

Henry County Retired Teachers Association  
Secretary's Report  
November 10, 2014

The November meeting of the HCRTA was called to order by President Charlie Meyer with the ringing of the school bell. Guest speaker Dr. Randy Overbeck and new member Renee Weaver were welcomed. Larry Siclair then offered the table blessing and the meal of ham, sweet potatoes, green beans and cookie dessert was served.

Following the meal, the business meeting was called to order. The secretary's report and treasurer's report were accepted as presented.

**Committee Reports:**

Courtesy: Halloween cards and sympathy cards were sent. A get well card was sent to Doris Ruby, who is recovering from back surgery.

Legislative: Becky Schindler reported on health insurance. The Medicare health care subsidy will be ending. The time for making choices/changes in health insurance for the new year is here. Conferences are available for information about health care and she encouraged members to take advantage of the opportunity to attend and ask questions.

Webmaster: Steve Seagrave is the new webmaster and reported that there is a new address <http://henrycountyrta.weebly.com>.

Historian: Faith Hurst reported receiving articles for the scrapbook and encouraged members to continue to pass on items to her for the historical records.

Newsletter: Charlie Griffith has been the editor of the newsletter for many years and would like to pass the job on to a new person. Anyone interested should contact Charlie Griffith or President Meyer.

HCRT Foundation: Jerri Osborn reported that a member will be going off of the Foundation Board in 2015, so anyone interested in filling that position should contact her.

**Old Business:**

Gene Grime reported that the possible fundraiser with McDonald's is still on hold. Gene also reported that the dictionary project went well again this year. He thanked the volunteers who helped with the project and said that thank you notes from third graders across the county may be shared at a later meeting.

President Meyer reported that members were again generous in their support of the Together We Can Make a Difference Project in September, with contributions of toilet paper/cash. The total year to date figure for contributions of items/cash was reported to be \$579.00. A survey was passed out for members to express their opinions as to whether we should continue with this project in the new year. A suggestion was made from the floor that perhaps the contributions could be split between two groups. This is a possibility that will be considered.

## New Business:

Jerri Osborn and Gene Grime reported to the membership that the HCRTA Foundation received notice that Karen Brubaker had bequeathed to the Foundation in her will two annuities, one from Gleaner's valued at \$26,000 and the second from All State valued at \$96,000. She had requested that the funds be placed in the Griffith and Sherman book grant funds, and that the monies be available to any student from Henry County. The Foundation Board, after discussion and with input from Karen's family, also made a recommendation that some of the money be used to establish a book scholarship in Karen's name as well. It was recommended that the amounts of the Sherman and Griffith grants be raised from \$500 to \$1000, and that the new grant in Karen's name be established at \$1000. A motion was made by Charlene Freppel, seconded by Mary Ann Wade, that a scholarship be established in Karen Brubaker's name. Motion passed. Jerri asked for help from the membership in giving suggestions to Foundation Board members as they work to set up the parameters of the new grant. Karen left many friends to cherish her memory--- now she will leave a legacy to future teachers as well with her generous gifts.

In other new business, President Meyer is also seeking the opinion of the membership as to the caterer for 2015. A survey was distributed to be filled out by members as to whether to keep the present caterer, Expressions Catering, or to return to AKA Designs or Bavarian Catering, services we have used in the past, or look for another choice.

Dr. Randy Overbeck then spoke briefly in his capacity as ORTA V. President, representing the western half of Ohio. He encouraged members to join ORTA as well as our local chapter, and passed out fliers listing the benefits of that membership. In his opinion, the most important work of ORTA is protection of our pension fund.

The fifty-fifty drawing was then held, with the lucky winner, Walt Behrman, \$25 richer!

After the adjournment of the business meeting, President Meyer again introduced Dr. Randy Overbeck, who spoke to the group about his association with Heroic Teacher Press and their corporate mission to raise the status of teachers in America. He presented inspirational stories of three outstanding teachers: Shannon Wright, a dedicated teacher who lost her life at Jonesboro; Jane Smith, an inner city middle school science teacher who donated a kidney to a student; and Jencie Fagan, a gym teacher who stopped a student gunman by putting herself between him and his targets.

Jencie Fagan was given the Above and Beyond Citizen Award for her bravery. Dr. Overbeck used these examples and a few others to make his point that teachers serve without fanfare, serve all of their students regardless of their circumstances and believe in the worth of every individual. Heroic Teacher Press works to uplift teachers and supports teachers by publishing books about teachers by teachers. Dr. Overbeck had copies of his own book available for the members to view.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bev Wittes, HCRTA Secretary