

HRSPA Luncheon Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2005

Dianne welcomed everyone and started the meeting at 11:45.

New members/retirees were recognized/congratulated by Diane and the attendees.

Special guests were recognized and welcomed.

Dianne pointed out and requested completion of the End of Year Evaluation Forms located on each table.

Raffle tickets for the 50/50 Drawing were announced as available.

Thomas led us in the Pledge and Invocation.

The buffet lunch and social time began.

Business Meeting:

The minutes from the March luncheon meeting were accepted as presented.

Treasury: Becky explained that our treasury is in deficit spending mode, down \$1000 at present.

Becky gave the Staples Reward Report, a \$77 check received.

And explanation of the membership codes "C1, C3, H1, and H3" was requested of Dianne and explained, referring to H as Henrico and C as District C.

The possibility of having to raise the luncheon fee was presented and explained. Our treasury is low.

Dianne requested input on how we might raise funds.

The treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Membership: Shirley thanked volunteers for the Contact Program. Dianne reviewed the renewal-of-membership contest and requested names of those not active who may wish to be contacted.

Dianne reviewed HCPS New Retiree Luncheon HRSPA Info distribution and asked everyone to get in touch with new retirees you know and help us enlist their membership.

Several who attended the HCPS Luncheon expressed our pleasurable satisfaction with this effort in hopes of its helping our membership.

There are 115 Retirees this year and 6 have joined so far.

Hospitality: Carol Townes announced that there are 104 at today's luncheon.

Social: Mary Shepard saw that tables and prizes were ready for today.

Newsletter: Lee Reynolds was thanked for a job well done on the newsletter and membership cards and our new banner.

Mailing: Members were acknowledged and thanked.

Publicity: Georgie was thanked for a great job.

History/Scrapbook: We still need someone for this position.

Remembrance: Sarah Thacker is taking over sending cards to those who are ill or families of those who have deceased HRSPA members. Barbara Porter was thanked for her years of service as that committee chair and presented with a bouquet of flowers.

Legislative: Chair was absent, but sent word that the good news is that the money is there and the bad news is that they're holding on to it. We must call and write to change this situation. New co-chair, Bea Morris, at the state level is dynamic. E-mail will be in the next newsletter.

Nominating: Swift Williams announced that JoAnn Marchant Brown is to take over this committee. A secretary is needed to replace Rose Tanner who has moved to Vice President. For now, the secretary can be appointed to fill out this term.

Scholarship: Chair was absent, but the recipient, David Porter who wants to become a history teacher, was introduced. He is the grandson of Barbara Porter. David said a nice thank you to all and had sent a grateful note.

Installation of Officers: Nancy Harris installed the Treasurer, Becky Goshorn, and Vice President, Rose Tanner. (Rose was absent so Shirley stood in for her.)

Miscellaneous:

District C meeting in May was held at Ukrops, Crossride - good facility - and was hosted by Henrico. Dianne thanked our members who helped with it and provided good attendance. The program was an inspiring patriotic flag presentation.

VRTA has voted to increase annual dues to \$15 and lifetime membership to \$200, the first increase in 25 years. A possible name change is 'in the works' to reflect membership open to ALL school personnel. A new Scholarship Fund will begin at the state level next year. Thanks was extended to those Henrico members who attended the Spring Delegate Assembly to assist in voting on crucial issues.

Ukrops Golden Gift Certificates: 20 received so far for \$8625 and we received \$108 for them.

Write your e-mail on the back of your Evaluation Form.

Hilliard House donations are accepted today.

NRTA, a division now of AARP, membership cards available today - free if already an AARP member.

Program: Speakers were introduced by Dianne.

Eleanor Meleski, Co-Founder and Current President of the Board of of Directors of Hilliard House

Melba Gibbs, Executive Director of Hillard House and Freedom House

Reginal Gordon, Executive Director of Homeward, the "Parent" organization of Hilliard House and other homeless programs

Reggie: Greater Richmond is in problem solving mode. Homeward oversees 100 organizations in the Richmond Area. Beginning in the early 70's things changed and there are more homeless. Faith communities stepped forward. Homeward began in 1998 and is now looking for root causes and solutions. Must look at personal stories and point folks to existing resources to move people back to permanent housing ASAP.

Melba: Homelessness IS in Henrico. In the Richmond area there are 1400 at any given time.
49% have a HS diploma 23% some college 8% Bac. Degree
76% male 24% female Median age is 41
More and more are veterans
140 are children on any given day, 51% age 6 and under

Large # due to or have substance abuse
13% are chronically mentally ill
Others from domestic violence

She related a couple of individual stories to make her point, one of a doctor who has lost all and one of a drug addict/dealer who has turned his life around with help.

Ellie: One of founding members of Hilliard House and president of the Board, she thanked us for our support and having her and the other speakers here today. She related how she became involved and the early resistance in Henrico due to denial of need. She shared the history of Hilliard House. It took 7 years to open, \$1,800,000 was raised and it was paid for before it opened. Basic concepts were recently reviewed and it is a two-year transitional facility with 30 beds. The vision is to assist women and children. The core values are respect, safe and therapeutic, personal growth/commitment/sharing, interdependency, opportunity to set own goals, sense of community. There is an aftercare program and folks are invited back to share their successes. It is exciting and challenging. Ellie issued an invitation to all to visit.

Dianne reminded us about our individual donations to HH and our organization's donation to HH. They need twin bed sheets, plastic bags. Pat VanTuyle asked for several volunteers to answer HH phones. Dianne asked that we let her know if we know of an organization on individuals who would provide a meal for one or more of the HH Wednesday night staff meetings. She then presented the honorariums and our HRSPA donation to Hilliard House.

We voted to keep our Luncheon Raffle at 50/50.

Thomas drew for the raffle and Barbara Nichols was the winner. She won \$65. Dianne thanked Thomas and Bernard for handling the raffle for us.

Door Prizes go to those at each table with a flag on their program.

We were reminded to turn in our name tags, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,

Shirley Uzel, Substitute Secretary