announcements

- **October Newsletter deadline:** Submissions by September 27, 2021
- **TRTA District Fall Conference:** *Thursday, October 7, 2021, via Zoom*
 - Memorials due to Artemus Hancock by September 27, 2021
 - Membership totals due to Bettie Nixon by September 17, 2021
- **Next MJCRSP Meeting:** October 12, 2021, *Port Neches Library, 1:30 p.m.*
- **TRTA State Convention:** April 11-13, 2022, Anatole Hotel, Dallas
- **TRTA District 5 Spring Conference:** *Friday, May 6, 2021, First Baptist Church, Nederland, 10:00 a.m.; hosted by MJCRSP*

The meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m. with 16 members present.

Donna Lumpkin, Recording Secretary

Charlie Jehlen, President
