

Wright State University Retirees Association
Minutes of the Board of Directors
March 4, 2018

Present: Abe Bassett, Marlene Bireley, Mary Kenton, Joyce Howes, Sheryl Provens, Larry Prochaska, Donna Schlagheck, Dick Williams, Mary Gromosiak, Gary Barlow, Carol Stevenson, Ruth Schumacher, Dan Abrahamowicz, Gary Pacernick & Mary Gromosiak.

Absent: Mary Gromosiak, Peggy Bott, Gail Whitaker

President Schlagheck called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF MARCH 7,
2018.

President—Donna Schlagheck

1. Pres. Schrader has been invited to join us at a board meeting in April, May or June. Donna is still awaiting her response.
2. The collaboration with the Oral History Project is underway. Our student worker Emily Ross has been trained on the transcription software, and reports great interest in the interviews. She will continue to do this work at CATS. This may hold an interesting story for WSU Communication. Donna will contact Seth Bauguess, and our own Abe Bassett, Mary Kenton, Judi Engle, and Robin Suits.
3. Outreach to WSURA members for their volunteer participation in CSIC will commence shortly. Donna will ask Gary Barlow to coordinate. Call center volunteers are Joyce, Gary B., Abe, and Gary P.
4. To date we have only received a couple gifts from members of the WSURA for the Nick Davis Scholarship. Board members' gifts to Nick Davis will become part of the overall match amount. Donna asked all the board members to support Nick Davis. The Foundation needs to know before they go to print with our retiree direct mail letter what the match is from the board members will be. The Foundation is still working to secure an additional matching gift external from the board members. The WSURA Broad asked for annual Board donations and participation for the past five years.
5. Please note e-mail d.schlagheck@wright.edu 937 901-2019

President Elect—Joyce Howes

Joyce asked if the location of the Extension link on the WSURA webpage was appropriate. Members' recommendations were solicited. She has contacted Rosa without a response. There was discussion about moving forward on logo design without her. Judi has volunteered to begin a design. The communication group will meet on Thursday April 12 at 3:30 in the WSURA conference room. Topics to be discussed are the following: 1) function of our publications. Should the extension continue to contain time sensitive material; 2) should each of publications have a mission i.e. e newsletter containing local information and

Extension containing membership development with a new name; 3) staying connected will be eliminated from nametags for the luncheon. A new tag will be developed something like “maintaining the Wright stuff”.

Past President—Mary Kenton

Mary reported the Extension was finished and clip art was removed. She also emphasized that the newsletter should contain time sensitive local information.

Secretary—Larry Prochaska

No Report

Treasurer—Sheryl Provens

The March 2018 report is attached. Sheryl reported the reduced payout amount for endowments (4.5%) is effective for the award to be made this fall. The reason we have enough funds to award 3 \$1,500 scholarships is because we had leftover funds from this year. Most likely to make the same awards for 2019/20 we will have to contribute from our dues account. New members:

Patricia Howard - Lake Campus Bookstore

Cathy Wolfe - Bursar

Kathleen Henrick from University Libraries

Communications—Mary Kenton

See Past President Report.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Activities—Mary Gromosiak

1. This report is centered on WSURA’s May 10, 2018 luncheon.

1. Invitation – will be emailed to all retirees with addresses. All other retirees will receive invites by regular mail. All invitations should be mailed by this weekend.
2. I will be contacting Misty Cox, Marketing Manager of the Nutter Center, to advertise our luncheon on the electronic board near Fairfield/Col. Glenn Hwy.
3. Luncheon information will also be sent to Ron Wukeson, WSU Communications & Marketing, to advertise on university web site.
4. This year we will not have assigned tables as last year’s attendees complained about not being able to sit where they wanted. This year’s invitation states an ‘open seating’ arrangement this year.
5. At our recent meeting, we discussed checking with the Mills Park Hotel for an overnight stay but, due to budget restraints, they were not able to assist us.

I decided to try my luck with the Holiday Inn Fairborn across from WSU and Diane, sales manager,

agreed to an overnight stay for two plus breakfast. I will be putting together a basket and will come up with other items to include. If any of you have a suggestion or an item to add, please let me know.

6. RSVP date is Tuesday, May 1, 2018.

Even though tables won't be assigned, except for the speaker's table, I will still need time to make name badges. I plan to incorporate 'Staying Connected' on our name badges (The board recommended leaving this off).

2. Gail Whitaker reported on the luncheon committee work:

SPEAKER; Joyce Howes has secured Dr. Dan Krane, professor of Biological Sciences at Wright State, as our speaker. His talk is entitled "The Science (and Pseudoscience) of DNA Profiling."

FLOWERS: Assorted colored mums in 4" pots will be ordered for the tables from Beaver Creek Florist along with two 6" pots for the registration table and the food/coffee table. The 4" pots will be \$10.95 each. Gail will pick up the flowers on May 9.

MENU: The committee selected the following menu and it has been placed with Catering for the Berry Room on March 30:

The Wright Salad (baby greens with sliced apples, walnuts, cheese, dried cherries. Maple vinaigrette and ranch dressing
Artichoke Chicken and Vegetarian Lasagna
Wild Rice Pilaf
Glazed Baby Carrots
Assorted Pies and Berry Cheesecake

Beverages, rolls, butter and salad will be pre-set at the tables.

COST: The buffet is \$19/person plus \$3 for dessert, or \$\$22/person. The committee proposed to ask that a motion be made and passed at the April board meeting to cover any addition costs that the \$25/person reservation does not cover.

COMPLIMENTARY LUNCHESES: At this point, we plan to comp lunches for Dan Krane, Steve Berberich, Shannon Norton, the photographer and any musicians we may hire.

MUSIC: Mary K. will contact the Music Department to see if we can have some background music for the reception and perhaps through lunch.

NUTTER SIGN: Mary G. will contact the Nutter Center to get the luncheon advertised on their sign along Col. Glenn. She will also contact Ron Wukeson about getting some space on the university web site.

DOOR PRIZES: Mary K. will prepare a "Dayton" basket, Gail and Gary will work on a "WSU" basket, and Mary G. will prepare a "Dinner" basket. We would like to have one more basket, perhaps a "Retirement" basket. Board members will be asked to help.

AUDIO VISUALS: Gail will order a/v for our speaker and Abe if he wants to run a loop of retirees pictures similar to what he did last year. She will also order the podium and microphone.

A MOTION TO SUBSIDIZE COSTS EXCEEDING \$25/PERSON AND ANY OTHER MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES FOR THE ANNUAL WSURA LUNCHEON FROM THE BUDGET WAS UNANIMIOUSLY APPROVED.

3. Presented by Marlene Bireley

Marlene reported that the participation at the workshops is strong, 10 at one, 7 at another. They are listed below.

Live and Learn Workshops

WSURA's second series of workshops are planned to stimulate discussions and develop new skills. Members, spouses, friends and university employees are welcome. **Enrollment is limited to ensure good interaction so send in your reservation early.** Unless otherwise specified, all sessions will be held at the WSURA office, 210 Foundation Building which is behind Wendy's directly across from the main entrance to the WSU campus. Parking is plentiful and free with accessible parking in the rear of the building. Coffee and snacks will be provided. **Enroll with our office assistant, Emily Ross, at 775-2777 or wsura@wright.edu or with Marlene Bireley at mkbphd@aol.com. Please include your name, email, telephone number, and the workshop(s) that you wish to attend. Enrollment closes on April 11.**

April 17 and 24 (Tuesdays)—10-12 a.m.

David Barr, WSURA member, Professor of Religion emeritus

Join in this loosely structured discussion of religion, guided by the interests and concerns of those who attend. **First**, we will focus on **how different religions view the purpose of life and the fate of the individual after death.** In the second session, we will explore **four ways of being religious: Devotion, Mysticism, Myth, and Harmony.** Along the way we will try to sort out some of the basic characteristics of religion and discuss the underlying logic of religious behavior—however strange it may sometimes seem.

April 17 (Tuesday) - 1-3 p.m.

Leigh Duncan, Head, Library Technology Resources and the IT staff of the Dunbar Library (This session will be held in the Board Room across from 1st floor elevator.)

Learn how to get the most out of your smart phones, tablets and laptops. Topics will be based on the interest of the participants and time will be set aside for individual consultation with the workshop staff. Suggested topics are finding and using the right apps, using podcasts, cleaning up files, syncing various devices, etc. **If you have specific questions, please send them to Marlene Bireley at mkbphd@aol.com by April 11.**

April 26 (Thursday)-10-12 a.m.

Donna Schlagheck, WSURA president, Professor Emerita, Political Science

Around the Globe: 2018 World Affairs. Join Donna for a conversation about world affairs in 2018. Is it a world in disarray? Do we miss the continuous and the good?

At WSU, Donna taught American Foreign Policy and advised the Model United Nations Program. She served twice as president of the Dayton Council on World Affairs, and briefed officers at WPAFB who were heading to assignments in Europe and the Middle East. She studied and wrote on terrorism and corruption.

April 24 and 26 (Tuesday and Thursday) - 1-3 p.m.

Bill Stoltz, Dunbar Library Archivist/Reference and Outreach

Genealogy Basics: Getting Started. Topics will include the Wright State and other local archive resources, popular databases, state and national resources, and "tools of the trade."

The second session will focus on getting started on personal searches. If the group wishes, this session may be held at the Dunbar Library. (WSU is on break so parking should be easy.)

Benefits---Carol Stevenson-No Report

Bylaws and Elections—Gail Whitaker-No Report.

Historical Preservation—Dan Abrahamowicz

Dan reported that Charles Larkowski was interviewed.

Membership Development – Marlene Bireley-See Activities Report

OCHER—Peggy Bott and Dick Williams

OPERS Report

The proposed changes to the COLA were not approved by the State Legislature in this session. This was largely due to the members letting their legislators know how opposed they were to the changes and this being an election year. However OPERS will probably submit the proposal again within the next few years since they still have unfunded liabilities. By law, OPERS must be able to pay all liabilities within 30 years. As of December 31, 2016 actuarial valuation, OPERS is able to pay 80.1% of its pension liabilities or for about 24 years. According to Gordon Gatien, OPERS Director of External Relations, they will spent the next year or two educating their members on the need for changes to the COLA or other benefits to reduce the unfunded liability. Health Care costs are 65% funded however there is not a legal requirement that these be fully funded since there is not a legislative requirement to provide health care. OPERS contributions to the Health Care fund ended in 2018. It is now funded only by employer contributions and returns from investments of the \$12.6 billion Health Care Fund. While no changes are expected to Health Care, it is not unreasonable to expect there would be some if return on investments are low for a few years. Opers 2016 health care costs were \$1.2 billion OPERS paid \$5 billion in pension benefits to Ohio residents in 2016, 90% of people receiving retirement benefits from OPERS live in Ohio. It was also reported that OPERS is making many efforts to protect its database and members identity. No sensitive data leaves unencrypted. The above information is a summary of reports from Michele Hobbs, OCHER OPERS Representative and Gordon Gatien, OPERS Director of External Relations.

STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM

The main news is the remarkable turnaround in the health-care stabilization fund. Noteworthy is that while enrollment is down, the biggest decline was in non-Medicare enrollees for whom STRS pays a much higher subsidy. The percentage of non-Medicare enrollees has declined from 26% in January 2015 to 17% in January 2018. With the changes made last year that will cause premiums for under-65 enrollees to increase substantially, more teachers are likely postponing their retirement until age 65. The health-care fund also experienced better than expected claims and investment returns. As a result the critical ratio of assets to liabilities (the funding ratio) increased from 80% in January 2017 to 153% this year. If the assumption about future increases in health care costs hold, the health-care fund should remain solvent beyond the lifetime of all current members! The other major question the STRS Board is dealing with is the decision about how much risk to take in the portfolio of investments. Even though last year saw the investment portfolio earn twice the assumed rate of return, this experience cannot be expected every year in the future. For the time being the STRS Board has adopted a balanced approach the mixes common stock investments with bonds, real estate, and private (hedge fund) investments that is expected to yield a lower return but also lower volatility of fund returns year to year. STRS retirees currently have the options of contributing to the classic defined benefit plan or to a Defined Contribution plan (i.e. essentially like a 403b plan). The Defined Contribution plan continues to increase, now accounting for

16% of active participants. FYI - A poll taken in October 2017 revealed that 93% of retiree households have at least one source of income beyond the STRS pension. On average, STRS pensions provide 58% of total household income.

Sunshine—Peggy Bott

Peggy reported the following recent death, Fredric Jefferson, March 17, 2018, Athletics.

Scholarship Committee—Gary Pacernick

Gary reported that the committee will soon convene to review applicants.

Webmaster – Abe Bassett

| Webmaster Report 2017- 2018 | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------|---------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|-----|-----|-----|
| | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May |
| Pageviews | 254 | 277 | 230 | 247 | 192 | 162 | 167 | | | |
| Unique Pageviews | -- | 178 | 163 | 139 | 114 | 103 | 108 | | | |
| Time on Page | -- | 1:21 | 1:18 | 1:54 | 1:40 | 0:42 | 1:10 | | | |
| News Stories | 11 | 13 | 17 | 21 | 24 | 15 | 22 | | | |
| eNewsletter, # sent | - | - | - | - | 2 | 0 | 1 | | | |
| eNewsletter opened | | | | | 684 | 0 | | | | |
| Videos News | 0 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 9 | 9 | | | |
| In Memoriam | 0 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 4 | | | |
| Obituaries | 0 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 4 | | | |
| Reflections | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 | | | |
| Events | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | | | |
| Facebook posts | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 21 | 12 | 0 | | | |
| Treasurer's Report | Aug 31 | Sept 30 | Oct 30 | Nov 30 | Dec. 31 | Jan 31 | Feb 28 | | | |
| Board Minutes | Aug 2 | Sept 6 | Oct 4 | Nov 1 | Dec. 6 | -- | Feb 20 | | | |
| <p>August: 2017-2018 Board members photos and contact information updated.</p> <p>September: Video category added to Events & News bucket; Updated Student Assistant Hours; Introduction of <i>WSURA: STAYING CONNECTED</i> as branding device on news stories and wherever else appropriate.</p> <p>October: Creation of Video sub-menu under News & Events Increase number of LINKS to 101 and assignment of exclusive use of Bucket Six to Links (under construction) Reconfiguration of Bucket 5 to feature Oral History, but include activities and liaisons (under construction)</p> <p>November: Completion of website revision placing more emphasis on Oral History and Links and introduction of a submenu for video news. Addition of Portraits of African Americans to Oral History. Increased accessibility through drop- down menus on home page. Posting of 7 photos on Facebook.</p> <p>December: eNewsletter mailed Dec. 5. Sent to 618 addresses; opened by 338 (55%)—not opened by 277 Second eNewsletter mailed December 14: Sent to 620 addresses; opened by 346 (56.3%)—not opened by 270</p> <p>January: February: Released eNewsletter for release by late in month. Added six "Outlier" links. Photo page rearranged. Video page rearranged. Accepted Robin Suits as Associate Webmaster.</p> | | | | | | | | | | |

LAISIONS

Alumni— Dick Williams-No report.

Athletics Council—Mary Kenton/Larry Prochaska

Larry reported that Athletics is interested in recruiting more WSURA members and other retirees to attend WSU women's basketball games. They are interested in fostering cooperation between the two groups and will be in contact through Larry and Mary.

International—Ruth Schumacher

Ruth reported that positions for volunteers for the International Partner Program where retirees are matched with an international student to enjoy activities together, such as a meal, movie, play, etc, are still available. If interested, please contact Ruth Schumacher at 937-672-3368 or ruth.schumacher@wright.edu. She also reported that she met with Alumni Office in an attempt to recruit additional participants.

Friends of the Libraries—Gary Barlow

1. The luncheon will be held on Thursday, April 19, 2018 in the Berry Room at the Nutter Center. The invited speaker will be Paul Helfrich, President and CEO of the Dayton Performing Arts Alliance. WSURA members are encouraged to join us for the lunch and program.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:39 p.m.

The NEXT REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING: May 2, 2018 at 10:30 a.m.

Meetings take place in the WSURA offices:
210 University Foundation Building, 3070 Presidential Drive

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence J Prochaska, Ph.D.,

Secretary