

Past-president Marcia Bell called the meeting to order. She welcomed all in attendance especially new PREA members. Velma Freeman gave the inspiration.

Minutes were placed on the tables, and no corrections were made.

Treasurer's report was on the tables. We have \$750 in the scholarship fund and \$3096.12 in the regular account.

Committee Reports

Membership: Margaret Arnold stated that we have 20 new members and have made our 10% goal. The membership list will be updated to indicate members paying dues.

Scrapbook: Betty Vollenweider stated that this committee needs more members.

Scholarship: We have \$750 in this account. Susan Lester stated that PREA usually gives two \$500 scholarships and hopes that members will contribute to this fund.

Nominating Committee: This committee will meet before the March meeting to determine a slate of officers for 2016-2018.

Volunteer Opportunities

Cathy Amos shared about volunteering at the Carlos Museum and encouraged members to consider doing this. She stated that the museum trains docents which will then have the opportunity to guide groups through the museum.

Bea McClung shared that our Valentine's Day Party for the Paulding Nursing Home residents will be at 2:30 on Friday, Feb. 12. We will serve pound cake and punch. The Willard Walker Band will perform. Bea has a sign-up sheet for members to volunteer for the event.

Outreach Project: Food items for Helping Hands were delivered by Susan Lester.

Program:

Roger Leggett thanked PREA for the medical wagon he made which will be donated to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta – Egleston. He shared how these wagons came into existence and the numerous hospitals that now have them to help sick children.

Mike Roby, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Veterans Service, gave a comprehensive overview of this organization and all it does to serve our veterans in Georgia.

Brian Zeringue, along with Commissioner Roby, conducted a Vietnam Certificate Ceremony honoring Vietnam veterans who are in our organization or related to one of our members. The following were recognized: Randy Arnold, Bernie Booth, Clyde Childers, Lymus Holman, Dennis Lester, Tyre Rakestraw, Jr., and John Schneider. A proclamation signed by Governor Nathan Deal was read and presented to our organization. Mr. Zeringue ended the ceremony by reading the very moving poem "Freedom Is Not Free". Marcia Bell thanked Ricky Clemmons for organizing this program.

Announcements

Please email volunteer hours to Marsha and Don Rauscher.

March 2 Read Across America Day

March 8 our next meeting at 9:00am covered dish breakfast

April 7 Cluster Meeting in Cedartown

May 3-5 GREA State Convention in Augusta

Respectfully submitted,
Gloria King - Secretary

