

**Wright State University Retirees Association  
Minutes of the Board of Directors**

**February 1, 2017**

**Board Members Present:** Dan Abrahamowicz, Gary Barlow, Abe Bassett, Frieda Bennett, Marlene Bireley, Mary Gromosiak, Mary Kenton, Gary Pacernick, Sheryl Provens, Judy Rose, Jim Sayer, Bob Wagley, Gail Whitaker, & Dick Williams.  
**Absent:** Peggy Bott, Donna Curtin, Donna Schlagheck, Ruth Schumacher, and Paul Wolfe.

President Kenton called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

SAYER MOVED APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 7, 2016, SECONDED BY WAGLEY. APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**OFFICERS REPORTS**

**President—Mary Kenton**

Attendance regrets received from Curtin, Schlagheck, Schumacher and Wolfe.

Robert & Lorraine Wagley will be leaving Dayton for Louisville and today is Wagley's last meeting.

Barlow asked the Board to recognize Wagley's great service to the Association, and expressed a hearty thank you. The Board unanimously agreed to the recognition with deep thanks for his service. [Later in the meeting, Wagley said his association with the Beaver Creek Historical Society and the WSU Retirees Association made leaving this area very difficult.]

Assistant Provost Steve Berberich, the WSURA liaison, has asked to attend a meeting in order to explore how the Association may better reach and serve new retirees. Kenton will arrange a visit at the March meeting.

The Luncheon Committee has set the theme of the Third Annual Luncheon as "Fifty & Counting." Lillie Howard will be the luncheon speaker, and will discuss her insights regarding the establishment and development of the University. Howard had a particular interest in learning how the wives of the presidents contributed to the University. To be published later this year is her history of Wright State. The cost of the luncheon will rise from \$20 to \$25 dollars this year, but will include a desert. The raffle will be simplified to perhaps two or three "baskets," including one each for Beaver Creek and the University.

The question of how to deal with new retirees and new members was discussed with a suggestion for a nicely arranged reception in March or April. The importance of personal contact was emphasized, and the discovery was made that not all new retirees were receiving the packet of information that we had intended they receive.

Because of the stress that OPERS and STRS are encountered in maintaining pension and health benefits, a panel on pension and benefits may be in order. Wagley reported that such a session a few years ago elicited a large response. Possible participants could be Lou Falkner, Rudy Fichtenbaum and Tom Keller. Williams and Wolfe were asked to arrange a session; Gromosiak volunteered to assist.

A communication from the University of Dayton invited Wright State retirees who may wish to participate in an upcoming production entitled "The Flyer Follies!"

**Past President—Richard Williams**

Williams reported on significant changes that may be taking place at the State Teacher's Retirement System. A consultant's study has recommended a number of changes to STRS's fiscal assumptions. Those assumptions, if adopted by the STRS Board, will significantly change pension and health care capabilities. The assumptions are:

- Reduce the investment return 7.50% to 7.00%.
- Adopt new mortality tables to account for increasing lifespans, which would add \$4.1 billion to liabilities.
- Reduce inflation assumption to 2.50% from the current 2.75%.

The best means to keep the fiscal integrity of the pension fund may be to adjust or eliminate the annual cost-of-living adjustment.

Abrahamowicz reported that OPERS is keeping the COLA at 3% for the next two years, but may eliminate it in the third year.

**Vice President—Donna Schlagheck—Absent—No Report**

### Secretary—Abe Bassett

The 2016 University Campus Scholarship drive experienced a decline in giving with participation falling from 59% to 50%. The retiree's gift giving also declined from 19.6% to 17.0%. The number of retiree donors decreased from 184 to 175, and the average donation declined from \$966 to \$925.

The Nick Davis endowed scholarship fund received \$7,990 compared to \$9,260 the previous year.

The Board of Directors again achieved 100% participation in the 2016 CSIC Giving program!

### Webmaster's Report

Difficulty with the Google Analytics program prevents obtaining Webmaster January statistics.

The second eNewsletter was sent in the middle of January. The eNewsletter reaches only about 50% of all retirees—about 550 people out of a total retiree population of as many as 1100. There is a demonstrated need to increase the email addresses by contacting selected retirees though direct mail.

### Treasurer—Gail Whitaker

The treasurer reports of December 31 and January 31 show the association is on solid financial footing. The last two reports have been posted on the WSURA website, where all previous reports may be accessed.

A Hewitt Packard office computer has been purchased and installed at a cost of \$736.00, including new software. A new printer costing \$400 has also been purchased and installed. Extra ink toner cartridges were purchased and will see us through the year and beyond.

The student assistant, Ri Molnar, has accepted another position but has agreed to return for one or two hours to train her replacement. Unfortunately, the position has been posted but there have been no applicants as of this date.

### Communications—Frieda Bennett

Bennett announced that work would begin soon on the Spring Extension, Issue 94—with a late March or early April publication date. Work has also begun on the new edition of the WSURA directory. New board members are requested to send their bios so they may be introduced to the membership in upcoming Extensions. All members are encouraged to send articles or ideas for articles.

## STANDING COMMITTEES

### Activities---Mary Gromosiak

Members are directed to the website for a complete listing of activities from now to the end of the year. Upcoming events include:

- February 26 – Sunday      Women's basketball vs. Milwaukee – 5:00 p.m. Following the game, meet for food at TJ Chumps in Fairborn
- March 2 & 9 – Thurs.      Gary Pacernick – “Finding the Poet Within”
- March 16 & 23 – Thurs.    Gary Barlow – Basic Ikebana (flower arranging)
- March 30 – Thursday      Jonathon Capehart – Presidential Lecture Series – 7 p.m., Nutter Center
- May 9,18,19 or 20          Men's Baseball Game – Date TBA
- May 11, Thursday          WSURA Third Annual Luncheon
- May 27, Tuesday          Bee On The Go Travel—Columbus Park of Roses, The Glass Rooster Cannery, & The Book Loft of German Village. Details at the WSURA website. Cost \$105 per person.

The Christmas Brunch at the home of Lorraine and Robert Wagley on December 11 was well done and very pleasant.

A photographer has been engaged for the Luncheon. After a brief discussion, the Board will entertain purchasing digital photographs for web posting. Bassett will submit an indication of the cost of the photographs.

When members pay for events, Gromosiak requests that checks should be made out to the Wright State University Retirees Association, not to her or to the University.

Bireley reminds those who will attend the women's basketball game on February 26, they should not arrive before 4:30 p.m. because of the men's game earlier in the day. She also recommends entering the arena at lower level McLin Gate, to avoid dealing with steps. Bireley also remarked that the women's basketball squad is very good playing with great energy. Those attending the game should RSVP to Bireley by Feb. 20 at [mkbphd@aol.com](mailto:mkbphd@aol.com) or 426-9648.

**Bylaws and Elections—Judy Rose**

The time has come to begin searching for retirees to run for Board positions, and for present board members to indicate if they wish to rerun. The following members terms will be up in June:

Bassett, Secretary	Schumacher, At Large	Whitaker, Treasurer
Curtin, At-Large	Stevenson, At Large	Williams, Past President

Automatic changes of office: Kenton becomes Past President, and Schlagheck becomes President.

All board members should inform Rose of their desire to run or re-run for office or of their forthcoming resignations. Kenton, Schlagheck & Williams will assist Rose in finding candidates.

Rose announced there would be a small correction to the Bylaws offered at the annual meeting.

**Historical Preservation—Dan Abrahamowicz**

A meeting of the Historical Preservation committee was held January 31 to discuss near-term projects and future directions.

A list of interviewees was drawn up and assignment made to committee members to arrange for interviews. Archivist Wydman was in attendance providing technical information and historical background.

It was learned that the School of Nursing and the Boonshoft School of Medicine have each conducted extensive audio interviews. Links to those sites will soon be able to be accessed on the WSURA website.

**Sunshine—Peggy Bott, Absent, No Report****Membership—Marlene Bireley**

Two retirees have become members of the Association:

- Richard Mercer, Assoc. Prof., Mathematics & Statistics, interested in Scholarship Committee, Life member, (937) 344-1631, richard.mercer@wright.edu
- Robert Riordan, Professor, College of Liberal Arts, life member (937) 238-6129, Robert.riordan@wright.edu.

**Scholarship Committee—Gary Pacernick – No report****Sunshine Committee – Peggy Bott**

There were no recently deceased retirees

**LAISIONS****Alumni—Robert Wagley -- No report****Athletics—Mary Kenton**

Athletics Council met Friday, January 27 in the Student Union. President Hopkins was the special guest. He spent more than an hour discussing the Athletics' budget in relation to the overall University budget. He explained that the situation was such that he could not recommend the usual augmentation to Athletics to allow the department to make up for exceeding its budget.

**International—Ruth Schumacher – Absent, No Report****Friends of the Libraries—Gary Barlow**

University Librarian Shellabarger announced a series of name changes, except for **Archives and Special Collections**, which will not change.

- Digital Services becomes **Digital Initiatives & Repository Services (DIRS)**
- Library Computing Services becomes **Library Technology Services (LTS)**
- Reference & Instruction becomes **Instruction & Research Services (IRS)**

- Technical Services becomes **Content Acquisition & Management (CAM)**
- Information Delivery Services becomes **Resource Delivery Services (RDS)**

A tour of the new Archives facility will be arranged in April. The facility is the original Wright Patt Credit Union headquarters on South Campus.

The designation of legacy books for Lew Shupe is being reviewed, and will be reported soon. Barlow is searching for a book on the *Musée d'Orsay*, a favorite haunt of Shupe.

**OCHER—Paul Wolfe and Dick Williams**

See the Past President's report on page 1 of these minutes.

**SPECIAL REPORT –Presidential Search Committee**

Gerry Petrak reported that three candidates would be brought to campus in the next nine days. They are two women and one man and all three are current presidents at their institution. The names are not released until the day before their arrival to protect them from adverse reactions on their home campuses. The final straw vote to select the three candidates was almost unanimous.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING MADE BY BIRELEY. SECONDED BY ROSE. MOTION APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

**The NEXT REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING:** Wednesday MARCH 1, 10:00 a.m.

**Meetings take place in the WSURA offices:**

210 University Foundation Building, 3070 Presidential Drive

Respectfully submitted,  
Abe J Bassett, Secretary