

Wright State University Retirees Association Board Meeting May 7, 2014

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

Absent: Peggy Bott and Rich Johnson

President Abe Bassett called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. He asked for a motion to approve minutes of May 7. Gromosiak moved for approval, Bireley seconded. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

OFFICERS REPORTS

President, Abe Bassett

Student Assistant Summer Projects. Since Sarah will not be able to work a regular shift this summer, Abe surveyed members to learn of essential projects:

- Gerry Petrak: mail brochures and letters to new retirees in early July
- Marlene Bireley: Picnic invitations to retirees at the 5 years level. Produce the *Extension*.
- Mary Gromosiak: a mailing in early July to retirees without email, announcing an August event at the new German Restaurant/Brewery in Carillon Park.

Web Site: After several delays, the WSURA web site development is back on track. Work should begin sometime in June.

List Serve: Those who use the wsu_retirees@wright.edu list serve, should report rejections to Abe.

Membership List: Any Board member may have access to the list if they have the Excel program on their home computer. The list will be emailed to board members later in the month.

Office Files: Historic-type documents have been taken to the archives for their review and selection of what to keep. Lew volunteered to be present during the process, to watch for anything that may still be of interest to us.

CSIC: As of week 9 in the scholarship drive, only 42 retirees have contributed. The Scholarship Endowment has reached the \$50,000 threshold, which will produce two awards of \$1,250. Abe suggested we take \$500 more out of our dues fund to enable us to award two \$1,500 awards next year. Everyone agreed this was a good idea.

Patron Fund: Donors to the Patron Fund are not receiving acknowledgments from the Association. Marlene said the process should be: the Treasurer is informed monthly by the University Foundation, and then he/she informs the Secretary to send a thank you letter.

Membership Dues: The dues structure has not been changed in several years and as mailing and printing expenses have gone up, the dues need to be examined. Abe referred this topic to the Executive Committee with a charge to return a recommendation to the board.

Special Honoree Banquet: Also referred to the Executive Committee was the concept of a special banquet in which retirees who have made special contributions to the University, or who have otherwise distinguished themselves, may be honored.

Vice-President Jim Sayer

Jim sent out letters encouraging CSIC campaign contributions. President Bassett approached Jim with the suggestion that we make arrangements to have the WSURA office painted. Jim followed up and has been assured the painting will be done soon. On another note, regarding the ongoing LEAP program: Jim received a nice "Thank You" note from Mailinh Nguyen, International Studies, expressing her appreciation for volunteers Abe Bassett, Bob and Lorraine Wagley and Gerry Petrak for spending time conversing with some of our international students. Mailinh commented the students enjoyed the experience, and she hoped our volunteers did too. Jim Hanna, a University Communications writer is doing a story about the LEAP program: Why did we get involved? "To help foreign students with English speaking conversational skills and give this organization another venue to give back to the university."

Secretary, Donna Curtin – expressed a sincere *thank you* to Mary for arranging so many wonderful events this past year! She made special mention of the recent Calamityville Tour and the visit to Hawthorne Hill, Wright Brothers Mansion. Everyone agreed.... *great job Mary!*

Treasurer, Gail Whitaker – Gail distributed the Treasurer's Report showing recent activity.

Jim Sayer is going to meet with President Hopkins, soon, to request an increase in our allocation of university funds for WSURA expenses. Gail proposed we also raise the membership dues to help with the rising costs of operating expenses. Carol asked how much do we need in dues revenue to add to the general fund allocation to make ends meet. It was suggested the current dues structure and operating expenses be reviewed, and make a determination. Gerry said if we implement and increase, we will also need to change the information on the brochures' inserts. Abe said he would like to call the Executive Committee together for their review and further discussion. A meeting time was set for next Tuesday, May 13, at 10:30 a.m. in the Board office. Their recommendation will be presented for a membership vote at the June 2 meeting.

Communications, Marlene Bireley – The annual Retirees Picnic will be held on Monday, June 2, with a rain date set for Thursday, June 5 in the Garden of the Senses. The time is usually set for 11 am – 1 pm. The annual retirees membership meeting will be held the same day, June 2 at 10:00 am. Location to be determined. The deadline for any inclusions in the Summer *Extension* is set for May 16, it will be finalized by May 19. An email needs to go out announcing the picnic and our annual meeting. ***The Events Office will send out an invitation for the picnic, and the annual meeting location will be announced to all, via an email message.***

Past-President, Gary Pacernick – entertained us by reading an excerpt from *100 years...* Afterwards, Marlene commented that she recently heard a quote, stating, "*When an elder passes a library dies.*" So true. At this point, Abe commented he recently finished his memoirs. They can be viewed by looking on Amazon.com, and can be read on line.

Committees

Activities, Mary Gromosiak

Calamityville Tour: On Weds., April 30, thirteen WSU retirees toured Calamityville, the National Center for Medical Readiness (NCRM). The event was very impressive and reassuring that their efforts to prepare first responders for meeting potential challenges of "worst day" disaster scenarios.

Hawthorn Hill Tour:

On Thursday, May 1, ten retirees visited Hawthorn Hill, the Wright family estate planned by Orville and Wilbur Wright. Tragically, Wilbur died from typhoid fever shortly before the groundbreaking. Orville lived at Hawthorn Hill along with his sister and father Bishop Wright. After Orville's death in 1948, the estate changed hands, first to NCR for 58 years where many dignitaries and celebrities were invited to stay. In 2006, NCR gave Hawthorn Hill to The Wright Foundation. Dayton History has since partnered with the Wright Foundation to restore and preserve Hawthorn Hill for the future.

There was some discussion about how to increase retirees' participation in our publicized events. Abe commented the list serve is viable for opening communications with our membership. He suggested we ask individuals to write a brief description of their experiences and share them with fellow retirees by sending them out on the list serve, in the *Extension*, and eventually, on our web site. We could start putting out *sign-in sheets* for those who attend events and we solicit them for future activities. All good ideas!

New Carillon Brewing Company: Mary is planning an evening at Carillon Park to visit the new Carillon Brewing Company, and dine in the planned 200 seat German restaurant, afterwards. No opening date has been set since the facility is still being built. The brewing company is expected to open in July with the restaurant following in August.

Mary asked for new ideas for planning next year's activities. Marlene suggested to plan an annual dinner, similar to the FOL's annual dinner with a featured speaker. The idea came up to go a step further and invite

newer 5 year retirees to attend and acquaint them with our organization. Gary suggested holding a special dinner for recent retirees. The suggestions were noted by Mary, and she will welcome others, also.

By-laws and Elections, Judy Rose

Judy needs Peggy to help count the ballots and asked for another volunteer. Paul Wolfe volunteered to help.

Historical Preservation, Lew Shupe – no report.

Membership, Gerry Petrak - no report.

OCHER, Rich Johnson – There is a concern that OPERS is not being represented during the monthly OCHER meetings. It is important for representatives to show up at future meetings in Columbus. STRS has good representation, but OPERS does not. Steps are being taken to try to correct the situation.

Scholarship, Paul Wolfe –He and Mary Kenton are going to go pick up scholarship applicants for next year. They need a couple of volunteers to help go through the applications and help with the selection process. Gail and Gary Pacernick volunteered to help.

Sunshine, Marlene Bireley

Frieda Jessee, died May 1, 2014. Position unknown.

W. J. Jack Lewis, died April 5. Clinical Professor, School of Medicine, and Board member, Friends of the Libraries

Charles Hein, Trustee of the WSU Board, died April 22

Raymond Mills, position unknown. Passed away May 1

Liaisons

Athletic Council, Mary Kenton

At the final Athletics Council meeting of the year, the standing committees presented their annual reports. Most were fairly routine. There was some discussion of the Gender Equity Committee report, which showed a reasonable level of compliance with Title IX. The leadership of the Council met with Dr. A-Z to discuss the direction of the Council for the next few years. The NCAA is currently providing very little direction and oversight for member institutions. The Vice President encouraged Council to remain active and engaged and to push a vigorous agenda with the Athletics Department. The Horizon League continues to explore new member institutions, but adding Belmont College in Nashville as an affiliate member for soccer remains the only change since Butler departed.

Historical Preservation - Lew Shupe. Old WSURA materials have been sent to the Library for sorting and selection for the University Archives. Lew asked what happens to things they don't want to keep in the archived collections. It was decided that things would not be disposed of until we've had a chance to look over what is left over and Lew agreed to be present during the sorting process to help determine if there is anything of importance we may want to keep in our files. He also reported interviews are being set up to meet with Mary Jo Wiley.

Friends of the Library, Gary Barlow – they are currently going through a FOL rejuvenation on their board and new marketing leadership along with going through the process of enlarging their board. Dr. Glen Graham is now serving on the FOL Board. They are looking for someone from the Alumni and WSURA Associations to serve, and they are also considering adding a student board member. Gary commented this year's Dayton Art Institute, Friends of the Library event was successful and very enjoyable.

International, Bob Wagley – the department is overwhelmed with the number of new International students coming into the university. There is an unusually heavy workload for the staff – and they are looking for volunteers to help.

OLD BUSINESS – Mary needs some new ideas for the next bus trip event. The Holmes County trip was fascinating. The group enjoyed very interesting museums and stores (shopping!) Abe and his wife especially enjoyed the pickled, candied garlic treats they purchased during their visit.

NEW BUSINESS – None

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m. The group reconvened in the Wright Brothers Dining Room for the annual luncheon meeting with President Dave Hopkins.

The June 2 Board Meeting will take place at the Catholic Campus Ministry from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

The annual university picnic will be held in the Garden of the Senses, immediately following the Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Curtin
WSURA Board Secretary

May 31, 2014