

Henry County Retired Teachers Association
Secretary's Report
March 14th, 2016

The Henry County Retired Teachers Association meeting for March was called to order by President Charlotte Shrider. Following recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, President Shrider welcomed guest John Kline. She also noted the passing of member Earlene Dirr. Rosemary Pfau thanked Courtesy South Chair Sandy Honemann for representing the membership at the visitation for Mrs. Dirr. President Shrider then asked volunteers from each table to hold signs with the names of best selling Easter candies. Cadbury Eggs and Peeps were the best selling candies, so those lucky tables were first to the serving line. Guest John Kline offered the prayer and a delicious lunch of Chicken Cordon Bleu and sides was enjoyed.

Following the meal, the business meeting was called to order. Preceding the regular business meeting, business was conducted by the HCRT Foundation. Foundation President Jerri Osborn presented the Annual Report to the membership. The Foundation has met three times since the general meeting last March. The annual organizational meeting will be held on March 16, 2016. Board Members for 2015 were: President, Jerri Osborn; Vice Pres., Terri Witt; Secretary, Faith Hurst; Treasurer, Gene Grime; Agent, Becky Chamberlain; ex-officio at large, Doris Ruby; Steve Seagrave. Linda Wagner will join the board as the 2020 member. Treasurer Gene Grime then gave an account of the finances of the Foundation and answered any questions from the membership about the report. A copy of this report will be in the next newsletter.

Two amendments to the Foundation Bylaws were proposed to the membership. The first proposed amending Article II, Section A to read, "The annual meeting of members of this corporation shall be held at 11:30am on the second Monday of March during each calendar year. The annual meeting shall be at the regular meeting location of the Association. No notice shall be required for this annual meeting." Previously the bylaws required the meeting location be at a certain hotel in Napoleon. The second amendment proposed changing the wording of Article II, Section C to read, "Notice of all meetings of members other than the annual meeting shall be given not fewer than five days nor more than thirty days before the date of such meeting by mailing or emailing the same to the usual business or residence address of each member, which notice may be waived by any member. All such notices shall state the time, place and purpose of the meeting." The purpose of these amendments would be to avoid added costs of renting the hotel conference room and mailing of the notices where members have email available. The Foundation Board can hold its annual meeting in conjunction with the regular HCRTA meeting and notify members via the regular mailed/emailed HCRTA newsletter. Bonnie Eddy made a motion that these amendments be accepted. The motion was seconded by Rosemary Pfau. Motion passed.

President Osborn also reported that the History of the Foundation has been updated to include the most recent Book Grant recipients for 2015: Sherman recipient, Chandler Ashbaugh; Griffith recipient, Katie Stover; King recipient, Timothy Pellier; and first time recipient of the Karen Brubaker grant, Wesley Rickenberg.

All four grants are in the amount of \$1000. Information about the Griffith Grant with an April 1st deadline has been sent to all Henry County school guidance counselors, WNDH, the three Henry County newspapers and the Defiance Crescent. The deadline for the other grants is June 1st, and that information will be sent out at the end of March.

President Osborn noted that high school students were usually aware of the grants, but she encouraged members to spread the word to college students they know about this opportunity, as they may not have ready access to the information. Handouts were available to post at churches or other venues. Since 1998 we have awarded 37 book grants totaling nearly \$18,500, a record to be proud of indeed! Donations may be made at any time by mailing them to Gene Grime.

Following the completion of the Foundation business, President Shrider returned to the business of the March meeting. The Secretary's report was accepted as written and the Treasurer's report was also accepted and filed for audit. President Shrider reported that Bob Joseph had completed an audit of the books and found all to be in order.

Committee Reports:

Courtesy: Neil Flick is now in the nursing home, and Sandy Honemann will be sending cards to him there.

Legislative: Becky Schindler reported that while there are no initiatives active at the present time, we should always be aware of potential changes in our pension and health care systems. She also presented information from the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, encouraging people to contact Senator Sherrod Brown concerning legislation regarding the Colorectal Cancer Screening Act.

Membership: Nan Bretz passed around a sheet with the names of persons who had been contacted to join HCRTA, but had not responded. Members were encouraged to put their name beside persons on the list that they would be willing to contact personally, encouraging them to join us.

Retirement Planning: Greg Merrill reported that he has been in contact with another chapter, asking for any new ideas for projects they may have found useful. He also is thinking of sending a survey to schools in the area to ask if there is interest among teachers in having an STRS representative come to speak, as we have sponsored in the past.

Community Service: Tom Jenny reported on the volunteer hours from last year: 6,318 hours. This is a good amount, but down from past reports. All members are encouraged to report the hours they volunteer. This demonstrates to the community the value of retired teachers and how much we contribute to the quality of life in our area.

Webmaster/Newsletter: Steve Seagrave encouraged members to continue to check the website and directory, along with the information in the newsletter, for needed corrections and updates. Pass this information along to Steve and Nan Bretz. Articles of interest/news are always welcome to be published. Directories were sent online to all members with email. Hard copies are available for \$5 if members wish to purchase. Steve also once again thanked Charlie Griffith for his help with files and advice when he took over the job of publishing the newsletter.

Historian: Faith Hurst continues to be grateful when members cut out articles from the newspapers and forward them to her.

Old business: There was no old business

New Business:

A sign-up sheet was passed for volunteers to say Grace and to decorate tables for the meetings in May, July, September and November. This is an opportunity to actively involve more members at each meeting. Those who volunteer to set up tables were reminded to please be there at 10:30, so set up is finished before members begin arriving.

The May meeting will be at 11:30 AM on Monday, May 9, 2016. (Note: due to a scheduling conflict, this is a luncheon meeting, not a dinner meeting.) Adam Tracey from Children's Lantern will be the speaker.

The ORTA Spring conference will be held in Findlay, Wednesday April 13. President Shrider will be attending. If anyone else would like to attend, registration must be in by April 1. Cost before March 20th is \$30, after March 21st, \$35. President Shrider has forms, or they were on the back of the last ORTA newsletter.

Jane Hibbard was the lucky winner of the 50/50 drawing of \$14, which she generously donated to the book grant fund.

After the close of the business meeting, Heidi Kern from the Fulton County Chapter of Habitat for Humanity gave a very informative talk about the organization and its goals. She explained that the Fulton County unit currently serves families in Henry County, since our county does not have a unit of its own. She explained how the organization began in 1976 and that it now operates in 66 counties in Ohio and every state in the United States. It first focused on new construction, but now includes home repair as well, with the goal of serving as many families as possible. Families must apply for the housing and must pass certain criteria of income and need to be approved. She told stories of some of the families served in our area in the past and how the support of Habitat for Humanity changed lives. Information was available for those interested in giving to the organization, financially or by volunteering service. HCRTA will support Habitat for Humanity this year with monetary contributions, as well as other possible activities to support the families, as part of our charitable giving, along with continued donations to Together We Can Make A Difference.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bev Wittes, HCRTA Secretary