

## **Wright State University Retirees Association May 6, 2015 Board Meeting, 2015**

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

**Absent:** Rich Johnson, Gail Whitaker, and Lew Shupe

President Jim Sayer called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. He made a MOTION to approve the April 1, 2015, Board Minutes; seconded by Donna Curtin: THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY A VOICE VOTE.

### **OFFICERS REPORTS**

**President, Jim Sayer –**

Use of Athletic Facilities –He will report the outcome in June.

Nick Davis Scholarship Fund – It is time, once again, to offer our financial support to our scholarship fund. Last year, we had 100% participation by Board members. This year, three \$1,500 scholarships will be awarded to deserving students. The Board has committed over \$8,000 to a matching challenge, meaning this money will be used to match donations of up to \$100 per contribution.

**Vice-President, Dick Williams –** The details for the May 14 retirees reunion are nearing completion. The agenda is close to being finalized. The planning committee is looking forward to a good turn-out. Around 70 have confirmed they will be attending.

**Secretary, Donna Curtin –** She commented, WSU seems to be gaining national popularity! Over the past 3 days, she has seen Wright State news on major television networks three different times: on the *Michael and Kelly Live* morning show discussing WSU'S course entitled, *Zombies and Genders in a Pop Culture*; on *NBC's Sunday Morning* show, a brief documentary was shown highlighting the Wright Brothers extensive collection of photos and memorabilia in WSU'S University Archive's collection and a newly published book, by McCullough, entitled: Re-introducing the Wright Brothers to our Modern Society; later the same day, Tom Hanks appeared on screen promoting WSU'S *Rise & Shine Capital Campaign*. Impressive!

**Treasurer, Gail Whitaker –** absent. Gail is currently recovering from knee surgery; however, she emailed the current fund balances for today's meeting: the University Account stands at \$3,213.79; and the Dues Account is \$13,743.03. She will provide detailed April & May budget reports for Board approval during the June meeting. She also reported the good news that we have received a credit for the Work Study Funds that were not paid properly, and the money for the scholarship fund has finally been transferred.

**Communications, Marlene Bireley –** The Summer 2015 edition of *The Extension* is nearing completion and will be mailed out to WSURA members, soon.

**Past-President, Abe Bassett –** no report.

### **COMMITTEES**

**Activities - Mary Gromosiak** – Summer activities currently planned are:

WSURA Reunion Luncheon: Thursday, May 14, 11 am–4 pm, in the Nutter Center’s Berry Room

WSU Retirees and Employees Picnic: Thursday, June 18, 11 am – 1 pm, Garden of the Senses

WSURA Annual Meeting: Thursday, June 18, 10 am – Noon, in the Newman Center (adjacent to the Garden of the Senses)

Bee on the Go Travel Tour of Toledo: Friday, August 14 – Saturday, August 15

**Membership, Gerry Petrak** – Gerry is waiting for a membership report coming from our student assistant, Sarah. She will have the update by the June meeting.

**By-laws and Elections, Judy Rose** – the Board election ballots for 2015 – 2016 are coming in. Judy asked for volunteers to help count them. The results will be announced on email as soon as they are determined, and published on the WSURA website and in the next edition of *The Extension*.

**OCHER, Rich Johnson** – absent

**Scholarship – Mary Kenton** – no report

## LIAISONS

**Athletic Council, Mary Kenton** – On April 24, President Hopkins met with the Athletics Council, their last meeting of the academic year, to discuss the direction Athletics might take over the next few years. He took several questions from Council members. Athletics will be subject to the same budgeting analysis as the rest of the campus. President Hopkins does not foresee a budget cut to Athletics being recommended. He mentioned that an item on the Gender Equity Five-Year Plan, a track, was included in the master plan. There was also some discussion of the impact of new scholarship allowances approved by the NCAA. At this point it is uncertain exactly which WSU athletes might be eligible to receive the enhanced benefit. Financial Aid is working with Athletics to determine what the “cost of education” will be. The Horizon League has recruited a new member school (to be announced later) which will become Wright State’s travel partner.

**Alumni/Foundation, Elizabeth Harden.** She attended their last meeting, and commented that this Council is well organized and has a full agenda. They are getting ready for the annual Alumni College (Aug 1 & 2) open to all WSU Alum, and WSU retirees are invited to attend this year. This event has an excellent reputation and should be very worthwhile. This is a great opportunity to attend “classes without quizzes”. Details will be posted on the Alumni and WSURA websites, soon.

**Friends of the Library, Gary Barlow.**

- Their recent FOL luncheon was a huge success. Dr. Herbert Martin, professor, historian, actor and interpreter of Paul Laurence Dunbar, was the guest speaker. He narrated many interesting stories of the Dunbar family, and presented selections of poetry by Paul Laurence Dunbar.
- The FOL Board is currently reviewing and up-dating the FOL Strategic Plan, and also has formed a committee to gather and document data about their history. The Board has recently welcomed new members from the Alumni Association and a WSU graduate student. Glenn Graham is the new president, and Gary Barlow is the past-president.
- Plans are underway to identify the activities for the coming year, including workshops, special presentations and on-campus and community projects.

**Historical Preservation – Lew Shupe.** – Short audio-video interviews will be offered during the upcoming retirees banquet to anyone who would like to participate. These informal clips will make a nice addition to the current audio-video collection already recorded by Wright State's long-time employees.

**International, Bob Wagley** – Bob has recently spent time showing some of our new international students around the area and helping them to acclimate to WSU.

**Sunshine, Peggy Bott** – Spanish Professor, James Larkins, passed away on April 15, 2015; *Get Well* cards were sent to Gail Whitaker, for her knee replacement; Rich Johnson, for his broken shoulder; and Len Cargan, who had heart surgery.

**Old Business** – none

**New Business** - none

**Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

**Next Meeting:** The Annual Meeting will be held: Thursday, June 18, 2015, 10:00 a.m. in the Newman Center adjacent to the Garden of the Senses on the WSU campus. The annual WSU picnic will follow at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Curtin  
WSURA Board Secretary

June 15, 2015