

Carrollton- Farmers Branch Retired School Personnel Association

General Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, February 16, 2022

Facilitated by Lori McCall on Zoom

President Beth Sargent called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM. 1st Vice-President Shaima Hakimi led the pledges.

- **Membership** Shaima Hakimi announced that members who pay their dues (state and local) by March 1 will be eligible for a gift card drawing. Several associates joined during the recent Retirement Seminar in February. The school district will be forwarding a list of retirees for the year.
- **Treasurer Report** Judy Carey updated our membership numbers based on payment of dues. She noted we may lose 8 members. Linda Bambina called 9 members who will pay their dues, and Beth Sargent thanked her for this important work. Judy explained that if fees are not paid, the state deletes the member.
- **Secretary Report** Darcy Perreault stated the minutes are posted online.
- **Legislative Update** Pat Enlow shared current information about the upcoming primary election. Early voting is February 14-28 with the election day on March 1. Pat noted the email she sent to members on January 23 that provides resources concerning the election. Pat updated members concerning the focus of TRTA. One is COLA and the other is WEP, a federal bill that affects members who earned Social Security and do not receive the full amount they are owed. She encouraged members to call their representatives.
- **Volunteer Community Service** Kay Edmondson shared the volunteer hours reported to the district and state, 24,477 by 63 members. This is an increase of 8,106 hours compared to 2020 's recorded hours.
- **Field Trip** Stefani Johnson highlighted the upcoming field trip to the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum scheduled for February 23. There will be 24 attendees, 6 drivers, and lunch at Ellen's Restaurant. Lee Nitcholas discussed possible field trips in the coming months.
- **Healthy Living** Carol Sprawls updated the WAT teams who after 3 weeks of the 8 week challenge have walked half of the total miles. Kim Kockritz received the Star Walker of the Week accolade for the most miles walked out of 400 participants.
- **Member Benefits** Cindy Hardy reported that the lawsuit between AMBA and Trident is not resolved, but those members currently enrolled in AMBA will continue those services.
- **Retirement Education** Mary Eisemann provided information about the ZOOM TRS Retirement Seminar held in early February. A total of 500 teachers enrolled but technical difficulties caused only 100 to initially log on. They were able to switch to another ZOOM to solve the problem. Shaima recruited 4 new members from this group.
- **Door Prize** Mary Johnson and Jamie Smith presented the winners with their creative door prize.

- **Children’s Book Project** 2nd Vice-President Lori McCall noted that 2,400 books have been procured for the project and will be delivered in April or May depending on the school’s best delivery time. Lori thanked Gretchen Biery for the outstanding job she did this year. This position will need to be filled for next year. Lori added that Gretchen has documented and organized all the resources.
- **Program Introduction** Lori McCall welcomed Carol Rowley, a Denton County Master Gardener who shared her expertise about spring gardening. She instructed members about North Texas herbs. Her presentation included the variety of herbs that are viable in North Texas and their individual care, from preparing the soil to landscapes, containers, fragrances and how to use herbs in cooking. She closed the presentation with “Herb Fun Facts” and an online resource.
- **Other Business:** Beth shared a request from Linda Bambina to help the Farmers Branch Library by donating hardback books without the covers for an artist’s creation for the library and their need for volunteers. Beth will follow up with an email link to the project.

Judy Carey discussed becoming a Diamond member by paying dues through a withdrawal from the annuity. There have been some problems with the technology, but Judy will be clarifying the issue and letting members know.

President Beth Sargent adjourned the meeting at 12:50 PM.

<u>Darcy Perreault</u>	<u>3/14/2022</u>
Darcy Perreault, Secretary	Date Approved
<u>Beth Sargent</u>	<u>3/14/2022</u>
Beth Sargent, President	Date Approved

President Beth Sargent stated the next C-FB RSPA meeting will be April 20 with Tim Lee as our speaker.