

**Henry County Retired Teachers Association  
Secretary's Report  
November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

The Henry County Retired Teachers Association meeting for November was called to order by Vice President Nancy Hoover. Following recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, Linda Wagner's guest Pam Schwiebert, Rosalie Ashenfelter's guest, her daughter Tracy and new member Kim Spiess were recognized.

Various trivia questions were answered to determine the order of dismissal to the buffet table. Following the table prayer given by Nancy, a meal of turkey, mashed potatoes, sides and pumpkin roll dessert was enjoyed.

Following the meal, the business meeting was called to order. The secretary and treasurer's reports were approved as presented, with motions and seconds put forward by Karen Maassel and Janice Rettig for the secretary's report and Becky Schindler and Rosalie Ashenfelter for the treasurer's report.

**Committee Reports:**

**Courtesy:** Sandy Honemann reported that Barb Schnabele has now moved to Oak Grove Nursing Home in Deshler. Marlene Jones reported sending a card to Steve Seagrave following a fall during which he injured his arm. Karen Maassel was also recognized for being recently inducted into the Four County Hall of Fame.

**Legislative:** Becky Schindler reminded the group to always be aware of issues pertaining to our health care.

**Retirement Planning:** Greg Merrill reported that the committee is considering sending a survey to local schools to gauge interest in a meeting with STRS representatives to discuss retirement options. If interest is found, the meeting would probably be held in late winter.

**Historian:** Faith Hurst reported clippings were provided to her today and she is always eager to receive any news of members.

**Education Foundation:** Terri Witt reported that a replacement member is being sought for the Foundation board. Members from the Holgate and Patrick Henry areas would be especially helpful. Anyone interested should contact Terri.

**Old business:** Gene Grime reported a successful completion of the Dictionary Project. He had letters on hand from grateful students for members to see. Gene and Teri Witt have made plans to use letters of this sort received from students in the past, who are now seniors and eligible for book grants. They plan to return to the students the letters they had written in third grade, along with an application form for the book grants. A good idea to stimulate interest in the grant application process!

**New Business:**

Karen Maassel was again recognized for being inducted into the Four County Hall of Fame. Renee Weaver was also applauded for winning a recipe contest sponsored by the Crescent News. Congratulations to these two members for their accomplishments!

Volunteers were sought for decorations for the tables for the December meeting and for set-up for that meeting.

Suggestions were solicited for program ideas for next year. Inviting a young author to speak and having an active educator speak to continuing demands on teachers and students with testing were two ideas brought forward. Anyone with other suggestions should contact Karen Maassel, who will be taking over the position of Vice President of the group in the new year.

Charlie Meyer reminded the group that the Symphony of Trees event is this week. He encouraged members to attend and support the organizations that benefit from the monies raised by the event.

Nancy reported that the December meeting will be held on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:30. A musical group will be the entertainment at the meeting.

Terri Witt was the winner of the 50/50 drawing.

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

Following the meeting, speaker Jim Cain, a representative of the Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) spoke to the group concerning benefits available to members through ORTA. He supplied a handout detailing the many varied benefits available. The most important issues he discussed were Long Term Care/ Home Health Care, coverage for cancer/heart/stroke, and coverage of medical transport. These are the biggest areas where coverage may be lacking in

member's basic health plans. Mr. Cain encouraged members to contact him by phone or to make an appointment for additional information concerning their personal situations. Linda Wagner was the lucky winner of a \$25 gift card given by Mr. Cain at the end of his presentation.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bev Wittes, HCRTA Secretary