**St. Bernard Retired Teachers’ Association**

**Christmas Luncheon/Meeting**

**Vera’s Seafood Restaurant, Slidell, Louisiana**

**December 4, 2022**

The meeting was called to order by President Paul Grethel at 12:00 p.m.

Alan Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mickey Lux gave the invocation.

The business meeting paused while lunch was served.

A motion was made by Milton Boackle that we dispense with the reading of the minutes and treasurer’s report. Pat Pourciau seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed, and we dispensed with the minutes and treasurer’s report.

President Grethel asked Treasurer Rosemary Gioia to just update the group on the account balance. She announced that SBRTA has $13,870.45 in its account.

President Grethel gave a report on our membership with 204 members. He reported that we received the Gold Unit Award and reminded us that people can become members whether they are retired or active teachers.

Kathy Farrell collected money from the membership for the school supplies fund which will be used to purchase supplies for schools in St. Bernard Parish. These supplies will be distributed to a school by the officers and any members who wish to join them. She collected a total of $109.00. Members of SBRTA have been bringing in school supplies to every meeting.

Rodney Watson gave a report on LRTA. He said that we were successful in getting our COLA this year, and he hopes that we can get a COLA every two years. He reminded us that the governor’s race is next year and gave his opinion on some of the already known candidates. He said that so far, Billy Nungesser is about the best option.

Dr. James Taylor spoke to the membership and said that about one third of the senators don’t even know that we have a retired teacher’s group. He also spoke about the importance of repealing the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision. He said that the legislators will adjourn on December 31.

The program activity for the luncheon was the “Christmas Attire Contest.” Carman Finnan and Sydney Dobson won for the “best attired,” and Rosemary Gioia won for the “ugliest sweater.”

A “scratch off” game was played. The winners received wreaths and decorations made by Alan Jones’s mother, and some poinsettia plants were also offered as prizes. The numbers were pulled for the “Parade of Prizes,” and the number for the 50/50 money prize was drawn. The total of the money prize was $115.00, and Dr. James Taylor won.

President Grethel announced that the next meeting will be held on March 24 at 11:30 a.m. and that it will be held at Docville Farm in Meraux.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Michaele A. Lux, Recording Secretary