

PUTNAM COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS
NOVEMBER 14, 2023

President Alan Zerkel called the meeting to order at 12:00. There were 21 members present. President Zerkel introduced the Lyric Barbershop Quartet who would entertain us after we as we finished our lunch. Lucy Wieland offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the food and for the good work of retired and current teachers.

Everyone enjoyed the musical numbers performed by three retired Putnam County Teachers, Kathryn Dory, Debbie Lambert, and Anita Edenfield and the former school nurse of the Greencastle School Corporation, Cathy Custis. They won the most improved award at the last contest they entered. Everyone enjoyed the musical presentation. Lyric will be singing on Nov. 17 at Gobin Church at 2:00 PM.

Minutes from the October 10th meeting were discussed and accepted on a motion by Diana Vanmiddlesworth. The treasurer reported a current balance of \$2,555.68. State dues will be paid for those who did not pay them directly to the Indiana State Retired Teachers. The motion was made by Kathryn Dory that our deceased retired teachers be honored with a \$100 donation to the Putnam County Community Foundation. Marcia Murtagh seconded it. The motion was passed.

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 and/or 13th check on a yearly basis. She has not been included in the Indiana public retirees discussion of benefits but Senator Bray has assured her that she will be given a seat at the table. Teachers have not been represented at that discussion. Legislators are well aware that less than 20% of Indiana retired teachers belong to the Indiana Retired Teacher's association. Increasing our membership will increase our influence with the legislature.

President Zerkel listed some benefits to belonging to IRTA including the fact that 51 active teacher grants were awarded last year, the Hands Up fund to provide one time emergency funding for a retired teacher in need.

President Zerkel announced that at the first Kiwanis Trivia night the retired teacher won first place. \$4,000 was raised by Kiwanis for Riley Hospital. The hope is that it become an annual event to raise money for Riley Hospital. Retired teachers who participated were recognized.

The 50/50 drawing was held and Betty Hazlett was given \$6.00.
Eleanor Hauser needs the volunteer hours by the end of December.

The next meeting will be March 12, 2024.

Lucy Wieland, Recording Secretary