**Bryan and Evans Retired Educators Association**

**October 8, 2013 Minutes**

President Barbara Estes welcomed everyone and told each person to sign in and to get the new notebook inserts for this year.

The meeting was called to order by President Barbara Estes and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was said. New members and visitors to our meeting were then recognized. We had five first time attendees. Donna Jean Pecenka then presented an inspirational that reminded us we all need to have someone to trust and depend on when problems arise. She left us with the reminder that a youth leader she knows once used, “All days are good, some days are ‘gooder’ than others.”

President Estes then introduced our speaker, Rita Marable, the state president of GREA. President Rita Marable stressed the importance of joining GREA and that we are hoping to gain 1000 new members this year. She reminded the group that the AMBA benefits for our membership are excellent. She told us the museum groundbreaking in September was very nice and that the Gainesville site will be beautiful and be easy to access. President Marable also shared with the group that the organization publications have been modernized and we should get our new GREA Bulletin in the near future. They are putting together a state scrapbook and each unit is encouraged to design and submit a page for their unit. The scrapbook will go into the museum. The charity that President Marable designed is called Dream Dimes and each unit is to collect dimes throughout the year and make a contribution to the charity that the individual unit designates. The State Health Insurance program has an enrollment period from October 21 through November 8 this year. There will be no forms sent out so members will need to enroll using the phone or the computer. There is a meeting concerning health insurance options at the Armstrong Center on October 16 at 1 pm. Those over 65 and on Medicare Advantage will continue to get the same benefits as last year without calling, though the provider will now be Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Those under 65 need to go on line and study the options because they will automatically be put into the lowest coverage category if they do not make a selection.

The minutes of the September 10, 2013 meeting were approved with no changes.Anne Sanders presented the Treasure’s Report and we deposited $638 in the last month and had a total of $106.51 in disbursements. This gives BEREA a balance of $1296.28 at our meeting on 10/08/2013.

The Sunshine committee chairperson, Jean Owens, should be contacted when we need to report members that are ill or deceased. It was reported that Bryan County educator, Ida Maxwell, passed away this past month. Also reported was that Elizabeth Harn is still not doing well and finds cards enjoyable. Anne Miller said that if members will contact her when someone is ill or passes away she will forward the appropriate address out to the membership.

The Membership Committee reported several new members this past month and new folks in attendance were asked to stand. Becky Sharpe has volunteered to secure a prize to be presented in January to the person within our unit that brings in the most new GREA members from our area. People are also encouraged to purchase bricks at $100 each to honor state educators at the new museum.

The Legislative Committee reported that the Hope Scholarship is now covering most of the tuition cost for students in our state’s technical schools. Please look for updates from Anne Miller concerning legislative actions that affect retired educators.

In new business, Anne Miller, our member on the GREA governing board, reported that this year’s convention will be on April 21 and 22nd in Savannah at the Hyatt. There will be many fun activities and it is hoped many of us will be able to attend.

President Barbara Estes adjourned the meeting. Door prizes were given out and we broke for lunch and fellowship.

Secretary,

Alice Barnes