

Minutes of Highland County Retired Teachers Association Meeting
Monday, November 5, 2018 – 12 noon
Ponderosa Banquet Center

President Bob Hottle welcomed everyone to the meeting. Jim Faust led the singing of "Happy Birthday" for those having birthdays in October, November and December. He also led members in the Pledge of Allegiance and in the singing of "God Bless America". President Hottle offered prayer. Guests were introduced, including the speakers for the day's program and members of the Adams and Brown Counties' retired teachers associations.

A delicious buffet lunch was enjoyed by all. Andrea Holt and her staff were recognized and thanked for their efforts.

Following lunch, speakers included ORTA Southwest Ohio representatives Becky Cropper and Evelyn Yockey and ORTA State President Bee Lehner. Topics covered included increasing membership in ORTA (ideas listed on ORTA website), insurance concerns, new logo, STRS healthcare and COLA. COLA is being watched closely by ORTA and representatives are attending all STRS meetings concerning this matter.

AMBA representative Bonnie Norris outlined their services and told members that AMBA is endorsed by STRS, SERS and OPERS.

Jim Faust introduced Adams and Brown County members and their presidents.

Tamala Cole of STRS, the scheduled speaker, was unable to attend but Hope Short of STRS gave an interesting and informative presentation. She opened with some fun facts on STRS retirees and then spoke about health care coverage, student loan paybacks and many other items related to STRS. She also answered questions posed by those in attendance.

The business meeting followed.

President Hottle gave a review of the October 5th ORTA meeting in Dayton. Attending that meeting were Bob Hottle, Doris Pulse, Mary Black and Kevin Black. Kevin gave an overview of topics covered at that meeting, which included the reorganization of ORTA into regions, services to local chapters, mailing assistance and dues. ORTA is working hard on COLA (pathways to reinstatement). There is lots of information on the website, which is hcrt@weebly.com. An updated list of members was also mentioned. Communication to members was discussed, and meeting announcements have been included on radio, newspaper and Facebook.

Secretary and Treasurer's Reports: Treasurer Doris Pulse gave her report which included memorial donations to the Scholarship Fund (George and Imogene Shaffer, Hal Harvey and Judge Richard Davis) in the amount of \$326.50. This month's community service project was Soles for Students and \$327.50 was collected with the lunch reservations. Approval of the Secretary's Report was included with the Treasurer's Report; a motion for approval was made by Jim Faust and seconded by Kathy Levo, motion carried.

Scholarships: Mary Black told members that three \$500 scholarships had been awarded, and the Harold Spargum Memorial Scholarship also offers \$500.

Necrology: Cindy Eigel gave the necrology report. Those remembered were Frances Hartman Wilkin, Harold Harvey, Imogene Shaffer, Bob Armstrong, Alice Elizabeth Hart, Judy Ann Gill and Sandy Frost. Sympathies were extended to Donna Armstrong and Glenn and Opal Armstrong for the recent losses of Bob Armstrong and Elizabeth Hart.

Legislative: Charles Newland told of legislative matters concerning computing pensions, DEA 360 Strategies and prescription drug costs which are on the rise.

Community Service: Soles for Students was the project for November and a box was passed around for donations for this worthy cause. Joyce Baker reported that the HCRTA Christmas Tree at the Highland House Museum was finished and reflected this year's theme of "Nature's Christmas". Kathy Levo told members that the Highland House would be open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m until Christmas. Next year's theme is "Silver Bells".

Old Business: None

New Business: Officers for next year were elected on a motion by Joyce Baker and a second by Opal Armstrong. Officers are Bob Hottle, President; Jim Faust, Vice President; Kevin Black, Secretary; and Doris Pulse, Treasurer.

It was mentioned that the Hillsboro Lions Club will not be selling candy this year, but the Lions Club in Lynchburg will.

The meeting place for the February 4, 2019 meeting was discussed. A rental fee of \$50 per use is charged for the Ponderosa Banquet Center, plus a minimum of 40 lunches at \$10.00 each. It was decided to meet at Ponderosa on a motion by Mary Black and a second by Charles Newland; motion carried.

A motion was made by Nancy Baldwin for the community service project for February to be the Highland County Homeless Shelter. The motion was seconded and carried by a vote of the members.

A motion for adjournment was made by Ruth Georges and seconded by Charles Newland; motion carried.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 4, 2019 at noon at the Ponderosa Banquet Center.