

**Henry County Retired Teachers Association**  
**Secretary's Report**  
**May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

The Henry County Retired Teachers Association meeting for May was called to order by President Charlotte Shrider. Following recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, new member LeAnn Kraft and guest Vicki Gramling were recognized. Two other guests/possible new members, Cathy Croninger and Carol Rorick, also attended and were recognized when they arrived. President Shrider thanked Rich and Faith Hurst, with assistance from Max and Pat Fetterman, for being the host committee for the meeting.

Tables were dismissed to the meal by means of putting into sequence titles of books according to the year they were published. A delicious meal of chicken breast, mashed potatoes/gravy and sides was enjoyed, with angel food cake accented with strawberries for dessert.

Following the meal, the business meeting was called to order. The secretary and treasurer's reports were approved as presented in the newsletter.

**Committee Reports:**

**Courtesy:** Marlene Jones reported sending get well greetings to Mary Jane Myrice and Sandy Honemann sent word that she had done the same for Shirley Baldwin.

**Legislative:** Becky Schindler presented information on COLA. This benefit is gone for now and Becky urged all present to stay on top of this critical issue.

**Membership:** Nan Bretz welcomed the two new guests, Cathy and Carol.

**Community Service:** Tom Jenny again had slips on each table for members to fill out volunteer hours. Last time 950 hours were reported by 28 people. Tom reminded everyone to be sure to put down any hours they have served, as this is an important reminder of the continuing contribution to the community made by our retired members.

Gene Grime then introduced Michelle Rychener from Henry County Hospital, who spoke of the many opportunities for volunteering available at the hospital. Volunteers staff the Welcome Center and gift shop, assist in serving meals, are there to support patients at the Cancer Center, and even assist with housekeeping chores. They visit with patients. Volunteers are a vital part of the operations at the hospital. Michelle commended the group on the many ways we serve the community already in various capacities for many different organizations and invited anyone who would wish to serve at the hospital to contact her for more information. She had handouts available, an application form for volunteers at the hospital, as well as another flier that listed many of the jobs available for willing volunteers.

**Webmaster/Newsletter:** Steve Seagrave again had available copies of the directory for those wishing to purchase a hard copy. They are \$5.00.

**Historian:** Faith Hurst reported receiving an article today and always appreciates those who bring things to her to be included in the historical records.

**Education Foundation:** Terri Witt reported that there were four applicants for the Griffith Grants and the winner was Emma Babcock. Applications for the other book grants are due June 1<sup>st</sup>. Recipients and their parents will be invited to the July meeting.

**Old business:** President Shrider reminded folks of the "tip bags" on each table. Contributions are to be earmarked for a speakers' fund. She read thank you notes from Operation Grain Train and Habitat for Humanity for our recent contributions to their organizations.

**New Business:** Penny Miller will be the speaker at the next meeting, discussing her work with service dogs. Book grant winners and their parents will be invited, with the expense of their meals being taken care of by funds from the Education Foundation. Reminders were given to those who volunteered for set up and hostess duties for the next meeting.

Rosalie Ashenfelter was the winner of the 50/50 drawing.

With no further business to be brought forward, the meeting was adjourned. We were then treated to an interesting talk by our guest speaker, Megan Spengler. She has written three books for middle age students. She described to us the process that led her to be interested in doing this, as well as the many steps involved in getting a book to a publisher and eventually into the hands of readers. From the beginning stages of writing the story, through formatting, editing and selection of illustrations, to final approval and printing, books take many months, sometimes years to go from beginning to end. Megan also had books available for those wishing to purchase. She said she has learned much about the process of writing and publishing books, as did we by listening to her interesting story.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bev Wittes, HCRTA Secretary