

Henry County Retired Teachers Association
Secretary's Report
May 9th, 2016

The Henry County Retired Teachers Association meeting for May was called to order by President Charlotte Shrider. Following recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, President Shrider welcomed guest speakers Adam Tracy and Kelly King from Children's Lantern. A moment of silence was observed for members who had passed away since our last meeting: Lu Alexander, Eleanor Engler, Carol Sonnenberg and Mary Lou Mengerink. President Shrider then asked volunteers from each table to hold signs with the names of songs that had flowers in their title. These were arranged in chronological order as to the year they were introduced and the tables were dismissed to the serving line in that order. President Shrider offered the prayer and a delicious lunch of Chicken Alfredo and sides were enjoyed.

Following the meal, speaker Adam Tracy gave a very informative talk on human trafficking and foster care. Human trafficking is a very real problem in our rural area, not a situation that is limited to the big cities. Adam gave brief definitions of trafficking and told us how his agency works to rescue victims from that life. He also talked briefly about the foster care system. He and his wife have personally taken in foster children, some of whom they have later adopted into their family. We all learned a great deal about a very difficult subject. For anyone wishing to know more, handouts were available with more information.

The business meeting was then called to order. The secretary and treasurer's reports were approved as presented.

Committee Reports:

Courtesy: Marlene Jones reported sending several cards, including to the families of members who passed away.

Legislative: Becky Schindler advised members to be alert to issues with health care. When paying bills to doctors, be sure that you are not being billed double for the same visit. Proposed vouchers for Medicare/Medicaid were discussed.

Membership: Nan Bretz asked members to continue to forward names to her of retired teachers to invite to join.

Community Service: Tom Jenny encouraged members to continue to report the hours they volunteer.

Webmaster/Newsletter: Steve Seagrave encouraged members to sign up for email alerts from STRS, to help keep abreast of the most current issues. Anyone who has not given their email address to Steve for the HCRTA Newsletter is encouraged to do so.

Historian: Faith Hurst thanked Doris and Mary Jane for giving her articles this month.

Educational Foundation New Foundation President Terry Witt read a Thank You note from Drew Garringer for the grant he received. She then asked members who may be interested in being readers for the next round of applications to give her their names. The committee would like to generate a list of members willing to help with this task if needed.

Steve Seagrave then went over the proposed changes in the bylaws of the Foundation. After explaining each of the proposed changes, he moved that they be approved by the membership. Bill Lytle seconded. The motion was passed. Note: A copy of the bylaws proposals and the changes implemented are filed with the foundation secretary.

Old business: President Shrider reported on her attendance at the ORTA conference. She learned many things. One fact that impressed her was the vast number of retirees being served by STRS in Ohio and the money being spent each year for health care and pensions for those retirees.

It was reported that \$75 was collected at the last meeting for Habitat for Humanity and \$62 for Together We Can Make A Difference. The money for TWCMAD will be put toward their tutoring service.

New Business:

The next meeting will be on July 11th at 5:30. It will be a potluck dinner, with our book grant winners and their parents invited to attend. There will also be a white elephant auction, a fun way to raise funds for the group and our charities, so be sure to find some interesting items to donate for sale and/or bring your money ready to bid!

Bonnie and John Eddy once again brought plants to sell, with profits to benefit the Educational Foundation. Thank You to Bonnie and John for continuing this Spring tradition to benefit our Foundation!

Bev Wittes won a small flat of petunias as winner of the song trivia game prepared by Charlotte Shrider.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bev Wittes, HCRTA Secretary