

**Wright State University Retirees Association
Board Meeting, October 1, 2014**

Board Members Present: Jim Sayer, Gary Barlow, Abe Bassett, Marlene Bireley, Peggy Bott, Mary Gromosiak, Rich Johnson, Mary Kenton, Leone Low, Gary Pacernick, Gerry Petrak, Lew Shupe, Carol Stevenson, Robert Wagley, Gail Whitaker, Dick Williams and Paul Wolfe

Absent: Donna Curtin, Elizabeth Harden and Judy Rose

President Jim Sayer called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. No corrections were made to the minutes for the September 3, 2014 meeting. THE MINUTES WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY A VOICE VOTE.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

President, Jim Sayer

- The Fall Semester University headcount is up one per cent. (Undergraduate is down .8 and graduate is up 7.5%). The College of Science and Engineering is the largest "winner" and the College of Liberal Arts the "loser". Credit hours are up .4 (UG hours are down .6 and graduate hours have increased by 5.9%). A more accurate enrollment picture will be available after "backout" day.

Vice-President, Dick Williams - The Committee on Luncheon Alternatives have settled several details about the upcoming luncheon. The speakers will be Dawne Dewey and Chris Wydman of the University Archives. The date will be in the spring, probably early May, depending upon the speakers' schedule. They will also bring their traveling display. The event will be held at the Berry Room and will honor WSURA Past-Presidents.

Secretary, Donna Curtin – absent. Marlene Bireley is serving as Secretary pro tem.

Treasurer, Gail Whitaker – Additional funds have been received from the President's office. The current balance in our university account is \$8,476.61. The dues fund has a balance of \$11,970.95. Two hundred fifty dollars were received in dues from new members.

Communications, Marlene Bireley - The Fall edition of *The Extension* was completed on August 28. Mailing was requested for September 10, but most did not receive their copies until after September 20. Both scholarship students, Rosa Tweed and Ajay Pujara, have been interviewed for the next *Extension* and both will be available to meet with us during our December meeting and join us for lunch afterward.

Past-President, Abe Bassett –

- Jennifer Foster of the Development Office has reported to Abe that the Fall Fund Drive has started. Students will be calling retirees who have not donated during the current year.
- Abe attended a meeting hosted by Dean of Engineering, Nathan Klingbeil, and held at the Engineers Club. Klingbeil spoke of initiatives in that college and reported that they have increased retention in the college by spreading calculus concepts throughout several related courses rather than having one "make or break" course.
- In a conversation with Karen Sobolik, Dean of COLA, she reported to Abe that there seems to be a "bottleneck" in University Division that may account, in part, for the lower enrollment in COLA.
- The WSURA website has some new content including a write-up by Jay Thomas on our

visit to the Carillon Brewery, two Reflections articles by Bob Wagley with one soon to added from Marlene Bireley.

COMMITTEES

Activities - Mary Gromosiak – Mary reminded us of the upcoming Fall Activities:

- Wed., Oct. 22, 10- 2pm - Health & Benefits Fair, Apollo Room Student Union
- Tues., Oct. 28, 10:30 am – tour of the STEM program 1724 Woodman Dr., Dayton. Lunch following at the Beavercreek Fox & Hound. Reservations due by Wed. Oct. 15. Email or call Mary: mgromosiak@woh.rr.com or (937) 974-4020.
- Holiday Brunch at the Listermans. Date TBA
- Sat., Dec 14, Men's basketball game (Miami University).

- The Presidential Lecture Series has been finalized. Speakers will be:
 - a. Tuesday, December 2-Laverne Cox, Emmy nominated actress (*Orange is the New Black*) and advocate for the transgender community. 7 p.m., Nutter Center.
 - b. Wed., Feb. 4- Steve Wosniak-designer of Apple I and II. 7 p.m., Nutter Center.
 - c. Thurs., Apr. 16 Steve Baskins, U.S. Army, retired. Advocate for the disabled. 5:30 p.m., public reception, 7.p.m. lecture, E 156 Student Union.

By-laws and Elections, Judy Rose – absent, no report.

Historical Preservation, Lew Shupe – Lew handed out a sheet from Archives describing the Dayton Daily New collection and making suggestions for its use as a reference tool. Dick Williams will be the next interviewee for the Oral History Project. Steve Simon, formerly of Disability Services, has expressed a desire to be interviewed when he is in town. Lew would like to interview Nan Davis as a companion to Steve's input.

Membership, Gerry Petrak – Gerry and Carol S. have shopped for items for the raffle baskets for the Health Fair. Contributions were received from Starbucks, Subway, the WSU Bookstore and Athletics. Additional snacks were purchased to complete the baskets.

OCHER, Rich Johnson, Paul Wolfe – Rich attended the meeting in Columbus. News of interest includes the fact that OPERS now has an unfunded liability of 24 years. New employees eligible for STRS are opting for the alternative plans 38% of the time. OPERS stats were not available for the alternative plans since they use a different fiscal year

Scholarship, Mary Kenton –No report

Sunshine, Peggy Bott – Deaths: Michael Cleary, Mgt. Science
Joanne Holton, Administrative Asst., Graduate Studies,
Stanley Mohler, Director, Aerospace Medicine

LIAISONS

Friends of Library, Gary Barlow –Plans are being finalized for workshops to be held monthly, December-March. Final dates, times and places will be available in the near future. Topics will include Holiday Memories, Editing and storing digital photos, File organizing and maintenance ('the cloud'), and "Mobile Mania" (using all types of mobile devices).

Athletics Council, Mary Kenton- She was unable to attend the meeting. No report.

International, Bob Wagley – Bob distributed the names of visiting scholars. Eleven are scheduled to attend the reception to be held at 2 p.m. later this day. One of twenty-five exchange students has accepted an invitation to attend.

Bob believes that the Welcome Club needs to be evaluated. He is finding it difficult to get the names of scholars from the International Studies office.

Bob announced that his LEAP student from Iraq is interested in renting a room with kitchen privileges from an American family so that he can practice his English and have a fuller experience while in this country. Contact Bob if interested.

OLD BUSINESS –Prior to discussion of the dues structure, Jim Sayer and Marlene Bireley raised the question of the increasingly prohibitive cost of sending the winter issue of *The Extension* to all retirees. Marlene stated that about \$1000 would be saved by eliminating the mailing and questioned whether that savings plus the increased support from the university would negate the need for a dues increase. It was the opinion of the Board that other options should be considered before a decision is made and Carol Stevenson was appointed to chair a study committee. The committee will report at the November meeting.

Treasure Gail Whitaker reviewed the proposed dues increases that had been determined last spring. The Bylaws require that dues changes be made in October. The new structure is:

Annual- from \$10 to \$20
Lifetime- younger than 59- \$100- no change
60 to 69- from \$75 to \$80
70 and older- from \$50 to 60

Gerry Petrak moved and Abe Bassett seconded a motion to accept the proposed increases. Motion passed with one nay vote.

NEW BUSINESS – See ad hoc committee on eliminating mailing of *The Extension* to all retirees under old business.

Guest: Greg Bernhardt, former Dean of CEHS, met with us following today's meeting. He gave an overview of the history and progress of the Dayton Regional Stem School followed by a lively question and answer session.

Next meeting: 10:00 am, Wednesday, November 5, 2014 in the Millett Hall Conference Room. Dr. Bill Rickert will be our speaker.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Bireley
Secretary Pro Tem

October 6, 2014