

WHITE COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes from October 23rd, 2013

Note new website change: www.wcretiredteachers.org

Vice-President Frank Walker called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at the newly rebuilt Sublette's Restaurant in Monticello. Guests welcomed included Carol Loehrke who recently retired from Pioneer, Deb Culp from Tri-County, Jim Lund, Area 3 Director and his wife Dorris, and Dr. Barb Lucas, program speaker. Vice-President Walker told a cute joke about Farmer John and his free range chickens. Grace was given by Bobbie Boehlke and members ordered from the menu. Thanks to Judy Neilan and Barb Purkhiser who served as this meeting's hostesses.

OFFICER REPORTS

* V-President Walker told members that we will be the host Chapter for the Fall Workshop for Areas 3 & 4 on Monday, September 29, 2014 from 9:30 AM to 2 PM. This meeting will be held at the Wabash Erie Canal Center. We will need members to help volunteer for this catered event. Area 3 Director Jim Lund also told members that he will be in attendance at the State House on Feb. 4th for a Legislative Brunch. COLA will be one topic discussed. We need all the membership we can muster to show our support. He reminded members of the Sweep Contest. As you pay your dues, "sweep" in a new member and not only increase IRTA membership, but have the chance to win money for your local Chapter as well.

*Vice President Frank Walker said our next meeting will be February 26th, 2014 at Angler's Restaurant. This is an informal meeting, no business meeting will be held. President Kelly will give a "2014 Legislative Update". Dave and Bonnie Kelly will serve as the host/hostess.

*Secretary JoAnn Miller went over the highlights from the September 25th, 2013 meeting as members read their copy. Spencer Bower made a motion to accept the minutes and Tom Peters 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 Colleen Shook seconded. A basket was passed around for Reading Junction donations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

MEMBERSHIP Sandy Taylor read the names of those who retired this year.

Tri-County: Thomas Bajzatt, Debbie Barker, Tresa Dilling, Richard Kochert, Diane Smith and Steve Ulrich **Frontier:** Dana Reynolds **North White:** none **Twin Lakes:** Dana Hershey, Rebecca Myer, Sue Davidson, Rod DeCamp, Mike Wright, Maury Waymouth, Cheryl Odle, Glenda LePage, Robbie Coffing, Gloria Kinnard, Teresa Odle

MEMBER CONCERNS We hope President Kelly will feel better soon.

NECROLOGY Jennie Peters reported on Wanda Wentland's passing on August 20, 2013. Wanda served as President of the Twin Lakes Classroom Teachers' Organization and served as secretary of the WCRTA. She was very active in the Monticello Lions Club. Wanda retired after thirty years of teaching elementary and middle school students.

OLD BUSINESS none

PROGRAM Backyard Conservation and Birds of Northwest Indiana

Recently retired as an elementary principal, Dr. Barb Lucas from Rensselaer, IN has found a way to enjoy her extra time by focusing on photographing nature and its beauty. "I've been a bird-watcher for 30 years. I've always had an interest in nature and now I have the time to really enjoy it and put the time into taking photographs of different species of birds I want to see," Lucas said. She is a member of the Indiana Audubon Society in W.Lafayette. Her nature photography includes photos of 135 bird species, plus plants and other animals. Her program was a slide show of many beautiful photographs she had taken along with music and bird calls and songs.

Some highlights from her talk include: for feeding year round 1) black oil sunflower seed 2) thistle seed 3) suet

The black oil sunflower seed will attract the most variety of birds.

For feeding in Spring and Summer: Hummingbird sugar mixture should be 1 part sugar to 4 parts water; hang feeder in a shady spot.; change food often especially in hot summer weather; hang feeders May through October; hang feeders at different levels; provide a protective cover; leave feeders out two weeks after you last see a hummingbird. Baltimore orioles also like sugar water and grape jelly.

Blue Bird nest boxes—place in open grassy areas, remove unwanted sparrow nests, enjoy 2-3 hatches a season.

Conservation: One out of four birds in the U.S. is endangered. Monarch butterflies are also becoming endangered. Because of pollutants, climate change and changes in farming practices, preservation of natural areas are becoming limited.

Dr. Barb Lucas had several handouts including photographs she had taken that were available after her presentation. She has several birding programs that she does including Bald Eagles Return to Jasper Co., Beginning Nature Photography, Sandhill Cranes at Jasper-Pulaski Wildlife Area, Attracting Birds to Your Backyard, Bird Identification & Bird Song, and Guided Bird Watching Walks. These educational programs share her love of nature with others of all ages. She can be reached at 219-394-2646 (home) or email at blucas1123@gmail.com

NEXT MEETING The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 26th, 2014 at the USA Restaurant in Monticello (due to Angler's being closed for remodeling.) This is an informal meeting and will begin at 11:30 AM.

The next business meeting will be Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at the USA Restaurant in Monticello.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnn Miller, Secretary

