

Putnam County Retired Teachers Meeting Minutes October 12, 2021

Thirteen retired teachers met at noon at The Putnam Inn. Alan Zerkel welcomed all present and introduced our guest, Laura Penman, the current Executive Director of IRTA. Each person present introduced themselves.

Members enjoyed lunch and an informative talk given by Laura. Laura was an active educator until last April when she became our executive director. Her goal is to serve retired teachers. IRTA serves all retired teachers regardless of whether or not they join IRTA. Less than half of all retired teachers pay dues to join. She is fighting for get the 13th check for all retired teachers. She has personally helped several retired teachers who have had benefits issues. Our state does protect teacher retirement benefits but we do not have a guaranteed COLA. We have an excellent lobbyist. Laura may be reached at lpnman@retiredteachers.org, work phone 317-637-7481, and cell phone 812-6065-2984. She welcomes any questions we may have.

Mary Zerkel, substituting for the treasurer, stated that the balance on hand at the beginning of the meeting is \$2,176.60.

President Zerkel asked again that we be alert for candidates for this year's scholarship and ask that candidates go on our PCRTA website and complete an application for the scholarship. Candidates need to be in their college sophomore or junior year with a teaching major and a graduate of one of the four high schools in the county.

Eleanor Hauser asked that we keep track of our volunteer hours. The form is on the PCRTA web site.

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

President Zerkel announced that the next lunch will be November 9.

Maureen Wagner is arranging the program by the VanMiddlesworths talking about their retirement work at National Parks or Lisa Mock at the Museum.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucy Wieland, Recording Secretary