

**Minutes of the General Meeting of the  
Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association  
Thursday, March 9, 2023**

The General Meeting of the Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association was held on Thursday, March 9, 2023, at Wildwood Country Club.

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 by JCRTA President Susan Thurman who welcomed all in attendance and gave a brief overview of the program.

The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag were led by Rick Tatum. The minutes of the previous meeting on December 6, 2022, were approved as printed. A copy of the treasurer's report was provided and will be filed for audit.

Beth Dowdell, Legislative Representative, reviewed current legislative priorities for 2023 and named some bills that we are tracking for the next legislative session in 2024. She stated that KRTA is the only organization to lobby for retired teachers.

Guest speaker Dr. Rita Greer was introduced. Dr. Greer is an author and former JCPS administrator whose education career spans 50 years. Her new book, *Teacher Journeys*, encourages readers to remember those teachers who have had a profound impact on their lives. She introduced a panel of educators - Verna Cahoon, Shirley Fuqua-Jackson, Elizabeth Caples and Dr. Eugene Kelly - who discussed their various educational experiences. Various participants from the audience also spoke briefly about their experiences.

Dr. Greer shared excerpts of her book and discussed ways to motivate students to become teachers. She emphasized that teachers who care make a difference.

Myra Fugate, Scholarship Chairperson, reviewed information regarding JCRTA scholarships. Two \$1000 scholarships will be given to aspiring teachers. They must have a 2.0 GPA, write an essay and have three recommendations. Myra has contacted the high schools and provided information. The deadline to apply is May 5.

A Remembrance Ceremony was held in memory of those retired educators who passed away the past year. Candles were lit, a video of *"The Dash"* was played and the names were scrolled as music played and names were read by Susan Thurman. Rick Tatum read a poem entitled *"The Broken Chair."*

Nominating Chairperson Melanie Wood reported the nominations for officer positions in 2023-24:

- President – Susan Thurman
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Glenna Hess
- Treasurer – Mary Perry

The reported nominees will be presented for election at the General Meeting of the JCRTA on May 18.

Upcoming events were announced:

- KRTA Convention – April 17-18, 2023
- Trip to Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Plymouth – June 11-17, 2023
- Trip to America's National Parks – Western States – September 5-19, 2023

New retirees were recognized. Each one gave their name and the name of the school they were retiring from.

A drawing for door prizes was conducted.

The meeting concluded and was adjourned at 11:55 a.m. Lunch was served.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Puckett, Recording Secretary