

Henry County Retired Teachers  
May 12, 2014

The May meeting of the Henry County Retired Teachers Association was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, led by President Charlie Meyer. A welcome was extended to guests Ken Neuenschwander and Carole Wolfe, District 1 President (ORTA).

Bonnie Eddy announced that the plant sale taking place at today's meeting would benefit the HCRTA Foundation, with the funds donated in memory of Louisa Strock. Louisa was a valued member and her many contributions to education and to HCRTA will be missed.

President Meyer also announced the recent passing of members Don Freeman and Ellie Meyer. A moment of silence for all of these longtime members was observed by the group.

Larry Siclair then offered the blessing and all enjoyed the luncheon.

Following lunch, President Meyer called the business meeting to order. The secretary's report and treasurer's report were approved as presented.

**Committee reports:**

Courtesy South - Representative Sandy Honemann sent a report indicating that she had mailed Easter cards to members.

Courtesy North - Representative Marlene Jones reported sending cards to Louisa Strock when she was at hospice and a sympathy card to her family upon her passing. She also sent greetings to Nancy Haldy from the group and a sympathy card to Treva Stevens upon the passing of her husband.

Information Services - Chair Larry Vocke advised the group of information available on Long Term Care issues.

Legislative - Chair Becky Schindler brought to the attention of the group relevant articles from the recent ORTA newsletter. She also asked for support from members in regards to Quality Care of Life. She encouraged members to email or write Mr. Latta in support of a proposed bill on this issue. Mr. Latta will be in Napoleon later this week and she planned to take that opportunity to speak with him about this important issue.

Community Service - Chair Tom Jenny reported the group amassed 1400 hours of volunteer service. He also referenced an article in the recent ORTA newsletter about volunteerism and how valuable our donated hours are to the community.

An email report was received from Jerri Osborn reporting the reinstatement of the dictionary project for third graders at Liberty Center. They had not been involved recently, but will be next year.

President Meyer relayed a note from Gene Grime about a proposed fund raiser, with volunteers being asked to bus tables at McDonald's to raise money. Details about this activity will be coming at a later date.

### **Old Business:**

As announced at the beginning of the meeting, the plant sale held at this May meeting will benefit the HCRTA Foundation. Many plants were available for purchase, thanks to Bonnie Eddy. Many members took advantage of this opportunity to purchase plants for their home gardens.

The Together We Make a Difference Project continues to be a success. Cash donations were accepted today for the purchase of diapers and at the July meeting razors and/or cash donations will be collected. President Meyer read a note to the group from Together We Make a Difference, thanking us for all of the donations collected during the past months. 3000 families are assisted through the Together We Make a Difference Project and HCRTA members have been faithful contributors to this effort. President Meyer also shared with the group an article that appeared in the recent ORTA newsletter about this project and our participation. We can be proud of our continued support of such a worthy project!

### **New Business:**

The July meeting will feature the recognition of the 2014 HCRTA Book Grant recipients . They will be our guests at that meeting.

Another item of new business was discussion of taking photographs of each member for a photo directory. This would be especially helpful to the officers, as they could use such a directory to become more familiar with the membership as a whole. Discussion will continue on this issue.

Just prior to the adjournment of the business meeting, the 50-50 drawing for the day was held, with Tom Jenny being the lucky winner.

After the meeting, President Meyer introduced the guest speaker for the day, Ken Neuenschwander. He spoke to the group about plans for the Napoleon Civic Center, a project to preserve the John L Johnson Auditorium. A detailed drawing of the proposed building was on display and Ken relayed some of the plans currently proposed for the site. A board of seven trustees oversee the project, which is estimated at this time to cost 2.1 million dollars. It is hoped that with volunteers giving of their time and materials, this cost may be reduced. The center would be home to the Henry County Arts Partnership, with The Maumee Valley Civic Theatre, Henry County Chorale, Henry County Historical Society, Henry County Arts Council, Napoleon Community Band and Napoleon Area Schools all partners in the endeavor. It is hoped that the center could serve as a gathering place for many community groups, with meeting spaces, an art gallery and an outdoor amphitheater just some of the many plans for the project. Anyone interested in helping with the project as a volunteer or donor can learn more through the website: <http://napoleonciviccenter.com> or on Facebook page: Napoleon Civic Center.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bev Wittes, HCRTA Secretary