

PUTNAM COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS
May 14, 2024

Sixteen were present for the meeting and lunch at the Putnam Inn. Alan Zerkel welcomed us and introduced Elaine Peck director at the Putnam County Hospice and Palliative Care Association as our guest speaker, who spoke on the work of that association following our lunch. He also introduced Tara Baugh, our 2023/24 Retired Teacher Scholarship winner.

Putnam County Hospice and Palliative Care Association (PCHPCA) is a nonprofit charitable organization that has joined national, state, and community efforts seeking to enhance the quality of life for terminally ill persons, their loved ones, and their caretakers, by providing education and resources about the benefits of hospice care, palliative care, and advance care planning. The Putnam County Hospice and Palliative Care Association does not charge for its services. It relies on donations to support its work. PCHPCA is partially supported by the Putnam County Community Foundation and the Putnam County Hospital.

- PCHPCA provides FREE educational opportunities, information, tools, and resources to the general public and to Putnam County healthcare providers and systems, and we are always seeking new ways to be of greater support.
- PCHPCA does NOT provide hospice or palliative care services.
- PCHPCA does NOT provide legal or medical advice or recommend particular companies or organizations.

Specifically, PCHPCA seeks to accomplish two things:

- **Increase utilization of hospice and palliative care in Putnam County.**

PCHPCA assists the general public, patients, loved ones, caregivers, and healthcare providers to understand and access hospice and palliative care.

- **Increase advance care planning conversations in Putnam County.**

PCHPCA assists the general public, patients, loved ones, caregivers, and healthcare providers to have meaningful conversations about values and preferences for health care in the event of a serious injury or illness.

Following lunch and the speaker, Alan Zerkel convened the meeting.

Gayle Baugh, our scholarship winner will graduate in December from Vincennes University with degrees in Elementary Education and Special Education. She plans to accept a bench position in Avon for the spring semester (which means she will be a permanent substitute for a semester then have her own class the following school year.) Gayle reports that she comes from a family of educators and is looking forward to beginning her career. She has received several scholarships that have helped her to remain free of educational debt.

Unable to attend the meeting was our second winner, Evelyn Tharp.

President Zerkel reminded members that the Indiana Retired Teacher's Foundation provides the Active Teacher Grants; one-time \$500 maximum grants to active educators who foster creativity in students.

Alan reminded members that the minutes of our meeting are posted on our PCRTA web site. He vouched for the minutes of the last meeting and asked for approval. The motion was made and seconded and was approved by the members present.

The next meeting will be September 10.

Sincerely,
Lucy Wieland, Recording Secretary