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**DEKALB COUNTY TEACHERS’ ASSOCIATION**

November 13, 2019 Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 by recording secretary, Linda Chapman. The September 11 minutes were approved and the treasury balance is $1,348.30. We had 18 members and guests present.

We had Dan Kenney, Executive Director of DeKalb County Community Gardens, as our guest speaker. He is a former teacher of the DeKalb School District and told us how he became involved in the DeKalb County Community Gardens.

 In working with students, he learned how many were needing nutritional support. Many of the students live in our poorest sections of town. They receive free lunches and their families need help in acquiring fresh food. He started with school gardens to help his students learn where vegetables come from and how to grow their own food.

Out of the one school garden, other schools likewise started their own school gardens. The students maintain the gardens during the school year and during the summer, parents help to maintain the garden. The food from the gardens are picked and delivered to food bank sites throughout the county.

Out of the school gardens, the gardens grew into a county-wide endeavor that has received local funding to obtain used greenhouses, a refrigerated truck for delivering the food, and creation of food bank sites.

Now the local people in needy areas have helped obtain buildings and renovated the site to create a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly food bank site. The Walnut Grove Farm has been provided to help aged- out special needs individuals to learn skills to become employable in gardening and vegetable/fruit markets both locally and in Kane County such as Klein’s in Elgin.

Dan’s wish to help the low-income students to have adequate nutrition has become a star quality changing the lives of the needy in DeKalb County. We are truly lucky to have an individual who is continuing to teach in retirement and provide for the needs of individuals, young and old, in the county.

Volunteers in delivering, loading the trucks, helping with the gardens, and serving at the food sites are always welcome. You can visit their website at <https://www.dekalbgardens.org/volunteer> to learn where and how to become involved. The volunteers do not have to work e very day, just as many times as they desire.

The meeting adjourned about noon.

Respectfully submitted

Linda S. Chapman

Recording Secretary