

**MASON COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS
MARCH 12, 2019**

A delicious luncheon was served by the Forest City Community Church to 31 members and guests, Larry Newman and Lori Fairfield who represented IRTA Benefits. Bernice Hall received the free meal. We welcomed new member Crystal Deppert of Midwest Central. A blessing was recited from the IRTA booklet.

PROGRAM

Members enjoyed sharing their favorite teaching memories. Larry Newman and Lori Fairfield gave a presentation highlighting IRTA Member Benefits, which include health insurance, technology, Dental and Vision Ins. Investment products, Life Ins., My AMBA Discounts.com, one time home health care, MASA, and Annuities. A drawing for gift cards was done at the end of the meeting.

MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 1 pm, followed by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. A big thank you was given to the ladies of the church for the great meal, the Program Committee for the table favors, as well as our IRTA guests. Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The motion was made by Georgeen Wagner and seconded by Bernice Hall. Pat Hovey reported a balance of \$1,966.39 in the bank for Sandy Potorff, who was absent. The report was filed for audit.

COMMUNICATIONS

A lovely thank you note was read from Kaitlyn Strauman for the \$200 given by the group for the Illini Central Library. It was also noted that Rita Badger fell, fracturing her tibia and tearing the cartilage. We wish her rapid healing.

MEMORIALS

“An Irish Blessing” was read to honor the passing of Richard Showalter and Sid VanEtten.

LEGISLATIVE/EMAIL

No report

NEWSPAPER

No report

WEBSITE

No report

EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT

No report

FOUNDATION

Donna Stelter explained that \$36,500 is available for special teaching projects for Illinois teachers from the Excellence in Education Grants. The deadline for applying is June 2. Information has been given to all 3 schools.

IRTA also offers 2 scholarships for juniors or seniors in college who are in the program. Donna read the guidelines.

NOMINATIONS

Anyone interested in becoming or remaining an officer for the next two year term is encouraged to contact Sue McClure, Jeanne, Wunderle or Luellen Betzelberger. The new slate of officers will be presented at the September 10th meeting. New Officers will begin January 1, 2020.

AUDIT

No report

OLD BUSINESS

Terri reminded us that dues of \$10 can be paid today, if you haven't already. A discussion was held about the difference between our county organization, MCRTA, and the state organization, IRTA. You can join the county, but not the state.

NEW BUSINESS

The IRTA BICENTENNIAL CONVENTION will be Oct. 14-15. All local units are asked to donate a prize basket or give a monetary donation. Proceeds for that go to the IRTA Political Action Committee. A motion was made to donate \$100 by Bernice Hall and seconded by Kris Hahn.

No one volunteered to be an IRTA officer or Area Representative. Nominations are due June 1.

IRTA would like input for the proposed constitutional changes and resolutions. You can go to www.irtaonline.org if you are interested. The link is also in your handbook.

Rich Frankenfeld from TRS would like to share the latest information regarding the governor's pension funding plan and legislated changes to TRS. The consensus was yes. Terri will schedule that.

Chris VanEtten and Terri McDowell agreed to work on updating our own by-laws, which were last changed in 2006. Rosalie Wilmot agreed to make the final copies.

Our next meeting is May 14, 2019 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Havana. The programs will be Dan Sleaford of Weaver Popcorn and Dixie Wheeler, the Region 10 Legislative Representative.

Thanks to Darla Westergreen for showing samples of Carol Farlin's work. Carol was unable to present the program today.

Lois Craig will receive the free meal in May.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Karen Barrett, Seretary