

Minutes
Kappa Chapter's November 2014 Meeting
Wilson Middle School - November 11, 2014

Twenty-one members of Kappa Chapter and three guests met Tuesday evening, November 11, 2014 at Wilson Middle School in Fishersville at 6:00 PM. During our social gathering we enjoyed lively conversations and delicious treats.

Anne welcomed our guests and opened the meeting with a poem written by a reserve military reservist and presently a fifth grade teacher. The poem was read first from top to bottom and then bottom to top. It was a very thoughtful and appropriate poem for Veteran's Day. Anne then introduced our speaker for the evening, Karen Thomsen.

Program: Karen Thomsen is presently the principal of Mountain View Elementary School in Rockingham County and a member of the SOL Innovation Committee. She has been a special education teacher, a reading specialist and a classroom teacher in the past. She spoke to us about the makeup and focus of the SOL Innovation Committee. The committee was instructed to come up with ideas that would transform the SOL system and not just tweak it. The committee, made up of 32 educators from all academic areas, has had honest and refreshing conversations about the SOL's Karen reported. They are trying to compile a number of recommendations to give to the Board of Education and the General Assembly on issues that would help better align what students learn in the classroom with what will be needed for a 21st century workforce. They are looking for ways to foster innovation and creativity in the classroom as well as alternative opportunities for students to demonstrate proficiencies. Karen's enlightening and spirited talk gave us much information to ponder.

After the program, Anne opened the business portion of our meeting. The minutes for the October 2014 meeting had been sent electronically to members. Paper copies of the minutes were also available for members. The minutes were filed as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Sandy presented the Treasurer's report. Paper copies were available and the budget was approved as presented.

Push for Pennies: Our Push for Pennies fundraiser for Schools for Africa will continue through March. Right now we have raised \$17.01. A- C has \$5.71; D- M has \$10.72 and N - W has \$.58.

Yearbook: Yearbooks can be picked up this evening.

New Business: Anne brought up the idea that we might like to reactivate the Kappa Callers. We need 6 or 7 members to volunteer to be a Kappa Callers Captain. It's felt that a personal contact by phone or e-mail might help to increase attendance at our meetings as well as hearing about specific cares and concerns.

Scarlett received the TRY Award for all her work on our newsletter and web-site.

The Executive Board meeting will be held at the Hometown Grill in Staunton at 8:30 AM on January 17, 2015.

Legislative: Bea mentioned that the Senate Finance Committee will have its retreat at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel in Staunton On November 20th and 21st. The public can attend but cannot speak at this meeting. She said it is interesting to listen and watch the interactions of our legislators. The House appropriations Committee will meet in Abington.

The meeting was adjourned at about 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ginny Coffey
Recording Secretary