

## PUTNAM COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS - October 10, 2023

President Alan Zerkel called the meeting to order at 12:00. There were 14 members present. The Pledge to the Flag was given and Alan asked that all present introduce themselves and give information on where they had taught. A prayer was given by Alan and everyone enjoyed lunch.

Alan introduced our program which was Bill Dory, the Mayor of Greencastle. Bill gave a very interesting update on current street closures and work that will be done in the near future. Bill expressed gratitude to INDOT for the amount of dollars spend in Putnam County. The 231 Project will bring in federal dollars that will be used for water line work. The city should only have to pay 20% for that project. There is additional work being done in Robe Ann Park and Putnam County Pathways. Work on the "Y" is getting started. There will be a medical office building associated with PCH in the building. There were several questions about why a pool was not included, the answer involved the year to year upkeep and long term operating expenses rather than the expense of including a pool in the design. The goal is to keep membership fees at a reasonable cost for all Putnam County residents. Bill's presentation was informative and enjoyed by all.

There was a short break so everyone could get desserts. The 50/50 drawing was held and Carolyn Mann was given \$9.00. Minutes from the September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting were discussed and accepted on a motion by Kathryn Dory with a second by Mariette Bargaen.

Alan gave highlights from the IRTA "President's Round Table". Laura Penman is working hard to get an automatic COLA for teachers. New members are needed, less than 20% of retired teachers pay their \$35.00 dues on a yearly basis.

The suggestion was made that we work this year on getting a complete list of retired teachers that live in Putnam County or have taught in Putnam County. Maureen suggested that once we have this information, we should compose a "positive" letter getting the word out to everyone what their \$35.00 dues per year does for them. Word also needs to be gotten out to current teachers about the "teacher grant" that they can apply for.

Maureen reviewed our upcoming meetings. November 14, 2023 will be a musical program, March 12, 2024 – a presentation by Isiah House, Creative Castle will have the program on either April 9, 2024 or May 14, 2024.

Eleanor Houser requested that everyone turn in their "volunteer hours" by the end of December. They can be mailed to Eleanor at 700 Kirkwood Drive, Greencastle 46135.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 PM

Acting Secretary – Mary Zerkel