

Meeting Minutes:
Highland County Retired Teachers Association
Hillsboro Ponderosa Banquet Center, November 4, 2019, 12:00 PM

Opening:

President Robert Hottle called the meeting, attended by 32 members and guests, to order at 12:00 noon and began by recognizing members with October, November, and December birthdays. Vice-President Jim Faust led the membership in singing "Happy Birthday" and "God Bless America", followed by the recitation of the "Pledge of Allegiance" led by President Hottle.

Vice-President Faust welcomed and our introduced our guest speaker Tamla Cole.

Meal:

Following a blessing offered by President Hottle, members enjoyed a Ponderosa buffet meal with ham, turkey, turkey dressing, sweet potato casserole, tossed salad, dressings and toppings, rolls, butter, drinks, and assorted desserts.

Program:

STRS Representative Tamla Cole presented an informative program concerning topics of great interest to the group. First, she shared and explained the Actuarial Update as of June 30, 2019. The COLA status was discussed in depth. We learned that COLAs have been used since the 1950's and only recently discontinued. The reason given was our funded ratio sets at 76.1% at present.

Also, shared was the possibility that our Medicare Part B reimbursement may become ongoing. This is "very likely" as that funded ratio sets at **175%**. It was noted the \$29.90 monthly reimbursement is the **lowest** amount that can be offered per government regulation.

On the lighter side, Ms. Cole shared some current membership statistics. We have 198 retirees age 100 and older. Of that number, 170 are female. Our oldest retiree is 107 years young! Also, 173 of the active teachers in our system have 40 or more years of experience. The average age of STRS retirees is 74. In conclusion, STRS has 500,000 active and retired teachers and is worth \$79.9 billion.

Reports:

At the conclusion of the program President Robert Hottle brought the business meeting to order. Secretary Kevin Black submitted the Draft of the August 5 General Meeting Minutes available with the newsletter and the web site for approval. Motion to approve the report was made by Kathy Levo and seconded by Donna Armstrong. It was approved.

Treasurer Doris Pulse submitted the Treasurer's Report. Motion to approve the report was made by Daryel Urig and seconded by Dorothy Creed. It was approved.

Scholarship Chairman Mary Black will report the first semester GPA's of our recipients at the February 2020 Meeting.

Necrology was reported by Cindy Eigel. The report memorialized the passing of Ruth Ann Mathews of Greenfield, Marguerite Murphy of Hillsboro, Ted Downing of Hillsboro, Donna Crampton of Hillsboro, and Cooper Snyder of Wilmington.

During the Legislative Report a state law concerning emotional learning in schools was reported by Charles Newland. Also, it was noted that two Cincinnati educators are suing STRS concerning the legality of suspending the COLAs.

No reports were submitted from Membership or Pre- Retirement

Community Service:

The membership is asked to bring in empty prescription bottle as an ongoing project.

Our November Project, Sweats for Vets resulted in \$318 being collected. The bulk of this money will be used to buy sweats for the 9 Highland County residents at the Georgetown location.

Our February service project will entail collecting money for Highland County residents of the VA Hospital in Chillicothe. This was approved following a motion and second by Daryel Urig and Charlie Newland, respectively.

Looking ahead to our May meeting, household items (soaps, assorted papers, house cleaning supplies, etc.) will be collected for our local SOS. This project was approved following a motion and second by Donna Armstrong and Jim Faust, respectively.

Old Business:

Silver Bells! We are invited to the Highland House to view trees, videos, etc.

New Business

February Program presented by Mr. Croy and Mr. Fawley will address school security.

The Slate of Officers was approved unanimously after a motion by Donna Armstrong and second by Marilyn Myers.

Reminders and Adjournment:

The next HCRTA General Meeting will take place at either Giovanni's or Ponderosa. If our goal of 40 attendees is not met and we choose Ponderosa, we must agree to pay an extra \$3 for the meal, making the cost a total of \$15. The membership was reminded that as of this month we are still not reaching the break-even mark of forty (40) attendees. Members were encouraged reach out to former colleagues with personal invitations. Our luncheon meeting is February 3, 2020. Final location decision will be made at the January 6 ,2020 executive meeting. Any interested member is welcome to attend. Meetings are at 9:30 AM at Belle Gardens on Harry Sauner Road.

Future programs will include Tamla Cole from STRS in November

Prior to adjournment Tamla Cole gave a # which identified the winner of the lovely flower arrangement donated by our local florists at Blossom and Buds.

Ruth Anna Duff moved for adjournment; Mary Black seconded the motion. Adjourned.

Submitted by: Mary Black