

**Wright State University Retirees Association
Board Meeting April 2, 2014**

Board Members Present: Abe Bassett, Gary Barlow, Marlene Bireley, Peggy Bott, Donna Curtin, Mary Gromosiak, Mary Kenton, Leone Low, Gerry Petrak, Judy Rose, Jim Sayer, Lew Shupe, Carol Stevenson, Bob Wagley, Gail Whitaker, Dick Williams, and Paul Wolfe

Absent: Rich Johnson, Gary Pacernick, and Blair Rowley

President Abe Bassett called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He asked for a motion to approve minutes from the last meeting.

BOB WAGLEY MOVED APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 5, 2014. SECONDED BY MARLENE BIRELEY. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

OFFICERS REPORTS

President, Abe Bassett

It's been a tough couple of months for our board members because of illness, traveling, family issues, and the severe winter weather; he thanked the group for their attendance today.

Membership Data - Abe vowed that the List Serve maintained by CaTS will be identical to our membership list before his term is up. We have recently eliminated 20 bad addresses. Sarah is maintaining one Excel spreadsheet containing all the vital membership data. Some missing information can be (and has been) reconstructed from written records in the office files. Problems with membership records have arisen because of past inconsistency in entering data. Several deceased persons were still being carried as *active members*, and five members whose names were not the active membership list have been added. Corrections are made as discovered.

The current membership statistics:

- # of living retirees - 1050 (from the Banner data maintained by Human Resources]
- # of WSURA members – 365
- # of people who have not paid dues – unknown
(Gail reported that 53 have paid their dues to date)
- # of members with Lifetime Memberships – unknown
- # of members with email addresses – 285
- # of members without email addresses – 85 (we need to find a way to get them)
- # of members without email addresses or telephones – 36
- # of members without telephones but with email addresses – 20

Abe asked for 10 volunteers to make 5 calls each to members for whom we have no email address and to report incorrect phone numbers, and current email addresses, when available. The callers should explain we do NOT share email addresses with others; and, because of rapidly increasing costs for printing and mailing, email communications must become a more frequent way of being in contact with our members.

Summer Employment for Office Assistant

There was a discussion about Sarah's summer work schedule. Abe said Sarah is available to work this summer. Her work-study award for this year has ended, but when summer term begins, she will return to work-study status. (The association pays \$2.00 on work-study and \$8.00 when work-study is exhausted.) Abe said there is plenty of work to keep her busy during the summer break including dealing with the web site, reorganizing office files, and maintaining membership data. The web site information has been submitted to CaTS, and she and Abe will be trained to maintain web site.

Gary Barlow raised concern about office documents that may be value to the University Archives. Lew volunteered to contact archivist Chris Wydman about reviewing our files.

Judy Rose asked if we have a Procedures Handbook for our student employee. Abe confirmed its existence.

Printer Problems Abe expressed concern that our office printer is antiquated, and needs to be replaced. He

has found a highly rated all-in-one printer for only \$140 through B&H online. If agreed, he will order and pay for it himself, and be reimbursed later.

GARY BARLOW MOVED A NEW PRINTER BE PURCHASED FOR THE WSURA OFFICE. MARLENE BIRELEY SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Copies of the current WSURA Bylaws were distributed. A minor adjustment to the bylaws was distributed to the membership and will be voted upon at the June annual meeting.

Vice President, Jim Sayer

On Monday, March 24, he, Abe and Dick Williams met with Becky Cole, Vice President for Advancement and Director of the WSU Foundation, and two of her colleagues, to discuss the upcoming Campus Scholarship and Innovation Campaign (CSIC). They also discussed the Foundation's plans for their new fundraising effort – the Comprehensive Campaign. The meeting was worthwhile and productive. Jim said they indicated their desire to assure that retirees who contribute to the CSIC can clearly designate their desired recipients, and President Bassett repeated his oft-stated desire to boost the Nick Davis fund to the point that WSURA could offer two \$1,500 scholarships, annually, in the near future. They were informed that such designation would be clearly noted.

The Comprehensive Campaign presently, in its silent, non-public phase, has a goal of reaching \$150 million dollars. Since its start in 2008, nearly \$94 million has been raised and the end-date for this campaign will be mid-2016. This campaign has four designations for giving: academic support, faculty support, scholarships, and university-wide [athletics and libraries] support. Of special interest, is the provision of “mission scholarships” for students who do not qualify for either need-based nor merit support. It's exciting to learn that the very famous actor, Tom Hanks, will chair this major, national campaign, and will be on campus this summer!

Abe announced that University Foundation has recently received a commitment of \$3,000 in donations to be used as matching funds to encourage gifts to the Nick Davis Scholarship endowment fund. The matching funds are for donors who have never given or those who have not given in the past five years. The goal is to increase retiree gifts from 11% to 14% of Wright State retirees

This year's CSI Campaign will feature a letter from recent scholarship recipient Erin Dorsten addressed to specific targeted individuals—that is the 89% of retirees who are not donors. This is the first time the technique of an individually addressed letter has been used.

Treasurer, Gail Whitaker

Gail distributed her Treasurer's Report for activity through March 25. She expressed concern that our balances are low for this time of year. She pointed to the high cost of printing services in February (\$1,086.62). She raised the question if there was a need to send the *Extension* to all retirees, rather than to dues paying members. A discussion followed concerning the use of color. Since WSU's traditional Printing Services Department has recently been abolished in favor of a new vendor, we are unsure of future printing costs. Gail will ask Kathy Becknell for a report of the current cost structure, so our spending in this area can be analyzed. The new printing services contractor will offer seminars to familiarize the campus community with their services. Board members raised these questions: Can we outsource printing needs? Or, should we just distribute our communications via email? Gary suggested sending printed materials only to those who do not have email. Everyone expressed their appreciation to Marlene for doing such a great job with the newsletter. The Board applauded her for a job very well done!

Abe asked if it is time to ask for an increase in our budget. Past Treasurer, Carol Stevenson, pointed out the last time we received an increase was \$300 – only 5% of our yearly allocation. Jim Sayer agreed our need is real, and so he volunteered to talk to President Hopkins to request an increase in our budget allocation since we haven't had one in several years. With the increase in expenses, especially printing and mailing costs, and student help, it's becoming more and more difficult to live within our budget.

Secretary, Donna Curtin. No report.

Communications, Marlene Bireley (Marlene? Anything you want me say?) Ty

Past-President, Gary Pacernick. No report

Committees

Activities, Mary Gromosiak

- Calamityville Tour – Wednesday, April 30
The National Center for Medical Readiness (NCRM) operated by Wright State University. It is located at 506 E. Xenia Drive in Fairborn. **Please arrive by 2 pm. RSVP's are due no later than Friday, April 18.** For those who may be interested in meeting for lunch at TJ Chumps on Dayton-Yellow Springs Rd in Fairborn prior to the tour, should let her know for the lunch count. Time for lunch is TBD.
- Hawthorn Hill, Thursday, May 1
Oakwood Mansion of Orville and Wilbur Wright – all tours begin and end at Carillon Park. Vehicles on the Hawthorne Property are limited to ten passengers only. As a result, we will be transported from Carillon Park to Hawthorne Hill every 15 minutes, as needed, until everyone has arrived. The actual tour is scheduled for an hour and a half. The cost is \$15.00 per person for a combination ticket to Carillon Historical Park and Hawthorne Hill. Dayton History members will receive a discounted ticket for \$10.00 per person; Payment will be made the day of the tour. Please meet at Carillon Park, located at 1000 Carillon Blvd in Dayton. The first tour bus will leave Carillon Park at 1 pm. **Reservations are due no later than Friday, April 18.** Respond to wsura@wright.edu or mary.gromosiak@wright.edu or call 974-4010 for more information. For anyone interested, Carillon Park's Culp's Café is open from 11 am – 3 pm,

By-laws and Elections, Judy Rose

The ballots for the upcoming year have been mailed to the membership.

Historical Preservation, Lew Shupe . We are in the process of developing procedures for doing long-distance interviews. Currently, we are communicating with Walker Allen. He has notified us that he has memories to share, but he won't be coming back to Dayton. Orlis Semler keeps in touch with him, and she is the one who suggested we interview him. We also have a waiting list of others to interview, and we plan on following up with those meetings after the end of this semester.

Membership, Gerry Petrak

We have no new members as of yesterday. She sent out 58 new brochures to recent retirees, with a letter – which was also sent out last May. We will be sending out another mailing in May (for the January to May retirees). Jim Sayer suggested waiting until June, since many are not retiring until June.

Abe suggested we send out a personal letter to new retirees, stressing the need to follow through with this effort to keep at drawing in new members. He said we need to work harder to increase our membership. Jim pointed out, there will be a large group retiring soon due to changes in the retirement requirements. Also, he suggested sending out a special letter in an effort to solicit Patron Funds. Gail said there is a need devise a budget to guide expenditures

OCHER, Rich Johnson.

Information from the March 25 meeting of the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees:

According to recent research of retirees in the STRS, 71% of those responding felt about the same level of economic security as in the prior year.

Estimated preliminary figures show the STRS **total fund** return for 2012-2013 to be 17.5% with an estimate for 2013-2014 to be 10.3%.

STRS **retirees** increased from 143,256 in 2012 to 149,221 in 2013. Since 2003 **active payroll** for STRS members has increased an average of 1.6% per year.

Active STRS members have **average annual salaries** for 2012 and 2013 of \$54,922 and \$53,653.

The **funding period** for STRS (after a January 2014 revision by the STRS actuary Siegal Consulting) was 40.2 years compared to 36.1 years for 2013 and an unfunded liability of an infinite number of years before changes made in 2013

In its March 2014 meeting the STRS Board approved a transfer of 1% on the 14% of employer funding from health care funding to pension funding. Even with this change there will be need to be more than the assumed investment return of 8% to meet the 30-year funding requirement.

Scholarship, Paul Wolfe. Two separate letters will be mailed out soon from the CSIC office: one to people who have not contributed in a while – and one to those who have been consistent contributors. These will be addressed to all retirees, and will not go out until after the general on-campus population has received their letters. The one addressed to the retirees will not have a particular “end date”, which is different than the literature being sent to current employees. Abe thanked Paul for his good service, and announced Mary Kenton will take over for him next year.

Sunshine, Marlene Bireley - no report

Liaisons

Athletic Council, Mary Kenton

The committee met on Friday, March 28, and had a lively discussion about the NCAA Labor Union buzz. Lawsuits are pending against the NCAA, and she believes it's just a matter of time and litigation to unionize. On another note, the WSU men's' baseball team is doing well; she also commented the men's' basketball team will lose 5 seniors next year.

Friends of Library, Gary Barlow

Gary announced the annual FOL luncheon and program, for Wednesday April 30, 11:30 am, at the Dayton Art Institute. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Hank Dahlman. His talk is entitled, *CELIA: Making an Art of Working Together*. *CELIA* is an Ohio Center of Excellence for Collaborative Education, Leadership and Innovation in the Arts organization. Gary said this will be a very exciting and educational.

The Calamyville Tour is scheduled for the same day; however, time wise, it may still be possible to do both events, since the tour doesn't start until 2:00 pm. It was mentioned that attendees would still probably have time to still go to Calamityville (Paul suggesting wearing good shoes for the tour, because there are lots of stairs.)

International, Bob Wagley

Bob handed out a card announcing the annual IFA (International Friendship Affair) festival, which will be held on Saturday, April 5, 1:00 – 4:30 in the Student Union Apollo Room. This is the 30th year for this event held at Wright State. It promises to be a great time. The theme is “Birthdays Around the World”, and how they are celebrated.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 pm. The group headed to the Wright Room for a luncheon meeting with today's guest speaker, Dr. Dan Abrahamowicz, Vice President for Student Affairs.

Next meeting: Weds, May 7, 2014, 10:00 am, in the Cambier Room, of the Student Union. At noon, the Board members will be the guests of Dr. David Hobson, University President, for a luncheon in the Wright Room of the Student Union.

Respectfully submitted,

Dona Curtin
Secretary
WSURA Board