

Odessa Retired Teachers/School Personnel Association  
Minutes of the Meeting on October 21, 2024  
Highland United Methodist Church

President Sandy Ramage called the meeting to order at noon. She welcomed the attendees and Elaine Davisson gave the invocation. Melody Drinkard led the pledges and Esther Sofge offered the 'thought for the day' - highlighting second chances.

The program was presented by Cecilia Reyes, a specialist from STAP – Specialized Telecommunication Assistance Program. She discussed and clarified several program options available to those who may need Caption Phones, Driver Cards, a Certificate of Deafness for Tuition Waiver, Phone Apps, Video Phones, Vocational Rehab, Household Devices, etc. – especially for people with limited hearing. Ms. Reyes is based in El Paso. Programs discussed fall under the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services division that is part of Texas Health and Human Services agency.

Minutes from meeting on September 16, 2024, were approved as printed. The treasurer's report was presented by treasurer Corky Barth and then filed for audit as printed. Rick Chandler followed up with a membership report and clarified that a directory will not be printed (it is quite long as it includes the state portion), but it will be provided for review as needed.

Peanut butter recently collected by our members was passed along to Meals on Wheels. The pencils that were donated will also be distributed. A canned food drive was announced, along with a request that those cans be ones that are opened with a pull-top. Libby McCrone provided a report on our new website.

The Spring Rally date to be held in Austin next year was mentioned. It is scheduled to be held on March 26, 2025. Those interested were reminded that there is a block of rooms held at the Drury Inn. Mr. Chandler also mentioned that there is a \$200 scholarship available from District 18.

In other announcements, members were reminded and encouraged to turn in volunteer hours. Esther Sofge and Rick Chandler helped to gather the 'slips' used for a drawing for a possible "Payday" and Elizabeth Barlow provided a handout on *Migraines, Headaches, and Sleep* for our health advice. Kathy Chandler distributed door prizes as their tickets were drawn.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jannine Seymour  
Secretary