



Sequatchie County Retired Teachers Association President Marlene Basham (middle) is pictured with Mountain Valley Bank representatives Jessica Partin (left) and Cassie Cooley, who spoke about elder abuse and financial fraud.

Retired teachers learn about financial fraud

The Sequatchie County Retired Teachers Association (SCRTA) gathered at the SETHRA building in Dunlap for their September meeting. Twenty-three members and two guests enjoyed a delicious meal catered by June Dishman and sponsored by Mountain Valley Bank.

President Marlene Basham welcomed the group, and Vice-President Glenn Eidson offered grace. Guest speakers were Mountain Valley Bank employees Cassie Cooley, Customer Service Representative, and Jessica Partin, Consumer Loan Officer.

Cooley and Partin presented a very informative and timely discussion about the rise in elder abuse and financial fraud.

watches out for unusual activity, preventing many scammers from taking advantage.

They recounted a recent event in which an older man sent \$5,000 to a shady recipient despite their advice, then returned a few days later and attempted to send \$30,000, his life savings, to the same person. Cooley and Partin said they were extremely concerned and worked with the man's family and the police department to intercept the check and prevent the scam.

SCRTA Secretary Diane Martin read the minutes of the previous meeting. Treasurer Diane Pollard discussed the proposed budget for the year, including scholarship money, estimated receipts

Cooley stated, "Scammers have become more widespread and sophisticated. They often target older people who live alone or have lost a spouse. Scammers are really good at using phone calls that sound legitimate and official to trick people into revealing their banking, credit card, and debit card information."

Partin explained, "At Mountain Valley Bank, we watch out for customers who may come in with non-family members, who withdraw large amounts at one time, or who try to hide their transactions from their family."

Both bank representatives emphasized that Mountain Valley Bank, being a long-established local bank, knows the habits of most customers and

and expenses, and the need for donations.

Carolyn Sims reported that her term serving on the state legislative committee has expired, but she has now been appointed to the state assessment committee.

In new business, SCRTA members learned that there is a new Tennessee Retired Teachers Association president, William Murray, and a new executive director, Duran Williams. New membership cards will arrive in October and retired teachers will receive a Cost-of Living Adjustment this year. Members were reminded to get in touch with stay-at-home members who cannot attend the meetings.

The next meeting of Sequatchie County Retired Teachers will be Tuesday, October 17 at the Ewton Annex.