

Henry County Retired Teachers Association Meeting

HCRT Foundation Annual Meeting

Secretary's Report

March 9, 2020

The Henry County Retired Teachers Association meeting for March was called to order by President Charlotte Shrider. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and Irish prayer, the tables were dismissed by publication dates for songs with green in the title.

During the meal Maggie Westrick shared what Project WE Care does for families in Henry County. Her nonprofit helps families with needs during the Christmas season, particularly with presents for children. This past December they served about 1000 families. Last year it was higher, around 1500. They are looking to start adding services and respond to needs year-round. Project We Care is an official 501c3 nonprofit, so donations to them are tax deductible. Following the meal representatives from The Soaring Arts Studio spoke on projects that they participate in and create during the year. They have a studio in downtown Napoleon. They are open from 8am to 5pm five days per week for area residents to come and work on art projects. They also provide lessons. Originally they were housed at the Filing Home and served residents there. Several of their clients and participants came and spoke about they projects they do for themselves and in the community.

President Shrider opened the meeting. The secretary and treasurer's reports were approved as printed.

**Committee Reports:**

**Legislative:** Chuck Klamer reported that not much is being done in our favor at the state level. The chances of the COLA being restored is slim now that the stock market has dropped and endangered the projected growth in interest and dividends.

**Membership:** Nan Bretz reminded members that new member cards were on the tables. Goal for this year is for all members to invite someone to join.

**Community Service:** Jan Schlade reported that 831 hours were recorded last quarter.

**Courtesy North-** Marlene Jones reported Wayne Short died and card was sent to family.

**Courtesy South-** Sandra Honemann reported Millie Holzer was sent a thinking of you card at son's death.

**Historian-** Faith Hurst thanked member that brought her news articles.

**Education Foundation Annual Reports:** The foundation held its annual meeting. Linda Wagner reported Shelby Fackler and Chase Gruenhagen received grants this year. She detailed activities of the board and how book grant forms are promoted. Three of the grants are for people in college and finding ways to reach prospective applicants has been an issue. Gene Grime gave the annual financial report. The funds are invested in CDs and an annuity. At present, the interest each year is enough to provide four grants of \$1500 each.

**Old Business:**

**Greg Merrill** was elected assistant treasurer to aid **Duane Ressler** who was elected treasurer for the 2020 year.

**New Business:**

Money makers for this year include **the** May 50/50 tickets which will be \$5.00. At the November meeting Charlotte Shrider will furnish a Christmas basket to be raffled off.

Kim Spiess won \$33.00 in the 50/50 drawing.

President Shrider gave a thank you to the set up team.

The next meeting will be May 11, 2020 at 5:30pm. Dave Kleck will be the speaker.

Hostess - Bev Wittes

Dora Titgemeyer made a motion to adjourn. Nancy Hoover seconded the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Schwiebert, HCRTA Secretary