

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

September 7, 2016

Board Members Present: Gary Barlow, Abe Bassett, Marlene Bireley, Peggy Bott, Donna Curtin, Carol Stevenson, Gail Whitaker, Mary Gromosiak, Mary Kenton, Gary Pacernick, Sheryl Provens, Judy Rose, Donna Schlagheck, Ruth Schumacher, & Paul Wolfe.

Administrative Assistant Present: Elizabeth Katrina (Rie) Molnar.

Board Members Absent: Frieda Bennett, Jim Sayer, Bob Wagley, and Dick Williams.

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

THE AUGUST 3, 2016 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
APPROVED WITHOUT OBJECTION.

OFFICERS REPORTS

President—Mary Kenton

- University Foundation reports that all but one member of the board have made a contribution to the Nick Davis Scholarship Endowment. Kenton asked for permission to contribute in the name of that member so that 100% participation can be reported during the next fund drive.
- Bassett has indicated he will not stand for re-election as Secretary next year, but wishes to continue Webmaster duties as a Member-at-Large. He indicated it would be helpful to have an assistant to groom as a future replacement.
- Treasurer Whitaker has indicated a preference for not continuing in that office, over the objections of several members.
- Report from Sayer: To date, some 21 retirees have volunteered to take part in the WSURA Speakers' Bureau.
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Vice President—Donna Schlagheck

Retirees Speaker's Bureau. An introductory presentation of the talk on Presidential Debates will be made at the Dayton President's Club on September 15. Representatives of the club gather to hear various speakers, prior to issuing speaking invitations.

Past President—Richard Williams – Absent – No Report

Secretary—Abe Bassett

Bassett requested that members who make reports present a written summary.

Webmaster: there have been 1032 visits to the website since January and 145 in August. The Board is encouraged to comment on any aspect of the website and to notify the Webmaster of errors of commission or omission.

Most of the "Reflections" entries on the website now have author's photographs.

Rei Molnar was interviewed on WVXU-FM with respect to her "Paying It Forward" Farm venture. She will distribute by email a podcast of the interview.

Treasurer—Gail Whitaker

The Treasurer's Report of August 31, 2016 was distributed. Whitaker reports the financial

health of the organization is excellent, permitting the replacement of the office computer and possibly the printer if necessary.

MOTION: WHITAKER MOVES THAT THE BOARD AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF A NEW COMPUTER, AND IF NECESSARY FOR THE SAKE OF COMPATIBILITY, A NEW PRINTER. THE PURCHASE IS TO BE MADE THROUGH THE UNIVERSITY. SECOND BY PACERNICK. MOTION CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY.

Communications—Frieda Bennett – ABSENT

Special Report: Gerry Petrak, WSURA Representative on the Presidential Search Committee. In a detailed report, Petrak explained how she has also surveyed Beaver Creek City Council, a state legislator, and several other organizations. She lauded Committee Chairperson Douglas Fecher (also Chair of the Board of Trustees) for an excellent job and for his insistence on transparency. A survey instrument will be sent to campus faculty, staff and students. The committee has contracted a search firm—Academic Search, an executive search firm specializing in higher education.” A Symposium on presidential search will be held on October 19 [2:30—4:00 pm, 109 Oelman Hall] and will include Bowling Green President Mary Ellen Mazey, former Dean of Liberal Arts at Wright State University. There are 25 persons serving on the search committee, none of which are Trustees. The most recent report from the search committee has been posted on the WSURA website: [Search Committee Report](#) The committee expects to introduce the new President in the spring of 2017.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Activities—Mary Gromosiak

Gromosiak requests directors to use this email while communicating with her-- mgromosiak@woh.rr.com. The “wright.edu” address is used only when she sends a mass mailing.

Upcoming events include the WSU Presidential Lecture Series:

- **September 13** Mock Debate, moderated by Alexander Heffner (from PBS’s Open Mind) 7:00 pm, Apollo room
- **November 2** Margaret O’Mara, author, Pivotal Tuesday’s, 7pm Apollo Room, Su (Her book on past 4 elections is required reading for freshmen classes.)
- **January 31, 2017**, Dan Rather – Award Winning Broadcast Journalist, WSU Nutter Center, 7pm
- **March 30**, Jonathan Capehart, Pulitzer Prize Winning journalist

Other activities, posted on the website, include

- **October 19** – Health Fair
- **January 15** – Dining Out Brunch
- **February 14** – La Comedia, Evening with the Van Dells Valentine’s Day Package. RSVP required by December 1
- **May 11**, Third Annual WSURA Retiree Luncheon
- Other **pending** activities include
- **December** WSU Raider Women’s Basketball Game
- **April** WSU Baseball Game + dinner out
- **May/June** Columbus Tour of Roses & Conservatory

Bireley reported three upcoming WSURA workshops in the spring

- Finding the Poet Within-Gary Pacernick
- Ikebana-The Art of Japanese Flower Arrangement-Gary Barlow
- My Life-One Story at a Time-Bob Wagley

Workshops will be held in the WSURA office next March/April, (Thursdays, 10am to 12pm.) At least two sessions for each workshop will be scheduled and more sessions may be added if there is sufficient interest.

Bylaws and Elections—Judy Rose

Rose will soon canvass board members about their desire to continue service on the board and

to receive suggestions for new board members.

Historical Preservation—Vacant

Barlow volunteered to temporarily fill in as needed until a permanent replacement for Lewis Shupe is identified and appointed.

Membership—Marlene Bireley

Bireley reported that the booth has been ordered for the Health Fair on October 19th. She solicited four people to man the booth in 10-12 and 12-2 shifts and received agreement to serve by Rose and Schumacher.

The retiree's list for Jan-June 2016 has been requested. Three applications have been received online. New members are Linda Baker (Financial Aid), Cynthia Adams. (CATS) and Barbara Cwirka (Kinesiology and Health). Bireley requested that, if any of the three are known to a board member, they should be personally welcomed them to the organization. She has sent a welcome email to each new member suggesting that they watch the website for activities so that they can become active members immediately.

Scholarship Committee—Gary Pacernick—no report

Pacernick took the opportunity to read aloud three haiku, which were favorites of Lewis Shupe:

On a journey, ill:

My dream does wandering

Over withered fields.

Basho 1694

One leaf lets go and then another takes the wind.

Ransetsu 1797

The road I take to paradise is bright with flowers.

Sokin 1818

Pacernick also read one of his poems—*All The Way*—written while he cruised the Norwegian coast to above the Arctic Circle. This poem, and another, *The Sea*, have been added to the WSURA website's Reflections, under the Members bucket. [Reflections on the Web](#)

We went all the way

to Norway

How else could I know

that we would see August snow.

It was like a miracle

to be north of the Arctic Circle.

Sunshine Committee – Peggy Bott

Recent Death: Gordon Constable, PhD, July 31, 2016, Professor of Supply Chain Management, RSCOB.

The Unwin(e)d Book Club has announced titles and dates for 2016-2017

- September 8 - *Weathering* by Lucy Wood
- November 10 - *Girl Waits with Gun* – Amy Stewart
- January 19 - *Blackass* by A. Igoni Barrett
- March 9 - *The Nest* by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney

LIAISONS

Alumni—Robert Wagley – Absent. No report.

International—Ruth Schumacher

President Kenton appointed Schumacher to be liaison to International Education.

Athletics Council—Mary Kenton

The next Athletic Council meeting will be September 30.

Friends of the Libraries—Gary Barlow

Barlow was commended for the excellently conducted Celebration of Life for Lewis Shupe. The FOTL Annual Luncheon will be held April 19, 2017.

FOTL Workshops for 2016-2017 were announced:

- October 13, Knit Kits for a Cause
- November 15, Passport to History
- January 27, Tech Talk
- March 12, Faculty Publishing & CORE Scholar

OCHER—Paul Wolfe

OCHER will meet September 20, 2016.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

James Sayer reports via email:

- The current retirement incentive program resulted in 154 faculty, staff, and administrators taking advantage of the buyout. It is estimated that this program will cost WSU around \$12 million over the three years of the program's payoff period.

OLD BUSINESS

MOTION TO REMOVE FROM THE TABLE REGARDING AN HONORS PROGRAM FAILED BY A VOTE OF 8 TO 7.

SPECIAL PRESENTION

Donna Schlagheck on Presidential Debates

Schlagheck reviewed briefly the history of televised Presidential debates, noting that the first attempt to hold debates in 1952 was unsuccessful when Dwight Eisenhower declined the opportunity to debate Adlai Stevenson. The League of Women Voters was instrumental in organizing the debates when they came into existence, but were pressured out by a broadcasting industry that wanted more control over the debates. The Nixon-Kennedy debates in 1960 were very successful when viewers felt Kennedy was the winner, but radio listeners felt Nixon the winner. [Nixon refused to wear makeup.] Ronald Reagan's notable and winnable quips were not spontaneous but well rehearsed. "There you go again," he said to Jimmy Carter.

Schlagheck reports that 1,000,000,000 people will watch the first debate within the first few days. She laments that Wright State University will not receive the attention that comes with this exposure. She is of the opinion that WSU will probably not receive the \$2 million ante provided to the Presidential Debate Committee, and she affirms that the escalated \$11 million dollar cost was realistic.

Fifteen Wright State Students will travel to New York to view the debates with an anonymous donor providing funds for airfare and hotel. Schlagheck will accompany the students and has arranged for special tours of 9/11 venues.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.

The NEXT REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING: Wednesday October 5, 10:00 am.

Meetings take place in the WSURA offices:

210 University Foundation Building, 3070 Presidential Drive.

Respectfully submitted,
Abe J Bassett, Secretary

First draft 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Revised Thursday, September 8, 2016 9:30 pm

Revised Wednesday, September 14, 2016 8:00 pm