

**Wright State University Retirees Association  
Minutes of the Board Meeting of November 6, 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, Judy Rose, Blair Rowley, Jim Sayer, Lew Shupe, Carol Stevenson, Bob Wagley, Gail Whitaker and Paul Wolfe

**Absent:** Amy Hopkins

President Abe Bassett called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He opened by asking for a motion to approve the Oct. 2 minutes, Blair Rowley moved for the motion: Marlene Bireley seconded, motion carried unanimously.

**OFFICERS REPORTS**

**President:** Abe Bassett. Our office assistant, Sarah, received a phone call from a *Guardian* reporter requesting a comment from a board member regarding the recent media attention given to retired faculty member, Dr. Jim Uphoff. Abe said that if contacted he would only say we respect him and his privacy, and declined any further comments. He instructed Sarah to not give out any of the board members names or contact information for future inquiries of this private nature.

Upcoming speakers – Abe distributed copies of the current Events Calendar. Dr. Robert Sweeney's, [Executive Vice President of Planning and Secretary to the Board of Trustees] meeting has been moved to February 5. Arrangements for Donna Schlagheck's presentation on the Model UN have been finalized for March 5, 12 pm, in Student Union E136-A. She plans to invite the 2014 head delegates to join her for the talk. We will be co-sponsoring this event with the *Friends of the Library and the Dayton Council on World Affairs*. It was decided the event should also be publicized outside of the university community. The March 5 Board Meeting will be held in 103 SU preceding Donna's presentation.

Jim and Marlene will be joining Abe to meet with Vice President of Communications and Marketing, George Heddleston, to introduce themselves and get acquainted. Their new offices are located off campus, at the corner of Airway Road and Grange Hall.

**Vice-President:** Jim Sayer. He recently explored a *Guardian* report on a LEAP program called "conversation partners". The program is designed to assist foreign students in their mastery of English, wherein volunteers are paired with students to have informal chats designed to enhance those students' English-speaking skills. The volunteers meet with one or two students, once a week, to talk about any topic of interest to them—the purpose being to make the students feel more comfortable in conversing in English. The next round of these conversational partnerships will commence at the start of the 2014 spring semester. To enroll, you may simply email Ms. Mailinh Nguyen, (a WSU Communication graduate) at [mailinh.nguyen@wright.edu](mailto:mailinh.nguyen@wright.edu) to be put on the spring semester schedule. Jim said they would love to have some retiree volunteers. Bob Wagley commented he participated in a similar program in Germany, and enjoyed it very much. It was also suggested that this might be a good way to help our foreign speaking faculty members to converse in English. A program announcement will appear in the next *Extension* newsletter.

**Secretary:** Donna Curtin. She received a request to ask the board about free class offerings for our retirees, such as history classes, and other classes which may be of interest. Sinclair, U.D. and OSU all offer a group of select classes to their retirees that are not part of their normal class offerings. Traditionally, anyone over 60 years old may audit any WSU class with instructor permission, as long as it is not filled to capacity. Gary Barlow suggested we consider taking this inquiry on as a project, and investigate some options for WSU to follow suit. More discussion on this topic was postponed to a later time, once we can gather more information.

**Treasurer:** Gail Whitaker. She was unable to furnish a printed copy of the Treasurer's Report because of technical problems with Banner; however, she reported that as of October 30, 2013, the WSURA membership records include the following: we have 177 annual dues-paying members and 185 lifetime members. The financial activity in October was minimal-- expenses were under \$150 for general office expenses.

At the October meeting, Gail volunteered to contact Printing Services to determine the cost of requesting return address corrections in an attempt to keep our mailing lists current. Cathy Becknell provided her with some useful information. When we send out *The Extension*, PS's automatically runs our address list through some software that checks against the Post Office's National Change of Address Register. Any changes in addresses are automatically corrected prior to

mailing. In addition, if any addresses are non-existent, these addresses are eliminated from the mailing. We can have access to all this information, but we have to request it. Cathy suggests that we request the following in the "Job Notes" section of our Printing orders on PAWS: (1) a clean address list; (2) a list of NCOA's (national change of addresses); and (3) a list of any addresses that had an error code and were deemed undeliverable. Marlene has this information and will do this procedure for the next mailing of *The Extension*. We should then be able to make the corrections to our database in the office with Sarah's help. Cathy also shared that Printing Services expects to be outsourced soon, and she has no idea what type of free comparable services the contractor will offer, so we need to do this soon.

**Communications:** Marlene Bireley. The next issue of *The Extension* will be mailed out the week before Thanksgiving. She will be meeting with Sarah on November 21 to finalize this annual mailing to all WSU retirees. She asked that all articles be submitted to her **no later than Friday, Nov. 15**, if possible. She interviewed Brianna Willman, a scholarship recipient, for *The Extension* and found out she will be able to attend our December luncheon; Erin Dorsten (2<sup>nd</sup> winner) has class until 12:30 that day. Marlene suggested we meet until noon and set 12:30 for our luncheon time so she will also be able to join us at the Holiday Inn; everyone agreed to this time change.

**Past President:** Gary Pacernick. No report (however, he did entertain the group by reading an original poem he wrote about a situation he recently encountered on an air flight.)

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Activities:** Mary Gromosiak.

- Following the December 4 Board Meeting, we will have lunch at the Holiday Inn with our scholarship recipients and office assistant. It was agreed to chip in \$5 each during the meeting to cover a Christmas gift for our office assistant. RSVP's were made during the meeting for the 12:30 reservation.
- The Dining-in Holiday Brunch is being planned for December 8 at Tom and Helen Listerman's home. Bob Wagley is working with the Listermans on invitations.
- On February 5, we are signed up to attend the Dayton Philharmonic backstage tour (7:00 pm) and open rehearsal (7:30 pm) at the Schuster Center for a classical series performance, *Reflections of France*. The actual performance will be held on March 28-29, 2014. She said Paul Helfrich offered us the opportunity to invite up to 100 people; therefore, the information and details will be published in the next *Extension*. Dinner prior to the performance is planned for 5:00 pm at UNO's. Please give Mary your RSVP for attending the performance and dinner no later than January 15.
- Mary asked if anyone would like to go to dinner following our outing to the Raiders basketball game planned for Saturday February 8. Since we decided to only have snacks and drinks during the game, everyone agreed T. J. Chumps on Dayton-Yellow Springs Rd in Fairborn would be a good place to meet afterwards.

**By-laws and Elections:** Judy Rose. She will be meeting with Abe and Gail on November 8 to coordinate our Bylaws and the Procedures Manual.

**Historical Preservation:** Lew Shupe. The WSURA newsletter issues #61 thru #79 have been transferred to the University Archives. Issue #76 is missing from the collection. Chris Wydman, archives University Records Manager, is checking to see what other WSURA information needs to be filled in the archival collection. Leone will check her computer files to see if she can locate old files. Mary Bennett, Director of Development in the School of Professional Psychology, contacted the University Archives for information about Dr. Norwood Marquis, the first Dean of the College of Education. Dr. Marquis' daughter, Judy Marquis Rymer, is interested in establishing an on-going contact with Wright State. While conversing with the daughter, it was interesting to hear about her recollections of her experiences with the university while her father was Dean. Consideration is being given to interviewing her for the WSURA Oral History Project.

**Membership:** Gerry Petrak. The WSURA staff at the WSU Health Fair table talked to 200+ people during the event on October 23. The winner of the basket raffle was Mike Griest from the Raider Connect Office. Gerry picked up the newly revised WSURA brochures from Printing Services in two installments. She passed out the revised edition to the Board members.

**OCHER:** Rich Johnson. Blair Rowley volunteered to serve as the second member of the OCHER committee.

**Scholarship:** Paul Wolfe. No report. Abe thanked Paul for submitting a time table for the Procedures Manual. Mary Kenton will be taking over as committee chair; this new information will be very helpful in carrying out her new responsibilities.

**Sunshine:** Marlene Bireley. Deceased Retirees: *Phillip Neff*, Manager, Systems Technology Unit in CATS; *Jerry Hammon*, founding committee member of the Boonshoft School of Medicine; and, current employee *Stefan Pugh*, Professor and Chair of Modern Languages, in COLA passed away in October.

### LIAISON REPORTS

**Athletic Council:** Mary Kenton. A new team has been added to the Horizon League, Oakland University out of Michigan; they still need one more to complete the roster. There is still arguing going on about playing UD. Mary reported that Wright State athletes have a higher grade point average than the University average.

**Friends of the Library:** Gary Barlow. Information was sent to Peggy Bott about the Friends of the Library Book Club. The members are eager to have WSURA members join their monthly sessions. Peggy has more information for anyone who may be interested in joining and will be attending the Book Club on Nov. 14.

On October 24, Gary and five other members of the library staff reviewed the applications for the 2014 student assistant awards. The winners were selected and the awards will be presented on Friday, November 15 at a library reception being held for students and parents.

The second FOL workshop entitled *Grandparents Online* will be held on Saturday morning, November 16. It will cover various aspects of social media, including a focus on documenting and transmitting pictures, documents and other genealogical-related materials. The October workshop was a success; it involved various procedures of creating, titling and transferring photographic images to disks.

**International Club:** Bob Wagley. The idea of forming a “Welcome Club” for our international students is going on the backburner, for now. There is currently not enough student interest to form an official club.

### OLD BUSINESS

Procedures Manual. Gail Whitaker passed out clean copies of the proposed Procedures Manual revisions. Abe and Judy will meet with Gail Friday morning to correlate the revised Procedures Manual with the Bylaws.

Book Club. Peggy Bott said since only one person responded to the notice in *The Extension* about the possibility of a retirees book club, she asked Gary to provide us with information on the Friends of the Library book club for those interested. Their next meeting will be 5:30 pm, on Nov. 14 at the Winans Fine Chocolate and Coffee, 3510 Pentagon Blvd in Beavercreek. The book selected for this meeting is *Evil Knievell Days* by Paul Toutonghi. Peggy read the book and said she will attend the Friends meeting and see how the group functions. If anyone else would like to go, let her know and she will notify the coordinator in the Library to say how many of us will be attending. It is a fun book and can be read in five or so hours. More information on this book club can be found on the Library home page under “Upcoming Events”, under UnWin(e)d Book Group.

### NEW BUSINESS

WSU Faculty member, Dan Kirkpatrick, was elected to serve as the new mayor in Fairborn. It was suggested that we might want to invite him to be a speaker here at some future time.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:** Wednesday, December 4, 2013, 10:00 - noon, in the COLA Conference Room. Our luncheon with the scholarship recipient will take place at 12:30 pm, at the The Holiday Inn, across from the University.

Respectfully submitted by  
Donna Curtin, Secretary