

Hickory Withe Community Association Meeting Minutes Thursday, November 7, 2019

The Hickory Withe Community Association Meeting and Pot Luck was called to order at 6:30 by President Becky Sue Evans. Pastor Barcroft opened with a prayer and blessing on the food. Jess Evans led the company in the Pledge to the flag. There were 43 individuals present including: State Senator Dolores Gresham, Pastor Doug Barcroft, Fayette County Mayor Skip Taylor, and County Commissioners, Jim Norton and Bobby Sills.

The Thanksgiving Pot Luck supper was enjoyed by all! Patrick's Restaurant catered the delicious turkey, stuffing, gravy and cranberry sauce while the sides and desserts were prepared by the wonderful member "Chefs and Bakers". The Hospitality team decorated and set up the buffet. It was truly a festive dining experience!

The business portion of the evening covered several items. Becky Sue Evans discussed the importance of protecting our current assets as a "rainy day fund", and using fundraisers to help support our charitable donations which amount to a budgeted \$600, and are not fully covered by the income generated by our dues. As a benevolent organization we contribute to the following: Fayette County Fire Department; Friends of Fayette County Animal Shelter; the Cark Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse; The American Cancer Society/ Relay for Life; Fayette Cares; and the Imagination Library.

HWCA member Sydney Magsig made an impassioned plea for all of us to be more engaged in helping our membership grow. (As an aside, we are the only community association in Hickory Withe that is dedicated to serving our area. The 2000 census reported that our population was 2,574 and we have certainly grown since then. Our meeting attendance fluctuates around 30 to 35 members per month. We are a very small percentage of the population).

Our Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction will be held on February 29th at the HW Presbyterian Church. The dedicated women who cook for the HW Presbyterian Church dinners have agreed to cater our spaghetti dinner. Becky Sue displayed the beautiful quilt she is offering for bidding for the silent auction and has asked each of the members to thoughtfully select an item to provide to help our silent auction be a successful fund raiser.

Each December, we give our members the opportunity to make a personal contribution to support the effort to "give a little Christmas" to the "Mother's Club" of Gallaway. There are about 70 mothers/ grandmothers who a part of this group raising children and grandchildren on their own. Jane Mitchell, Benevolence Chairperson, indicated that towel sets or a gift card (\$25) would be a wonderful gift. These can be brought to our December 5th General Meeting and Pot Luck Supper.

Additionally, we have created the "Joe Moore Leadership Fayette Scholarship" to honor our dear friend and HWCA workhorse! Debbie Norton presented the application to the general membership and has asked for interested persons to indicate their desire to attend "Leadership Fayette". A basket will be on display at each meeting for contributions to the \$350 scholarship fee. Any shortfall will be made up by the HWCA bank account.

Jeanie and Joe Moore's daughter, Tracy Smith, spoke on behalf of her family to thank us for offering the scholarship in her father's name and let us know of her father's love for HWCA and his commitment to lead by example and to serve others. She pointed out that he was well known to use humor to bring people together!

We were very pleased to have State Senator Dolores Gresham as our keynote speaker. She covered many important issues that relate to Hickory Withe. Senator Gresham spoke of "Institutional Discipline" and the affect this positive mindset has had on the governance of our state. Tennessee is #1 in the nation in workforce development, small business job growth, industry job growth, and first in the nation for fiscal stability. She indicated that literacy in the state is her main concern and focus. Tennessee 4th graders rank in the top 25 states for math! Our state is frequently cited as an educational innovator.

When the legislature reconvenes in the new year, Senator Gresham's first and foremost target is literacy.

Happy Thanksgiving! The next Hickory Withe General Meeting and Pot Luck Supper will be held on December 5th. The HWCA will provide ham for the entrée. The Bowen Family singers will entertain with seasonal music.

Submitted by Liz Klepko, Secretary HWCA