

Wright State University Retirees Association
Minutes of the Board Of Directors
December 2, 2015

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

Absent: Frieda Bennett, Elizabeth Harden

President Williams called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

MOTION: BIRELEY MOVED APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 2. SECONDED BY BARLOW. THE MOTION APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

OFFICERS REPORTS

President—Dick Williams

A committee of Whitaker, Bireley and Williams interviewed and hired a new student assistant—Katrina Molnar, who was introduced at today's meeting. She may be reached at the office email or directly to her email address: Molnar.13@wright.edu. She has already been at work helping with the publication of the winter edition of *The Extension*.

Williams announced that Amy Jones, Director of Annual Giving, and a representative of the Alumni Association would attend a future Board meeting (March?) to discuss techniques and strategies to increase membership numbers.

Vice President—Mary Kenton

No report

Past-President—Jim Sayer

No report.

Secretary—Abe Bassett

All but seven of our 376 members have telephone numbers. 324 have email addresses while 48 are either without computers or do not wish to share their addresses. A emailing on December 1 had only four addresses marked as undeliverable.

A report from University Foundation indicates a record number—190—retirees have made contributions to the University Scholarship drive this year, with many more donations expected in December. The average donation has been \$966. The Nick Davis scholarship fund now stands at \$63,600, an increase of \$9,200 this year, with an additional \$4,000 due in December. When the total contributions reach \$90,000, three \$1,500 scholarships can be awarded annually.

Treasurer—Gail Whitaker

A revision to the Treasurer's report of October 31 has been reposted to the website. The report of November 30 was distributed. There was little activity in November, and the Association stands in good financial health.

Communications—Marlene Bireley

The winter edition of *The Extension* has been prepared and sent to printing service. It is scheduled for mailing on Monday, December 7. Our new student assistant "Ri" Molnar, who has excellent computer skills, assisted Bireley.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Activities –Mary Gromosiak

Fourteen retirees had dinner at Dayton Hollywood Casino on November 4. Unfortunately, the races

were canceled due to a hole in the track that could not be repaired.

New upcoming events include:

- December 6, Dining-In Brunch at the home of Tom & Helen Listerman. Seventeen people have reserved spaces.
- December 17, WSU Raiders vs. Charleston Southern. The WSU Alumni Association is again providing use of their box and 12 free tickets. Reservations are required by Thursday, December 10.
- January 17, 2016. Dining-Out Brunch at Yankee Trace at 11:00am. RSVP are required by January 10, 2016
- Presidential Lecture Series: Amy Purdy, February 12, 7pm. Apollo Room, Student Union
- Presidential Lecture Series: Maysoon Zayid, March 22, 5:30pm, Pathfinder, Student Union

By-laws and Elections—Judy Rose

President **Williams** and Past-President **Sayer** will join the elections committee this year. All board members are encouraged to aid in finding suitable retirees for board duty.

Rose anticipates up to five Board seats could be vacant, although the number is not firm. Bott will not rerun for a board seat but will continue to serve as Sunshine coordinator. The positions of President Elect and Communications Coordinator are, at present, open.

Historical Preservation—Lew Shupe

Shupe reported that a December meeting has been scheduled with University Archives Head Dawne Dewey and archivist Chris Wydman for expanded offerings at the Second Annual Retirees Luncheon on May 6.

Membership—Gerry Petrak

Ten new members were sent membership packets [without the aid of a student assistant.]. A dummy copy of the new WSURA recruitment brochure was circulated with several suggestions offered by board members.

Scholarship Committee—Gary Pacernick

Pacernick announced that scholarship recipient Kasannah Parrish would come to today's meeting to be introduced and to join us at lunch. Rosa Tweed, the other scholarship awardee, was not available today.

Sunshine—Peggy Bott

Deaths: The only new death reported since the last meeting is that of Jacob Paperman, former Chair of the Accounting Department. Bassett announced the policy of posting obituaries on the website when available. Wolfe volunteered to forward the obituary of Benjamin H. Richard, Professor of Geology for website posting.

LIAISONS

Alumni—Elizabeth Harden

Absent. No report

Athletic Council—Mary Kenton

Athletic Director Bob Grant practiced the presentation he will soon make to the University Board of Trustees. In essence, Grant presented a portrait of how student athletes are seen and treated. In order of importance, the students are first of all, people; secondly, students; and finally, athletes.

Notice was taken of the many improvements at the athletic facilities, including the Nutter Center.

Friends of the Libraries—Gary Barlow

The Friends will sponsor a lecture by Dr. Larry James, former Dean, School of Professional Psychology, and Terry Oroszi, speaking on a new book they co-edited: *"Weapons of Mass Psychological Destruction, and the People Who Use Them."* Thursday, Jan 21st at 7:00 pm in the Endeavor Room, Student Union. **[Date changed from Wednesday 20, as previously announced.]**

Learn about the science and psychology of WMPD in relation to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive

weapons - including why a terrorist chooses a specific type of a weapon. Who becomes a WMPD terrorist and why? The authors will discuss interviews with terrorists at Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib and the events of the Boston Marathon bombing. Discussion will include prevention strategies that can decrease the likelihood of an attack.

International—Bob Wagley

No report, except that Wagley will be singing the Messiah this coming Saturday.

OCHER—Paul Wolfe

Wolfe and Williams attended the meeting of November 17. A copy of the report was distributed to members, and each has received a copy via email. The OCHER report is also posted on the retiree website. Highlights of the report include happenings on various campuses. And reports on health changes for OPERS and on STRS Health Care.

Special Guest—Kim Gilliam

Dr. Gilliam of the Career Center spoke on characteristics of the generation that is now of college age. Known as the “Generation Y or Millennials,” they were born between 1981 and 2000. This group is more likely to respond to text messages as opposed to telephone calls. Technology defines their rules of engagement and they receive an average of 88 texts a day. 32% admit checking text messages while driving! Supervising Millennials in the workplace requires sensitivity to their preferred modes of communication.

New Business—Introductions

Following the formal meeting, our new scholarship awardee, Kasannah Parrish and new student assistant, Katrina (“Ri”) Molnar, introduced themselves and graciously responded to questions posed by the members. Both women were impressive.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO CONCLUDE THE MEETING MADE BY BARLOW AND SECONDED BY CURTIN. MOTION APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.

The NEXT MEETING: Wednesday February 3, 10:00am, 210 University Foundation Building, 3070 Presidential Drive

Respectfully submitted,
Abe J Bassett, Secretary