

Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retired Employees

Minutes of Meeting

October 25, 2019

Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retired Employees met at the Golden Corral Buffet at 520 South MacArthur Blvd. in Oklahoma City. Twenty-six people were in attendance. Many attendees arrived early for visiting before the meeting was called to order.

President Harry Fritzler called the meeting to order. Harry asked if anyone knew of retirees needing prayers. Nick Lambeth is still experiencing problems with his amputated leg and toe on his right foot; Kenneth Blan & wife are having health issues; and Jim McCampbell continues to struggle with health issues. Ken Awtrey provided the blessing for the meal and everyone enjoyed the buffet meal.

Following the meal, President Harry Fritzler again called the meeting to order.

Randy Freeland passed around forms for retirees to provide their retirement activities (i.e. volunteer work, travel, part-time work, activities, etc.) This information is used for the Oklahoma Retired SCS/NRCS Employees Association newsletter along with the minutes of the meeting. Many retirees have expressed their appreciation for the information presented on the website www.joepad.com. When they are not able to attend the meetings, the website provides pictures, list of attendees, etc. Joe Freeland, retired Construction Engineer, has been very gracious to keep the website updated after each meeting. Thank you Joe!

There were no first time attendees. Those in attendance introduced themselves and their spouse or guest.

Harry asked for a show of hands of retirees who have been retired: <5 yrs – 2; 5-10 yrs – 4; 10-15 yrs – 5; 15-20 yrs – 2; 20-25 yrs – 1; 25-30 yrs – 2; and >30 yrs – 0. One former employee was in attendance who did not retire from SCS/NRCS; however, he is a faithful attendee – Chuck Grimes. There were 18 retirees in attendance. Several retirees had to be reminded by others just how many years they had been retired to the delight of all!

Secretary/Treasurer Sandra Hough read the minutes of the April 26, 2019, meeting. They were approved as read. The treasurers' report showed a balance at the last meeting of \$462.76 with \$170.00 dues deposited for a beginning balance of \$632.76. Expenses for this meeting were \$108.50 leaving an ending balance of \$524.26. There were 95 notices mailed and none returned. There are 53 retirees who have opted to receive only email notices. Randy Freeland and Sandra Hough worked together to reduce the number of mailing notices and thereby reduce our printing and mailing costs. Sandra is still maintaining a list of retirees and addresses and will update addresses as they are known.

Sandra read comments from retirees who had responded to emails Randy Freeland had sent about the meeting: Carolyn Webb, Geri Cutler, Don Bartolina and Steve Chessmore all were unable to attend.

Members were reminded that we collect \$10 per year from each member for expenses for the Association. They can be paid in April or October each year. Retirees should email Randy Freeland randy.freeland@suddenlink.net to request an email meeting notice in lieu of a mailed meeting notice.

President Fritzler announced that Kevin Norton, State Conservationist in Louisiana, was named NRCS Associate Chief on August 15, 2019. Kevin previously served in various locations across Oklahoma. His last position in Oklahoma was Assistant State Conservationist for Programs. Congratulations Kevin!

Sandra Hough read a list of recent retirees: Larry Caldwell, Oklahoma Conservation Commission, 6/28/19; and Terrell Howard, DC, Arnett FO, 9/27/19, 32 yrs. service.

Sandra also read a list of retiree deaths: Everett Cole, 85, Soil Scientist at State Office, Stillwater, 4/29/19, 35 yrs. service; Phil Glenn, Construction Inspector, Pauls Valley, 7/16/19, retired 2017, served as a Soil Conservation Technician at the Shawnee FO since 2013; Jim Beaty, 87, Soil Conservation Technician, Sayre FO, 8/31/19, 36 yrs. service. Chris Shepherd offered a prayer in their memory.

Wayne Fjeseth serves on the board of the Oklahoma Conservation Historical Society (OCHS) and provided those in attendance with a copy of a status report on the Oral History Project. The purpose of this group is to collect, preserve, and share Oklahoma's rich conservation history with Oklahomans. As of October 18, 2019, the OSU Library has posted 21 of the oral histories on their website under the Oklahoma Conservation Heritage Oral History Collection. The oral histories can be accessed at: <http://library.okstate.edu/oralhistory/digital>. He also made available 2019 Membership forms for those interested in becoming members or renewing their membership. The SCS/NRCS Retiree group became members in October 2018. 2019 Memberships with the Oklahoma Conservation Historical Society are being accepted in the following categories: General (\$25), Family (\$40), Organization (\$50), Founders (\$100), Sustaining (\$100) a new category from 2018. Checks should be made payable to: OACD with memo line: OCHS dues. Mail dues to: Kim Farber, P. O. Box 9 Drummond, OK 73735. The group voted to renew the membership and Sandra will submit the \$50 Organization dues. Wayne also announced that his tenure on the board is up and that Duane Crider had agreed to fill his position on the board.

Duane Crider and his wife Jan, recently spent 23 days touring Europe. He mentioned several highlights including Paris, Switzerland, Germany, Italy including Rome where they saw the pope, and Normandy American Cemetery where he saw the grave of an Oklahoman. At one point during their trip they became separated: Duane exited the train and before Jan could disembark, the doors closed and the train left the station! After lots of efforts by the tour group, they were reunited!

President Fritzier asked the group to consider ideas for future topics at the meetings and share those with him, Randy Freeland or Sandra Hough.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 24, 2020, at the Golden Corral on MacArthur Boulevard in Oklahoma City. The Golden Corral opens at 10:00 AM so there is extra time for visiting before the meeting starts at 11:30 AM.

There was no other business to bring before the group and the meeting was adjourned.