

HRSPA LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES

October 27, 2006

After registration and social time, the meeting began at 11:45 p.m. when everyone was welcomed by the Dianne, HRSPA President, and special recognition was made of new retirees and members and guests.

Attendees were encouraged to review several documents on their tables, to be discussed or voted on later in the business portion of the meeting: secretary's minutes, treasurer's report, survey forms, "With Our Youth" record sheets, VRTA Legislative 2006 Goals. It was noted that some business and program items on the agenda may be altered.

The Pledge of Allegiance and invocation were led by Thomas Folly.

A buffet luncheon was enjoyed by all for the next 45 minutes.

Some business was conducted by approving and accepting the June 2005 minutes and the budget report with a balance of \$4,835.85 with \$1779.80 of that in the Scholarship Fund. Becky reported that the budget was in 'better shape' than it had been in the past two years, thanks to new memberships, the raffle, and newsletter ads. Dianne explained that the lunch pays for itself except for the room fee, which previously had been covered most often by reservation money of 'no shows', but that recently nearly all reservations have actually attended the luncheons. She noted that this is great, but has meant other locations and arrangements are being studied.

Henrico County's 2005 Christmas Mother, Ethel Jackson, who is one of our members, was our guest and was introduced and presented a check from HRSPA. Ethel spoke to the need for continued assistance and support this year in Henrico, in light of the Katrina and Tsunami tragedies, and thanked us for our support over the years.

The legislative report, given by Nelson Taylor, indicated that VRTA would be working hard again this year promoting the health credit and retirement multiplier issues and that our help is greatly needed in contacting our legislators with a simple phone call or email.

Dianne then introduced our speaker, Donna Blatecky, Deputy Director of Customer Relationships, Virginia Retirement System. Donna provided us with a packet of VRS information which described the financial history and status of VRS and interesting information regarding the member recipients of VRS benefits. She also provided us with gifts of pens and magnetic clips.

Business was then continued by reviewing other committee reports or notations.

Shirley Uzel thanked Contacts for the good job they did making calls to their respective members and new retirees and reminded them to report back to her with updates or to continue making contacts if they had not done so already. She then awarded the prizes for the June membership contest, a "hat drawing" of new or renewal memberships submitted before June 22. Dianne thanked Shirley and Rose (Tanner) for their good job managing the Contact Program this summer and fall. There were over 60 new or renewal memberships as of today, some from past years, too.

Those wanting membership forms for HRSPA, District C, or VRTA are to see Becky.

A plea was made for someone with database experience who would become our Membership Records Chair.

A request was also made for a volunteer for Remembrance Chair and for the office of Secretary.

Mary Brownfield reported that our Scholarship Program will participate this year in the new VRTA Scholarship Program, where each local winner is submitted to the district level, the district winner will be sent to the regional level, and that winner will be sent to the state level. The VRTA Scholarship is \$5000.

Lee Reynolds reminded us that ads are available in the newsletter for a nominal fee.

Dianne introduced Myrna Cartledge, new Social Committee Chair, and thanked Mary Shepherd for her service to us on that committee. It was also noted that Mary is now on dialysis and should be remembered.

Other committee information was referred to in the program agenda.

Dianne reviewed new business for VRTA: check *Broadcast* for details; a new website - VRTA.org; possible name change to reflect all school employees; new scholarship program to begin this year (previously mentioned); possible restructure to better serve locals by having regional meetings instead of district configuration – much money to be saved, too; \$25 per local unit matched with NRTA/AARP funds for Katrina relief to rebuild local units and provide loans to retired teachers;

The President's Report included: Ukrops new gift program is now with Benevolink and you must register online or by phone; remember to use your membership card to scan purchases at Staples to provide us with points and saves us money; Bruce Adie will be holding a Medicare insurance seminar on November 17, 10:00-12:00, at Ukrops Crossings on Staples Mill Rd; Henrico Golden Age Program applications are on back table; Christmas Mother donations can be placed in the 'little red wagon' on the back table; a reminder that many colleagues are having serious medical and family stresses and that we want to keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

A memorial service was conducted by Dr. Joe Sellers and Sara Thacker, remembering our colleagues who had passed away this past year. Sara read the names and Joe paid homage with the idea that our life dates use a dash to indicate birth to death years, but that the dash in between is the most important part of one's life.

Calendar dates were noted as in the program, particularly the next luncheon on March 16, 2006.

Final raffle tickets were sold and a winner was drawn. Wally Groome was the winner, and having had to leave early, had left instructions with Shirley that, if he won, he wanted his winnings to be returned to the treasury. Needless to say, everyone was surprised and excited and pleased with this gesture. Thomas Folly and Bernard Robinson were thanked for their good work handling the raffle.

Dianne reminded everyone to leave completed forms on the tables, announced the table door prize gifts, and thanked everyone for their attendance and support and wished all good winter days and a wonderful holiday season.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.