

Highlights of October 31, 2002 Meeting

About 160 members of **Henrico Retired School Personnel** attended the fall luncheon meeting which was held at Willow Oaks Country Club on October 31, 2002. As in the past, it was a time to get together with friends and colleagues, enjoy a delicious meal, hear interesting speakers and get an up-date on the work of the organization.

Before lunch **President Swift Williams** welcomed the group and **Joseph Sellers** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the blessing.

Following lunch, **Swift Williams** introduced our speaker, **Glen D. Pond**, the former director of the **Virginia Retirement System**. This was a most enlightening presentation because we learned of the **VRS** before the time of touch-tone phones, computers and the internet when Mr. Pond became director in the early 1970's. It was encouraging to hear that Virginia employees, both state workers and educators, are benefiting from one of the strongest and best run retirement systems in the country.

Along the same lines, **Gordon Sandridge** introduced a special guest, **Ray Wallace, Jr.**, who is not only a newly appointed Board Member of **VRS** but also one of our own, an **HRSP** member who taught at **Godwin High School**. He also gave positive and encouraging news about the strength of our retirement system that *guarantees our benefits now and in the future*.

Another special guest, **Betty Lyon**, the **2002 Henrico Christmas Mother**, was introduced by **Anne Southworth**, one of Henrico's past Christmas Mothers. Assisting the Henrico Christmas Mother program with money and volunteer service has been a major project of **HRSP** since it was organized in 1991, so Mrs. Lyon's appeal was well received.

A Memorial Service for the **37 HRSP** members who have passed away since the organization began was led by **Thomas Folly**, an **HRSP** member who also serves as **Chaplain** for the **Virginia Retired Teachers Association** and **District C**. On display was a chart listing the names of these well respected educators who have honored us and all Henrico citizens with their dedicated service.

The business meeting consisted of several important reports:

First, Treasurer **Dale Waldrop's** report from August 1, 2002 until October 31, 2002 indicated a beginning balance of \$3352, receipts of \$770 and disbursements of \$819. Our closing balance was **\$3303**.

Second, Membership Chair **Audrey Batchelder** reported **599 HRSP** members, **172 VRTA** members and **76 District C** members. Also, her computer address book contains **243 e-mail addresses**.

Third, **Nancy Harris** reported on the fall meeting of the **VRTA** which was held in Blackstone on October 7-8, 2002. **HRSP** had six members present to participate in workshops, attend the business meetings - and to receive several awards.

Fourth, **Elsie Pelfrey**, the **AARP/NRTA** liason with **VRTA**, reported on area workshops that she had conducted throughout the state.

Fifth, **Nelson Taylor**, the **Legislative Chairman** for **VRTA, District C**, the **Hanover RTA** and the **HRSP** and **Nancy Finch**, our **VRTA** lobbyist, reported on the outlook for action during the up-coming legislative session. Anything that requires more money faces a bleak future because of the budgetary problems facing the state, but the **VRS** will continue to be strong and all attempts to "raid the **VRS**" will be fought.

The meeting was adjourned by **Swift Williams** who urged the members to look at the displays which included a list of deceased **HRSP** members, an outstanding **HRSP Scrapbook** put together by **Elsie Pelfrey** and several state and national awards that we have won after only a few short years of being affiliated with **VRTA**.

The **very special** display was made up of awards that **HRSP** received in 2002.

* - The **VRTA** nominated **HRSP** for a **2002 WOY! (With Our Youth!)** award sponsored by the **NRTA** (National Retired Teacher Association). **HRSP** was one of the five national award winners and **Elsie Pelfrey**, **HRSP** Past president and Historian, accepted the award on behalf of Henrico County's school retirees on September 29, 2002, at the **NRTA State President's Conference in Washington, D.C.** This award was earned for the following projects in which **HRSP** members were involved in 2001-2002:

1. **The Henrico Christmas Mother Program** - \$2500 in monetary contributions were donated by members, two members served on the Christmas Mother Board, four members served as co-chairmen and 25 members worked as volunteers during the distribution days in December, 2001.

2. **Hilliard House** - a homeless shelter for women and their children. One **HRSP** member serves on the board, four members were involved in tutoring and ten members worked with Alpha Delta Kappa, a society of teachers, to provide clothing for the mothers and their children.

3. **Services to the Community** - **Over 5000 hours** were given to community service by **HRSP** members - tutoring, mentoring, volunteering with church activities, libraries, hospitals, etc.

In addition to the national award, **HRSP** was named the **Most Outstanding Unit in Virginia** at the **VRTA Conference** in Blackstone on October 8, 2002 and received another award for its work with community service and youth.

What a rewarding year it has been for all of our HRSP members!