Bryan Evans Retired Educators Association

March 10, 2015

* Barbara Estes welcomed everyone to our meeting in Claxton at Mrs. Roger’s Restaurant.
* Barbara asked Jerry Swain to introduce our scholarship recipient, Jodi Cowart. She read Jodi’s winning essay and the recommendation of Jodi’s supervising teacher, Teresa Callaway. She also recognized the superintendent of Evans County Schools, Dr. Joy Collins.
* Dr. Collins spoke of recent improvements to the school system, both the athletic facilities and the organization of the split elementary school. It was necessary to add staff and split the school because of the new evaluation instrument the state mandated.
* Nancy Page announced the nominations for officers for the 2015-2016 year. The slate of officers is the same as this past year except the secretary slot has been replaced with 3 volunteers to take minutes for their respective meeting locations. They are: Dee Ann Hammack of Claxton, Wynelle Purcell of Pembroke, and Alice Barnes of Richmond Hill.
* Barbara Estes, unit president, called the business meeting to order and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
* Louise Wilkerson provided an inspiration. She read the poem Breath of Spring by John McCloud and offered a prayer.
* The minutes from the February meeting were accepted. The Treasurers report indicated a balance of $1878.26 as of today, 3/10/15. It was accepted. The motion was made, seconded, and passed to donate $100 to the President’s Fundraiser.
* The scrapbook was discussed and Anne Miller volunteered to produce our scrapbook for next year using Shutterfly.
* Members planning to attend the convention this April 28-30 for GREA are Barbara Estes, Nancy Page, Anne Miller, and Beth Odom.
* Beth Odom presented legislative news. She said cross over day for the GA Congress is 3/13 and any bill that isn’t passed from committee by then will be dead for this session. She stressed being informed about the bills being proposed, especially SB133 and SR287 and152 as well as HB243 and 170. Information on the bills can be found online. She reminded us that we need to know what these bills propose and we need to actively endorse or fight them. We should contact or legislators by email or phone. She also mentioned that the class action suit against BCBS of GA charging more for gold and silver plans without giving extra benefits in 2014 is moving forward in the courts.
* BEREA planning meeting will be May 12, 2015 at 10 AM at the Pembroke United Methodist Church. All members are encouraged to attend and help us make plans.
* Anne Miller announced our district meeting will be August 26 at 9:30 AM at Bay South located at Hwy 67 and I-95. She will send a reminder with details.
* The first meeting for 2015-16 will be on September 8th at 10:30 in Pembroke.
* The meeting was adjourned, blessing said, door prizes distributed, and lunch enjoyed.

Submitted by

Alice Barnes (secretary)