

**Meeting Minutes:**  
Highland County Retired Teachers Association  
Hillsboro Ponderosa Banquet Center, August 5, 2019, 12:00 PM

**Opening:**

President Robert Hottle called the meeting, attended by 32 members and guests, to order at 12:01 PM. He began by recognizing members with July, August, and September 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" led by President Hottle.

Vice-President Faust welcomed and introduced speakers, Brandon Jackman and Dave Bushelman and guests, David Grover and Janet Florence.

**Meal:**

Following a blessing offered by President Hottle, members enjoyed a Ponderosa buffet meal with roast pork loin, cheesy potatoes, steamed mixed vegetables, tossed salad, dressings and toppings, rolls, butter, drinks, and assorted desserts.

**Program:**

The program began with a presentation by David Bushelman, Highland County Emergency Response Coordinator and Lt. Brandon Jackman, with Paint Creek Joint EMS and Fire. Lt. Jackman related his experience as a local emergency responder in relation to opioid use in the area. He observed that around 2017 or 2018 that there was as much as a four-fold increase in the number of calls related to drug overdosing. He explained how Heroin, mixed with Fentanyl, Carfentanyl, or Meth could drastically alter the effects and strength levels, compounding the overdose problems. Lt. Jackman explained how the local Quick Response Team works not only to address the immediate medical needs of an overdose victim, but also to follow-up within 48 hours to offer concrete and specific help to assist the addict in connecting with recovery services. Finally, Lt. Jackman discussed the pros and cons of political solutions to the Opioid Crisis such as of HB105, which exempts overdose reporters from criminal prosecution, and the availability of NarCan, a drug which blocks the body's absorption of opioids.

Mr. Bushelman rounded out the program explaining how his office assists in the development and approval of emergency response plans for various local entities such as government offices, schools, medical facilities, businesses, and event planners such as the Festival of Bells or the Fair Board. He explained that the plans are designed ensure continuity of essential services in the eventuality of a natural disaster or an instance of domestic terrorism. He talked about how there is often consistency of plans from one county to the next, and how this helps in inter-county cooperation during periods like the recent tornadoes and domestic violence in the Dayton area.

**Reports:**

At the conclusion of the program President Robert Hottle brought the business meeting to order. Secretary Kevin Black submitted for approval the Draft of the May 6<sup>th</sup> HCRTA General Meeting Minutes. At the attention of Ruth Anne Duff, one correction was made, changing the announcement of the Hillsboro Garden club to a 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, not 100<sup>th</sup> as was previously reported. Treasurer Doris Pulse submitted the Treasurer's Reports, amending the written report by correcting the receipts line to read 5 local dues rather than 4. Motion to approve both reports was made by Charles Newland, seconded by Joyce Baker, and approved unanimously.

Scholarship Chairman Mary Black announced the recipients of the HCRTA Scholarships as Samantha Shepherd of Leesburg, enrolled at Southern State College, and Deon Burn of Hillsboro, attending Thomas More University. The recipient of the Harold W. Spargur Scholarship was Samuel Buddelmeyer, also of Leesburg, enrolled at Wright State University. Miss Shepherd, who personally

thanked the membership for the scholarship, was a guest at the meeting along with her mother Melissa Shepherd. Each scholarship was in the amount of \$500.

Necrology was reported by Cindy Eigel. The report memorialized the passing of George Quallen (Hillsboro City Schools), Deborah Sue Rachford (Greenfield Exempted Village Schools), David Roush (former Physics teacher), Dixie Overstake (Adams County MRDD and Greenfield Exempted Village Schools), Mabel Drummond (Adams County Schools and McClain High School), Kimberly Jo Howard (HiCo), Darlene Newby (Sabina Elementary School), and Dorothy Snyder (Ohio public servant and education advocate).

During the Legislative Report Charles Newland discussed Life Skills and Character Education and a possible partnership between the QUEST program and one of the local schools.

Doris Pulse reported that the collection for Redi-fest and other related "school supply" programs for the local schools amounted to \$210.00. She stated that a check for \$42 would be sent to each of the five local school districts this week.

No reports were submitted from Membership, Pre- Retirement, Community Service, or Calling Chain.

#### **Old Business:**

Joyce Baker reminded retirees that the theme for this year's Highland County Historical Society Christmas tree is "silver bells". She reported that our tree will now be located in the "classroom" display. Joyce along with Kathy Levo reported that the museum would close for a brief period in late October, at which time Christmas decorations and tree displays would be erected. Any contributions to the "silver bells" tree will need to be to Joyce by mid-October.

#### **New Business:**

In new business, Kathy Levo reported that there would be a Pioneer Days Program with activities and displays from each of the area communities to held at the Scott House on August 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 Am until 4:00 PM.

Donna Sizemore also brought to the attention of the membership that there would be tours of Bell's Opera House on the Morning of August 17<sup>th</sup>. Details are available on the Bell's Opera House Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/events/1234064386772315/>).

Vice President Faust noted that there were several extra to-go meals at the back of the room available for a suggested donation of \$10.

#### **Reminders and Adjournment:**

Prior to adjournment, reminders were made regarding the next HCRTA Executive Meeting which will take place at Bell Gardens Place at 9:30 AM on October 7<sup>th</sup>. The next HCRTA General Meeting will take place on November 4<sup>th</sup> at the Hillsboro Ponderosa Banquet Center. Tamla Cole will be the featured speaker with an update from STRS. The membership was also reminded that as of this month we are still not reaching the break-even mark of forty (40) attendees. Members were encouraged to reach out to former colleagues with personal invitations.

In honor of Veteran's Day, the November service project will be donations and/or collections for Sweats for Vets, to benefit residents of the Georgetown Veteran's Home, many of which have been Highland County natives.

Motion to adjourn was proposed by Kathy Levo, seconded by Charlie Newland, and unanimously approved.