

**Henry County Retired Teachers Association**  
**Secretary's Report**  
**December 8, 2014**

The Henry County Retired Teachers' Association meeting for December was called to order by President Charlie Meyer. Guests Fred Church and Vicky Hesterman were welcomed, as was LeAnn Hall, guest speaker for the day. President Meyer then called upon Larry Sinclair to give the blessing and the meal for the day was served.

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

**Committee Reports:**

Courtesy: Marlene Jones and Sandy Honemann reported sending cards for the holiday seasons to members unable to attend. They both appreciate help from members to let them know when cards should be sent.

Legislative: Becky Schindler reported the positive news that the funding level for our pension fund is close to the 30 years required by law, although some issues still exist. All were reminded to monitor their own accounts carefully.

Membership: Janice Rettig reported she has several new names on the horizon and asked everyone to pass on any others to her that they may hear about.

Webmaster: Steve Seagrave reported the site is up and operational. He is looking for photos of past grant recipients to post, so if anyone has such a photo, please pass it on to him.

HCRT Foundation: Jerri Osborn reported the Foundation members have met and are continuing to formulate the details of the new grant to be established in Karen Brubaker's name. Any member with input should speak to any Foundation member. Terri Witt will be joining the Foundation board in March. Gene Grime added that he has been working with a financial advisor to invest the new funds and that now four \$1000 scholarships will be able to be offered. The Foundation hopes to have the new grant in Karen's name ready for the spring season in 2015.

**Old business:**

President Meyer reported the results of the survey on the catering services, with Bavarian Catering being the first choice. After some discussion, a motion was made by Rosemary Pfau, seconded by Bill Lytle that Bavarian Catering be our caterers for the 2015 year. Motion passed.

President Meyer again reported to the members Charlie Griffith's desire to turn over newsletter duties to a new person. Anyone with a desire to serve the group in this capacity is asked to contact Charlie Griffith or President Meyer. President Meyer also added that the group would pay to Charlie Griffith the sum of \$250 for expenses involved with the production of the newsletter.

Meeting dates for 2015 were announced: March 9 @ 11:30 am, May 11 @ 5:30 pm, July 13 @ 5:30 pm, September 14 @ 5:30 pm, November 9 @ 11:30 am, December 14 @ 11:30 am

Members continue to generously support Together We Can Make A Difference. To date, the amount is now \$685.50. Today's cash donations will go toward the purchase of diapers.

**New Business:**

President Meyer brought up discussion of a statement on the website, indicating that members must be from Henry County or have taught there during their careers. This is not what is stated in the Constitution and is not followed in fact. MOTION: Bob Baker moved, Becky Schindler seconded, that this statement be removed from the site. Motion passed.

Janice Rettig is asking to be relieved of the duty of Membership Chair. She has faithfully fulfilled this duty for eight years, service well appreciated by the group. Anyone willing to serve in this position should contact President Meyer.

President Meyer commended Bonnie Eddy for providing table decorations at each meeting. The decorations always add a festive note to the meetings, and members showed their appreciation to Bonnie with a round of applause.

Charlie Griffith is asking members, especially the officers, to review the current Directory of the HCRTA, and to give input on any additions or changes they would like to suggest as he prepares to publish the 2015 edition. Discussion brought up the possibility of putting some of the information on the website or in the newsletter. Some members who do not receive the Directory expressed an interest in having one. MOTION: A motion was made by Steve Seagrave, seconded by Karen Maassel, to offer the directory to members who do not receive one as part of their duties for the price of \$5.00. Motion passed.

Bob Baker then brought up the fact that the group owes much to Charlie Griffith for preparation of the newsletter and Directory, and Bob suggested adding \$50 to the expense money to be paid to Charlie as a thank you from the group. MOTION: Charlie Griffith moved, with a second from Rosemary Pfau that we do that. Motion passed.

Charlotte Shrider was the lucky winner of \$30.00 in the fifty/fifty drawing.

The business meeting was then adjourned with a motion by Steve Seagrave, seconded by Ruth Johnson.

The group then enjoyed hearing a presentation from LeAnn Hall about the Christmas customs of the Czech Republic and Japan. LeAnn spent time in both of these countries as a teacher of English and she shared what she learned firsthand about the customs of Christmas in each country during her stays. She shared slides and stories from her experiences, as well as a display of mementos from both countries. Some very interesting stories, with the customs of each country being much different from what we are used to in the United States!

Respectfully Submitted,

Bev Wittes, HCRTA Secretary