

Wright State University Retirees Association
Minutes of the Board of Directors
 October 4, 2017

Present: Dan Abrahamowicz, Abe Bassett, Marlene Bireley, Peggy Bott, Joyce Howes, Mary Kenton, Sheryl Provens, Donna Schlagheck, Dick Williams, Mary Gromosiak, Gary Barlow, Carol Stevenson, Gary Pacernick, & Gail Whitaker; Special Guest Judy Engle

Absent: Frieda Bennett, Larry Prochaska, Jim Sayer, and Ruth Schumacher

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

THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2017.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President Donna Schlagheck commented on the following:

1. Thanks to Gary Barlow for singlehandedly bringing art to the office space. An index of the work is available at the front desk. Question: Would WSURA members enjoy an art fair of the work(s) of our members?
2. Thanks to Mary Gromosiak, Gail Whitaker, Gary Barlow and Marlene Bireley for organizing and setting up for the Sept, 23 Open House. Most Board members and a number of new WSURA members stopped by for a chat. Associate Provost Steve Berberich and his assistant, Shannon Norton, attended. We have already received requests for having another Open House.
3. Work continues to tweak the mailing list. Student Assistant Emily Ross is updating the list and learning to work with the Printing Office. Continued appreciation to Gail Whitaker who is training Emily in office procedures.
4. A reminder that Paul Leonard will speak at a Brown Bag lunch at the office on Oct. 13.
5. Ideas are needed to replace Pres. Schrader as speaker at the Spring Luncheon. Suggestions included Brady Cress, Director of Carillon Park; Dan Crane, Biology Dept., DNA researcher; Neil Gittleman, Conductor, Dayton Philharmonic; Paul Heinrich, Dayton Cultural Center and Dave Nolan, 5 Rivers Metropark.
6. Thanks to Joyce Howes for leading the ad hoc Committee charged with improving Communications through publications, the website and other means.

PRESIDENT ELECT: Joyce Howes reported on the initial meeting of the Communications Committee. Judy Engle presented a number of suggestions centering on the idea of "branding" the organization through a consistent look (and possible logo) that would be used on all forms of communication coming from WSURA. Mary Kenton will join the committee in the future. The committee will meet at 9:00 a.m. prior to Board meetings until their work is completed.

PAST PRESIDENT: Mary Kenton has heard from two of the three scholarship recipients and will contact the third to get his information for distribution through *The Extension* and the website. As is our custom, the three will be invited to address the Board at the December meeting, and then join us for lunch.

SECRETARY: Larry Prochaska, No report (absent)

TREASURER: Sheryl Provens presented her reports in writing and the Board accepted them. September balances are \$18,719.08 for the University account and \$16,524.89 for the dues account. She is continuing her endeavor to get permission to use the WSURA Pro Card for the types of expenses that WSURA activities need.

Sheryl also stated that the current endowment of the WSURA Nick Davis Scholarship is \$82,951.50. Abe Bassett supplemented her report with the information that retirees have contributed \$86,000 during the current year including \$6600 to our scholarship fund. Students calling to those who have not yet contributed will start in November.

COMMUNICATIONS: Frieda Bennett, No report (absent)

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ACTIVITIES; Mary Gromosiak reminded the Board Members of upcoming activities:

- Oct. 12- Dinner and racing at the Dayton Racino-5:30.
- Oct. 25- Health and Wellness Fair at the Student Union
- Nov. 19 - Fiddler on the Roof at the WSU Theatre
- Dec.10- Christmas Brunch at the home of Abe and Sharon Bassett
- Jan. 14- Dining Out Brunch, Place TBA

BYLAWS AND ELECTIONS- Gail Whitaker, No report

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION- Dan Abrahamowicz, No report

MEMBERSHIP- Marlene Bireley that one new member, Margaret Houston, Accountancy has joined.

A rough draft of the updated brochure was presented. Joyce Howes volunteered to do proofing and Judy Engle will work on formatting. It is hoped that 300 copies will be available for the Health Fair.

OCHER - Peggy Bott presented an update on OPERS.

There was not a representative from OPERS at the meeting but there should be one available at the November meeting.

There was a short report stating that OPERS is 80% funded and remains in compliance with the requirement that liabilities can be funded for 30 years. Health care is 65% funded. The rate of return for 2016 was 8.23%, STRS was 14.1%.

The responses to the survey on adjustments to the COLA have not yet been tabulated. The options being considered are detailed in Third Quarter 2017 newsletter. It also explains that these changes would be proactive to ensure long-term stability. Any changes to the COLA would need legislative approval. This newsletter also has information on health care enrollment for 2018.

Dick Williams reported on STRS. Now that changes to STRS pensions have been finalized, the focus of the STRS Board is on the health care fund. A basic question is how to treat the under-65 retirees since, without Medicare, their health insurance costs are much higher. Several pathways are being explored including (a) freezing the subsidy for non-Medicare retirees, (b) capping the amount the subsidy would increase each year for non-Medicare retirees, (c) give the Medicare subsidy to non-Medicare retirees without further increases, or, (d) stop giving a subsidy entirely to non-Medicare retirees. The last

option would mean non-Medicare retirees would be paying \$927 per month for the Aetna health care plan! Fortunately for this class of retirees the last option was eliminated by the Board at their August meeting. The Board is likely to be voted on at the October STRS Board Meeting and the most likely outcome is:

1. Medicare retirees probably will see the STRS subsidy increase by 3-4% with any increase above that amount paid by retirees.
2. Non-Medicare retirees would continue to receive the 2018 subsidy. Future increases in cost would be 100% paid by retirees.

STRS won't re-examine changing the COLA from its current 0% until the ratio of assets to liabilities is well above 70%. Furthermore, the assumed rate of return of 7.45% may be optimistic. Many experts think the assumption should be reduced to around 7%.

Reports were also made by several other universities.:

University of Akron Retirees Assn. gives two \$2000 scholarship yearly.

Bowling Green reports fall enrollment is down 2.4% mostly in their two-year program and foreign graduate students. Retention rate is up to 75.8%. The Retirees Assn. has 335 members and they give out two \$700 book scholarships. The university does not provide any subsidy for the retiree's assn.

Cleveland State reports 150 paid members and sponsors 6 events a year with average attendance of 25. The attendance at their annual lunch is about 60.

SUNSHINE; Peggy Bott reported the following deaths:

James Daily- Professor and Chair, Management, RSCOB, 9/18
Col. Kenneth Beers, Aerospace Medicine, SOM, 9/20
David Grider, Custodial Services, 9/22
Jane Brennan, position unknown 9/22
Raymond Yates, Water Treatment Worker, Lead, 9/28

WEBMASTER: Abe Bassett summarized the website traffic statistics and updates for the past month; 277 page views, 13 news stories, 2 videos, 5 In Memoriam, 4 obituaries, 1 Reflections, 1 event and the current minutes and treasurer's report.

LIAISONS:

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION: Dick Williams summarized some of the 50th Anniversary activities that involved retirees. Dick, Gary Barlow and Abe Bassett headed a panel discussion of reminiscences about the "early days." Dick led a discussion of early memories at the Founding Faculty/ Early Graduates Brunch. That event was sold out at 100 participants and early faculty were well represented. Jim Sayer presented at the Alumni College. The Retirees entered a team in the CEHS Trivia contest and came in tied for second.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES: Gary Barlow moved (Pacernick seconded) that WSURA contribute a Legacy Book commemorating the 50th anniversary. Motion was accepted with a limit of about \$100. Gary will contact the appropriate librarian to determine a book needed by the library.

UCIE: Ruth Schumacher, no report (absent). Several members who have been assigned international students commented on their enjoyment of the experience and encouraged other members to join in the fun.

ATHLETICS: Mary Kenton stated that the swimming team will be discontinued after the current year partly because the pool is in need of expensive repairs. Other programs are trying to function within the budget guidelines.

Marlene Bireley,
Secretary, Pro Tem

PLEASE NOTE: The November 1 Board Meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. in the Foundation Board Room on the first floor of the Foundation Building (across from the elevator). Preceding the business meeting, Steve Sherbet and Steve Adams will advise the Board of the uses of the Wright 1 card. The Communications Committee will meet at 9:00 in the WSURA office.