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

**Pinewood Country Club**

**Slidell, Louisiana**

**December 2, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by President Paul Grethel at 12:10 p.m.

The invocation was offered by Les Scharfenstein.

Kathy Gonzales led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Grethel told the members that he was giving each of us a “Giving Plate” as a gift. He read the poem written on the plate which stated the reason for it. A person puts some dessert he or she has made on it and gives to to another person who then fills it up with some food they have made and gives it to another person. The plate then makes the rounds from one person to the other.

Jacqueline Pace asked the membership to let her know if she has not taken our picture, because she didn’t want to leave anyone out.

After the luncheon, the meeting continued.

Recording Secretary Mickey Lux read the minutes from the last meeting, and they were approved as read.

President Grethel told members to update their green sheets listing activities and volunteer work which were handed out. They will be used to determine the member of the year award. He also said to fill out a blank sheet if they had not filled one out before.

A moment of silence was held in honor of Dr. Hugh Craft, our treasurer, who passed away in October.

President Grethel said that he was unable to give a treasurer’s report because he didn’t have access to the information.

Milton Boackle moved that we donate a certain amount of money from our treasury of the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association in memory of Dr. Craft to the Louisiana Retired Teachers’ Association. The motion was seconded.

A discussion on the motion took place. It was recommended that the monetary amount be one hundred dollars.

Carolon Craft said that it would be better to donate to the Louisiana Retired Teachers’ Association Foundation, which gives assistance to members in times of trouble. Dr. Craft was a member of the Foundation and it was very important to him. Dr. Taylor also spoke in favor of giving money to the Foundation. President Grethel said that individual members could also donate to the Foundation in Dr. Craft’s memory. He said we could email him to find out the address of the Foundation.

A motion was made to amend the original motion which stated we should donate one hundred dollars from our treasury to the Louisiana Retired Teachers’ Association and change it to the Louisiana Retired Teachers’ Association Foundation. The motion was voted on and carried.

The membership then voted on the amended motion whereby one hundred dollars would be sent from the treasury of the St. Bernard Retired Teachers’ Association to the Louisiana Retired Teachers’ Association Foundation in honor of Dr. Hugh Craft. The motion carried.

President Grethel said that our membership is now at 191 members which includes 110 lifetime members. He said that it is the highest since he took over as president. He said we have a goal of 200 members.

President Grethel gave a report on the recruitment meeting. He said he sent out emails to all current teachers in St. Bernard Parish stating that we are here to help them do such things as reading to their students, testing their students, and other things. They could send in the information with their needs, but nobody sent any. He sent emails to retired teachers who have not joined our organization and sent emails to retired teachers who were members at one time, but are no longer members. About a dozen people came to the meeting; however, three people did become members.

The “Ugly Christmas Sweater” contest was held. The first place award was a $20.00 gift card to IHOP, and the second place award was a $10.00 gift card to IHOP. The first place winner was Jo Ann Nunez and the second place winner was Jan Clark.

President Grethel showed a video created by a student who won second place in a “You at Fifty” AARP video contest aimed at eighteen to thirty-year-olds, which concerned how they thought their lives would be when they would be age fifty. The purpose was to enable young people to voice their minds about the future. The second place winning video featured a poem that presented a very pessimistic view when read from top to bottom, but an optimistic view when read from the end of the poem to the top. President Grethel gave a copy of the poem to each member.

Anna Weidenhaft and a few other members got up and sang the song “The Twelve Yats of Christmas.”

President Grethel opened nominations for a new treasurer to serve out the rest of Dr. Craft’s term. Pat Rhodes Branch nominated Rosemary Gioia. She accepted the nomination, and it was seconded by Carolon Craft and Milton Boackle. President Grethel called for a vote, and Rosemary Gioia won the office of treasurer.

A motion was made by Milton Boackle to close the St. Bernard Retired Teachers’ Association bank account at Chase bank and to open a new account at Capital One. The motion was seconded and the membership voted. The motion carried.

President Grethel said he will send out emails to the membership as to where and when the school supplies that the organization has collected will be presented to Chalmette Elementary and William Smith schools in St. Bernard Parish. He said it would be some time after the start of the new year and encouraged members to come to the presentation.

Les Scharfenstein made a motion that the St. Bernard Retired Teachers’ Association sponsor a team for the St. Bernard Parish Rotary Club Spelling Bee for $300.00. It was seconded by Lovie Harrison Geraci. It was put to a vote, and the motion carried.

Dr. Taylor gave a few words of appreciation to everyone for voting for him in the runoff election for retiree representative of LRTA and said that we must make sure we are heard and to get every candidate to speak to us. He said our money isn’t safe until our state is in order, and that the worst thing to happen would be if our retirement would become insolvent. He said to keep up the good work of taking care of one another.

President Grethel showed the membership a video entitled “The Reason for the Season,” which showed a child’s version of the story of the first Christmas.

President Grethel announced that the next meeting will be held on Friday March 22, 2019, at Docville Farm in St. Bernard Parish.

Tickets for the door prizes were pulled.

Cindy Kooke spoke about volunteering in a classroom and how fulfilling it can be.

Madelyn Edwards spoke about the upcoming election for state treasurer and her son’s excellent qualifications.

Kathy Gonzales told the membership that Mike Ginart wrote wills for her and her husband at his own expense and advised us to take advantage of Mike’s offer to write our wills for free.

The ticket for the half and half money prize of $136.00 was pulled, and the winner was Linda Crain.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michaele “Mickey” Lux, Recording Secretary

Paul J. Grethel, President

Cynthia Kooke, Vice-President