

**Henry County Retired Teachers Association
Secretary's Report
September 14, 2015**

The Henry County Retired Teachers Association meeting for September was called to order by President Charlotte Shrider. Following recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, new members Janis Miller and Pat Fetterman were welcomed to the meeting. It was reported that Dave Follett has also joined as a new member. President Shrider introduced a football theme to determine the order of dismissing to the serving table. Blessing was offered and a delicious meal of meatloaf and trimmings was enjoyed by all.

Following the meal, 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:

Dictionary Committee: Gene Grime passed around a signup sheet for members to volunteer to present the dictionaries to third grade classes in the county. He will let the volunteers know when the books are in, so they may schedule visits with the classroom teachers.

Courtesy: Marlene Jones was present and reported sending a cheer message to Martha Potter.

Legislative: Becky Schindler reported on concerns with charter schools and vouchers for increased funding. As always, health care remains an active concern. Another issue mentioned from the group was the takeover of the Youngstown schools by the state—will we see more of this kind of action in the future and how will it affect our schools overall? Becky also reminded members that a position is available for ORTA Executive Director, and anyone interested may seek an application.

Membership: Nan Bretz reported sending packets of information to 28 potential new members. Anyone with other names to suggest should see Nan.

Community Service: Tom Jenny stressed to us the value of recording our volunteer hours on the sheets each month. Adding up all of those hours is a tangible way to remind our members and the community as a whole of the value of teachers and of the continued contributions that retired teachers make to our communities every day.

Webmaster/Newsletter: Steve Seagrave was thanked by President Shrider for volunteering to take on the task of producing the newsletter. He will continue to maintain the website as well and encouraged members to send items to be posted. Steve acknowledged Charlie Griffith for allowing him to take over his files. Steve is working to make appropriate updates.

HCRT Foundation: Jerri Osborn reported that the committee is working on rubrics for the grants to be used in the coming year.

Old business:

President Shrider reported that our Trivia Night in July raised \$170 for the Together We Can Make A Difference group. Lots of fun and profit for a good cause too!

New Business:

President Shrider announced that the program for the November meeting will be presented by Steve Kryder. He will talk about a project he is involved with at Northwest State to share letters from the Civil War era written by ancestors of his family.

Bonnie Sasaki was the lucky winner of the 50/50 drawing of \$22.00.

After the meeting was adjourned, a very interesting program was presented by Julia Gehring from Nature's Nursery, which is located near Whitehouse, Ohio. They help to rehabilitate injured animals and return them to their habitats, as well as promoting animal welfare through educational programs. Julia brought three species with her: an opossum, three bats and a rat snake. She was a very knowledgeable speaker, telling the group many interesting facts about the animals she had brought along, as well as answering questions from the audience.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bev Wittes, HCRTA Secretary