

Meeting Minutes:
Highland County Retired Teachers Association
Ponderosa Banquet Center, 2/3/2020

Opening:

The February General Meeting of the Highland County Retired Teachers Association was called to order by President Robert Hottle at 12:00 PM. The meeting was attended by 22 individuals including guests, Chief Eric Daniels, of the Hillsboro City Police Department, and Bianca Walsh, recruiter for the US Census Bureau. President Hottle began the meeting by introducing guests and recognizing members with January, February, and March birthdays. Vice-President Jim Faust then led the membership in singing "Happy Birthday" and "God Bless America", followed by the recitation of the "Pledge of Allegiance". At the completion of the invocation by President Hottle, members indulged in a buffet meal consisting of ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, tossed salad, rolls, butter, drinks, and assorted desserts.

Program:

At the conclusion of the meal Hillsboro City Police Chief Eric Daniels spoke to the membership about "School Safety". Chief Daniels noted that Hillsboro City Schools has one police officer at the elementary building and one at the high school / middle school campus at all times that school is in session. The officers, Tim Bell and Zach Burnett, are fully armed and empowered Hillsboro City Police Officers, who are employed by the city of Hillsboro (with reimbursement from the school district). The officers' presence during student arrival, dismissal, and through the school day helps build rapport between the students and the officers and assists to prevent any problem such as bullying or aggression.

In addition to officers' presence during the school day school, safety is enhanced by a locked-door policy, periodic safety drills, an occasional canine presence, officers on duty during after-school activities, strict school zone traffic enforcement, and an increase of police supervision before and after school in student congregation areas such as Holtfield Station.

Chief Daniels stated that he was not as familiar with the other area school security measures but believed that other county school including Lynchburg-Clay had resource officers rather than fully empowered police officers in their buildings.

Following Chief Daniels' presentation, Bianca Walsh, Recruiter for US Census Bureau from Chillicothe spoke to the membership about the 2020 census effort. Ms. Walsh emphasized up to 70% of households do not return their census form and that a full and accurate counting of individuals residing in a given location on April 1st, 2020 is crucial for apportionment of government services such public funds to support schools, hospitals, road construction, safety services, and the like. She informed the membership that the census form does not currently ask questions about citizenship, but only asks for names and birthdates of individuals living in a household. Furthermore, identifying information is held private for a period of 70 years.

Ms. Walsh noted that there is a need for approximately 300 individuals to canvas for the census in Highland County. She stated that in Highland County census workers are paid between \$14.00 and \$15.50 per hours plus mileage. Canvassers submit the available hours to the bureau on a weekly basis and are given canvassing assignments that match their availability. For more information about jobs available as a Census Worker, members were given handouts which included details about the jobs as well as information about the application process. Applications can be submitted online at 2020census.gov/jobs, or by calling 1-855-JOB-2020.

Reports:

At the conclusion of the program President Robert Hottle brought the business meeting to order. Secretary Kevin Black submitted the November Draft Meeting Minutes for approval. Treasurer Doris Pulse submitted the Treasurer's Report, with no amendments from the January written report which was included in newsletter mailings. A motion to approve both reports was made by Joyce Baker and seconded by Charlie Newland. Motion approved.

Scholarship Chairperson Mary Black reported that there were no updates regarding scholarship recipients and thanked the membership for their continued support of the HCRTA Scholarship fund.

Cindy Eigel delivered the Necrology report, eulogizing Nancy Porter Campbell Hicks, former employee of Greenfield Ex Village Schools; Robert Watts, 19 years of teaching and Coach: Mary Jane Burgess, former third- grade teacher at Blanchester; Richard Hill, longtime educator and coach at multiple districts including Miami Trace; Melinda Yankee, former Fayetteville school employee; Barbara Ann Sayer, of Bainbridge, who taught for 30 years in Chillicothe; Arthur Alexander, former teacher at Greenfield Bible Institute and substitute teacher at Hillsboro City Schools; Glenn M. Moore, bus driver for Hillsboro City Schools for 40 years; Mary E. Lauderback, retired Lynchburg-Clay bus driver; Phyllis A Crabtree, former Fairfield Local cafeteria employee; Hellen Sprinkle, mother of Linda and Kathy Sprinkle, former cook a Webster Elementary in Hillsboro; and Chad Hodson, son of former county official Ike Hodson and coach of youth sports for many years.

During the Legislative Report, Charlie Newland discussed the lawsuit filed by Dean Dennis over the the STRS failure to deliver on promised COLA's. Charlie also discussed a number of large financial bonuses (over 37 bonuses of \$100,000 or more) paid to STRS investment employees.

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

Old Business:

Joyce Baker, liaison for the Highland County Historical Society, reminded retirees that the theme for the 2020 Christmas Tree is "Collections", and that she is seeking to create a collection of pictures depicting past and present schools in Highland County. Joyce can be contacted at 937-288-0126. Loretta Dean reported that she would be stepping back from her involvement with the Christmas Tree project and would need a replacement from among the membership.

New Business:

Membership was reminded that there would be an Executive Meeting at Bell Gardens Place on April 6th at 9:30 AM and that all interested members are welcome. The next HCRTA General Meeting will take place on May 4, at Hillsboro Ponderosa Banquet Center. The program for May will likely be a presentation by one of the area choral music departments and the November program will again be an STRS Ohio update. Ideas for future community service projects were solicited. Suggestions included collections for foster parent emergency placement supplies, feminine hygiene products for area schools, and collections for SOS. Final decision regarding the May project will be made at the April Executive Meeting.

The membership was reminded that we were well short of the break-even mark of forty (40) attendees. Members were encouraged reach out to former colleagues with personal invitations for future meetings. Members were also offered the additional meals as take home meals for a suggested donation.

Motion to adjourn was proposed by Leone Bihl and seconded by B. J. Hopkins. Motion unanimously approved.