

Paulding Retired Educator's Association Meeting Minutes March 10, 2020
GREA Theme for 2019-2020: "Cheering for GREA!"
GREA President JoAnn Tomlinson's Humanitarian Project:
Alzheimer's Association

Call to Order/Pledge/Welcome: PREA President Barbara Cohran

Inspiration: Ray Loftin

Hostesses: Beth Black, Janet Peppers, Susan Lester and Paulette Rakestraw

Location: Paulding County Chamber of Commerce

Annual Memorial Service: Honoring Jerry Hollis and Billy Freeman

**Jerry Hollis' memorial was given by Brenda Ragsdale. Jerry was a bachelor and a true southern gentleman who taught senior adult classes at Lithia Springs Baptist Church. He remembered every former student and friend's address and phone number by heart and communicated with as many of them as possible when he had the chance.

Jerry decided to become a teacher the first day of school when he began first grade. He started his teaching career at Hiram Elementary School in 1980 teaching fifth grade Language Arts. He devoted himself to his students and his fellow teachers. Teaching was Jerry's love and life. This passion endeared Jerry to all that were lucky enough to be his student, peer, or friend.

**Billy Freeman's memorial was given by Mona Lord and Randy Arnold. Billy was born on July 2, 1941. He married the love of his life, Velma on September 27, 1963. Together they had two wonderful children Allen Freeman and Mona Lord. Billy was known by all as one of the Paulding County 'good ole boys'. He was devoted to his family, church, and community always helping in any way that he could. Billy was a beloved leader in the Paulding County School System and the community, and both will forever hold him in their highest esteem.

Introduction of guest speakers: Dinah Hardeman

Guest Speaker: Nicole Forsyth from Paulding County Senior Center

Nicole discussed the numerous services provided at the Senior Center. These services included:

- *free tax aide for all seniors
- *free transportation to medical services, shopping, and senior center
- *free meals both at the senior center and providing meals on wheels to shut in seniors
- *free exercise programs
- *free activities such as card games, dominos, crocheting, billiards, greeting card making, quilting
- *low priced Senior Center planned trips

Member Recognition:

*Volunteer Service Award was presented to Mary Cabe. Mary was recommended for Americus Membership.

*Leadership Award was presented to Retha Tibbitts for her devoted support for GREA.

Election of New Officers:

Barbara Cohran presented candidates for the 2020-2022 officers.

These candidates were nominated for approval by Marcia Bell and seconded by Randy Arnold and dually elected.

President: Gloria King

President Elect: Laura Weiss

Secretary: Dinah Hardeman

Treasurer: Sandy Parson

Community Outreach: Donations were accepted for PREA Scholarship Fund. Donations of food, money, clothing, household items, and volunteer opportunities for Paulding Helping Hands were accepted and encouraged. PREA Service for Others forms were available for members to record their volunteer time.

Committee Information:

Beth Black asked for volunteers and dessert donations for the 2020 Retiree Luncheon.

Barbara Cohran announced that PREA need 16 more members to meet our goal of 23 new members. She also discussed the importance of letting your voice be heard regarding legislation HB109 to protect our pensions until crossover day on March 12.

Minutes for the January meeting were placed on the tables and approved by members in attendance

Treasurer's Report: Sandy Parson reported a gross balance of \$4,425.18 with a deduction of \$1,740.00 for the PREA Scholarship Fund and a \$50.00 deduction for GREA Foundation leaving a balance of \$2,635.18 in our regular account.

New Business and Announcements:

*GREA Cluster meeting will be April 2, 2020 in Cedartown, GA.

*GREA convention will be May 5-7, 2020 in Stone Mountain, GA. Gloria King President will be attending.

*Retiree luncheon Friday, May 8 at Burnt Hickory Park

*Door prizes were given away to Margret Arnold, Beth Black, Retha Tibbitts, and Christy Loftin.