

# **Wright State University Retirees Association Board Meeting**

April 6, 2022

**Present:** Dan Abrahamowicz, Donna Schlagheck, Mary Kenton, Joyce Howes, Kathy Morris, Judi Engle, Gary Barlow, Peggy Bott, Sheryl Provens, Richard Williams, Robin Suits

**Absent:** Jerry Alter, Betty Kangas

**President** – no report

**President Elect** – no report

**Secretary** – no report

**Treasurer** -- Sheryl Provens  
One new member has joined.

## **Communication – Mary Kenton**

The committee is working on the awards to be given at the May luncheon. She suggested that we have a brainstorming session regarding our process for nominations for our awards. This year, Barb Weinert-McBee will be presented with the Richard Johnson Service Award for Staff and Marlene Bierley will receive the Lou Shupe Service Award for Faculty.

## **Luncheon Committee – Kathy Morris**

Reservations are slowly coming in; therefore, we will extend the deadline to April 22.

## **By-Laws and Elections – Joyce Howes**

The corrections to the By-Laws were presented to the board for approval, creating the position of Webmaster along with other minor changes. These will be mailed out to the membership along with the ballots and will be voted on at our Annual Meeting in June.

There was a discussion about securing a person to act as Present-Elect, and the board agreed to finalize the ballot via email. A suggestion was made that Judi Engle remain as President for another year, and she agreed.

## **Membership Committee – Judy Engle**

Three new member packets were sent out this month.

**Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees (OCHER)**  
**Richard Williams - STRS**

The STRS Retirement Board surprised everyone by approving a one-time 3% cost-of-living adjustment effective July 1, 2022. The discussion had been mostly about a 2% COLA but was raised to 3% after the STRS consultant Cheiron ran the numbers and reported that 3% was doable. Notice that there is a rule that a retiree must have been retired for 60 months before they can receive a COLA. In this case, that means a person must have retired before July 1, 2018. The STRS Board also approved a benefit for active members by eliminating the age 60 requirement in order to get full retirement benefits.

The Board will also be approving some benefit improvements on retiree health care at its next meeting in April.

### **Peggy Bott – OPERS**

OPERS reports a 15.3% return on the Defined Benefit Pension investment fund for 2021, which is now worth \$109.3 billion. The annualized total return is 14.9% for the past three years, 11.4% for five years and 10.1% for ten years, beating their policy benchmark return of 6.9% for all periods.

The Healthcare fund finished 2021 at \$14.5 billion as a result of a 14.5% return on investments for the year. The fund's annualized return is 14.9% for three years, 10.5% for five years and 8.7% for ten years. All of those returns exceeded the policy benchmarks.

Peggy asked the representative from OPERS about what was happening to the proposal to freeze COLAs for two years and his response was "absolutely nothing." She imagines they knew that there was little chance of the legislature approving this during an election year and at a time of high inflation.

### **Scholarship – no report**

Judi will check with Jerry Alter to see if he wants to remain on this committee.

### **Remembrance – Peggy Bott**

Peggy reported on the passing of a retiree.

### **Webmaster – Robin Suits**

Monthly statistics were distributed. Because many people seem to have problems completing the online membership application, she has made some changes to it. Robin is considering doing a poll about people's interests for newsletter articles and programming.

### **Alumni Affairs – no report**

### **Community Liaison – Donna Schlagheck**

The Peace Prize Banquet will be held on May 7 at the Hope Hotel.

**Friends of the Libraries** — no report

**Old Business**

Judi will contact Carol Loranger again since she has received no further information on our participating in retirees' workshops, touring possible new spaces for our office, or the elimination of our wright.edu email accounts. She will compose a letter of complaint about losing those email accounts and consult with the board.

Zoom Meetings — Donna is working on a Zoom session for retirees with Liam Anderson and Vaughn Shannon about the Ukraine situation. Sean Pollack will be doing one on Russian history on April 12. Robin hopes to send out the announcement today for April 12.

Wetlands Walks – Joyce Howes: We are moving our first walk to early June.

**Adjournment**

There being no further information to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned on the motion of Joyce Howes and second of Gary Barlow.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Whitaker