

Meeting Minutes
Highland County Retired Teachers Association
Hillsboro Ponderosa Banquet Center, 2/4/19, 12:05 PM

Opening:

President Robert Hottle called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM and began by recognizing members with January, February, and March 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"

Vice President Faust acknowledged guests Erin Richmond, Beth Belcher, Gemelia Tyler, and Gina Yezzi, staff and volunteers, with Hospice of Hope.

Attendance included 25 members and guests.

President Hottle had a display of old pictures from the 1950 – 1990s on display for perusal and to take if anyone so desired.

Meal:

Following a blessing offered by President Hottle, members enjoyed a delicious Ponderosa Buffet meal consisting of ham, cheese potatoes, vegetables, salad, rolls, desserts, and Ponderosa's delicious fudge.

Program:

Guests from Hospice of Hope, based in Mt. Orab, provided the program for the day. Speaker Erin Richmond began the presentation by providing background information about Hospice of Hope, its establishment in the area in 1988 and its mission to help people live out their lives in comfort, making quality memories with family and friends. Ms. Richmond explained that Hospice of Hope serves Adams, Brown, Clinton, Highland, Pike, and Clermont Counties in Ohio as well several counties in northern Kentucky. She noted that Hospice of Hope is available for all end of life conditions and diagnoses and includes service such as patient care and nursing assistance, family assistance and respite care, pharmaceutical services, chaplains' services, bereavement care, and a myriad of care, professional, educational, and life enriching services provided by volunteers. Service are available as in home, nursing home, or in-patient care at their facilities in Mt. Orab and Maysville.

Ms. Richmond gave several facts regarding Hospice care, debunking a number of misconceptions about Hospice care. For example, she explained that there is no set time limit on Hospice care. Services can last anywhere from a few days to a number of years, depending on patient and family needs. She explained that Hospice care is more of a philosophy of patient care and comfort than a "place". A doctor's referral is not necessary to receive Hospice services, and no one is turned away. Services are generally covered by Medicare/Medicaid or private insurance. No medications are "taken away" from patients and clients can continue to see their choice of primary and specialized physicians and family members can be as involved in patient care as they so choose.

Next Beth Belcher, Volunteer Coordinator for Hospice of Hope, discussed volunteerism with Hospice of Hope. The range of volunteer services is truly vast and includes patient support such as companionship and reading to patients; family support, such as shopping, errands, and respite; staff support, including clerical and office work; professional support, such as sewing, massage and carpentry; bereavement support; special events and fund raising; and community outreach. Ms. Belcher noted that there is a volunteer training In Hillsboro scheduled for Monday, February 11, 2019. Gemelia Tyler, a former Hillsboro High School teacher rounded out the program testifying to her experience as a recipient of Hospice services during the final phases of her parents lives as well as her rewarding experiences regarding her father's and her volunteerism for Hospice of Hope.

Many meeting attendees added their praises regarding services they and their family members had received from Hospice of Hope.

More information about services and volunteerism can be found at www.hospiceofhope.com.

Reports:

Following the program President Hottle conducted the business meeting which included Secretary and Treasurer reports. Secretary Kevin Black referred to November Meeting Minutes, submitted by Lynn Neal, previously distributed in the newsletter mailing. He showed members where meeting minutes are available under the "Reports and Forms" section of the HCRTA web site. Business cards were distributed which contained the HCRTA email address (HCRTAwebmaster@gmail.com), the web site address (<https://HCRTA.weebly.com>), and the Facebook link (<https://www.facebook.com/HighlandCountyRTA/>). Also distributed were individually addressed post cards that attendees can use to invite former colleagues and friends to the next meeting.

Treasurer Doris Pulse reported that in addition to the written report previously mailed, she had received \$120.00 in monetary donations for the Highland County Homeless Shelter and \$150.50 for the scholarship fund. The motion to accept the Secretary and Treasurer Reports was made by Jim Faust and seconded by Kathy Levo. Motion was carried unanimously.

Mary Black thanked the membership for the \$150.50 donation to the scholarship fund this month. She announced the Highland County school counselors have been supplied a link to the scholarship application (http://hcrtaweebly.com/uploads/2/5/9/5/25959872/hcrtaweebly_scholarship_application.pdf) and reminded of the June 30th application deadline. So far we have one new applicant and last year's recipients will be reminded to reapply if interested.

Cindy Eigel reported the following deaths:

- Hattie Mae Compher: Greenfield Nov 19 former Teacher's Aide at Greenfield Exempted Village Schools,
- Ramona Hunter: Dec 22, former Hillsboro Elementary School Librarian,
- Susan Beatty: Dec 22, former employee of Greenfield Exempted Village Schools
- May F. Butts: Dec 25, former Lynchburg Clay Librarian and musical accompanist
- Linda Michael Campbell: Dec 25, former Lynchburg Clay Middle School Teacher

Kathy Levo reported that the Highland House Museum Christmas decorating was a success. She acknowledged the efforts of Loretta Dean, Joyce Baker, and BJ Hopkins. She noted that the decorations were very creative. Mrs. Levo stated that the 2019 theme would be "Silver Bells" and asked the membership to begin considering ways that they might contribute to this year's decorating efforts.

Charles Newland asked for suggestions as to the type of "legislative news" the membership might be interested in receiving and mentioned that he would be participating in a meeting with a number of legislators later in February.

President Hottle acknowledged the community service donation collected for the Highland County Homeless Shelter and a donation of coats and apparel items supplied by the Hillsboro FFA.

There were no reports on Membership or Pre-retirement.

Old Business:

Robert Hottle and Kevin Black reminded attendees to confirm and update their contact information on the rosters located on tables. It was noted to give special attention to email, phone and cell phone columns. Kevin noted that email and cell phone numbers would allow HCRTA to email newsletters and send mass reminders and notices.

New Business:

Kathy Levo announced her intention to step down as the Newsletter Editor. She explained the duties of editor including:

- ❖ Attending executive committee meetings,
- ❖ Composing the newsletter,
- ❖ Duplicating and mailing said newsletter and reports along with return envelopes (approximately 70 mailings),

Kathy mentioned that computer skills would be helpful and that some communications could be done electronically.

Vice President Jim Faust acknowledged receipt of a thank you note from Lynchburg Clay Elementary School for our Ready-Fest donation. Faust also mentioned that ORTA is seeking a Southwest Regional District Representative to replace Michael Ward who has moved.

Announcements and Conclusion:

Future meeting plans were announced including the Executive Meeting at 9:30 on April 1st at Bell Gardens Place and the next General Meeting on May 6th. After discussion, it was moved by Kathy Levo that the next three (3) meetings be held at the Hillsboro Ponderosa Banquet Center with a cost of \$12.00 (to help defer the cost of guaranteed meal reservation numbers and room rental). The motion was seconded by Charles Newland and carried without dissent by the membership.

Community service project options were discussed. Marilyn Meyers proposed a motion, seconded by Mary Black, and approved unanimously by the membership that the May Service Project be a collection for Hospice of Hope.

Vice President Faust announced tentative future programs as follows:

- ❖ May: local high school youth that have excelled at the highest level in some area, having won state titles and or progressed to national competition, speaking on their accomplishments and experiences in pursuit of excellence
- ❖ August: EMS personnel speaking on the opioid epidemic
- ❖ November: STRS Representative speaking on changes to STRS healthcare and benefits

Mr. Faust asked for an update on President Hottle's health. Mr. Hottle explained that he was diagnosed with brain cancer in November and underwent surgery about 3 weeks later. He is currently undergoing daily radiation treatments to continue for approximately 20 more days.

Adjournment:

A motion for adjournment was proposed by Charlie Newland, seconded by Donna Armstrong and unanimously approved by the membership.