

**Henry County Retired Teachers Association  
Secretary's Report  
March 12, 2018**

The Henry County Retired Teachers Association meeting for March was called to order by Vice President Karen Maassel. Following recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, guests were acknowledged and the hostess and set up volunteers were thanked. In honor of March being Oscar month, tables were dismissed to the buffet by putting into order Oscar nominees by their number of nominations. An Irish blessing and prayer was offered by Bev Wittes, then all enjoyed lunch, including cookies festively frosted for St. Patrick's Day.

Following lunch, Pam Thompson spoke briefly about the CASA program. This program trains volunteers to be advocates for children as their families deal with issues through the court system. CASA volunteers receive about 30 hours of training and spend many hours talking to people in the child's life, helping the court determine the best interests of that child. The ultimate goal is a safe home for every child. Advocates continue to have contact with the children for at least two years and many continue on for long after that. Abbie Badenhop also spoke briefly about the S.T.A.R. Mentoring program, which works to pair at-risk youth that come into the court system with a positive adult role model. Both ladies urged those interested in helping youth and their families to consider volunteering for these important programs.

The business meeting was called to order. The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were approved as printed.

**Committee Reports:**

**Courtesy:** Sandy Honemann and Marlene Jones reported sending greeting cards and get-well cards to several members. Condolences were sent to Dick Baldwin on the passing of his wife Shirley.

**Legislative:** Becky Schindler discussed the current move to institute "Right to Work" laws in Ohio and the effect that would have on teachers and other union groups. She urged members to contact their legislators about this issue.

**Membership:** Nan Bretz reminded all that this is the time of year when active teachers are considering retirement and we should actively seek those who may be interested in joining HCRTA. Contact her with names of potential members.

**Community Service:** Tom Jenny had as usual placed volunteer hour tally sheets at each table. Be sure to record all of your volunteer hours each meeting, as retired teachers contribute in many ways to our communities.

**Webmaster/Newsletter:** Steve Seagrave had available the 2018 Directories. Officers and committee chairs each received a printed copy and there were extra copies available for purchase by members if they wanted. The directory was also sent to all with email addresses. Please remember to pass along any changes in addresses or phone numbers so that they may be posted on the website and in the newsletter.

**Historian:** Faith Hurst brought a scrapbook of articles for members to see. Please continue sending her things to save.

**Education Foundation:** Terri Witt gave an overview of the Foundation's work of the past few months. Three meetings were held last year. The four book scholarships have been increased to \$1500.00 each this year. Board members delivered applications personally to area guidance counselors. Members may be contacted to be readers for this year's applications. Gene Grime also gave a report of the finances of the Foundation, which are in good order.

**Old Business:** Marvin Barlow audited the books and found all to be in order.

**New Business:** A question had been raised about changing the meeting times to all lunches or all evening times, instead of alternating times as we do now. The Executive Board had discussed this issue and wanted to get member input. After some input today, Nancy Hoover moved and Sandy Honemann seconded that the times continue to alternate as they do now. Motion passed.

Hostess committee for the May meeting will be Faith and Rich Hurst, with set-up volunteers Gregg Merrill, Duane Ressler, Ruth Johnson and Jan Schlade. The speaker will be Sandy Blackwood, Senior Center Director.

Tom Jenny won the 50/50 drawing of \$22.00.

The meeting was then adjourned and Steve Seagrave introduced our main speaker, Dr. Robin Rayfield, ORTA Executive Director. He provided an overview of the recent reorganization of ORTA, now consisting of five regions. He said three main goals at ORTA are to continue to work toward financial stability, affordable health care and increasing membership. He touched on many current issues and answered questions. He encouraged members to make their voices heard to STRS about the COLA suspension, as well as any other important issues. Strength comes in numbers, so the more contacts made, the better.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bev Wittes, HCRTA Secretary