

Henry County Retired Teachers Association
Secretary's Report
July 10, 2017

The Henry County Retired Teachers Association meeting for July was called to order by President Charlotte Shrider. Following recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, President Shrider recognized guests Judy Rand and Jan Baker. She thanked members of the hostess committee, Becky Schindler, Marlene Jones and Becky Chamberlin, and the set-up committee of Karen Maassel, Ruth Johnson and Jan Schlade. Bev Wittes was also thanked for taking money today in place of vacationing Steve Seagrave.

Tables were dismissed to the meal by means of putting into chronological order ages of celebrities celebrating July birthdays. A delicious meal of ham sandwiches, various sides and shortcake dessert was enjoyed by all.

Our speaker was then introduced. Jenny Barlos, Development/Client Services Director with ADAI (Assistance Dogs for Achieving Independence), along with her dog Jasmine, informed the group of the many ways service dogs help those with mobility issues and other disabilities. Clients are helped to do many daily tasks, such as opening doors, retrieving dropped items, lifting legs into bed and more. The main objective is to allow the patient to conserve their own energy level by allowing their dog to complete these routine tasks. The dogs are in training for approximately two years, with socialization as well as learning specific task commands among the many parts of the regimen. Foster families care for the dogs early in their lives. Prison inmates are also a part of the program, training the dogs for commands. Mrs. Barlos noted that the inmates gain as much from the program as the dogs, by receiving the unconditional love of their animal, something they may never have had the chance to experience from anyone in their lives. An interesting insight into a very worthwhile program.

Following the speaker, Terri Witt announced the book grant winners for this year. They were: Emma Babcock, Griffith Family Book Grant, daughter of Leigh Ann and Tom Babcock; Anna Murcko, Roger King Music Book Grant, daughter of Jim and Shellee Murcko; Michaela Jones, Lucille and Margaret Sherman Book Grant, daughter of Gary and Debra Jones; and Taylor Fausey, Karen Brubaker Book Grant, daughter of Deb and Gary Fausey. Emma, Anna and Michaela were present, with members of their families. Taylor was unable to attend due to work obligations. The three ladies present each told a little about themselves and their career hopes. Emma will attend The Ohio State University, majoring in Early Childhood Education. Anna attends Youngstown State, where she is a Music Education major. Michaela attends BGSU, majoring in inclusive Early Childhood Education. Taylor majors in Early Childhood Education at the University of Cincinnati.

Terri thanked the members of HCRTA who volunteered to help as readers for the Book Grants this year. Gene Grime assisted in awarding the checks to the recipients and took photos to be placed in the newspapers.

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

Committee Reports:

Courtesy: Becky Schindler was present and said she is feeling better after recent health concerns; it was noted that John Miller is now at Fairlawn; Mary Jane Myrice reported visiting Martha Potter and Don Bright. President Charlotte congratulated Gene Grime, as he is now the President of the Lion's Club.

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

Old business: There was no old business.

New Business: President Charlotte asked for three volunteers to be on the nominating committee to select officers for the new year. After discussion, with several of the officers indicating that they were willing to serve once more, Jan Schlade volunteered to be sure the slate was ready for the meeting in September.

President Charlotte mentioned that it was suggested that we might try meeting at the new youth center at the Lutheran Church. When she checked on this, the price was \$225 for non-members, \$150 for a member of the church. Since this would be quite a bit more of an expense than our current location, it was decided to remain at Oberhaus Park.

Throughout the meeting, President Charlotte drew names for summer themed door prizes that she had furnished. Becky Schindler was the lucky winner of a picnic basket, filled with various picnic tableware; Duane Ressler won a pink storage box; and Barb Walker took home a barbeque utensil set.

Charlotte had also brought along several books that members were invited to take home for a free will donation to the Speaker's Fund. Jan Schlade was the winner of the 50/50 drawing.

The September meeting will feature Sandy Zekurish as Betsy Ross. As we will meet on September 11, 2017, this will be an especially appropriate speaker to celebrate patriotism on this honored day.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Renee Weaver, seconded by Karen Maassel.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bev Wittes, HCRTA Secretary