Bryan and Evans Retired Educators Association

September 9, 2014

Barbara Estes, president of BEREA, opened the first meeting of 2014-15 at Pembroke United Methodist Church by welcoming everyone. Matt Avera, pastor, and his wife, Stacy, were in attendance and Pastor Avera said a blessing. Members then enjoyed a brunch prepared by several members.

Officers for the 2014-15 BEREA were installed. Barbara Estes is president; Anne Sanders is treasurer; and Alice Barnes is secretary. The office of president elect is still vacant and we were encouraged to consider volunteering for that office.

Barbara Estes introduce David Greene of Evans county BOE and Joe Pecenka of Bryan county BOE to speak on projects the respective boards are managing. Both county boards have been and are involved in facility growth and renovations due to population growth. Both boards have faces massive expenses and also had to handle the state cutting financial assistance that was promised. Both counties have had to rely on SPLOST to meet financial obligations related to the schools growing needs.

President Estes called the business meeting to order and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Dorothy Geter presented and inspirational from Love Beyond Measure. We were reminded not to take the splendor in our lives for granted but acknowledge it as a gift from a God that loves us.

The minutes from our March meeting were accepted. The Treasurer’s report was also accepted. Our current balance is $1043.73. President Estes reminded us that our local BEREA dues are $20 a year and can be paid to Anne Sanders. People that don’t have GREA dues pulled automatically (ADD-$2 a month) need to pay dues of $24 a year to GREA. Members were encouraged to join if they have not already done so because we need the numbers to keep our interests in the forefront of legislators.

Two lifetime members passed away this summer, Elizabeth Harn and Estelle Butler. The motion was made and passed to put $25 in memory of each into our scholarship fund. We will do this for anyone who passes away for our unit from this time forward. When we award the scholarship in the spring the names of those memorialized and the amount set aside will be added to the scholarship. A thank you note from last year’s recipient, Karen Busteed was read. Members that brought door prizes were thanked by President Estes.

In **new business** we were told of the state project to sell tee shirts to raise funds. Each shirt is $15 and orders need to be made immediately. Tee shirts will be issued at the district meetings. New orders can be made on October 6. The GREA State Convention was great. The president of GREA is asking that for her project this year each unit collect can-tabs at each meeting. Anne Miller has created post card for our unit to be sent to individuals absent from our meeting as a public relations project. The cost of the cards is $50. The motion to implement the TAB project and PR project was made by Anne Sanders and seconded by Nell Purcell and was passed.

Area Meetings (Area 5-6) will be on Tuesday, October 7, at College Place United Methodist Church in Brunswick. Everyone was encouraged to attend. The cost for lunch is $10.

Retired Educators Day will be November 2. The proclamation for the day was given to each county’s local papers. Members were encouraged to announce this day in their churches.

Please remember Nancy Page who is still undergoing treatment for cancer. Vivian Teasley was not present due to illness and will be invited to come to any meeting. Cards will be sent to ill members when we are made aware of their illness.

State Health Benefit Plan (our state plan) will be printing a flyer. The rates were announce on August 14. This year we have a variety of plans so need to make a choice. Beth Odom has been involved in making sure we retirees have a variety of plans and you can contact her via email at [bodomss@yahoo.com](mailto:bodomss@yahoo.com) or contact the Department of Community Health at [Constituentservices@dch.ga.gov](mailto:Constituentservices@dch.ga.gov) . In order for problems to be addressed contact is a must.

Each member was asked to take a membership envelope to ask another retiree to join.

Door prizes were awarded and we were adjourned.

Submitted by

Alice Barnes and Louise Wilkerson.