

**Wright State University Retirees Association
Board Meeting December 4, 2013**

Board members present: Abe Bassett, Gary Barlow, Marlene Bireley, Peggy Bott, Sally Clayton, Donna Curtin, Mary Gromosiak, Amy Hopkins, Rich Johnson, Mary Kenton, Leone Low, Gary Pacernick, Gerry Petrak, Jim Sayer, Lew Shupe, Carol Stevenson, Bob Wagley, Gail Whitaker and Paul Wolfe

Absent: Judy Rose, Blair Rowley

Guest: Jan Austin

President Abe Bassett called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
The minutes of the November 6 meeting were unanimously approved.

OFFICERS REPORTS

President: Abe Bassett made the following announcements:

Picking up on the group discussion at the end of the November meeting regarding the service component of the WSU Retirees Association, Abe wrote a commentary for the winter issue of *The Extension* inviting the membership to be aware of the opportunities that exist to serve. One of the newest ways to be of great service is through the LEAP program. Active members will find intellectual stimulation, camaraderie and, importantly, the “pleasure of service” while participating in conversational English with our foreign speaking students.

Gary Barlow will act as host and presenter for Dr. Robert Sweeney, Exec. VP for Planning and Secretary to the Board of Trustees, at the February WSURA meeting. He will talk about procedures in relation to the WSURA Board and the administration. The meeting will take place in the COLA conference room.

The Model UN presentation in March now has the co-sponsorship of three organizations: Friends of the Libraries, The Dayton Council on World Affairs, and the Alumni Association. Lewis Shupe will be host to Dr. Schlagheck and will introduce her.

Of the two remaining dates for speakers in the Spring Semester, Dr. Dan Abrahamowicz, Vice-President for Student Affairs, will be asked to be a presenter at either the April 2 or 9.

Amy Hopkins, who had served as Webmaster, has resigned from the Board because of health issues. We appreciate her service to date, and wish her the very best.

Abe announced with great enthusiasm, Communications and Marketing has moved up the development of our website with the prospect that work will begin in January. Jim Sayer receives full credit for this advancement in the development timetable. We will abandon the use of Dream Weaver and use the open source program Drupal. Jessica Sparks is our contact person. Once the site is up, Sarah Spitzer and Abe Bassett will be trained to use Drupal, so that the responsibility to keep the site current falls on the association’s shoulders. Every effort will be made to submit material to C&M this month; and to make this possible, Abe asked for the cooperation of the entire Board in submitting material in their area of responsibility and he would like to have it within the next couple of weeks. Abe would like to see all the repositories of the past Extensions to help gather information for the site, and he requested help for writing the articles, such as brief committee news. Gary B. asked him to email them a format for article contributions. Also, an ad hoc committee will need to be formed to go over the revised outline; Gary Pacernick volunteered to help with this task.

At the conclusion of the last meeting, we began a discussion regarding WSURA service. Everyone agreed it is important (and a good thing) to emphasize to the retirees in the community and to the administration -- *we really are a service organization*. It was brought up that if we get seriously active with this effort, we may want to talk to President Hopkins about the possibility of us being considered for a presidential service award nomination. Abe will prepare an article to encourage retirees to become involved with WSURA and offer some areas where volunteers can serve. He will also let them know, if they live far from campus, they can still be connected to us by visiting our website and our Facebook page. All retirees will receive a copy of the Winter Issue of *The Extension* which will include a membership form on the back.

Vice President: Jim Sayer-- Jim talked more about the productive meeting with George Heddleston in C & M which resulted in us getting bumped up to the top of the list for website help. He arranged a meeting for Abe to meet with Jessica Sparks to review our outline – they are going to train us on how to do it. Abe and Sarah will be trained -- all in WORD.

Jim also talked about the LEAP program, and will submit an article and a request for volunteers in the next issue of our newsletter; he will also ask Sarah to send out an email request for volunteers to WSURA members, with the details. So far, he only has three volunteers.

Treasurer: Gail Whitaker distributed copies of the November Treasurer's Report. The balance of the university funded account, as of Nov. 30, is \$3,634.36. This figure also reflects the October report. The expenses include five student payroll dates and furniture purchased from ESPM (\$140, for 2 tables, 4 chairs and a locking storage cabinet). Membership Dues requests have not gone out, yet. As far as the printing services expenses go, we will now get a list from printing services showing us the change of address list (no charge for now). She mentioned *The Extension* costs a little over \$500 an issue to produce.

Gail met with Abe and Judy after our last meeting to coordinate the Procedures Manual and Bylaws and made the needed adjustments. When Judy returns from traveling she will send out a new copy of the Bylaws, which had a few minor editorial changes only, not procedural.

Gerry Petrak made a MOTION to approve the revised Procedures Manual, seconded by Mary G. The amended Procedurals Manual was unanimously approved.

Secretary: Donna Curtin - With the hope of starting a similar program at WSU, Donna followed up the past discussion of interest by sharing a University of Dayton publication entitled *Oscher Lifelong Learning Institute*. These six-week class seminars are designed to appeal to the general public. Topics include: Art, Computer, Health, History, Religion, Sports and Recreation, Finance, History and much more. The \$80 cost covers taking as many classes as one would like to take, along with a \$30 parking fee. Currently, all that is offered at WS for retirees is the same academic curriculum offered to students – and only on a “space available”, and with instructor approval, basis. The only cost being study aids or lab fees. Sinclair also offers several similar life-long learning program seminars for the general public (rather than for college credit.) A brief discussion concluded that we tried a similar offering in the past, but could not compete with Sinclair's and U.D.'s well established, popular programs.

Communications: Marlene Bireley announced that the Winter Issue of *The Extension* will be mailed out by the end of this week.

Past President: Gary Pacernick. No report. However, Gary read an original, very touching holiday poem which was enjoyed by all. He will send copies to anyone who would like to have a copy.

COMMITTEES

Activities: Mary Gromosiak

Paul Wolfe gave an update for Bob Wagley: Bob has been working with Tom and Helen Listerman on **the Dining-In Holiday Brunch scheduled for Sunday, Dec 8**; so far, 18 are planning to attend.

Mary announced the activities planned for January and February:

Sunday, January 5, 2014: **Dining-out brunch**, Brio's at the Greene, 11:00 am; **RSVP:** by Friday, December 27, 2013 by email to mary.gromosiak@wright.edu or call 937.974.401

Wednesday, February 5, 2014 - **Dayton Philharmonic Rehearsal at the Schuster Center**, (for Classical Series Performances of Feb. 6-8, 2014); **Time:** 7:00 pm tour the Schuster Center, 7:30 pm rehearsal begins. Dinner at 5:00 pm at Uno's, 126 N. Main Street. **RSVP:** by Wednesday, January 8 for dinner and /or rehearsal by email to mary.gromosiak@wright.edu or call 937.974.4010

Saturday, February 8, 2014 **WSU Basketball Game vs Cleveland State University. Time:** 1:00 pm; Alumni Box #218, E.J. Nutter Center. Dinner following the game at TJ Champs – 11 00 E. Dayton Yellow Springs Road, Fairborn. **RSVP:** by Wednesday, January 8, for game and/or dinner by email to Mary or call 937.974.4010

Tuesday, February 11, 2014 - **Presidential Lecture Series: LeRoy Butler**, Advocate for Disadvantaged Youth **Time:** 7:00 pm, Apollo Room, Student Union.

A complete listing for the remainder of the year can be found on our current **Events Calendar** which will also appear in the next issue of *The Extension*.

Bee on the Go Travel - Mary introduced today's invited guest, Jan Austin, from "Bee on the Go Travel" Deluxe Motor Coach Excursions. Jan presented a proposal for a group tour opportunity for the WSURA on April 25-26 to Holmes County, Ohio (Amish Country). This destination was high on the survey Mary G. conducted two years ago, Bee On the Go Travel, LLC, a tour operating company owned by Jan Austin, will make all of the arrangements and take reservations. The tour will also be available for other customers. The tour will be Friday & Saturday and will include deluxe motor coach transportation, hotel accommodations, three meals, a private touring opportunity at the Warther Museum, a tour of the Amish and Mennonite Heritage Center, a step-on guide to provide the back roads narrative of the area, and other stops. Further information can be found at www.beeonthegotravel.com, or by calling (937)428-7459. RSVP and a deposit need to be made by February 15, or after that date on a space available *only* basis. The cost per person will be \$250 for double occupancy; \$230 for triple occupancy, \$210 for quadruple occupancy; or \$315 for single occupancy.

Historical Preservation: Lew Shupe – No report; however, he announced he will be interviewing 3 or 4 more retirees in the near future. Abe has put a list of Lew's interviewees on the website for your reading enjoyment -- some even have an audio component.

Membership: Gerry Petrak - She is going to ask Sarah for a list of new members and ask Tony Whack for additional information. Gayle reported, as of last month we have 177 annual dues paying members and 185 lifetime members (362 total paid members.) We need to make sure all new members addresses are on our master mailing lists. Abe said Sarah will only be coming in on an *as needed* basis the week before before finals week, but she will be available to do whatever we need to have done. He will get her started on updating the membership list during the break.

OCHER: Rich Johnson. Blair went to Columbus with him for the Ohio Council of Higher Education, Nov. 22 meeting. There was a brief discussion about how the Affordable Health Care Act will affect state retirees' health care coverage. There will soon be an "important announcement" and information on their website. Here are some important Affordable Care Act notes for Ohio state retirees:

- It will mainly affect retirees who do not yet qualify for Medicare; Medicare isn't part of the health insurance marketplace, so you don't have to replace your Medicare coverage with marketplace coverage. Nothing needs to be done during the Open Enrollment period.
- Beginning in 2014, individuals must enroll in a health plan that provides "minimum essential coverage". All Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans satisfy this requirement.
- If you do not have coverage, you will be assessed a fee. All STRS Ohio health care plans meet the minimum essential coverage requirement; therefore, you should not be assessed an individual mandate fee.

Scholarship: Paul Wolfe – This year's scholarship recipients, Erin Dorsten and Brianna Willman, will be our guests at our annual holiday luncheon following today's meeting. He and Bob Wagley have been working with Tom and Helen Listerman on the Dining-In Holiday Brunch on Sunday, Dec 8; so far, 18 are planning to attend.

Sunshine: Marlene Bireley - Linda Coley Dunbar, Secretary in the President's Office.

Athletic Council: Mary Kenton - President Hopkins gave a presentation at their November meeting.

Friends of the Library: Gary Barlow - The Dunbar Library celebrated its 40th anniversary. It was attended by President Hopkins and folks from U.D and Sinclair. The festivities included 1000 Green and Gold cupcakes! The *Grandparents on Line* workshop was successful and had a good turn-out. The *Research your Roots* workshop will take place on January 11, and *History in Newspapers* will be on Feb. 8. These two are filling up, so you should submit your reservation soon.

International: Bob Wagley - No report.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – None

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 5, 2014, 10:00 am– Noon, in the COLA conference room. **Guest Speaker** – Executive Vice President for Planning, and Secretary to the Board of Trustees, Dr. Robert Sweeney. **Time:** 11:30 am. **Location:** Millett Hall LCR (*we will bring in extra chairs, if needed*). **Please note:** Due to probable in climate weather, the Board will not be meeting in January.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Curtin, Secretary to the Board

1/03/14