

Meeting Minutes:
Highland County Retired Teachers Association
02-06-2023

Opening:

The February 6, 2023 General Meeting of the HCRTA, was held at the Hillsboro Church of Christ. The meeting was attended by 19 members and 3 guests.

President Faust called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm and opened with welcoming remarks, recitation of the "Pledge of Allegiance", the singing of "God Bless America", a moment of silence in memory of members who have passed, and an invocation. The meal was provided by Donita Everetts and Darlene Mihalik of the Hillsboro Church of Christ, and included chicken tortilla soup, ham sliders, pinwheels, beverages, and desserts.

Program:

Following the meal, President Faust introduced guest speaker Patsi Dick of the Highland District Hospital. Mrs. Dick presented an informative talk about the "Pathways to Wellness" program, a behavioral health service available through the Highland District Hospital. The program provides small group counseling, individual psychological or psychiatric services, and behavioral therapy to individuals. The program is designed to help individuals cope with feelings and emotions including grief, anxiety, hopelessness, anger, worry, sadness, irritability, and depression as well as relationship issues, decreased motivation, trauma, relationship strain, and concerns over addictions or substance abuse. Anyone can make a referral to the program for themselves or loved ones. The services are generally free, with cost being covered by Medicare or insurance. Once enrolled in the program, an individual will attend sessions three days per week. A typical day would involve morning refreshments and social time, followed by three 45-minute group sessions (8-10 individuals per group), followed by lunch, before wrapping up the day. Transportation is available through FRS. More intensive psychiatric individual services are also available as deemed necessary. For more details on the program effectiveness and the referral process, see the meeting handouts on the HCRTA web site.

Following her presentation, Mrs. Dick fielded question from the membership, and remained available after the business meeting for individual questions.

Business Meeting:

Reports:

Following the presentation, Mr. Faust opened the business meeting with the approval of the November Meeting Minutes and the January Treasurer's Report. The November meeting minutes were corrected to reflect \$292.00 collected for the Highland County Animal Shelter, as opposed to \$309.00 originally reported. The Treasurer's Report was corrected to show the NCB CD maturing on 1/14/24 rather than 1/14/23. A motion to approve both reports as amended was proposed by Lawrence Dukes and seconded by Kathy Levo. Approved unanimously. Mrs. Pulse reported that \$185.00 was collected for the Victim Witness Service Project and \$184.00 was collected for the scholarship fund.

Kevin Black reported that, after the 2022 scholarship awards, a small sum of money was transferred from the HCRTA General Scholarship Fund to fulfill the Five-Hundred Dollar (\$500.00) 2022 The Harold W. Spargur Scholarship. That fund now has a balance of \$0.00. As such, the executive committee voted in January to discontinue the Spargur Scholarship and concentrate all scholarship donations into the HCRTA General Scholarship Fund. Donations can still be made in memory of Mr. Spargur (or other individuals), but all donations will go into the HCRTA General Scholarship Fund.

President Faust reported to the membership that he was in the process of filing the ORTA Annual Reports. One of the questions from ORTA was whether we wanted ORTA to collect local dues on our behalf. After a brief discussion it was determined that this is something we do not want ORTA to do.

Next Mr. Faust read excerpts from two newspaper articles, in which STRS was attempting to refute the claim that STRS members receive less back in benefits than they paid in.

Next, Joan Winner presented the February 2023 Necrology Report as follows:

- Joseph Edmund Current, 86, of Greenfield, passed away Thursday, Nov. 10, 2022, at Greenfield Adena Medical Center. Joe was a 1954 graduate of Edward Lee McClain High School. He retired in 1994 after 31 years of teaching Industrial Arts and English and coaching two years at Peebles and 29 years at Greenfield Exempted Village School District. He was also a minister of 66 years, for the past 18 years at the First Baptist Church in Washington C.H.
- Margaret Turman Pendelton, 80, of Lynchburg, passed away Nov. 12, 2022. After a career spanning more than 30 years, she retired from Blanchester Local schools. She also later taught at the Hillsboro Christian Academy.
- Dora N. Douglas, 75, of WCH, formerly of Hillsboro, passed away Sunday, Nov. 20, 2022. Dora taught elementary and later middle school for over 20 years. She was preceded in death by her husband Chester, who was a janitor at Hillsboro.
- Nancy J. Wisecup, 76, of Hillsboro, formerly of WCH, died Friday November 26, 2022. She is survived by her husband Byron Wisecup, former Hillsboro Superintendent. Nancy retired from Highland County Human Services and later Southern State Community College.
- Betty L. Bishop, 84, of Hillsboro died Monday, December 5, 2022. Betty was a 1956 Hillsboro graduate who later served as Hillsboro Mayor for 15 years and Greenfield City Manager. She was responsible for bringing Weastec and Southern State Community College to Hillsboro. Betty was also a long-time Hillsboro City Schools' bus driver.
- Sheila Parshall, 78, of Samantha, died Thursday, Dec. 15, 2022. Sheila retired from the Fairfield Local School District after years of cafeteria service. She also served as secretary and treasurer of the Penn Township School Reunion.
- John C. "Buck" Wilkin, 77, of Hillsboro, passed away Dec. 12, 2022. Buck was a 1963 graduate of Hillsboro High School. He and his father owned Wilkin and Wilkin Insurance of Hillsboro. He was the past president of the Hillsboro Jaycees, past president of the Highland District Hospital Board, and past president of the Hillsboro School Board.
- James C. Lawson, 92, Greenfield, died January 24, 2023. Jim retired from General Motors after 30 years and was a long-standing bus driver for Fairfield Local Schools.

Other old business included the need for individuals to recruitment of new members, as well as the advantages of personal calling chain for meeting reservations. Donna Armstrong, Doris Pulse, and Diana El Cook agreed to share some of the calling chain duties. There is still a need for at least two more individuals to help with this task. New member recruitment remains a need.

Lawrence Dukes was nominated as a Legislative Liasson. Dr. Dukes said he would take it under consideration.

Pat Gall reported that she has been coordinating a pre-retirement meeting with Tamla Cole. The tentative date will be October 24, 2023, possibly at the Hillsboro Elementary Library beginning at 4:30 PM.

New Business:

To accommodate November election set-up for the Church of Christ, we will move the November General Meeting from November 6th to November 13th at the Hillsboro Church of Christ. Kevin will contact Tamla Cole to see if that will work with her schedule. (The call has been made and that date works for her.)

The next executive meeting will be held at 9:30 am on April 3, 2023, at the Hillsboro Frisch's. The next HCRTA General Meeting will be May 1, 2023, at 11:00 AM., Hillsboro Church of Christ. Rudy Fichtenbaum, STRS Board Member will be the guest speaker.

Meeting adjourned, 2:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin E. Black