

Minutes for Carrollton-Farmers Branch Retired School Personnel Association Wednesday, February 17, 2021

10:30 to 11PM: 38 Members signed in to Zoom, facilitated by Lyn Abercrombie. Della called the meeting to order at 11:01 AM.

- Della Swaim and Lori Smith greeted and recognized members and visitors: Debbie Caiola and Sandra Barber, District 10 President.
- Della discussed the loss of some members in RSPA groups across the state due in part to COVID-19's restrictions of in-person meetings. Judy Cary reported that our unit lost 9 members.
- Della stated that dues for 2021-2022 can be sent to Judy Carey's address.
- Lori Smith led the pledges.

Introduction of Speaker

- Pat Enlow introduced Kathy Anderson of Blooming Colors with information about gardening. Kathy has presented to us in the past. Kathy focused first on how to care for landscaping gardens because of the historic cold and snow in February. Kathy emphasized that pruning dead appearing plants should not occur until the end of March, and trees should not be trimmed. She noted that roses do need to be pruned now because it stimulates new growth, as members refer to the pruning handout. She added information about how to care for diseased rose plants. Kathy modeled the best way to trim plants is to create a vase shape, with the center open. She also discussed the best fertilizer to apply on lawns while directing members to the handout. Kathy shared the best blossoming plants and their seasonal flowerings. In closing, Kathy answered specific questions from the members.
- Pat Enlow thanked Kathy for the timely presentation. Pat announced the presenter for April 21 meeting will be Karen Dawson of Southlake Travel who will present information about some travel ideas that meet the new regulations on travel.

Announcements

- **Healthy Living** Carol Sprawls, Chairperson, shared the success of our WAT teams. They learned more about Texas and received attention in the new weekly A and M Newsletter: "Agri-Life": 3 of our 5 teams stayed in the top 5 rankings out of 42 teams, 5 members were highlighted, and one team was spotlighted. Carol emphasized the exemplary motivation of the WAT leaders and teams. She led members in a stretch break.
- Della Swaim announced the TRTA groups cannot meet in person until the end of June. All meetings will be virtual.
- **Information & Protective Services** Della Swaim reminded members of the importance of recognizing scams via phone call, texts, emails that attempt to access and steal personal

information There is an increase in sophisticated, believable scams, so everyone is vulnerable. Linda Bambina gave general examples of types of scamming phone calls like your car's warranty has expired. Linda pointed out the best choice is not answering a phone number you do not recognize.

- **Volunteer Hours Kay** Edmondson reported that she submitted 16,371 hours from 52 members to the state TRTA. Debbie Moss accrued the most hours: 1,167.
- **Presentation of Proposed Slate of Officers** Lee Nitcholas thanked Della Swaim for her 4 years of service as President and nominating committee who included Kathy McWhorter and Linda Tole. The nominees for the 2021-2022 years are: President, Beth Sargent; First Vice-President, Shaima Hakimi; Second Vice-President, Lori McCall; Secretary, Darcy Perreault; Treasure, Judy Carey.
- **Election of 2021-2022 Officers** was then directed by Linda Tole, Parliamentarian who first called for any other nomination for each officer position. No new nominations occurred. Linda then asked members to approve the slate of officers as stated. Linda Bambina moved that the officer slate be approved by acclamation. Debbie Moss seconded the motion. Linda Tole asked the members to approve the slate of officers by raising their hands. Linda announced that all members unanimously approved the slate of officers. Della noted that Sandra Barber, Region 10 President, is present at our meeting and will be inducting the new officers at the May meeting.
- **Minutes, posted online** Darcy Perreault, Secretary
- **Financial Report, posted online** Judy Carey, Treasurer
- **Legislative Report** Pat Enlow noted the importance of the "Red Letter Campaign" *Voice* booklet that members will receive. Its purpose is for members to write letters to their legislative representatives about the upcoming issues that will affect TRS benefits, noting that letters are the most influential in impacting legislators' support for these issues. Pat stated that presently the key issues for TRTA look promising in terms of passing. These items are: Sunset issue that includes transparency and member involvement in decision making, TRS healthcare sound for the next 2 years, and because TRS is actuarially sound, a possible COLA. The federal WEP bill looks possible in passing. Pat answered questions from members. Pat shared the information about the ZOOM state convention on April 5-8 and how to use the flier to register for sessions.
- **Book Project** Pat Enlow provided an update about the Book Project. 1041 books will be delivered to McCoy and Las Colinas this year. Pat thanked Gail Schwamb for her dedication in selecting, ordering appropriate books for each grade level, then sorting, and packaging them for delivery. Pat thanked Linda Bambina for obtaining a C-FB book storage facility for the books. Della added that she has applied for book grants, but COVID has limited resources for many nonprofits. She is hoping we will receive one.
- **Retirement Seminar** Mary Eisenmann stated that the seminar had to be rescheduled because of the winter storm. The new date is March 27 at 9AM. Other districts have been added as participants. C-FB has the most potential retirees: 148. Mary gave credit to Shaima Hakimi in

helping identify potential retirees and to Dawn Parnell, Communications Director of C-FB who contacted them.

- **Door Prize** Debbie Moss randomly drew a name for a \$25.00 Dickey's BBQ gift certificate. The winner was Debbie Caiola.

Della Swaim adjourned the meeting at 12:54 PM.

Darcy Perreault, Secretary

Della Swaim, President

Date approved