**St. Bernard Retired Teachers’ Association Meeting**

**December 5, 2021**

**Docville Farm – Meraux, Louisiana**

The meeting was called to order by the president Paul Grethel at 11:30 A.M.

The invocation was led by Cynthia “Puddy” Kooke.

Paul Grethel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recording Secretary Mickey Lux read the minutes of the last meeting of December 1, 2019. Jackie Pace moved to accept the minutes as read, and Larry Cowen seconded the motion. The membership voted, and the minutes were accepted as read.

Treasurer Rosemary Gioia read the treasurer’s report, which included business of the last two years from December 2019. We now have a total of $13,870.45. Jan Clark moved we accept the treasurer’s report as read, and it was seconded by Lena Appel. The membership voted, and the treasurer’s report was approved as read.

President Grethel announced that Jackie Pace found a whole bunch of newsletters from the years 1966 to the 1970’s. He said that he will scan them to the SBRTA website.

He announced that the total membership of SBRTA is now 195 members. We are one of the biggest organizations in the state.

Dr. James Taylor spoke to the membership on behalf of Rodney Watson, who has lost his young son and has had a heart attack. Dr. Taylor thanked us for all our concerns about his own physical condition. He said that his lymph glands have been in remission for five years now. Next year it will be his 8th year on the board, but he will be glad to continue. He said that in November we passed a resolution requesting a COLA in July. He said the money is there, and it has been there. He asked that we work with them to get this done. We need to contact our representatives to see that we get this COLA.

Another problem Dr. Taylor brought up is the need for a supply of good teachers. Today, very few students are going into education. He introduced Richard Baker, associate director of the School of Education at LSU, to the membership. Mr. Baker said that ten years ago, LSU was turning out about 1100 teachers a year, and now the number is down to less than 200. He said that teachers themselves are now telling their own students not to become teachers because teaching has become so difficult, especially the last two years. He said that we need to help those teachers today and call and write legislators to tell them we need to change. He said that the profession needs our help to recruit students to become good teachers.

Dr. Taylor encouraged the membership to join AARP because AARP is working hard to get lower priced prescription drugs for us.

President Grethel said that it is now his 10th year as president of SBRTA. He opened nominations for offices. He started with treasurer. Treasurer Rosemary Gioia was nominated to continue as treasurer. It was moved and seconded to accept her as a nominee. It was then moved to close the nominations. The membership voted and she was officially nominated. The nominations continued for recording secretary. Jackie Pace nominated Mickey Lux, and Marilyn Blanchard seconded the nomination. Mickey Lux accepted the nomination, and the membership voted, and she was officially nominated. It was then moved to vote by acclamation to accept the same officers again. It was seconded and the membership voted to do so.

President Grethel asked Dr. Scharfenstein if we will have a spelling bee again this year. He said it is still up in the air, and he will let us know.

President Grethel decided to pull a few tickets for door prizes before we continued. A few numbers were called, and the members chose their prizes.

Mrs. Weidy and a group of members sang “The 12 Yats of Christmas.”

Rosemary Gioia conducted a Christmas activity whereby members had to close their eyes and draw whatever Rosemary told them on the paper. After the directions were given, the members exchanged papers with the member next to them, and that member “graded” them according to Rosemary Gioia’s answers. Betty McLaughin won first place and Cheryl Dobson won second place. Joy Drago, the person who got the lowest number of points, also got to select a prize.

The rest of the tickets were drawn for the door prizes.

The amount of money in the fifty/fifty raffle was $106.00, and the winner was Joan Leggett.

President Grethel announced that the next meeting will be on March 18, 2022, at Docville Farm.

He then announced that our Retiree of the Year for 2020 was Rosemary Gioia. Since we had no meeting, her plaque was delivered to her by her daughter. She didn’t get her cake at that time, so it was presented to her at this meeting. It was cut and enjoyed by the membership as well as Rosemary.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted.

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Michaele A. “Mickey” Lux, Recording Secretary