

Henry County Retired Teachers Association
Secretary's Report
March 14, 2022

The Henry County Retired Teachers Association meeting for March 14, 2022 was called to order by President Charlotte Shrider. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President Shrider gave a big thank you to the setup volunteers. She welcomed guest, Robin Rayfield. The average pay scale of a variety of salaries (educator being the lowest) was used to dismiss the tables for lunch.

Following the meal, Robin Rayfield gave a detailed update on the problems at STRS in how they handle our retirement fund. He shared a slide show with some of the information from the forensic audit that ORTA did of the STRS investments and finances using nationally known Edward "Ted" Siedle who specializes in audits of public pension funds. The main issues or problems at STRS include (1) lack of transparency, (2) use of "alternate investments" in private companies, hedge funds, and real estate where expenses and fees can be hidden, (3) a huge investment staff of over 120 "professional investors", and bonuses up to 125% of their salary being awarded in spite of poor investment results. He urged you to read updates and continue to contact your state representatives and state senators.

The business meeting resumed. The secretary's minutes and treasurer's report were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Committee Reports:

Legislative: Steve Seagrave reported on some of the STRS teacher interest groups campaigning to reform STRS. Steve was one of the seven statewide ORTA members who interviewed the six candidates running for seats on the STRS board. Based on this, he feels the only way we will ever fix the issues at STRS and get our COLA restored is by electing the three reform candidates. It is important to join ORTA, check the Facebook groups *STRS Ohio Watchdogs* and/or *STRS Members Only Forum*, AND get active teachers involved! REMEMBER to VOTE.

Community Service: Tom Jenny, Bev Wittes and Kirk Fruth were recognized with the most hours of the 779 hours reported.

Education Foundation: The annual financial report was published in last newsletter.

Membership: Nan Bretz was not present. New member Jeri Hoellrich was welcomed.

Old Business:

Lifewise Academy will be our financial project this year. Donations will be divided by the three county schools participating in the program. (Napoleon, Liberty Center, and Holgate)

Executive Board met on January 31, 2022 to plan the meals and programs for the year.

New Business:

Nan Bretz needs volunteers to help signing up new members. Sandra Honemann will help but more are needed in each community. Please consider helping.

Jan Schlade won the 50/50 drawing of \$17.00

Diane Buchhop made the motion to adjourn. Dave Conrad seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Schwiebert