

UTA Retirees Club

Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2017

Next meeting: March 14, 2017 10am-noon

I. Announcements

President Rita Thompson announced that the university will start charging \$25 per hour for room usage. She asked everyone to try to get more retirees to attend our meetings. A discussion ensued about ways to encourage participation. Some suggestions included using the MavWire to reach possible members and may-be a special program for those contemplating retirement. Rita mentioned that the money we collect will go to a Music scholarship in honor of the Music quartet that provides our December program as well as a scholarship brick. Larry Barcroft, Vice-President for membership is out of the hospital and doing better. He volunteers to feed the cats at a local park so he is absent today. She also mentioned that retiree Al Davis was paralyzed by an accident and Allan Saxe who was our October speaker went on TV to explain his problems with vertigo. Rita announced that Cheryl Abellanoza, a PhD student is seeking volunteers for a memory study. Rosanne Minyard, secretary, will send out a flyer and Cheryl may attend our March meeting. Rita asked Frank Gault who has volunteered at Venture School for the last 14 years to introduce our speaker, Jerry Wright.

II. Program – Venture School

Jerry Wright has been with the Venture School for 24 years. She has a background in sociology and business and is the Director of the School Parent Program. The Venture school has operated in various Arlington locations for 30 years. This school is designed to help those students who do not fit into the regular classroom environment. The school which has open enrollment accepts student every three weeks and graduates students every Friday. Each student has to have an exit exam. With a student population of approximately 350 students, each class is limited to 15 so students can work at their own pace. Students are required to attend a 2 day orientation where the True Colors learning style assessment is used. Teachers use conflict resolution to halt bad behavior. The school uses the standard curriculum but offers both night school and Saturday school. Teachers spend a lot of time building relationships. Jerry answered many questions. The Venture School has the following mission statement: *Venture School, a nontraditional educational program, is dedicated to an innovative and professional approach to providing academic and personal development. We believe that all students can learn and become productive, responsible citizens through a balance of mutual commitment and personal integrity.*

Submitted by Rosanne Minyard, secretary