

Meeting Minutes:
Highland County Retired Teachers Association
On-Line Zoom Meeting, 2-1-2021

Opening:

The on-line General Meeting of the Highland County Retired Teachers Association was called to order by President Jim Faust at 11:05 AM, Monday, February 1, 2021. The meeting was attended by 7 individuals including guest speaker LuAnn Roe with the Greenfield Area Christian Center Food Pantry. A recording of the meeting will be available on Facebook and the HCRTA web site. Two other members attempted to connect to the meeting but were unsuccessful due to technical difficulties.

Program:

Following the pledge of allegiance, singing of “God Bless America” and an invocation, President Faust turned the floor over to guest speaker LuAnn Roe. Mrs. Roe explained that the Greenfield Area Christian Center is an inter-denomination organization that includes a clothing ministry, an inter-denominational youth ministry, and a food pantry serving residents of the Greenfield Exempted School district. In 1986 the Greenfield Area Ministerial Association united several smaller food-based and needs based ministries into their current location at 910 North Fifth Street in Greenfield. A new building was constructed about 5 years ago at that same location. The new facility allows families to “shop” and choose their preferred grocery items. Staffing for the center is provided by volunteers from 8 local churches on a rotating basis. The center is affiliated Highland County Community Action and the Freestore Foodbank, but also relies on local businesses, churches, organizations, and schools as well as grants for their funding. Additionally, many donations of produce and plants are made by local Mennonite families. Clients may pick up groceries once per month. The pantry is open for donations on Wednesdays, is open to clients on Wednesdays from 1-4 pm and is serving around 200 families per month. For more information see the Greenfield Area Christian Center on Facebook.

Rich Crabtree, with “Because He Lives Food Pantry” in Lynchburg, was not able to join us, but information regarding his organization was provided by President Faust. This food pantry, which is the joint effort of 3-4 Lynchburg area churches, has been in operation for about 9 years and has grown from serving about 30 families at its inception to currently serving nearly 270 families. The Because He Lives Food Pantry is located on Main Street in Lynchburg, with a satellite location in Pricetown. Because He Lives Food Pantry mainly serves residents of the Lynchburg-Clay School District.

We appreciate being able to focus on both pantries. Both presentations were interesting and worth hearing. Both pantries welcome donations, but also acknowledged that they are able to leverage monetary donations and purchase a much greater quantity of groceries than would be possible for private individuals.

HCRTA Treasurer Doris Pulse reported that to date we have approximately \$160 in donations to our Food Pantry Service Project. All present agreed that we should keep the window for donations open for another two weeks in hopes that the membership will contribute additional monies for this worthy cause.

Reports:

At the conclusion of the program President Jim Faust brought the business meeting to order. November 2020 meeting minutes, previously distributed in the January newsletter, were approved as written.

Treasurer Doris Pulse stated that in addition to the previously mentioned project donations, she has received \$190 in scholarship donations, some in memory of Bob Hottle. Additional receipts included one ORTA Annual Dues and five HCRTA Annual dues. Mrs. Pulse reports that so far this year we have about 25 paid members.

The meeting attendees discussed future meetings and projects. The hope is to meet in person in May. Suggestions for venues included a church fellowship hall, the meeting room at the Hillsboro City Schools Board Office, a corner of the Ponderosa Restaurant, Geovanni's Meeting Room, or a pavilion at Liberty Park. Program ideas included a musical performance by one of the local school vocal music departments. Service project ideas include another round of food pantry donations, school project contributions, and donations to the Southern Ohio Pregnancy Center. Other suggestions for venues, programs and projects are welcome. Final decision will be made at the April 5th executive meeting to be held at Hillsboro Frisch's at 9:30 AM.

The meeting concluded with a discussion of positions that need filled. Mary Black noted that Pat Gall has volunteered to chair the Pre-retirement Committee. Membership, Legislative, Phone Chain, and other committees still need volunteers. Jim Faust also mentioned that we are still in need of an individual to fill the Vice-Presidency.

Meeting adjourned.