

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

The Henry County Retired Teachers Association meeting for December was called to order by President Charlotte Shrider. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and grace, tables were dismissed to the meal by way of the order of items in the Twelve Days of Christmas song.

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

Committee Reports:

Legislative: Becky Schindler again advised members to watch their health care benefits carefully and if there are any questions, don't hesitate to contact STRS for assistance.

Membership: Nan Bretz reported that STRS sent address labels of all retired teachers in Henry/Fulton Counties. After sorting out those who already are members, she may use this information to contact potential new members.

Education Foundation: Linda Wagner reported that Jamie Bostelman is recommended to the group for a position on the Foundation Board. A motion to accept this nomination was made and seconded. Motion passed. Jamie will attend her first Foundation Board meeting on January 8th, 2019.

President Charlotte thanked both Becky Schindler and Tom Jenny for their years of service as chairs of Legislative and Community Service committees. New chairmen will take over with the new year.

Old Business: President Charlotte asked Kirk Fruth to report on some information he had researched on the COLA issue. After talking with STRS advisors, he could report that the Health Fund is in good shape, being 150% funded. This is due to increases in costs being less than projected, fewer claims and active teachers working and contributing longer.

He was informed that the COLA issue will be revisited in four years. Again, the fact that active teachers are working and contributing for longer periods of time is a positive factor in this decision. Investment performance has been fairly good but is always a volatile factor. Working against is the fact that retired teachers are living longer—(a good thing, except for the COLA issue!)-- and thus using benefits for longer periods of time. The STRS Board will make the decision as to if and when the COLA is restored.

President Charlotte reported that the Oberhaus Park location has been secured for the 2019 year and Marc Matheny will continue as our caterer.

The issue of which charity we will support in the new year had been tabled from the last meeting. President Charlotte shared some data she had gathered on the administrative costs involved with some charities. After further discussion, a motion was made by Chuck Klamer, seconded by Terri Witt that we support Pillars of Success, a local charity dedicated to supporting families in need. Motion passed. President Charlotte noted that the "tip" bags dedicated to a speaker's fund will be discontinued for the time being.

New Business:

President Charlotte congratulated the following members for perfect attendance for the year: Rich and Faith Hurst, Tom Jenny, Dora Titgemeyer, Bev Phillips, Terri Witt and Bev Wittes. Nancy Hoover had perfect attendance until today, when illness kept her home. Charlotte presented each person with a lottery ticket and a wish for good fortune!

Nominations Chairman Charlie Meyer presented the following slate of officers for the 2019 Chapter year:

President: Charlotte Shrider, Vice President: Bev Wittes, Treasurer: Duane Ressler, Asst. Trea.: Larry Vocke, Secretary: Pam Schwiebert, Asst. Sec.: Diane Meyer, Community Service Chair: Jan Schlade and Legislative Chair: Chuck Klamer. A motion to accept these officers was made by Rosalie Ashenfelter, seconded by Bill Lytle. Motion passed.

It was also noted that Duane would like to pass on the Treasurer's duties after this next year, so be thinking about whether you could help the chapter in this capacity!

Gene Grime had samples of Thank You notes from county third graders for the dictionaries they received. He encouraged everyone to enjoy looking at them after the meeting.

Pam Schwiebert won the 50/50 drawing of \$26.

Following the business meeting, President Charlotte led the group in Christmas games and songs. Tables were challenged to guess Christmas songs, with only the initials of the words as clues. The 12 Pains of Christmas, a parody of 12 Days of Christmas, was sung by the group. Volunteers acted out various silly scenarios to be guessed, such as a prom queen interviewing an applicant for the head elf job! The seasonal fun ended with all singing "Merry Christmas To You". Happy Holidays to all and see you in the New Year!

Respectfully Submitted,
Bev Wittes, HCRTA Secretary