



Sequatchie County Executive Keith Cartwright (far right) was the guest speaker at the October meeting of Sequatchie County Retired Teachers Association. He is pictured with (left to right) SCRTA Secretary Diane Martin, Vice President Glenn Eidson, Nesha Cartwright, and President Marlene Basham.

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County Executive speaks to retired teachers

Hamilton Consulting and Construction LLC sponsored the October meeting of the Sequatchie County Retired Teachers Association (SCRTA) at the Ewton Annex. After President Marlene Basham welcomed the members and Glenn Eidson offered grace, all enjoyed a great meal catered by Misty Smith.

County Executive Keith Cartwright was the guest speaker for the meeting. He shared many compelling facts about Sequatchie County's growth, explaining that Sequatchie is the fifth fastest growing county, per capita, in Tennessee. "Outsiders are flocking in from all over the country, attracted by

our low taxes, low crime rates, and the neighborly feel of our communities," he said.

"We are trying hard to manage the growth while keeping our small-town feeling," explained Cartwright. "The greatest growth is in the Cagle and Lewis Chapel communities. Developers are constantly coming into the courthouse to find out when and where properties are becoming available. We do have a 10-, 20-, and 50-year strategic plan, and eventually may have to consider county-wide zoning and building codes."

Cartwright also explained that Sequatchie County has used Covid money to buy property

off the Hwy. 111 interchange for the purpose of beautifying the entrance to town, enticing visitors, and expanding the tax base.

"Our biggest problem is trash," said Cartwright. "We have two teams of workers cleaning the roads five days a week, and 90 percent of our taxes go to three things - sanitation, education, and incarceration.

Cartwright praised Sequatchie County's school system for its academic progress and its leadership.

"I attended the middle school's Veterans Day program and you could have heard a pin drop," he said. "The children were reverent and atten-

tive. I've been in a number of schools in other parts of Tennessee, and I can tell you that is not the case everywhere. That is due to excellent leadership and dedication."

He praised teachers for making a difference in children's lives, and mentioned his high school coach, Gary Chrisman, who "wasn't always liked, but was respected and admired, and who always set an example of serving others."

The organization conducted business and members were given health updates for Patsy Pope, Edna Clemons, Minnie Lee Deakins, and Lois Hargis. Everyone received an inspirational key chain as a door prize.