

**Henry County Retired Teachers Association
Secretary's Report
September 10, 2018**

The Henry County Retired Teachers Association meeting for September was called to order by President Charlotte Shrider. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President Charlotte recognized the hostess and set up volunteers for the evening: Nan Bretz, Kim Spiess, Karen Maassel, Duane Ressler and Chuck Klamer. She welcomed guest Judy Rand. Questions about the number of episodes of various television programs helped to determine the order of tables dismissed to the meal. Nan Bretz offered the prayer and the meal was enjoyed by all.

Following the meal, President Shrider opened the meeting. The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were approved as printed.

Concern was expressed for several members: Sue Meyer is battling cancer; Ruth Johnson is receiving treatment for leukemia; John Eddy has esophageal cancer; Charlene Freppel suffered a fall and broken bone; Mary Jane Myrice was involved in an accident; Bev Curtis has had surgery; Rosalie Ashenfelter's son passed away. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all these members as they deal with these difficult times.

The meeting was then given over to our speaker for the evening, Matthew Terry. Matthew and his family serve as missionaries in Liberia. Matt described the corrupt atmosphere in Liberia, in the educational system and the governmental structure. Social norms are far removed from our experience in the United States. Parents are often inattentive to their children, with malnutrition and other neglect unfortunately not uncommon. Education is not valued, making it very difficult for missionaries to recruit and retain students. Bribery is common in the schools, with students having to pay for grades they did not earn. The result is that most students, even if they "graduate", leave school with only a second to third grade reading level. Women and girls are treated as second class citizens. "Bush schools" stress survival skills and traditional ways, not education.

Against all these odds, the Terry family have tried to reach as many students as they can, with sports team outreach led by Matt and reading classes held by his wife Jennifer. They, along with their three children, plan to return to Liberia next summer, after a year's break at home in the United States.

Following Matt's talk, a collection was taken for the Terry family, which they will use to buy supplies for their students in Liberia. The business meeting then resumed.

Committee Reports:

Legislative: Becky Schindler noted that a form for absentee ballots will be mailed to all Ohio residents by Sec of State Jon Husted.

Membership: Nan Bretz welcomed visitor Judy Rand.

Education Foundation: Steve Seagrave passed out copies of proposed changes to the by-laws of the Foundation. These proposals will also be emailed to all members, with a vote on the changes anticipated in November.

Old Business:

President Charlotte thanked Margaret Mueller for her donation of postage for two months of newsletters.

New Business:

Dictionaries for third grade students in the county have arrived. A sign-up sheet was passed for volunteers to deliver them to the classes.

President Charlotte will attend the ORTA District meeting in Findlay on October 1, 2018.

Terri Witt announced that a new member is being sought for the Education Foundation Board. The term would begin in January and be for five years.

The November meeting will be on organ transplants and organ donation. Gene Grime and Jamie Bostelman will be the speakers.

Motion to adjourn was made by Terri Witt, seconded by Treva Stevens.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bev Wittes, HCRTA Secretary