

PUTNAM COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS MEETING MINUTES  
May 9, 2023

Sixteen PCRTA members and our guest speaker gathered at the Putnam Inn. Following lunch, Alan Zerkel called the meeting to order. Maureen Wagner introduced our speaker, Russell Harvey. Russell is the current director of Main Street Greencastle and served on the Greencastle School Board before that. A native of Steubenville, Ohio, Russell is the youngest of 7 boys and was raised in poverty by a single mother. He left Steubenville to join the navy. He married and became the dad of three. When that relationship ended he became a single dad of three. He credits his mother with making sure family needs were met and drew on her example when times were tough for him. His community supported him and he encouraged us to support others as he was supported.

Russell has served the community as CASA, Care Net, Opportunity Housing, and Putnam County Foundation board. He worked at Crown before Main Street. As Main Street director he sees the need to keep the flavor of a small town but to make improvements in businesses and preserve the historical buildings. He wants to keep things affordable for those of limited means. He encouraged us to volunteer for First Friday and to donate to Main Street Greencastle. When asked about conflicts between his Main Street Greencastle and City Council positions, he said if there are conflicts he must abstain from voting. He urged us to contact him at (765)247-8136 with questions and issues.

Alan Zerkel reviewed the sad news of no 13<sup>th</sup> check or COLA. Alan, Mary, Mariette, and Lucy will attend the Representative Assembly in June. Michael Fisher informed us that Sandy Rissler, retired South Putnam Teacher has just had open heart surgery in Community North. Diana Van Middlesworth has recovered from artificial ankle surgery and she and Gary will serve as guides in Arcadia National Park again this summer. Gary reported that retired teachers' buying power has decreased by 27%.

Reghan Christy has been awarded the 2022-23 PCRTA scholarship.

The next meeting will be in September.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucy Wieland, Recording Secretary