

HCRTA General Meeting, Nov. 7, 2022

At noon Jim Faust, HCRTA president, called the meeting to order. The group then recited the pledge, led by Vice President JC Bihl. Afterwards the group sang “God Bless America,” followed by prayer, announcements, and an excellent meal prepared by the ladies of the Hillsboro Church of Christ, two of whom are former teachers and members of the group.

Jim Faust explained HCRTA gives a \$50 donation for church usage and asked Donita Everetts, one of the cooks, to explain how the meal expenses and excess money are used. Everetts said once the meal supplies are satisfied, the additional monies are spent on church youth activities including the “Backpack Club”, an after-school program for first to fifth grade youth. Everetts also shared the baked chicken recipe, a popular lunch entrée, with the group.

Tamla Cole from STRS, main speaker, informed the group about health care and any changes for the upcoming year and answered questions following her presentation.

In the business meeting the August minutes were approved. The special project is the Animal Shelter.

In her financial report Doris Pulse, treasurer, reported \$159 was to be added to the scholarship fund and \$292 was to go to the Highland County Animal Shelter.

President Faust gave a brief report on the three recent meetings: First, on October 12, President Jim Faust, Vice President JC Bihl, and Leone Bihl attended the ORTA 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in Worthington. They were entertained by musical selections from outgoing ORTA President and his wife and heard messages from the current ORTA President, a new STRS board member, and a retired teacher, Secondly, on October 26, Jim Faust and Pat Gall assisted at the preretirement informational meeting at Hillsboro Elementary Library. Bonnie Wild from STRS made an excellent presentation. All were pleased with the facilities and how well the meeting went. Pat reported there were 21 participants and one after-meeting contact. Pat received many complimentary remarks from attendees about being pleased with the meeting. Thirdly, on Oct. 17, Doris Pulse and Jim Faust attended the regional ORTA conference in Dayton.

**Re: committee reports**

In a membership update Pulse reported most HCRTA attendees have rejoined and will get a number later. Faust said he had spoken with 6 prospective members and given them information; he is hopeful they will follow up with the group.

The Necrology report by Leone Bihl follows:

- **Robert G. Gardner** – He was a teacher, athletic director, and coach, working 40 years in the Indian Hill, Norwood, Madiera City Schools, and Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy.
- **June Day Roush** – was an educator serving the Lynchburg Clay School District.
- **Josephine R. Harner/ Josephine Roseann Karnes** (yes, of Karnes Orchard) Hadley Harner – mother-in-law to our Jennie Harner, lived to be 100 years young, and for 19 years she taught first grade at Webster Elementary in the Hillsboro City School District.
- **Kathleen Johnson Werner** – retired from Clinton Massie Schools.
- **Ruthanne Trutner** – (wife of William “Bill,” my favorite high school teacher), taught government, speech, and debate classes and directed plays at Edward Lee McClain High School. She achieved county acclaim when she was inducted into the Highland County Women’s Hall of Fame.

- **Larry Chapman** – taught special education at Buckskin and social studies at Edward Lee McClain High School, his alma mater.
- Not a teacher, but a person of note in the community and a mother with whom I had a memorable positive parent teacher conference – **Deborah Kellis Harsha**, wife of former Hillsboro mayor Sandy Harsha, mother of current Hillsboro mayor Justin Harsha, owner/manager of Hillsboro business Harsha Monuments, and an active participant in numerous community activities.

Joyce Baker reported on the decorated Christmas trees at the Highland House, home to Highland County Historical Society. The theme is “one room schoolhouses in the community” and many can be seen on the Historical Society’s website. Kathy Levo added there is a quiz for visitors to add to their viewing experience. Prizes for winners include a \$10 credit for the HCHS gift shop and a free society membership. HCRTA was invited and encouraged to visit Highland House to view the decorated trees.

In additional information in sharing time Faust encouraged the retirees to visit the Lynchburg Lions Club candy store at the bank building in Lynchburg and the Republican Building in Hillsboro beginning Thanksgiving week.

Many county athletes played excellently this season: HHS was commended for its football season; Lynchburg-Clay marching band received a Superior award at the State level and the girls’ soccer team went to the state final four; Whiteoak’s cross country team did well, and Eyre was 5<sup>th</sup> in the state; Fairfield teams did well in volleyball, cross country, and soccer. HCRTA is proud of the athletes’ accomplishments. All the schools excelled in FFA and other activities.

The group needs to decide on a community service project for the February meeting. The group discussed possible future presentations. When Jim Faust mentioned a contact he had made at an ORTA meeting, Kathy Levo because of weather concerns suggested May rather than February when an STRS board member can address the group. Joan Winner would like for Tim Koehl to return to speak about ancient Indian influence in the area. Also suggested was Pam Kellough, the muralist. Leone Bihl suggested a speaker about teen and adult mental health. Several would like to hear about the constitutional convention of states.

Officer Election:

Acting officers: Jim Faust, President; JC Bihl, Vice President; Kevin Black, Secretary; Doris Pulse, Treasurer.

Jim asked for volunteers from the floor and said the officers had served a long period of time and would be happy for others to serve. Doris Pulse asked to retire. Jim Faust asked Leone Bihl to serve as Treasurer. She agreed. There were no further nominations. Donna Armstrong moved to keep the present slate of officers with Leone Bihl replacing Pulse as Treasurer. Sharon Parker seconded the motion. After an oral unanimous vote, the motion was approved. Joan Winner volunteered to serve as Necrology Reporter in Bihl’s stead.

The next meeting will be February 6, 2023, at the Hillsboro Church of Christ with all 2023 future meetings at the same site the first Monday in February, May, August, and November. Cost is the meal plus church donation.

The next executive meeting is scheduled for January 2, 2023, at Frisch’s in Hillsboro at 9:30 a.m. All are invited to help the officers plan future events.

Jim Faust adjourned the HCRTA meeting at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Leone Bihl for Kevin Black