

Putnam County Retired Teachers Meeting Minutes November 9, 2021

Sixteen retired teachers and our guest speaker met at noon at The Putnam Inn. Alan Zerkel welcomed all present, we said the Pledge of Allegiance, introduced our guest, Lisa Mock, the current Putnam County Museum, executive director. Murray Pride gave the invocation before we enjoyed visiting while we ate our lunch.

Alan introduced our speaker, Lisa Mock. She was born in Muncie, but raised in Morgan County. She moved to Putnam County in 1992. She graduated from Ball State with History and Classical Studies degrees. She has a background in research, fund and friend raising, antiques, and art. She previously working in finance with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis before moving to the Indianapolis Museum of Art Development department. At the IMA she collaborated on research findings on companies, foundations and individuals for use in membership cultivation activities.

Lisa moved to Greencastle and became director of membership and development for the Society of Professional Journalists, overseeing the national membership initiatives and philanthropy processes.

Lisa was hired at the Putnam County Museum in early 2015.

Lisa called attention to the world class textile exhibit of Martha Opdahl's textile art. The daily cost of operating the museum has increased by \$150 since it opened six years ago. Museum doors have been kept open during COVID thanks to the payroll protection plan loan. An online presence was developed and maintained. The web site has improved and more services are being offered online. You Tube talks from our local historian are available. The PC Museum went into COVID and has survived due to previous sound business practices established by board and staff.

Old Trail dinners were very popular and may return. The trains will not be coming back next year. Future plans include expanding into the unused space that is now rented. She mentioned the unique displays of a reassembled peg loom and a historic gunsmith display. Books on small county communities are available in the gift store as is Putnam County pottery.

Eleanor Hauser asked that we keep track of our volunteer hours and get them to her by the end of December. The form is on the PCRTA web site.

Treasurer Terri McKee summarized the financial report:

- Check to Putnam Inn, 17 lunch buffets (16 pd + speaker @ \$12) \$204
- Dues Deposit, 6 members (\$20 x 6) \$120, 16 lunches @ \$12, \$192, 50/50, \$7, Scholarship, \$57 for total deposit of \$376
- Ending balance in checking account is \$2,525.60 after the November meeting

Minutes of the PCRTA meetings are posted on the web site.

President Zerkel reviewed the information that there will be no 13th check this year or next year. A COLA was approved by the state legislature but it is much less than the 13th check has been, amounting to a decrease in teacher retirement benefits. Lobbying is active but Mr. Pride noted the Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents is not as active as it once was.

President Zerkel reminded us to recruit applicants for our scholarship. If no applicants are found we will need to consider whether or not to use the scholarship for a first year orin service teacher grant.

President Zerkel announced that the next lunch will be March 8, 2022. Items for the nonfood pantry will be collected. He made available informational flyers about the Indiana Retired Teacher's Association that members can use to help recruit new active members.

Eleanor Hauser was the winner of the 50/50 drawing.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucy Wieland, Recording Secretary