

PUTNAM COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

April 9, 2019

Alan Zerkel opened the April meeting of the Putnam County Retired Teachers Association meeting at the Putnam Inn by introducing our speaker, Eric Claflin, Director of Operation Life since 2014, who spoke to us on Operation Life Ambulance Service. Eric gave us a thorough national state, and local history of emergency medical services. Ambulance service used to be provided by funeral homes. DePauw University began the first community emergency medical services program. Until 1982 staff was volunteer but in 1982 some staff were paid and by 2000 all staff were paid. EMS has to accept whatever insurance allows which is only part of the cost. County agencies must pay the balance. Putnam County EMS staff income is \$42,000 or \$17 per hour. There is no retirement plan. Due to the low pay and relatively higher pay in other medical professions, there has been a 35% decrease in the work force. Each run averages 3 ½ hours. Two people are on each run. Fire department staff are usually sent out for each emergency as well.

Putnam County Emergency Medical Services is under the jurisdiction of the board of directors. Since PCEMS revenues do not cover the cost and the county will find it difficult to fund deficit unless there is a significant local tax increase, the future of PCEMS will have to be decided soon. There will be a joint meeting of the county council and county commissioners to discuss this issue and get citizen input. All are urged to be alert for the date of the meeting and plan to attend. The alternative to PCEMS would be for profit ambulance services.

During the question and answer session, Mr. Claflin agreed with Police Chief Tom Sutherlin that the biggest county drug issue is with SPICE. It is relatively cheap, easy to obtain, and very deadly. It is difficult to work with due to variable ingredients and in its effect on users.

19 members enjoyed lunch and conversation.

Following lunch Alan Zerkel called the meeting to order. The minutes were approved as sent to members and Treasurer Terry McKee reported a balance of \$1105 at the end of the last meeting. Both reports were accepted by members.

Nominations for the next biennium for vice president and treasurer were in order. Carolyn Mann made the motion that Betty Hazlett be re-elected vice president and Terry McKee be re-elected as treasurer. Mary Zerkel seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mariette Bargaen attended the IRTA legislative breakfast this morning.

In May Lynne Cox, IRTA Area 4 Director, will present updates from Indiana Retired Teachers Association. Maureen has volunteered to coordinate speakers for next year. She asked for suggestions. Recommendations were Sherriff Stockton speaking on county law enforcement issues and Larry Tippin, local historian speaking on tiny towns in Putnam County.

Mickey Meehan won the 50/50 drawing of @ ½ of \$24=\$12.

Meeting was adjourned.

Lucy Wieland
Recording Secretary