

WHITE COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes from June 26, 2013

Note new website change: www.wcretiredteachers.org

The White County Retired Teachers Association met at the Wabash and Erie Canal Center in Delphi, IN. President Dave Kelly called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. President Kelly told a funny story about a little boy's experience talking to his teacher and principal about his favorite animal. Dana and Brian Hershey were recognized as guests (and also new members) in attendance! Welcome!

OFFICER REPORTS

*President Kelly gave a brief outline for the day. Dave was already dressed as an official 1850's boatman. On the back of the Meeting Agenda, the Tour Schedule and Tour Groups, along with the times were listed. We were able to have 2 groups of 18/19 and hoped the rain would hold off. Also, President Kelly wanted to say thanks to Becky Sims and Carol McGill who served as hostesses for our April meeting.

*Vice President Frank Walker spoke about the 48th Annual Representative Assembly meeting held on June 19th, 2013, in Indianapolis. Carol Grieser from Elkhart is the new President of IRTA. Spencer Bower accepted a Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Group Project for our Reading Junction Project. Also, President Kelly received a clock award for having the most volunteer hours in Area 3. Both Dave and Colleen Shook had over 600 volunteer hours. Congratulations! Leona Gorden, Spencer Bower, Karen Ward, Frank Walker, Dave and Bonnie Kelly attended.

*Secretary JoAnn Miller went over the highlights from the April 24th, 2013 meeting as members read their copy. Marge Roth made a motion to accept the minutes and Carol Adams seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

*Treasurer Leona Gorden read through the financial report and a copy was filed for audit. Spencer Bower made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and Frank Walker seconded. The Reading Junction basket was passed around for donations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LEGISLATIVE President Kelly reported that members will receive a 13th stipend check in Sept.

OVER

COMMUNITY SERVICE Keep track of your youth and volunteer hours. Spencer Bower and Colleen Shook will collect these.

MEMBERSHIP Sandy Taylor sent letters inviting newly retired teachers from all four county corporations to join WRTA. Thanks, Sandy.

MEMBER CONCERNS Karen Ward sent cards to Dave Lotte's family and Muriel Arnold.

NECROLOGY Jennie Peters reported that Dave Lottes passed away on June 14, 2013. Mr. Lottes was a school teacher in Indiana for 30 years. He was a curator at the White County Historical Society from 1989-1992. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy Medical Corp. and served in the Korean War.

OLD BUSINESS None

ANNOUNCEMENTS President Kelly had several flyers available for anyone interested in an opportunity for service and a modest stipend for "Renewable Energy Hosts/Tour Guides" for bus tours coming in to White County from Randy Mitchell at the Office of Economic Development.

Grace was given by Frank Walker and members and guests enjoyed an old-fashioned canal style meal of beef stew, slaw, corn bread, rhubarb crunch and bread pudding.

PROGRAM

In 1832, canal construction began in Ft. Wayne. Upon completion in 1853, the Wabash and Erie Canal spanned 468 miles from Toledo, Ohio, on Lake Erie, to Evansville, IN on the Ohio River. It provided a waterway that connected the East Coast with the Mississippi River, New Orleans and the Gulf of Mexico. It was the longest canal in the U.S. and the second longest canal in the world. Founded in 1974, the Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal Inc., is dedicated to preserving this three mile stretch of historic man-made waterway. The canal boat, which we got to ride, was 54 feet long and 10 feet wide. It was recreated in Albany NY in 2008 and rides 8 feet above the water. Some original canal boats were 85-90 feet long and 15 feet wide and pulled by mules along the water's edge traveling at 4-5 miles per hour.

Reed Case was born in Kentucky in 1808 and moved to Indiana with his family in 1810. In 1838, Mr. Case, a skilled brick mason, secured a contract to build the Wabash & Erie Canal from Logansport to the junction of the Tippecanoe and Wabash Rivers. Reed Case built his house in 1843-44 on Front Street in Delphi. The original Federal-style frame home consisted of four rooms, two down and two up and a center hall with a door at each end and a grand staircase to the side. He died in 1871. The home was donated to the Canal Center in 1986 and restoration began one room at a time. The tour of this home was given by Mark Smith, Carroll County Historical Museum Curator.

The Interpretive Center, the only museum designed to tell the story of the Wabash and Erie Canal, concentrates on the 44 year operational history of the Canal. The lobby showcases a series of beautiful oil paintings which highlight historic sites along the Canal from Toledo, Ohio to Evansville, IN. Interactive exhibits provided opportunities to experience what travelers faced in the 1800's.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnn Miller, Secretary