

PUTNAM COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

March 12, 2019

Alan Zerkel opened the March meeting of the Putnam County Retired Teachers Association meeting at the Putnam Inn by introducing our speaker, Greencastle Chief of Police, Tom Sutherlin. Tom has worked 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ years with the Greencastle Police Department. He is a 1987 graduate of Greencastle High School. He gave us some information about his early life in Greencastle. He said that there are 14 officers in the Greencastle Police Department that grew up in Greencastle. He gave us information and statistics about illegal drug use in Greencastle for the past few years. He said that methamphetamine and marijuana are the predominant illegal drugs of choice but alcohol, controlled substances, heroin, and spice are all used, too. In 2017 alone there were 34 arrests in Greencastle for possession of methamphetamine. All officers are trained to administer Narcan for overdose cases. Narcan has been administered five times in 2017 and five or six times in 2018. Narcan is provided through a state grant and costs about \$30 per dose. Sometimes more than one dose has to be administered to save a life. Late 20s and early 30s are the average age of substance abusers in the city. Greencastle Police department participates in Drug Takeback day twice a year. 3,000 pounds of drugs have been collected in the fifteen events held in the city. Those convicted of drug offenses are usually sentenced to attend substance abuse classes and complete regular drug screens. Chief Sutherlin is on the Putnam County Recovery Committee. Tom reported that it takes at least 180 days of treatment for someone to become clean.

Lucy Wieland offered a blessing for the meal and we enjoyed a delicious lunch and lively conversation.

Following lunch Alan Zerkel announced:

- April 9 there is a legislative breakfast at the state house.
- Information for the Putnam County Retired Teacher scholarship is posted on the web site and has been submitted to the Banner Graphic and the Hoosier Topics for publication.
- There will be a Farm to Fork fundraiser to benefit local scholarships on September 28.
- The Transformer group is activating a new mentorship program called Edge 21 to help local eligible students apply for, and meet the requirements to receive 21st Century Scholarships and successfully complete their education.

Minutes of the November 13, 2018 were read and approved.

Terry McKee reported a beginning balance of \$823.04. \$16 was collected for 50/50 drawing. The winner was Mary Zerkel, who won \$8. She reported an ending balance of \$1,105.04.

Next month's meeting will be April 9. Eric Claflin, Director of Operation Life, will speak on Operation Life Ambulance Service.

Eleanor Hauser reported that the volunteer hours for last year were 3,427 $\frac{3}{4}$.

The meeting was adjourned.

Lucy Wieland
Recording Secretary