**Mason County Retired Teachers**

**May 14, 2019**

**Once again Jim Winkleman served a group of 33 retired teachers and guest a wonderful meal at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Havana. Lois Craig received the free meal. We welcomed Dan Sleaford and Matt Miller of Weaver Popcorn and IRTA Region 10 Representative, Sally Weber. A prayer was recited from the MCRTA Handbook.**

**PROGRAM**

**Sally Weber shared ideas form her group in Peoria about leaving candy in the teachers’ lounge in all county schools for teachers and a great example of an informational flyer to distribute to teachers so they know the benefits of being an IRTA member.**

**Dan Sleaford and Matt Miller gave an interesting overview of the Weaver Poporn operation. The company began in 1928 in Van Burean, IN. The Rev. I. E. Weaver, a minister at the Methodist Church in Bureau, found that his church needed to expand. They determined to raise and sell popcorn as a fund raiser for a building addition. That was the beginning. Son Welcome Weaver, after getting a patent for the stryofoam cup, returned to the family business. Welcome’s sons ran the company and now the grandsons do. The employees have always been treated like family.**

**Today, Weaver sells to eighty countries with the base operation in Bureau, IN. Weaver Popcorn grows and packages 136,000,000 bushels of popcorn in Mason County. Mason County is the number one producer of popcorn in the U.S**

**MEETING**

**Co-President Chris VanEtten called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.**

**MINUTES**

**Minutes were read and approved the motion was made by Mary Caldwell and seconded by Luellen Betzelberger.**

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

**The balance on hand May 14. 2019 was $1, 894.39. The $100 donation to IRTA-PAC, approved in March, has been sent. The report will be filed for audit.**

**MEMORIALS**

**Mary Caldwell honored Mary Ann Budke of Manito and Helene Lee Shafer by reading their obituaries and a poem, “A Special Tribute”.**

**LEGISLATIVE/E-MAIL**

**Bonnie Kammeyer recommended reading the Mason County Democrat State House Report.**

**NEWSPAPER – No report**

**WEBSITE**

**Kathy Cihlar has updated the website and asked for photos**

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Sandy Potorff reported that almost 100% of dues have been paid.**

**PROGRAMS**

**The Program Committee would like your ideas.**

**EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT No report**

**FOUNDATION**

**Donna Stelter reported on several things:**

1. **A $10,000 raffle will be held at the 2019 IRTA Convention. Chances are presently being sold for $20 each or 3 for $50 and are available from member, the IRTA office or online.**
2. **Financial Assistance Report – Currently 8 people are receiving assistance on a monthly basis ranging from $200 to $650. Real estate taxes are being paid for two people. The total annual assistance is $44, 050. One-time expenses may be included.**
3. **Scholarship Report – Susan Goetz announced winners of the Moler-Austin scholarships. From 49 applications, 6 IRTA scholarships were granted, plus 2 additional scholarships through the generosity of an IRTA member. At this time, the recommendations are for any junior or senior in college who might qualify. These will be discussed at the fall board meeting. They do not consider those on a 5 year plan.**
4. **Excellence in Education Grants - These grants totaling $36,000 are available statewide to active teachers. Applicants may apply online with requests due June 1. Repeat winners won’t be allowed.**

**AUDIT – No report**

**NOMINATIONS**

**Luellen Betzelberger thanked everyone for accepting their calls. Members are encouraged to volunteer for the following positions: One Co-president, secretary, and legislative e-mail. Officers take office January 1, 2020. The proposed slate of officers includes:**

**Co-President Bonnie Kammeyer – vacant**

**Secretary vacant**

**Treasurer Sandy Pottorf**

**Area Chairpersons**

**Havana – Marilyn Stout**

**Illini Central – Pat Showalter**

**Midwest Central – Connie Friedrich**

**Public Relations – Legislative E-Mail – vacant**

**Newspaper Rita Badger**

**Web page Kathy Cihlar**

**Educational Prog. Mary Caldwell**

**Darla Westergreen**

**Kris Hahn**

**Membership Sandy Pottorff**

**Nominations Sue McClure**

**Rosalie Wilmot**

**Luellen Betzelberger**

**Foundation Donna Stelte**

**Memorials Jeanne Wunderle**

**Audit Pat Showalter**

**Educational Enrichment**

**Sue Straumen**

**Betty Garlisch**

**Kathy Cihlar**

**OLD BUSINESS – No report**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Nominations are open for the Mason County Honoree for the Biennial IRTA Convention this fall. Our unit is encouraged to nominate 1 member for recognition. Dates are October 14-15 at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield; the honoree banquet is the night of Oct. 14. The nominee must be turned in by night of Aug. 1. No one has signed to attend the convention at this point. Three delegates are paid for registration, meals, and hotel rooms. Non-delegates pay their own way.**

**There is an Area 4 Leadership Training Session at the Northfield Inn in Springfield, June 4, 8:30 – 12:30; any member may attend especially new officers. The cost is $10 per person, including a buffet breakfast. Attendees names are due by May 28th, if e-mailed by May 28th , the club pays for up to eight people.**

**New retirees include Vicki Bonnett and Sue Hallmark – Havana, Rita Kleinschmidt – Illini Central, Teresa Heinhorst and Dee Hohenshell – Midwest Central Two other names mentioned were Lynn Cours and Skip Reining We pay their dues the first year if they join. They will be invited to the September meeting.**

**The next meeting is July 9, 2019 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 110 S Park Ave., Manito. Food pantry donations of canned goods or money will be collected. This year donations go to the Havana Food Pantry. Our program will be Vanessa Bennett, Havana Public Librarian and Rich Frankenfeld to share TRS legislation and changes.**

**Donna Stelter won the free meal. Weaver Popcorn left a generous amount of Weaver products for us, as well as a small jar of popcorn for every member. The meeting was adjourned at 2:23 .**

**Respectfully submitted by Karen Barrett**