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

**March 22, 2019**

**Dockville Farm - Meraux, Louisiana**

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

President Grethel welcomed everyone and informed them that it was National Retired Teachers Day. He got everyone into the spirit of a crawfish boil by showing a painting of what he called “The Second to Last Supper,” which featured the famous painting of Leonardo Da Vinci, “The Last Supper,” with substitutions inserted. The substitutions were symbols of St. Bernard Parish and a crawfish boil, such as a platter of boiled crawfish on the table, shrimp boots, Dixie Beer, the Kaiser Aluminum smokestack, Time Picayune newspaper, and a sign about the Krewe of Arabi.

The invocation was offered by Les Scharfenstein.

Patsy Romero led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recording Secretary Mickey Lux read the minutes of the December 2, 2018 meeting. A motion was made by Tom Harrison that the minutes be accepted as read. It was seconded. The minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer Rosemary Gioia gave the treasurer’s report. She reported that the organization has $12, 290.45 as of the end of February. Janet Schwary moved to accept the report, and it was seconded and voted on resulting in the treasurer’s report being approved as read.

President Grethel reported on the delivery of the school supplies that the SBRTA members had been bringing to meetings all year. The supplies were donated to Chalmette Elementary School and W. Smith Elementary School in St. Bernard Parish. He said he itemized everything, and it totaled $1,200.00 worth of school supplies with each school having received $600.00 worth of supplies. Members were reminded to continue bringing in school supplies or money donations to purchase supplies to our meetings.

Rodney Watson, the Executive Director of LRTA, spoke to the membership about the upcoming Legislative Session. He provided the members with two handouts, one with a list of bills that have been submitted plus information of how we can contact the legislators. The other was two copies of a letter that he wrote for us. He said we are free to copy them and to use the two envelopes that he provided. One envelope was addressed to Senator Barrow Peacock and the other was addressed to Representative Kevin Pearson. He told the members not to send the letters until April 1, 2019. He then explained the two major bills of interest. One was Senate Bill 14, submitted by Senator Barrow Peacock, the chairman of the Retirement Committee, which concerns the term limits of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Watson told us we should just remain neutral on this bill because we want to keep our Trustees, who are Dr. James Taylor and Jerry Boudan, and we want to keep Senator Peacock on our side. He said that the second bill is the one we should be concerned with. It is Bill 28 submitted by Representative Barry Ivey. It has to do with changing our retirement plan to another one that is inferior to the one we presently have. This is the bill we need to fight against.

Mr. Watson spoke about the upcoming governor’s race. He said that Governor Edwards is on our side, and we should vote on the issues rather than the party.

Dr. James Taylor spoke and reiterated what Rodney Williams had just said. He said that we must let legislators know that retirement systems are not a drag on the state, and that we are one of the largest contributors. He said we meet three goals: 1) We contribute to the economy of the state. 2) We provide a steady income at a level higher than Social Security. 3) We are major recruiting tools for getting young people into teaching. He ended by telling the membership to keep taking care of each other and to recruit more to join LRTA.

The business meeting paused while the luncheon took place.

After the luncheon, the meeting continued.

President Grethel announced that Mickey Lux was selected as Retired Teacher of the Year. She was presented with an engraved plaque and a cake which she cut and shared with members and their guests.

Sam Pilet, representing AMBA, spoke to the membership about the insurance which includes vision and dental insurance. He also spoke about MASA, Medical Air Services Association, which is a pre-paid emergency air transportation company. He provided handouts concerning the information.

Mr. Grethel announced that the SBRTA spelling team won first place in the annual Rotary Club Spelling Bee held Chalmette High School in February. They brought home a large trophy. The members of the team were Cindy “Puddy” Kooke, Denise Cooper, and Kristen Kooke Carbo.

President Grethel announced that Carolon Craft is running for the District 6 St. Bernard Parish School Board seat. He said if anyone would like to help her distribute handouts, flyers, and/or letters, to let her know.

Carolon Craft spoke to the membership about the LRTA Foundation which helps teachers in need and how important it is.

President Grethel said that SBRTA has agreed to donate $100.00 from its treasury to the Foundation in honor of Dr. Hugh Craft. He then asked Carla Deckelmann to pass a basket around the room in case members would like to add their own personal donations.

The tickets for the door prizes were pulled.

The winning half and half raffle ticket was drawn. The winner of the $96.00 was Rosalyn Smith.

The next meeting would be held on Friday, June 21, 2019, and that it would probably be on the North Shore.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michaele A. “Mickey” Lux, Recording Secretary