

**Wright State University Retirees Association  
Minutes of the Board Meeting on October 2, 2013**

**Board members present:** Abe Bassett, Gary Barlow, Donna Curtin, Mary Gromosiak, Amy Hopkins, Rich Johnson, Mary Kenton, Gerry Petrak, Jim Sayer, Lew Shupe, Carol Stevenson, Bob Wagley, Gail Whitaker and Paul Wolfe

**Absent:** Marlene Bireley, Peggy Bott, Sally Clayton, Leone Low, Gary Pacernick, Judy Rose and Blair Rowley

President Abe Bassett called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The minutes of the September 4 meeting were unanimously approved.

**OFFICERS REPORTS**

**President:** Abe distributed copies of the current Events Calendar and 2012 WSURA By-Laws. As the By-Laws may not be accurate he will refer them to Judy Rose for review.

1. **Facebook** – the WSURA page is operational! He asked board members to go to Facebook and search for “Wright State University Retirees Association” and “join.” As a “friend”, they will be able to see the recent photos he posted from the 2013 picnic. Once its functionality is confirmed, he will add more photographs, and members will also have the opportunity to add their own photos and comments. Please inform Abe of your success or lack of it.
2. **Mailing lists maintenance** – He is working to get our WSURA Office Assistant, Sarah Spitzer, permission to maintain the WSURA List Serve. After recent use of it, he had to delete nine invalid email addresses. Abe emphasized it is very important for an organization to maintain an accurate membership list—not an easy task. All mailings should be sent with an “address correction notice” included. When mail cannot be delivered because of a faulty or invalid address, the mail is destroyed without notice to the sender. He will ask Marlene if all future mailings can be sent with an “address correction requested” stamp. Since the cost will impact the budget, Gail will check with the post office to find out about their *return procedure* and our cost for returned mail.
3. **The Website Content Committee** - The next meeting (Bireley, Clayton, Kenton, Bassett) will be held on Tuesday, October 22, 10:00 a.m. in the Retirees Office. In the meantime, Abe asked the committee members to send him the results of their research and he will produce an update file.
4. **Upcoming speakers** – Provost Sundarum Narayanan will join us in the Millett Hall Atrium, at 11:30 following our November 6 meeting; Executive Vice President for Planning and Secretary to the Board of Trustees, Robert Sweeney, originally scheduled for the December meeting, will be rescheduled for a meeting in 2014. We plan to co-sponsor Dr. Donna Schlagheck, with FOTL, DCOWA, and WSUAA in the spring. Her topic will be the Model UN. Mary Gromosiak will reserve a room for the event in the Student Union.

**Vice-President:** Jim Sayer reported WSU’s overall enrollment for the fall semester is down 1.1%. Graduates in the health fields and Engineering and Computer Science, however, are on the upswing. Sayer reported that he and Abe visited the Alumni Affairs office in Rockafield House. Executive Director, Greg Scharer confirmed the retirees may join the tours offered by the Alumni Association. As details are finalized, future tours information will be made available on the WSURA list serve and, in time, all tour information will be also be posted on the WSURA website.

**Secretary:** Donna Curtin expressed concern that a close friend, retired three years, has never received any communications from WSURA. Gerry Petrak asked her to send her friend’s current address and she will add her to the mailing list. Since maintaining the mailing list is a huge job, and is currently being reviewed and updated, Gerry also asked everyone present for their help with letting her know of address changes.

**Treasurer:** Gail Whitaker distributed a copy of the September Treasurer’s Report. The major expenditures in the General Fund are student payroll and telephone charges. The Dues Account received \$185 in membership dues and surplus office furniture generated \$22 income. Mary Gromosiak has been reimbursed \$71.94 for the fiesta party. Gail contacted Kristie in Donor Relations to request quarterly reports of Patron Fund contributors. We currently have five new members including two new lifetime members.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Communications:** Marlene Bireley – No report

**Activities:** Mary Gromosiak passed out a list of upcoming WSURA activities:

- February 8, 2014, Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra open rehearsal and back stage tour at the Schuster with number

of attendees will be limited to 20.

- The Dining-In event on Friday, October 25, 2013, will be held at the home of Abe and Sharon Bassett.
- The Holiday Brunch on Sunday, December 8, 2013, will be held at the home of Tom and Helen Listerman.
- The Dining-Out Brunch is scheduled for Sunday, January 5, 2014 at 11 am at Brio's at The Greene.
- WSU Basketball vs. Cleveland February 8, 2014 at 1:00 pm. The Alumni Suite, #218, is reserved for retirees' use. The Board voted to go out to dinner following the game in lieu of providing food during the game.

**By-laws and Elections, Judy Rose**

No report.

**Historical Preservation: Lew Shupe**

No report.

**Membership:** Gerry Petrak passed out a draft copy of the revised membership brochure, and went over the proposed changes. The changes were reviewed by the board and were unanimously approved. She and Carol Stevenson will shop for snacks for the health fair which be held on Wednesday, October 23. She thanked the volunteers who signed up to work at this year's annual event.

**OCHER:** Rich Johnson attended their meeting in Columbus on September 24. As of June 30, the current fund balances are: \$3,802.92 for OCHER of approximately \$87.1 billion for OPERS; and approximately \$69.2 billion for STRS Ohio. The STRS board approved the following changes, effective Jan. 1, 2014, to be able to extend the number of years Ohio can offer subsidized health care to retirees: (1) emergency room co-payments will increase to \$150 for Medical Mutual plans, and to \$65 with no deductible for Medicare Advantage PPO plans administered by Aetna; (2) the maximum annual expense for Express Scripts prescription drug coverage decreases to \$4,550 for Medicare and non-Medicare enrollees. OPERS made no changes in medical coverage annual deductibles and out-of-pocket costs for the 2014 year; however, it did increase monthly premiums.

**Scholarship: Paul Wolfe**

No report.

**Sunshine:** Marlene Bireley - *Abe reported for Marlene who is traveling.* Deceased is Brenda Joyce Bennett, recently retired from the Environmental Services Department. A memorial service for Beverly "Bunnie" Gaw Byrum Robinson, Professor of Communications, will be held this coming Sunday afternoon. Cathy Sayer sent out an email notice to the campus community announcing the time and place.

### LIAISON REPORTS

**Athletic Council:** Mary Kenton attended the meeting on Friday, Sept. 27. A new swimming coach has been hired. The new baseball coach is Greg Lovelady, former assistant coach to Ron Cooper, who has accepted a position at Penn State University. The search continues for another team to join the Horizon League.

**Friends of the Library:** Gary Barlow reported the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Creative Arts Center will not be available for the lecture series this year, as hoped; however, he suggested 103F in the Student Union might be a good alternate location for Donna Schlagheck's presentation on the Model U.N.

Abe brought up the subject of the Retirees Book Club proposed by Peggy Bott. Peggy, who is traveling, reported only one response to *The Extension* announcement. In an email she suggested the possibility of combining with the Library Book Club asking Gary Barlow for his input. Gary responded that he would make an inquiry with the library persons involved.

**International Club:** Bob Wagley reported 21 visiting faculty and scholars are on campus this year. He would welcome some ideas about what we can do for them. We also have 20 exchange students from other universities. A total of 600 foreign students are enrolled. He met with most of them at the picnic and gave them materials they may be interested in pursuing. He is waiting to meet with them again after a special meeting on Oct. 11. The main topic of discussion will address "how can the university be more accommodating to international visitors?" Another program will be starting in China. On interest sheets given to the international students, the question was asked: "what welcome club activities would appeal to the China students?" Two of the Chinese students responded, "we want to do everything!" Bob will talk to the

Listermans about the possibility of inviting these two individuals to the Holiday Brunch, which will be held in their home in December. The board members liked this idea. He also commented we may have to formalize the “welcome club” following the upcoming Oct. 11 meeting mentioned above.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Procedures Manual revisions:** Gail Whitaker’s ad hoc review committee has made proposed changes to the current document. She asked everyone to carefully review the proposed changes she emailed to them--paying particular attention to the sections that relate to their current positions. It would be helpful to receive feedback, including typos, ASAP to assist the committee with finalizing the revised document.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Discussion postponed to the November 6 meeting.

Meeting adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 am so we could welcome today’s invited speaker, the Raj Soin College of Business Dean, Dr. Joanne Li.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:** Wednesday, November 6, 2013, 10:00 am, in the Millett Hall Atrium. Our 11:30 am guest speaker will be Provost Sundaram Narayanan. Jim Sayer will host and introduce the Provost.

Respectfully submitted by  
Donna Curtin, Secretary

Revised Nov. 6, 2013