

Henry County Retired Teachers Association
Secretary's Report
November 12th, 2018

The Henry County Retired Teachers Association meeting for November 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: Sandy Honemann, Bev Wittes, Renee Weaver, Steve Seagrave, Gene Grime, Rich Hurst and Faith Hurst. She welcomed guests Kelly Valentine and Sue Hurst. Famous persons with birthdays on November 12th helped to determine the order of tables dismissed to the meal. Sandy Honemann offered the prayer, which included a tribute to Larry Sasaki, who passed away recently and will be greatly missed by so many. A delicious turkey dinner with many traditional sides 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 to begin receiving chemo soon; Ruth Johnson received her stem cell infusion and is doing well so far; expressions of sympathy were sent to Bonnie Sasaki at her husband Larry's passing and to Betsy Redd, whose husband also passed away the same week. Love and strength go out to all these members as they deal with these difficult times.

Committee Reports:

Legislative: Becky Schindler spoke on health care and the open enrollment period. Members expressed concern about potential problems with ProMedica, as they have sent notices indicating they will no longer accept Aetna insurance.

Dictionary Project: Chairman Gene Grime reported that all the dictionaries have been delivered to the third-grade students and thank you notes from them have begun to arrive. He may have some to share at the December meeting.

Education Foundation: Copies of proposed changes to the by-laws were available on the tables before the meeting. President of the Foundation Linda Wagner called for a motion to accept the proposed changes. A motion was made by Steve Seagrave, seconded by Terry Witt that they be accepted. Motion passed.

Old Business:

President Charlotte reported on her attendance at the ORTA meeting in Findlay. She joined in discussions on various topics, including one session which gave suggestions for different activities to attract new members. The continuing push to restore the COLA was another topic discussed. The information Charlotte heard at the meeting was that the COLA will not be restored for quite some time and when it is restored, it will go to those with the lowest benefits first. Differing reports on this topic were noted, with the information given at the meeting conflicting with reports on the subject heard by members from other sources. Stay tuned for more!

President Charlotte also noted that ORTA has an incentive program for increasing membership, with \$100 given to chapters that increase their membership by 10 percent. According to STRS records, there are lots of teachers in the Henry/Fulton County area who are retired and thus eligible for membership, we just need to find out how best to reach them and entice them to join!

New Business:

After discussion, Rosemary Pfau made a motion, seconded by Gregg Merrill that the meetings continue to be held at Oberhaus Park. Motion passed.

Further discussion resulted in a motion by Rosemary Pfau, seconded by Nancy Hoover, that we continue with Marc Matheny as our caterer. Motion passed. Comments and suggestions about the meals from members will be passed along to him.

Discussion about whether to continue with Together We Can Make a Difference as our charity will be tabled until the next meeting. Members were asked to think about possible alternative charities and/or if we wish to continue with contributions or take a break from them for a time.

President Charlotte then noted that it was time to select a slate of officers for the new year. Some officers have consented to continue in their positions, but persons are needed for at least the following jobs: Vice President, Asst. Sec. and Chair of Community Service. A Nominations Committee was then selected to work on securing a slate of officers. Members who were assigned to the Nominations Committee were: Charlie Meyer, Pam Schwiebert and Jamie Bostelman. If they contact you, asking you to serve, please say yes!

Charlie Meyer won the 50/50 raffle of \$22.

Motion to adjourn the business meeting was made by Terri Witt, seconded by Jan Rettig.

Following the meeting, Gene Grime and Jamie Bostelman presented a very interesting talk on organ donation. Their personal stories made real just how important organ donation is to the recipient and their family. It was also touching to hear how much comfort and healing can come to the donor's family, especially if they are able to find the strength to contact the recipient of their loved one's gift. Guest Kelly Valentine brought with her the symbolic Green Chair, used by donor recruitment programs to remind us that organ donation can keep families from having to see an empty chair in their home, all because their loved one received the gift of life.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bev Wittes, HCRTA Secretary