

COBB-MARIETTA RETIRED EDUCATORS MEETING

August 10, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Janet Robison at 11:10 am.

WELCOME-

Janet welcomed everyone to the meeting. She asked that the Board members meet briefly after the meeting to talk about where to deliver the school supplies donated by the membership.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Rusty Hill, President-Elect. Janet Robison delivered the Inspiration as well as introduced the 2023-2024 Executive Board members. Janet Robison also welcomed new members and attendees: Cindy Ford and Janette Gaugh. Those members that had birthdays for May, June, July, and August were recognized. Janet Robison also welcomed Leann Sturtz, the AMBA Representative. Finally, Joe Boland, current GREA President, passed around "Joes" Brag Jar. Monies collected will be given to the Scholarship Fund.

Janet Robison introduced Joe Boland, who presented the program. He talked about his theme: Get On The Bus. He also spoke of the GREA Motto: Fellowship, Service, Support. His charity is Totes to Tots. Monies will help purchase backpacks/cases for foster children who often only have a plastic bag to carry around their belongings. Joe shared that GREA is in great shape and does not owe any money. He would like to see the membership grow to 35,500 (17%) members. He will be working more with the GREA Board at their twice-yearly meetings as well as at the State Convention in May 2024. The State Convention will be held in Athens, Georgia May 7-9, 2024. Liz Bouis has been selected as the GREA Secretary as well as in charge of convention events. Joe noted that he is looking for members of GREA to host break-out sessions for the Convention. He will also be visiting upcoming Area Meetings.

Joe Boland addressed the Teachers Retirement System (TRS) data breach, for which some members had received correspondence. The data breach was from a vendor, Pension Benefit Information (pbi), with whom TRS has contracted. Pbi was hacked and certain personal information was possibly gained from the breach. Pbi will be contacting members with instructions on how to enroll in a monitoring service, paid for by pbi. TRS recommended that members: freeze their credit, check their Credit Reports, routinely log into their TRS account, and add 2-Factor Authentication. Joe finished his presentation by saying that he was proud of his career in education and looked forward to serving the members of GREA.

BUSINESS MEETING –

Meeting Minutes - Janet requested an approval of the April 2023 Minutes. The minutes were approved with the changes as reflected in an updated version of the April meeting minutes as resolved by Diane Hart, previous Secretary.

Finance Report – The finance report was reviewed with the membership. Liz Bouis, Treasurer, stated that it seemed that a lot of money had been spent. This was due to finishing up the budget from last year, to include room and mailbox rental fees. The deposits noted in the budget for scholarships was interest on the accounts. The only monies to be spend are in the General Account. The Savings Account is for emergencies.

General Account Balance as of 31 July 2023: \$2,061.34.
Money Market Account (P. Whitfield Scholarship): \$15,560.41.
Ruby Sewell Wright Money Market Fund: \$20,901.13.
Fanny B. and Charlotte McClure Scholarship Fund: \$150,664.53.
Savings Account: \$10,031.29.

Liz Bouis presented a separate page of Budgeted Amounts for Scholarship Accounts and Savings 2023-2024 to be voted upon by the membership at September's meeting. Items of change are listed in red and the Board agreed to offer five scholarships this coming year

CELEBRATIONS – Janet shared that Liz Bouis is the Secretary for GREA. Ida Dixon, Linda McPherson, and Judy Munson are serving on the State Convention Committee.

NEW BUSINESS – It was announced that the Area 15 and 16 meeting will be in Rock Springs Georgia on Aug 30th (Wednesday). If you are interested in attending, \$20.00 for the meeting must be given to the Treasurer as only one check from CMREA can be submitted. Judy Munson encouraged everyone to join both CMREA and GREA. GREA is an advocate for CMREA. Lester Dean keeps us up-to-date on legislation that might impact our organization. Locally, to make Unit of distinction, we need 104 new members. We only have 10 as of the date of these minutes. Ida Dixon reminded everyone that we will not be holding the Fall Auction this year. The only fundraiser will be the Spotlight Ads. Deborah Paul also reminded everyone that monies from the books sold also go to the scholarship fund. The September 14th meeting will be held at the new meeting location: Ben Robertson Community Center, 2753 Watts Drive, Kennesaw. Box lunches from Chicken Salad Chick will be available for purchase. An announcement was made that the Cobb County Parks and Recreation Program is offering a new program for senior citizens. Please see their website. The meeting ended with Lunch and School Trivia Questions.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm.