

Hickory Withe Community Association Minutes September 5, 2019

The Hickory Withe Community Association met on September 5, 2019 at the Hickory Withe Presbyterian Church. The meeting opened with a prayer and pledge to the flag. There were 52 people in attendance.

President Becky Sue Evans welcomed first-time visitors and public officials. The following people were recognized: Carolann Mason, Director of Fayette "9-1-1"; Ronnie Wilkins, from the Fayette County Public Works Road Board; Pastor of Hickory Withe Presbyterian Church, Pastor Barcroft; Fire Chief Rich Hartfield of the Fayette County Fire Department; Judge Jim Gallagher; Robbie Sills, County Commissioner; and, Jim Norton, County Commissioner. We were also pleased to host the Marine Corps Honor Guard from the Walter K. Singleton Marine Corps League, Detachment 476.

Secretary, Liz Klepko, spoke concerning the membership drive. She indicated that there are "Visitor Cards" at the sign-in table, and that HWCA postcards (with and without stamps) are available to members to invite friends and neighbors to our monthly meeting and pot luck supper. "Welcome to Hickory With" packets are being assembled to deliver to new move-ins to Hickory Withe. They will include an invitation to join HWCA as well as a map of Fayette County, a three-month free subscription to the "Fayette Falcon" weekly newspaper, and other information about the area.

Becky Sue presented the idea of moving the "First Responders' BBQ" to September to coincide with commemoration of 911. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. A short discussion concerning a fund raiser Valentine's dinner resulted in an agreement to pursue a feasibility research and reporting back. Becky Sue also announced the need for chairpersons for the following committees: Hospitality, Benevolence, Membership, and Event Coordinator. She said we would "shake the trees and see if any nuts fall out"! Finally, Becky Sue suggested that we set up some type of memorial in behalf of our dear friend and staunch HWCA supporter, Joe Moore who recently passed away.

The program for the evening began with Carolann Mason, Director of Fayette 9-1-1. She was compelling and informative in her presentation. The Fayette 9-1-1 system uses the same technology as larger, more populated counties. Soon "Reverse 9-1-1" will be available to all citizens in this county. It will be necessary to register for this valuable resource. "Reverse 9-1-1" will enable First Responders to text individual persons in the event of an emergency. A few examples are tornado warnings, Amber Alerts, Silver Alerts, and Bridge shut downs. Carolann also spoke about the importance of having visible, large house numbers on both sides of mailboxes for First Responders to locate your property during an emergency response. She mentioned the fact that an inactive, charged cell phone will call 9-1-1.

Ronnie Wilkins, from the Fayette County Public Works Road Board spent a few minutes with us discussing how to most efficiently use the Road Board – call the office for routine problems! (465-5222). We also learned about the difference between state road issues and local issues. Ronnie pointed out that it is important to understand policies and priorities. He gave us an open invitation to attend the Public Works Meeting on the first Tuesday each month at 6 PM in the Public Works office.

The meeting concluded with a most memorable presentation of the "Flag Folding Ceremony" by the Marine Corps Honor Guard from the Walter K. Singleton Marine Corps League, Detachment 476. "Taps" was played by MGYSGT Milton Casey; Sgt. Phil Taylor and Sgt. Johnny Wade folded the flag; Master Sgt, Jim Brown "called" the 13 folds and explained what each fold represents; Navy Chief Gordon Abernathy played "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes. It was truly an inspiring and solemn event to commemorate 911.

We have five new members of our community association! Jane and Peter Vogel, Cyndi and Barry Appling, and Ronnie Wilkins. Welcome to you all!

The next Pot Luck Supper and Meeting of the HWCA will be held on October 3, 2019.

"We Are Going to the Dogs!" Bob Kenney will present information on the new animal shelter and Steve Hettersheit will discuss and demonstrate the value of therapy dogs!