

**Meeting Minutes:**  
Highland County Retired Teachers Association  
5-3-2021

**Opening:**

The May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 General Meeting of the HCRTA, held at “the Old Y Restaurant’ near Mowrystown, was called to order by President Jim Faust. This was the first in person meeting in over a year and was attended by 14 members and 1 guest.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the singing of God Bless America, and introductions, participants were served meals, having ordered from the menu shortly after arriving. We are grateful for the delicious food and the friendly, efficient service provided by the personnel at The Old Y Restaurant!

**Program:**

The program consisted of a beautiful selection of music, presented by the 10 member Whiteoak High School Choir, directed by Mrs. Michelle Gleam. The music was a nice blend of genres and styles. It was quite enjoyable to meet these young students and witness their performance.

**Business Meeting:**

Following the entertainment, Mr. Faust began the business meeting. Scholarship and community project collection boxes we passed among the participants. SOPC donations amounted to \$235 and scholarship donations were \$230.

Previously distributed meeting minutes and treasurer’s reports were unanimously approved. Along with the treasurer’s report, there was a reminder that some local and ORTA dues were currently outstanding. During that discussion Mr. Faust pointed out that our only source of revenues for the HCRTA was our \$5.00 local dues, which likely no longer covers the cost of supplies and postage for our quarterly newsletter and that there may be a need to increase the cost of dues soon. I was also noted that there had been a mix-up with some lost-in-the-mail payments to ORTA for state dues, but that we were in the process of resolving that matter with the state organization.

President Faust reviewed some of the information to recently come from ORTA and STRS. Information regarding STRS included:

- concern over automatic raises to investors
- performance based bonuses being proposed for STRS investors
- line item for salary increases, which were justified to the board because STRS employees do not get step increases
- The loss of over ½ billion dollars in a Panda Power Fund. (Note: STRS says that loss is not significant!)
- Good news from STRS is that \$12 billion has been added to portfolio

President Faust also mentioned the ongoing ORTA forensic audit of STRS and the fact that ORTA has filed a lawsuit against STRS for more information.

It was proposed that the next HCRTA meeting, slated for Monday August 2<sup>nd</sup>, we invite ORTA Executive Director Robin Rayfield as guest speaker and invite members of retired teacher’s organizations from adjoining counties to attend. Suggestions for future programs included title scams, painting, wine tasting, card making, crafts, and covid ramifications on student progress and the job market. Collection of money for school supplies for was suggested for the August community service project.

The need for a Vice-President and committee chairpersons was discussed. Loretta Dean volunteered to gather information regarding recent retirees. The executive meeting was set for July 5<sup>th</sup> at Frisch’s in Hillsboro and the next general meeting for August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meeting adjourned.