

WHITE COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes from September 25th, 2013

Note new website change: www.wcretiredteachers.org

A new season begins with WCRTA ready for a new “school year” as President Dave Kelly called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at the lovely home of member Sandy Taylor. Guests Gloria Kinnard, Dana Hershey, Peggy Sublette, Shirley Ziemer, Mary Beth Woodcock, and Jim Lund (Area 3 Director) and his wife Dorris, were welcomed. President Kelly told a cute story about a cat’s experience in Heaven and Meals on Wheels. Grace was given by Frank Walker and a delicious meal of pear salad, turkey casserole, green beans, rolls and pumpkin pie was served to everyone. Thanks to Sandy Taylor and Suzanne Smock for serving as hostesses.

OFFICER REPORTS

*President Kelly shared topics discussed at the IRTA Officers Workshop on Sept. 17, 2013 in Crawfordsville. Those attending included Dave Kelly, Frank Walker, Tom and Jennie Peters and Karen Ward. **The Health Care Law/Obamacare** : 1) If on traditional Medicare, no significant changes. 2) If on a Medicare Part C- “Medicare Advantage” plan, then some changes in benefits and cost will probably rise a little—these are PPO and HMO plans. 3) Part D—Medicare Rx plans—Doughnut Hole will slowly disappear—gone by 2020. Now \$2970 to \$4750. Lower Rx prices overall. 4) Free Wellness visits annually to discuss overall health—no copay for preventive care. 5) Emphasis on Primary Care Doctors—get bonus payments—to get more MD’s in primary care. **SHIP (State Health Insurance Assistance Programs)** to provide volunteer insurance advisors for Seniors. Not on a fee or commission basis—not selling anything. In White County/Carroll County—contact Area 4 Council on Aging to see SHIP to discuss best Medicare Supplements and best Plan D Rx programs. Phone Number 800-382-7556. **Thank You’s to State Legislature** to Rep. Don Lehe for our area for Sept. stipend. Also asked for support for true COLA and stipend and additional payments to reduce unfunded liability to TRF. **TRF Guaranteed Fund**: Annual fund return was lowered to 0.26% beginning July 1, 2013. This is in line with market rates. TRF was running a significant loss on this program.

*Vice President Frank Walker said our next meeting will be October 23rd at Sublette’s. Barb Lucas from Rensselaer will be the guest speaker about Backyard Conservation and Birds of Northwest Indiana.

*Secretary JoAnn Miller went over the highlights from the June 26th, 2013 meeting as members read their copy. Myrtle Collins made a motion to accept the minutes and Mary Ann Morris seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

*Treasurer Leona Gorden read through the financial report and a copy was filed for audit. Bobbie Boehlke made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and Gloria Kinnard seconded. Leona gave a brief report on our project about the Reading Junction and how the money from our donations was used last year. A basket was then passed around for donations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNITY SERVICE Keep track of your youth and other volunteer hours. Spencer Bower and Colleen Shook will collect these. They need them no later than December 20th.

MEMBERSHIP Sandy Taylor sent letters inviting newly retired teachers from all four county corporations to join WRTA, as well as 168 letters were sent to active and former members. Thanks, Sandy.

MEMBER CONCERNS Karen Ward sent cards to Joy Bailey, Muriel Arnold, Frank Walker and Glen Wentland.

OLD BUSINESS None

ANNOUNCEMENTS President Kelly wanted to remind members of the new website and to thank Dave Brechbiel taking over as our webmaster. The website is also included on your minutes.

PROGRAM

As a dedicated member of the Monticello Garden Club, Sandy was met with a unique challenge of facing the task of laws and rules of the state highway and railroad when the tracks through town were abandoned. Once clearance was finally given, \$30,000 was needed to create a city block garden from a former railroad track possible. The curbing was \$9,000. Highway rules did not allow for any rocks or trees or certain plants to be on the site. Plants must be salt and drought resistant. Sandy included the perennials that are currently planted on both the North and South Railroad Street Medians.

"Enter the Garden Club" meets the third Thursday of each month between February and December at varied locations. The places and times of the meetings are advertised under "Current Events" of the Herald Journal. Dues are \$10.00, and meeting activities include speakers about garden related subjects, viewing member's gardens or exchanging garden ideas and plants. They also have an occasional field trip to nurseries, plant farms or other garden-related areas. The group has special meetings regarding ongoing projects such as "railroad beautification."

One major part of the club is continuing to care for their Monticello City Park Garden, North and South Railroad St. Medians, and at the left side of the stoplight as one is facing the Drive -In Theater. The "Enter the Garden Club" needs and welcomes new members.

NEXT MEETING The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 23rd, 2013 at Sublette's. The meeting will begin at 11:30 AM. Hostesses will be Judy Neilan and Barb Purkhiser.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnn Miller, Secretary