**St. Bernard Retired Teachers’ Association Meeting**

**Cosinos Italian Grill, Sanctuary Room**

**Mandeville, LA**

**June 15, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by President Paul Grethel at 11:40 a.m.

The invocation was given by Anna “Weidy” Weidenhaft.

Recording Secretary Mickey Lux read the minutes of the last meeting. President Grethel asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes, and Dr. James Taylor said a correction was needed concerning his position in LRTA. He said he is the Retiree Representative of LRTA, not the Executive director as stated in the minutes. The minutes were amended to correct the error, and they were accepted as corrected.

Dr. James Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance, after which Anna “Weidy” Weidenhaft reminded members that there is no comma between “one nation” and “under God,” and that there should be no pause between them when reading the Pledge of Allegiance aloud.

Treasurer Hugh Craft reported a balance of $13,800.31. He said we have 174 members but cautioned we could do better. The fellowship of this organization is most important. We are probably the most active groups in the state. We need to keep on the drive so we can look out for the benefits of retirees.

Anna “Weidy” Weidenhaft suggested that we have an end of the year luncheon for all the teachers who are retiring from the St. Bernard School System at that time, and we can talk to each of them one on one about joining our unit. The luncheon would be free for them. Dr. Craft said that it was an excellent suggestion.

President Grethel said that the brochures that Cindy Kooke distributed to the membership today are the ones he created for SBRTA. He said he used the photo we took at the Christmas luncheon where we look so happy and active. He said that if we know any retirees who could join our unit, we should take some brochures and hand them out to these perspective members. He said that Janis Hernandez, first vice president of LRTA, took our brochure and showed it to all the other units across the state.

President Grethel informed members that he and Cindy Kooke attended a District 1 meeting in June. Janis Hernandez, first vice president of LRTA wants SBRTA as well as all units across the state to have recruitment meetings in either the late fall or early winter. President Grethel said he was going to have our meeting in Slidell, but feels we need to get this organization centered in St. Bernard Parish.

President Grethel informed the membership that since Katrina, St. Bernard Parish has the lowest number of members in LRTA because they look at where we live rather than the parish where we taught.

The restaurant started to serve the meal, so President Grethel said that we would continue our discussion of how to increase membership in SBRTA after we enjoy our lunch and fellowship.

After the luncheon, the discussion continued on why it is so important to increase our membership and ways to do it. President Grethel informed the membership that it costs $30.00 a year to join LRTA, and that LRTA also has an associate membership for active teachers who have not yet retired, and it costs $12.00 a year. SBRTA membership for retirees is $10.00, and the dues for an active teacher who has not yet retired is also $10.00.

President Grethel announced that the recruitment meeting that Janis Hernandez told us to have will be held on November 1, 2018, at 4 p.m. for all teachers in the St. Bernard Parish School System at Rocky and Carlo’s Restaurant in Chalmette. We will talk about the Associate memberships at this meeting. President Grethel said he will also invite retirees who have not joined the SBRTA.

Rosemary Gioia asked President Grethel if he checked the calendar to see if November 1 is a conference day or a holiday. It was discovered that November 1 will be a holiday for teachers, and November 6 is a professional development day. President Grethel said he will have to change the date.

Dr. Craft said that we could probably get a better deal if we held the luncheon at the St. Bernard School Board Office café and let Joni Blum handle the menu. He said we could get ham or roast beef poboys.

President Grethel informed the membership that December 2019 is election of new officers for SBRTA.

President Grethel recognized Mickey Lux, Denise Cooper, and Lynne Dier for representing SBRTA in the St. Bernard Parish Spelling Bee.

President Grethel urged members to try to go to the District Meetings.

There was discussion about the end of the year meeting with retirees from the St. Bernard Parish School System right after school in the school board office.

President Grethel distributed sheets that list different committees in SBRTA for which members can sign up and told us to update them.

President Grethel said that every year he has the duty of selecting someone for Retiree of the Year. To assist him in doing this, he made up a form for us to fill out listing any volunteer work we have done for charities, community groups, churches, schools, and other organizations. He said that members can update these sheets at every meeting.

President Grethel said SBRTA will continue to collect school supplies at the meetings and will distribute them to schools around Christmas time.

President Grethel said that Rodney Watson, LRTA Executive Director, was going to speak, but he could not make the meeting due to a family emergency. President Grethel asked Mr. Watson what he wanted him to say at the meeting, and he gave him notes. President Grethel read from the notes he took from Rodney Watson and added some information of his own. He stressed the importance of LRTA. He said that thanks to LRTA, no changes were made to our pension, there will not be a Constitutional Convention, and we were able to maintain our retirement income from state income tax in the second session. LRTA lobbied against several bills that threatened our benefit plan.

President Grethel encouraged members to vote for Dr. James Taylor if they had not done so yet.

President Grethel then turned the podium over to Dr. Taylor. He spoke about how TRSL was a part of his life since he was a third grader. He then complimented our organization on how SBRTA is one of the model units in the state. He asked us to call every member of SBRTA who is not at the meeting, and to ask that member to vote for him.

President Grethel said that year SBRTA awards a $500.00 scholarship to Nunez Community College to a student at Chalmette High School. President Grethel said the student who received the scholarship this year was Madison Brandt. He said that he asked her to contact him so he could learn more about her and because he might invite her to one of our meetings.

The Memorial service for SBRTA members who have passed away since June of 2017 was conducted. Diane Walther, Mickey Lux, Anna “Weidy” Weidenhaft, and Cindy Kooke read while President Grethel lit the candles during the ceremony.

President Grethel gave the dates and locations of the upcoming meetings.

Tickets for the door prizes were pulled, and the half and half prize of $71.00 was won by Mickey Lux.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michaele “Mickey” Lux, Recording Secretary