

**Henry County Retired Teachers Association**  
**Secretary's Report**  
**May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

The Henry County Retired Teachers Association meeting for May was called to order by President Charlotte Shrider. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President Charlotte thanked the set up and hostess volunteers for the evening and welcomed guests Carol Wolfe, ORTA Regional Liaison and Sandy Blackwood, from the Henry County Senior Center. Tables were dismissed to the meal in order of famous older Americans who accomplished something special later in their lives.

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

Carol Wolfe, ORTA Regional Liaison, then made a few remarks. She outlined many of the current objectives of ORTA, the main goals being to answer member concerns, to provide updates from Columbus and to increase membership in ORTA. In support of the last goal, a drive to increase membership will award a \$100 prize to chapters who increase their membership by ten percent. Other issues currently being addressed include working to return the COLA, devising ways to notify soon to retire teachers of the benefits of membership in ORTA and working to ensure that we keep our defined benefits. Carol had business cards available for members and encouraged all to contact her whenever they have questions or concerns.

**Committee Reports:**

**Courtesy:** Reports were given about Ruth Johnson, who is battling leukemia and Rosalie Ashenfelter, whose son has been diagnosed with brain cancer. Thoughts and prayers to these two members. It was mentioned that member Martha Potter would love visitors.

**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.

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

**Education Foundation:** Terri Witt reported that two Griffith grants will be awarded this year. Deadlines for the other grants are approaching. All of the grant recipients will be introduced at the July meeting. The committee was especially pleased to note that one candidate for the Griffith grant is a member of the family for whom the grant is named, so they were able to honor that legacy by awarding this exceptional candidate.

**Retirement Planning:** Gregg Merrill reported that the committee is preparing a flyer to be sent to area schools describing the work and accomplishments of HCRTA, with the goal to recruit potential new members.

**Old Business:** President Charlotte read a thank you note from Pam Thompson from CASA, who spoke to the group at the last meeting. She thanked the group for the opportunity to spread the word about this important program.

**New Business:** Hostesses for the July meeting will be Becky Schindler and Marlene Jones. Sign-up sheets for set up committees and volunteers to pay half of speaker meals had been passed during the meeting. It was announced that the speaker for the July meeting will be Betsy Eggers, Napoleon Library Director, who will address the topic of "are libraries a thing of the past?"

Tom Jenny won the 50/50 drawing of \$19.00. Small door prizes of items from the Senior Center donated by President Charlotte were won by Treva Stevens, Bev Phillips, Renee Weaver and Gene Grime. Margaret Mueller won a bag of candy kisses given by hostess committee Rich and Faith Hurst.

The meeting was then adjourned and President Charlotte introduced our main speaker, Sandy Blackwood, Henry County Senior Center Director. She provided an overview of the many activities available at the Senior Center. Just a few of the opportunities mentioned included: exercise classes, art and crafts, grief yoga, pickle ball, quilt club, meal service and many more. With the new building allowing much more space, many plans are in the works to coordinate with other agencies such as Family Court, Northwest State and others to expand current programs and create new opportunities as well. One possible new opportunity would be to create a “social enterprise”, whereby a product would be produced, with the goal of using profits for a charitable cause. A potential product mentioned was making memorial boxes for pets created with a CNC router available in the new woodworking area. These are just a few of the possibilities for projects in the future.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bev Wittes, HCRTA Secretary