

Minutes of March 4, 2024 MCCRTA General Meeting

Opening; The Marion City County Retired Teachers met at 5:00 pm on March 4 at Tri-Rivers in the Giaque Auditorium with 54 members attending. Following prayer, a full course buffet from a private caterer in McCutchenville was served. As the meal concluded, MCCRTA president, Fred Rode, informed members that 27 Active Teachers were meeting in a separate room where retirement planning was being addressed by an STRS staff member.

He then introduced Tamala Cole, Assistant Director, Group Member Education of STRS (State Teachers Retirement System) who addressed the Retired Teachers group. Various topics were addressed including Retirement Plan Options, Sustainability of the Retirement Fund, and History of the COLA. Issues impacting sustainability of the fund were addressed including fewer active teachers paying into the fund due to privatization and families having less children. Having employers pay more into the fund is currently an active discussion. She addressed questions from the floor mostly focused on the controversial issue of bonuses and encouraged setting up a town hall meeting for this region.

Business Meeting:

- Following the Pledge of Allegiance the printed secretary's report was accepted.
- Treasurer Pat Lynch reported current membership as 219. Betty Anderson was commended for her work in compiling the new directory. Two members reported email changes as follows: Darlene Alexander (teachtoyou2@gmail.com.) and Louise Vance (clviolin991@gmail.com.) Webmaster Cathie Rhodes noted that the web address listed on the front cover of the new directory should not include the numbers 9707 The treasurer's report printed on the agenda was corrected to read "May 2024" for the maturation of the first CD listed. Door prizes from Pat Baldinger, Pat Lynch, Fred Rode, Jan Hoffman, Sheryl Skidmore, Darlene Alexander and Ann Quilter were awarded to Ann Quilter, Louise Vance, Connie Thomas, Jan Hulse, Aleta Daines, Cathie Rhodes, and Cheryl Williams.
- R.J Bicking gave the legislative report, noting that early voting had started and the website of 411.org was available for election information. Active teachers should be encouraged to vote for ORTA supported Michelle Flanagan in the election for the STRS board. Members were encouraged to sign the initiative petitions circulating that propose the creation of an independent commission to draw new lines for Ohio's voting districts.
- Dennis Swartz, encouraged members to note the article in the newsletter advising members to actively invite retired teachers to join MCCRTA. Scholarship applications from Pleasant & Harding have been received with more expected.
- President Fred Rode noted that we will conduct the Necrology recognition next month and noted that MCCRTA compared to other chapters in ORTA is doing well.

Announcements:

- The Kiwanis Pancake Day is Saturday, March 9.
- An All County High School Art Show sponsored by the Mid Ohio Fine Arts Society is scheduled to be held at Tri-Rivers on March 8th (5-7pm) and 9th (7am-2pm).
- Next MCCRTA meeting at 12:00 noon on Monday, April 1st at Tri- Rivers.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Aufdencamp, Recording Secretary