

Wright State University Retirees Association  
Minutes of the Board of Directors  
September 5, 2018

**Present:** Abe Bassett, Mary Kenton, Larry Prochaska, Donna Schlagheck, Dick Williams, Gary Barlow, Gail Whitaker, Judi Engel, Carol Stevenson, Robin Suits, Marlene Bireley, Peggy Bott, Dan Abrahamowicz, Sheryl Provens, & Joyce Howes.

Absent: Mary Gromosiak, Ruth Schumacher, Gary Pacernick Gail Whitaker

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

THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF JUNE 6,  
2018.

**President—Joyce Howes**

Joyce reported that:

- The WSURA office needs a new door, so the lock cannot be replaced until the new door arrives.
- There is still no word on the parking passes despite numerous inquiries.
- Abe Bassett and Carol Stevenson have decided to step down after this year. Joyce asked the Board to nominate replacements.
- Joyce asked the Board to recommend goals and objectives for the coming 25<sup>th</sup> year of WSURA.
- Joyce, Donna, and Larry met with President Schrader August 16 at 11 am. They presented the following report.

**Wright State University Retirees Association**  
*An Overview*  
**2017-2018**

Retirees' Giving:

Nick Davis Scholarship:

- Account balance: \$91,900
- This year we added a fourth \$1500 scholarship
- Recipients are children or grandchildren of retirees

*Coming Soon:* Experiential Learning Scholarship:

- Will support students working with faculty, traveling to conferences, etc.

Oral History Project:

- Three current board members have interviewed retirees for the project
- WSURA has contributed student employee time at a cost of \$475 to support the project

Activities and Living-Learning Workshops:

- Dozens of retirees participate in educational and social activities throughout the academic year

### Spring Luncheon:

- The year's culminating event attracts up to 80 retirees
- Lillie Howard (2017) and Dan Krane (2018) were our most recent speakers

### Web Site Redesign:

- Long-term board member, Abe Bassett, led a full renovation of the website, which now is in keeping with University standards
- Two new board members have dramatically updated and improved our online publications

### New Service Award for Retirees:

- Lew Shupe and Rich Johnson—These retirees (both deceased) were members of the original WSURA board which created the Association
- We'll establish the Lew Shupe Award for a retired faculty member and the Rich Johnson for a retired staff member, to be awarded annually

### Strategic Planning (Donna):

#### Art Gallery:

- Board member Gary Barlow has created a small art gallery in our boardroom! The effect is stunning.

#### Volunteerism:

- Individual members—nearly every board member participates in volunteer activities in their communities and beyond
- Pending volunteer corps—Eric Corbitt, Director of the Student Union has suggested a partnership with WSURA to provide support during events in the Student Union
- Several board members have offered to work during the annual Phonathon.
- “Giving back” is a frequent topic of discussion. We will continue to seek opportunities to contribute to our university.

The group felt that President Schrader appreciated WSURA for what it does and encourage the group to continue its work. She also mentioned that she thought the Village concept was a good idea for the future.

- President Schrader is scheduled to attend the November 7 meeting of the WSURA Board.

### **President Elect—Lawrence Prochaska**

No Report

### **Immediate Past President -- Donna Schlagheck**

Donna reported that HR has had some issues and obtaining recent retiree information is difficult.

### **Communication—Mary Kenton**

Mary reported that the Communication sub-committee membership met and decided that each communication tool with the membership will have its own mission and that some duplication may occur to remind the membership of important events and milestones. She stated that WSURA digital stationary is finished and that all should think about the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The annual luncheon is April 25,

2019, with WSU Head Basketball Coach Scott Nagy as the speaker.

**Secretary— Ruth Schumacher**

**No Report**

**Treasurer—Sheryl Provens**

The August 2018 report is attached. Sheryl also reported that the WSURA labor costs for the archive project was \$476. She also stated that the balance on the Nick Davis Scholarship fund was \$92k and in order to fund the fifth scholarship the fund will have to be \$133.5k. She also was pleased to announce that the online giving application for our Patron Fund works.

### STANDING COMMITTEES

**Activities—Mary Gromosiak**

The following activities are planned for 2018-19:

**Thursday, September 20, 2018** – Woodland Cemetery Tour: History, Mystery, Mayhem, and Murder.  
A fairly strenuous walk approximately two miles. Not conducive for walkers or resting places along the way. Length of tour: 1 ½ to 1 ¾ hours. No cost, but donations accepted through our guide. **RSVP** by Wednesday, September 12, 2018, to [mary.gromosiak@wright.edu](mailto:mary.gromosiak@wright.edu) or call 937.974.4010.

**Wednesday, September 27 (Part I) and October 4 (Part II) 2018** – Fall 2018 Live and Learn Workshop by Gary Barlow

**Topic: Two-part Modern Art and some Traditional Art**

**Part I:** Elements of Art. Location: WSU Foundation Building, Room 210. Free parking available. The Building is situated directly behind Wendy's Restaurant across from the main entrance to campus.

**Part II:** Visit DAI to identify art previously discussed in Part I. Admission fees waived for this class.

**RSVP:** Space is limited. Contact Marlene Bireley at [mkbphd@aol.com](mailto:mkbphd@aol.com) or call the WSURA office at 937.775.2777 to leave a message. Responses due no later than Thursday, September 20, 2018.

**Wednesday, October 24, 2018 (tentative date)** – WSU Health and Benefits Fair

**Time:** 10 am – 1 pm

**Location:** WSU Student Union

**Thursday, October 25, 2018** – Dayton Hollywood Racino & Dinner in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Skybox.

**Time:** 5:30 pm.

**RSVP** by October 17, 2018 to [mary.gromosiak@wright.edu](mailto:mary.gromosiak@wright.edu) or call 937.974.4010.

**Wednesday, October 31, 2018** – Paul Leonard, former Dayton Mayor and Lt. Governor of Ohio, will lead a discussion on the 2018 Mid-term Elections.

Time: 1 pm. Location: WSURA office, Room 210 Foundation Bldg. directly behind Wendy's Restaurant across from the main entrance to campus. Free parking available. Feel free to bring a brown-bag lunch and join us on October 31.

**Sunday, November 11, 2018 – WSU Theater Matinee “*Crazy for You.*”**

Cost: \$15. No. of tickets available: 25.

**RSVP** no later than Friday, October 19, 2018 to [mary.gromosiak@wright.edu](mailto:mary.gromosiak@wright.edu) or call 937.974.4010. Tickets last year sold out quickly.

**Sunday, December 2, 2018 – Dining-in Holiday Brunch** hosted by Abe and Sharon Bassett.

Due to space limitations, this event is not open to the full retiree list. Past and current board members are invited as the host can usually accommodate about 20 people. If needed, the back-up date will be December 9, 2018.

To keep up to date on WSURA activities & events changes and additions, please check the website at [wright.edu/wsura](http://wright.edu/wsura) or our Facebook account – Wright State University Retirees Association.

**Benefits---Carol Stevenson-No Report**

**Bylaws and Elections—Gail Whitaker**

A committee consisting of Joyce Howes, Mary Gromosiak, Larry Prochaska and Gail Whitaker was formed to review the WASURA Bylaws and the Procedures Manual.

**Historical Preservation—Dan Abrahamowicz**

Dan announced that Michael Cusack, Donna Schlagheck, and Gary Pacernick will be interviewed in the coming month.

**Membership Development – Marlene Bireley**

New Member: Daniel Lacey. MD.

Marlene has not received information about the Health Fair as yet but she is assuming that it will take place.

A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO PROVIDE UP TO \$230 FOR ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE 2018 HEALTH FAIR AND THE LIVE AND LEARN SESSIONS. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

**OCHER—Peggy Bott and Dick Williams**

OCHER

The 2017 OPERS Popular Financial Report was finally published on their WEB site. 2017 was a very good year, with a 16.62% return on investment. The funding ratio, comparing pension commitments to assets, is good but not great. The ratio moved from 80% in 2016 to 81 % in 2017. OPERS still has a \$19 billion unfunded liability. However, the current OPERS amortization (the amount time that will be needed to fund remaining liabilities) is 18 years which is within the statutorily required 30 year window.

They still will be asking the legislation to approve the changes to the automatic 3% cost of living adjustment that were proposed last year. The growing retiree base, retirees living longer and

escalating health costs will increase their liabilities. There is also concern that we may have stagnant economic growth in the future due to an aging population with a declining birth rate. In regard to Health Care Financials, the changes made in 2016 with the Medicare Connector have resulted in a savings of \$12 billion dollars. OPERS is not required by law to provide Health care and will not allow Health care funding to jeopardize the pension funding so beginning in 2018 all available funding has been allocated to the pension fund.. The Health care fund is currently enhanced solely by investment returns and has about 12 years of solvency under the current health care programs. **Open enrollment for retirees begins Oct. 15, 2018.**

### Sunshine—Peggy Bott

Paul Griffin, PhD, August 17, 2018, Professor and Chair of Religion

Randall S. Paul, PhD, August 19, 2018, Director, School of Music

### Scholarship Committee—Gary Pacernick

Larry and Mary discussed the recommendation for new scholarship programs that the committee made. The committee endorsed the idea of a new experiential learning scholarship to help undergraduates travel to do special research projects or present a paper at a national societal meeting.

### Webmaster – Robin Suits/Abe Bassett

Robin reported on WSURA website activity for August 2018 and responses to the E-newsletter sent out September 1.

### E-newsletter sent on Saturday, Sept. 1, 2018 at 12:15 am EDT

905 Active Contacts

497 Opens — 55%

191 Unique clicks — 38.4%

2 Unsubscribed

Click-through links	Page	Unique Clicks	Distribution
<a href="https://www.wright.edu/retirees-association/in-memoriam">https://www.wright.edu/retirees-association/in-memoriam</a>	In Memoriam	70	27.60%
<a href="https://www.wright.edu/retirees-association/news/article/group-proposes-building-retiree-housing-on-campus">https://www.wright.edu/retirees-association/news/article/group-proposes-building-retiree-housing-on-campus</a>	Retiree housing on campus	62	24.40%
<a href="https://www.wright.edu/retirees-association/news/article/ddn-wright-state-faculty-union-threatens-to-strike-in-october">https://www.wright.edu/retirees-association/news/article/ddn-wright-state-faculty-union-threatens-to-strike-in-october</a>	DDN-Faculty strike news	22	8.70%
<a href="https://www.wright.edu/retirees-association/news/article/wsu-retirees-association-newsletter-celebrates-our-25th-anniversary">https://www.wright.edu/retirees-association/news/article/wsu-retirees-association-newsletter-celebrates-our-25th-anniversary</a>	Extension news	16	6.30%
<a href="https://www.wright.edu/retirees-association/news-and-announcements">https://www.wright.edu/retirees-association/news-and-announcements</a>	News	14	5.50%
<a href="http://files.constantcontact.com/1f699fc5701/c7343828-340a-412e-b5d3-40871e25c952.pdf">http://files.constantcontact.com/1f699fc5701/c7343828-340a-412e-b5d3-40871e25c952.pdf</a>	Extension PDF	14	5.50%
<a href="https://www.wright.edu/wsura">https://www.wright.edu/wsura</a>	Home page	18	7.10%
<a href="https://www.wright.edu/retirees-association/membership-overview">https://www.wright.edu/retirees-association/membership-overview</a>	Membershi p	12	4.70%

<a href="https://www.wright.edu/retirees-association/news/article/wsua-president-addresses-concerns-about-a-faculty-strike">https://www.wright.edu/retirees-association/news/article/wsua-president-addresses-concerns-about-a-faculty-strike</a>	President on the strike	8	3.10%
<a href="https://youtu.be/xlUj9VUTo7c">https://youtu.be/xlUj9VUTo7c</a>	Megalodon video	6	2.40%
<a href="https://www.wright.edu/retirees-association/events">https://www.wright.edu/retirees-association/events</a>	Calendar	4	1.60%
<a href="https://www.wright.edu/retirees-association/article/discovery-channel-wsu-prof-assists-megalodon-building-2-58">https://www.wright.edu/retirees-association/article/discovery-channel-wsu-prof-assists-megalodon-building-2-58</a>	Megalodon story	2	0.80%
<a href="https://www.wright.edu/retirees-association/news/article/aaup-wsu-announces-tentative-strike-date-of-oct-1">https://www.wright.edu/retirees-association/news/article/aaup-wsu-announces-tentative-strike-date-of-oct-1</a>	AAUP-WSU sets strike date	2	0.80%
<a href="https://youtu.be/rpYcmrqHsCo">https://youtu.be/rpYcmrqHsCo</a>	Basketball trip video	2	0.80%
<a href="https://youtu.be/nC7mLKfGM4g">https://youtu.be/nC7mLKfGM4g</a>	Soccer video	1	0.40%
<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Leonard_(politician)">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Leonard_(politician)</a>	Paul Leonard bio	1	0.40%
<b>Total Click-throughs</b>		<b>254</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 2018–2019 Webmaster Report

	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Unique page views	1,542	1,646										
Average time on page	01:48	2:26										
News stories added	16	19										
Videos added	11	23										
eNewsletter sent	0	0										
eNewsletter opened	0	0										
In Memoriam added	1	3										
Obituaries added	0	2										
Reflections added	0	1										
Events listed	5	5										
Facebook posts	3	11										

### August 2018 Highlights

Posted a link to the story about *The Extension* on Facebook, which contributed to 30 downloads of the PDF. Three of the top 10 hits on the website were to news about the faculty strike.

### Google Analytics for August 2018

Page	Page Views	Unique Pageviews	Avg time on page	Bounce rate
<b>All pages</b>	<b>2,293</b>	<b>1,646</b>	<b>2:26</b>	<b>59.5%</b>
Home	449	229	1:44	16.0%
In Memoriam	139	115	2:31	45.3%
News: AAUP-WSU announces tentative strike date	95	77	5:31	73.5%
Obituaries	92	55	1:16	33.3%
Videos	82	36	2:53	66.7%
News & Announcements	73	44	2:00	33.3%
DDN: Wright State faculty union threatens to strike	64	55	6:09	60.6%
DDN: WSU president addresses concerns about a faculty strike	64	57	3:30	62.5%
WSURA board members	44	36	7:43	70.6%
<i>The Extension</i>	44	30	3:13	5.6%

## July 2018 Highlights

Added 3 Facebook posts with links to News stories. Changed menu to move *The Extension* and Student Scholarships to the top level. Modified names of sections in effort to clarify content areas. Added photos to several pages. Beefed up Activities & Service page to include lists of past activities. Created alias for the website URL: wright.edu/wsura.

## Google Analytics for July 2018

Page	Page Views	Unique Pageviews	Avg time on page	Bounce rate
All pages	2,230	1,542	1:48	61%
Home	315	146	1:47	10.7%
News & Announcements	163	113	0:50	45.8%
Obituaries	89	66	0:59	37.5%
In Memoriam	82	66	1:56	60%
News: Howes donates kidney	57	57	9:33	89.1%
<i>The Extension</i>	46	20	4:07	66.7%
Board members	44	36	6:34	71.4%
DDN: Nagy takes Raiders to Haiti	35	27	2:48	76.1%
News: OPERS COLA raise	33	25	1:03	76.5%
DDN: Salaries for top 10 at WSU	31	28	1:35	62.5%

Robin then discussed how she used Constant Contact to verify email addresses and perform analytics on the data presented above and how she could use that service to improve performance of our electronic contacts.

A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED THAT \$400 BE AUTHORIZED TO PURCHASE A SUBSCRIPTION TO CONSTANT CONTACT FOR EMAIL/WEBMAIL ANALYTICS. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Abe asked the members to send him new links to Activities and Liaisons link on the WSURA web site page.

## LAISONS

### Alumni— Dick Williams

No report.

### Athletics Council—Mary Kenton/Larry Prochaska

Both the Chair and the Vice Chair of Athletics Council have left the University and the Immediate Past Chair will be a temporary Chair for one year pending elections. Larry and Mary will speak with Bob Grant about the season's ticket deal for retiree's when Bob returns after his recovery from surgery,

### International—Ruth Schumacher

No Report.

### Friends of the Libraries—Gary Barlow

No Report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

NONE

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 a.m.

The NEXT REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING: October 3, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence J Prochaska". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "P".

Lawrence J Prochaska, Ph.D.,

Acting Secretary/President Elect