

Meeting Minutes:
Highland County Retired Teachers Association
Hillsboro Ponderosa Banquet Center, 5/6/19, 12:00 PM

Opening:

President Robert Hottle called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM and began by recognizing members with April, May, and June 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 welcomed guests Jarod Warner, Heather Jo Arnett, Hailee Waits, Elizabeth Zaremba, and Kelsey Arnett.

Meal:

Following a blessing offered by President Hottle, members enjoyed a Ponderosa buffet meal with grilled chicken breast, cheesy potatoes, green beans, tossed salad, dressings and toppings, rolls, butter, drinks, and assorted desserts.

Program:

The program began with a presentation by members of the Lynchburg-Clay FFA Milk Quality and Products Career Development Event team. The team, including members Hailee Waits, Elizabeth Zaremba, and Kelsey Arnett, and co-coach Heather Jo Arnett, won the Ohio championship and placed 8th in the national competition. The students discussed the various aspects of the contest, told the group how the event was conducted, and explained some of the nuances and complexities of preparing for this detailed competition. The presentation was well received, and garnered lively questions and hearty congratulations from the membership.

Following the student presentation, Highland County Health Commissioner Jarod Warner spoke to the members regarding the topic of Medical Marijuana. Mr. Warner discussed the history of cannabis use and its criminalization in the United States, the differences in the types of recreational and medical marijuana, controversies surrounding the current national and state initiatives to legalize medicinal marijuana, and the challenges and implications that Ohio may connote from legalization implementations in other states.

Reports:

At the conclusion of the program President Robert Hottle brought the business meeting to order. Secretary Kevin Black submitted the February Draft Meeting Minutes available on the web site for approval. Treasurer Doris Pulse submitted the Treasurer’s Reports, amending the written report with pending transactions including a reimbursement check to be paid to the secretary for paper and envelopes, and a check to be written to ORTA for state dues. Motion to approve both reports was made by Donna Armstrong and seconded by Susan Parker. Approved.

Scholarship Chairman Mary Black thanked the membership for donations to date and circulated the collection box for those who desired to contribute. She reported having received three (3) new applicants since the last general meeting.

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Marilyn Meyers delivered the Necrology Report prepared by Cindy Eigel. The report memorialized the passing of Betty Jean Smith McClain Graduate and Cafeteria worker; Margate Harris former 1st grade teacher; Thelma Coffee, former 3rd grade teacher; John Hamilton, Brother of Lynn Neal; Helen Whitley, Mother-in-Law of Joanne Whitley; Daniel Nartker, Bother of Larry Nartker; and Ralph Jackson, Father of Cheryl Jackson.

No reports were submitted from Membership, Pre- Retirement, Community Service and Legislative Committees.

Old Business:

Joyce Baker reminded retirees that the theme for this year's Highland County Historical Society Christmas tree is "silver bells".

New Business:

New business included the presentation of a letter from former member Elaine Riggle.

Reminders and Adjournment:

The next HCRTA General Meeting will take place on August 5th at the Hillsboro Ponderosa Banquet Center. 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.

Future programs will include Dave Buschelman, speaking on the Opioid issue in August, and Tamla Cole from STRS in November

Suggestions for August Community Service Projects included Ready Fest, Sweats for Vets, (Georgetown Veteran's Home), and Sweats for Survivors (a charity for domestic violence victims administered by the Highland County Prosecutor's Office.)

Prior to adjournment reminders were made regarding Tuesday's voting, the 90th Anniversary of the Hillsboro Garden Club, and the Leesburg Lions Club Long Stem Rose Sale.

Regarding the status of his health, President Robert Hottle reported that he recently had surgery to remove a tumor on his brain and was given a prognosis of one year. His current treatment includes wearing a magnetic device to help keep cancer cells from reproducing, eating a restricted diet, and daily exercise. He says that he feels well and is currently planning to cut wood and make hay.

Motion to adjourn was proposed by Joyce Baker, seconded by Marilyn Meyers. Motion unanimously approved.