

HCRTA Executive Meeting

February 4th, 2015

The HCRTA Executive Board met at 9:00 AM at Johnson's Country & Ice Cream Shoppe. After a delicious breakfast, the meeting was called to order by President Charlotte Shrider.

Duane Ressler, Treasurer, shared with the group the results of a recent audit, where everything was found to be in order by the committee. He also shared a report listing the current status of the checking account and the Certificates of Deposit held by the group. The current balance of all accounts was reported to be \$4,852.12.

President Charlotte reported that arrangements had been made to rent the Oberhaus Park facility for the 2015 meetings. She turned over invoices for the rental to the Treasurer for payment. Rental of the facility will be \$80.00 to \$85.00 for each meeting.

Steve Seagrave reported that the website for the group has been changed. The site was arranged with the help of the ORTA webmaster and is through Weebly. There will be no fee involved for the website through this connection.

Under Old business:

Janice Rettig had requested to be replaced as Membership Chair. Nan Bretz volunteered to take over this position. The committee accepted her offer of service with gratitude.

The group will continue with the service project of supporting the Together We Can Make A Difference group. The items for donation for this year will be:

March: toothpaste May: toilet paper July: cash donation (from trivia fee)

September: dish soap November: razors December: cash donation for diapers

*cash donations may always be substituted for the items listed

Meeting topics for the 2015 year were listed as follows:

March—Rob Rettig will speak on being a Napoleon Board member and give an update on school construction; the HCRTA Foundation will also have a report at this meeting

May—the winners of the Henry County Arts Council writing contest will read their winning "Bridging the Gap" essays

July—Fun night, potluck meal and trivia contest; the trivia contest will also be a fundraising event for the group, with more details to follow. Book Grant recipients and their families will also be invited to this meeting. During discussion, it was suggested that it would be nice for Webmaster Steve Seagrave to give a short demonstration of the new site at a meeting, and it was decided to add this feature to the July meeting as well.

September—Nature's Nursery presentation (rehabilitation for injured or abandoned animals)

November—Steve Kryder will present family letters for the Civil War

December—musical entertainment from an area barbershop quartet or the Napoleon Show Choir

Catering for the new year was discussed. We will be returning to Marc Matheny from Wauseon. The meal will be \$10, with the addition of an extra \$1 to help offset the cost of the building, bringing the total for each meal to \$11.00. The menus will not be presented for the entire year as in the past, but will be posted prior to each meeting at the time for reservations.

President Charlotte asked if anyone would be willing to attend an ORTA Conference in Columbus on April 23, 2015, as she will not be able to attend due to a prior commitment. She will send out an email asking for anyone interested to contact her. After discussion, a motion was made by Jerri Osborn, seconded by Becky Schindler, that the group pay the \$30 registration fee for anyone who would be willing to attend on behalf of the chapter.

Discussion then centered upon finances for the chapter. The idea of raising local dues was explored. The feeling of the group was that since many of the members have already paid life memberships, this would not raise that much additional revenue, so the idea was tabled for the time being. It was mentioned that in the past volunteer collections have been taken at meetings to help offset expenses if need be, so that might continue to be an option.

Talk moved on to other expenses, especially those involved with the printing costs of the directory and the printing and mailing costs of the newsletter. Many ideas were brought forward to help bring down these expenses, while at the same time striving to maintain the quality and communication benefits of both of these publications. Charlie Griffith, who has been responsible for publishing both the newsletter and directory, received additional funds for his expenses this year, but it still did not cover over half of the costs involved. There was general agreement that one individual should not have to shoulder this burden for the group, so many cost saving ideas were suggested. After further discussion, it was decided to bring the matter before the entire group at the March meeting, to solicit input and cost saving ideas from the membership as a whole.

With no further business to be brought forward, the meeting was adjourned.

Bev Wittes,

HCRTA Secretary