

Putnam County Retired Teachers Meeting Minutes March 8, 2022

Twelve retired teachers and our guest speaker met at noon at The Putnam Inn. Alan Zerkel welcomed all present and introduced our guest, Matt McClelland, the Putnam County Library Director, who spoke to us before we ate lunch to accommodate his schedule. Mr McClelland came to us from Pennsylvania where he worked in school media centers and also in a prison school library. His wife is a surgeon who is working in Mooresville, Indiana. It has been a tough two years at the library but there are many exciting new things happening currently. On March 1, 2020, PCPL joined Evergreen, providing local patrons access to books from all over Indiana. The library of things loans non book items such as tools, board games, and culinary items. There is a seed swap that can provide you with free seeds. At present there are three story walks in the county. A local history database provides patrons with Putnam County records and often you are able to view the actual image. The Digital Lab provides equipment, guidance, and space for the public to digitize media. The Kiwanis room is being wired to do virtual meetings with cameras and speakers to make it an updated virtual experience. Libby and Overdrive provide patrons with e books and audio books. Kanopy is a streamable service that allows patrons to stream cinema, documentaries, and courses for free.

Following lunch, President Zerkel called the meeting to order. There have been no applicants to date for the Putnam County Retired Teachers scholarship. Mariette Barga suggested some names of potential applicants for our scholarship as there have been no inquiries as of today. Lucy Wieland will send an article to the Banner Graphic in the hope that more publication will encourage candidates to apply.

If no applicants are found we will need to consider whether or not to use the scholarship for a first year or in service teacher grant.

President Zerkel noted the virtual Red for Ed programs that have been held to advocate for teachers in the state legislature. Our own Murray Pride has been appointed to a two year term on the Indiana State Teachers Foundation board.

President Zerkel announced that the next lunch will be April 12, 2022. Items for the nonfood pantry will be collected.

Kathryn Dory was the winner of the 50/50 drawing.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucy Wieland, Recording Secretary