

Henry County Retired Teachers Association
Secretary's Report
July 13th, 2015

The Henry County Retired Teachers Association meeting for July was called to order by President Charlotte Shrider. Guest Carole Wolfe, District One Director, was welcomed, as was new member Sue Hurst. Blessing was offered and a delicious potluck meal was enjoyed by all.

Following the meal, Foundation President Jerri Osborn announced the 2015 Book Scholarship winners. Each recipient present introduced family members with them for the evening and told the group their plans for the next school year. Present were Griffith Family Book Grant winner Katie Stover, who will be attending the University of Dayton in Early Childhood Education, and her parents Jeff and Jodie Stover; Karen Brubaker Book Grant recipient Wesley Rickenberg, who attends BGSU in Middle Childhood Education, and his parents Kevin and Theresa Rickenberg; and Patrick and Carol Pelltier, representing their son Timothy Pelltier, who attends Ohio Northern in Music Education and is the winner of the Roger King Music Book Grant. Tim was unable to attend due to commitments at Ohio Northern. Chandler Ashbaugh, winner of the Lucille and Margaret Sherman Book Grant, attends Baldwin-Wallace University in Early Childhood Education. Chandler was also unable to attend due to other commitments. All of the recipients and their families expressed their thanks to HCRTA members and the Foundation for the financial support as they continue their college careers.

Carole Wolfe then made some brief remarks. She encouraged members to be actively involved and to pay special attention to the continuing efforts of various groups to make changes in the Defined Benefits we currently enjoy. She also announced that ORTA Director Ann Hanning will be retiring in December and she urged members to send Ann messages of thanks for her service to the organization.

The business meeting was called to order. The Secretary's report was accepted as written and the Treasurer's report was also accepted and filed for audit.

Committee Reports:

Courtesy: Marlene Jones was present and reported sending a get well message to Karen Maassel. President Shrider noted the passing of member Lucille Meyer.

Legislative: Becky Schindler advised members of the same concern voiced by Carol Wolfe, attempts to take away Defined Benefits. Proposed exemptions from STRS for charter school teachers would also endanger the stability of the system. Members were encouraged to be vigilant in watching for developments with these issues.

Membership: Nan Bretz has a list of potential new members and will be working on getting addresses for them. A suggestion was made to include a coupon in their membership invitation for a free meal at their first meeting. Becky Schindler made a motion to that effect, seconded by Bob Baker. Passed.

Retirement Planning: Greg Merrill reported that several ideas are being considered for informing teachers about retirement issues. A possible visit by an STRS representative was one idea, or a discussion of post-retirement jobs. Other plans are being considered, but nothing definite is scheduled at this time.

Webmaster: Steve Seagrave reminded members they may always get current information from the website. Items such as the secretary's report from each meeting and other items as well are posted soon after each meeting.

Historian: Faith Hurst continues to gather articles about members from local papers and appreciates any and all help from members in saving articles they may see.

Old business:

President Shrider opened old business with a discussion of the need for a new editor for the chapter newsletter. She has been working on the situation, but as of yet has not found anyone willing to take over the position. Costs of printing the hard copies of the newsletter were also discussed. One suggestion from the floor was to perhaps consider having a student, one involved in journalism or technology classes, assist in compiling the newsletter. With no volunteers coming forward at this time, the issue will continue to be worked on going forward.

New Business:

President Shrider announced that the next meeting would be September 14, 2015, at 5:30 PM. The program will be Nature's Nursery.

Gene Grime asked for volunteers interested in helping him to organize the dictionary project. Becky Schindler and Charlotte Shrider said they would help.

Charlie Meyer asked if anyone would be willing to lend small train sets to be used as table decorations for the Symphony of Trees in November. He also asked for volunteers to bake Christmas cookies for the Children's Tea associated with that event. Sign-up sheets were passed for members to sign.

The business meeting was then adjourned with a motion from Rosemary Pfau, seconded by Duane Ressler.

It was announced that \$340 had been collected at the meeting this evening. Half of that amount will be set aside for our charity and the other half of the funds will be put into the chapter account.

After the meeting had concluded, President Shrider asked the members to form teams in order to play the Trivia Challenge Game. Groups were encouraged to create a unique team name and to assign one person to write down answers for their team. With thinking caps firmly in place, each team did their best to record their answers, as each question was given by President Charlotte. She had really worked hard to come up with some fun and challenging trivia facts designed to stump all of us! As each round progressed, points were recorded and correct answers celebrated by each team. At the end of three rounds, the Brain Trust team was declared the winner and they collected their fabulous prizes! Congratulations to them and thanks to President Charlotte for a fun and educational evening.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bev Wittes, HCRTA Secretary