

Effingham County Retired Teachers Association Oct. 13, 2021 Minutes
By Phil Lewis

The Effingham County Retired Teachers Association met at Evergreen Hollow in Effingham. There were ten people in attendance. The meeting was called to order by President Phil Lewis at 12 pm. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Greg Smith gave the treasurer's report. We have a balance of \$_____. Local dues of \$10 are now payable. Lo Ella Baker was absent due to an injury of breaking two bones in her foot and her clavicle.

Under old business, the Delta variant is still present in Effingham County and the State of Illinois. Two local school districts are fighting the mask mandate. Parents in several districts have demonstrated at local school board meetings. Some board members and their families have been threatened with violence.

Phil was going to check with Mark Drone about the ECRTA website. I checked the site which Mark said he had updated. He has Joan Smith as the program chairperson and Larry Nagle as the membership chair. Larry hasn't been at a meeting in months. Mark suggests we establish a Facebook page for our group. Phil can do that for the group.

The IRTA website featured news about the IRTA Biennial Convention. It will be a virtual event on Oct. 19, 2021 from 9-11:30 am. The theme for this year's event is "Making Changes to Move into the Future". President John Flaherty issues a plea for more to attend the convention at a cost of \$20 per member. Jim is stepping down as president of the IRTA. President Phil Lewis will register for the event online. William Funkhouser is the new President. Larry Pfeiffer is the Vice President. Donnie Ostrom is the treasurer. Doris Heaton is the secretary. Area 1 Rep is Jo Anne Nelson. Area 3 rep is Marjorie Sucansky. Jim Barr is the Area 5 rep. Under Proposal #1` Article VI about meetings, a whole section was trimmed to having the Association holding the biennial convention at a time and place determined by the Executive Committee. There were changes made to the committees continuing the finance, information services, legislative, member benefits, and membership. Nominations was added as a standing committee. We are in Area 5 with regions 12, 13, and 17. There were 45 Unit Honorees from several counties.

The Illinois gubernatorial race is spreading interest with many Darren Bailey signs throughout the district. Gov. Pritzker has commercials running about his accomplishments during his term. Pritzker has signed Senate bill 825 moving the primary election to June 28, 2022. The election will be Nov. 8, 2022.

Greg Smith said there were six new retirees in the county, and he sent them invitations to join the RTA and ECRTA. He said most members have paid their dues.

Community involvement projects were mentioned like Blessings in a Backpack and Red Cross blood drives. There was no action on this suggestion.

The next meeting will be at Evergreen Hollow Park on November 11. We will meet at the new pavilion near the water park at 12 noon. Bring a jacket and refreshment for yourselves, if you desire.

Ardel Huntington and Tammy Schroeder drew for the 50-50 and door prizes.