

**Henry County Retired Teachers Association  
Secretary's Report  
November 13, 2017**

The Henry County Retired Teachers Association meeting for November was called to order by President Charlotte Shrider. Following recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, President Shrider recognized guests Vicki Gramling, Sue Hurst, Vicki Hesterman and Chuck Klamer. She thanked Carol Agler, Linda Wagner, Diane Meyer and Pam Schwiebert for set-up today and Renee Weaver, Sandy Honemann and Bev Wittes for being the hostess committee. A prayer before the meal was given by Renee, Sandy and Bev. In honor of our guest speakers, the Medicine Girls, tables were dismissed to the meal by means of putting into order various medical procedures by the year when they were first performed. A turkey meal with traditional sides was enjoyed by all.

After the meal, President Shrider introduced the speakers, the Medicine Girls. These two sisters, Jeanne Caryer and Susan Wiesehan, took us on a journey into the past, with a look at the history of medicine, home cures and medical care received by early settlers in the Black Swamp. Far removed from the methods of medicine we see today, these early settlers relied mainly on the mother of the household for most treatments of illness or accidents. These women in turn relied on home remedies handed down from generation to generation. Medicine shows hawked various "cures" for any ailment. Doctors were not well trained and the ingredients in many medicines then routinely prescribed we now know were toxic or addictive.

The ladies had many examples of vintage medicine bottles and other memorabilia on display. It was a very interesting look back at what those early settlers endured in order to settle the Great Black Swamp.

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

**Committee Reports:**

**Courtesy:** Concerns were noted for members Linda Gill, Rollie Rettig, Becky Schindler and Rosemary Pfau. Treva Stevens was sent condolences on the loss of her son. It was reported Don Bright had eye surgery.

**Legislative:** Becky Schindler was not able to attend today, but sent a report with Charlotte concerning financial issues.

**Membership:** Nan Bretz again welcomed the visitors present today.

**Community Service:** Tom Jenny had as usual placed volunteer hour tally sheets at each table. He also distributed information on upcoming programs to be presented by the Henry County Historical Society, "A Henry County Christmas 2017".

**Dictionary Project:** Gene Grime reported that the dictionaries for this year have been delivered and he has begun to receive thank you notes from the teachers and their students. He had some examples on display today.

**Webmaster/Newsletter:** Steve Seagrave noted an error correction made on the website concerning the time of next month's meeting. He has experienced some problems with email as of late, so let him know if you have problems getting the newsletter or getting in touch with him. Also, let him know of any changes in your email address.

**New Business:** Margaret Mueller moved, seconded by Margaret Sutton, that the group continue in the new year with Marc Matheny as our caterer. Motion passed.

Greg Merrill reported for the Retirement Planning Committee: Steve Seagrave and Jan Schlade, members of the committee, met with Greg and together they have decided to take the committee in a different direction. They are planning on creating a newsletter to send to the schools in the area, to give active teachers an insight into HCRTA, who we are and all of the things that we do. They are planning on a March date for the first issue of this newsletter.

Jane Hibbard was congratulated for receiving the Distinguished Service Award at Four County's Hall of Fame ceremony.

President Shrider reminded members that the next meeting will be an afternoon time, 2:00 P.M., on Monday, December 11, 2017. Various appetizers and desserts will be served and we will be entertained by the musical group Nostalgia.

LeAnn Hall won the 50/50 drawing for the day.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Nancy Hoover, seconded by Terri Witt.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bev Wittes, HCRTA Secretary