

**Henry County Retired Teachers Association
Secretary's Report
May 11th, 2015**

The Henry County Retired Teachers Association May meeting was called to order by President Charlotte Shrider. To decide which table would be dismissed first for lunch, titles of historical events which happened in May were distributed. These titles were arranged into chronological order with help from the group. President Shrider gave the blessing and a pork loin meal was served.

Following the meal, the program for the day was introduced by Audrey Eis. Five students from Napoleon and St. Augustine Schools, winners of an essay contest sponsored by the Henry County Arts Council, were present to read their winning entries. They each introduced themselves and read their compositions, with styles including narrative poetry, short stories and a dramatic monologue. The students answered questions from the audience and gave a short report on the sources they had used for their essays. The students presenting were: Sara Niner, a seventh grader from St. Augustine; Katrina Tran, St. Augustine eighth grader; Darian Westhoven, a seventh grader from St. Augustine; Sarah Dickes, a senior from Napoleon; and Abigail Stevenson, Napoleon senior. Christi Burgei, a teacher who had been involved in the project, was also present as a guest.

Following the program, the business meeting was called to order. The Secretary's report and Treasurer's report, printed in the newsletter, were approved as presented. President Shrider mentioned a report from ORTA that 85 of 101 school tax issues on the May ballot were approved, a very positive result.

Committee Reports:

Legislative: Becky Schindler informed members of the status of several bills currently in discussion, including HB 2, dealing with accountability and HB 43, the budget bill. STRS reported that money was saved due to staff dealing with investments in house. As always, members were encouraged to be vigilant with health care and pension issues. Other items mentioned included charter schools and how their teachers pay into STRS and issues surrounding term limits. Becky also mentioned two upcoming community events, Relay For Life and Cancer Survivors' Dinner.

Membership: Nan Bretz reported having received materials from Janice Rettig, including several names of potential members. All were asked to forward names and especially addresses to Nan, so that she may contact those retiring this year and any other potential new members.

Webmaster: Steve Seagrave reported the site continues to be updated each month and members are encouraged to browse the site often. A reminder: if you have trouble receiving the newsletter through email, it is always available on the website.

HCRT Foundation:

Terri Witt reported for the Foundation, standing in for Jerri Osborn. Three applications were received for the Griffith Book Grant. The winner selected was Katie Stover. Terri encouraged members to continue to spread the word about the other Book Grants still available this year, with the due date for applications of June 1st. Scholarship winners will be invited to the July meeting.

Old business:

President Shrider announced that the collection of toothpaste/donations for Together We Can Make A Difference was again successful in March. The collection today was toilet paper/monetary donations.

New Business:

President Shrider will attend the ORTA District meeting in Maumee on June 9th.

Peggy Boulis had contacted the group to ask if anyone would be interested in helping with historical activities presented to school children at the Henry County Fairgrounds each year in May. Some of our members are involved already, but anyone interested in helping is encouraged to contact Mrs. Bohls.

The hat was passed to solicit funds to help defray the cost of the meals for the student guests present today.

Dolores Short was the lucky winner of the fifty/fifty drawing. She graciously donated her winnings.

The July meeting will be a potluck meal and trivia fun night. There will be a collection of \$10 per member as a fundraiser to benefit Together We Can Make A Difference and the HCRTA Foundation. Duane Ressler volunteered to bring lemonade and iced tea to the July meeting. Charlotte Shrider will furnish the table service.

President Shrider thanked Bonnie and John Eddy for again bringing plants to sell, with the proceeds all going to the HCRTA Foundation.

Gene Grime asked if the group wanted to continue the Dictionary Project for third graders again next year. A motion to that effect was made by Bill Lytle, seconded by Rosemary Pfau. Motion passed. Anyone interested in helping with the project should contact Gene.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion from Mary Ann Wade, seconded by Treva Stevens.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bev Wittes, HCRTA Secretary