

WSURA Board Meeting

June 2, 2021

Present: Dan Abrahamowicz, Robin Suits, Judi Engle, Richard Williams, Sheryl Provens, Peggy Bott, Gary Barlow, Mary Kenton, Donna Schlagheck, Joyce Howes, Gerry Alter, Kathy Morris, Mary Gromosiak and Gail Whitaker.

The minutes of the May meeting were approved.

President's Report

Dan A asked that the list of nominations to be on the upcoming ballot of officers be shared with the board.

President – Judi Engle

President-Elect – Richard Williams

Secretary – Gail Whitaker

Treasurer – Sheryl Provens

Members-at-Large – Robin Suits, Betty Kangas, Joyce Howes

Ballots will be sent to the membership in June. Judi, Gail and Robin are coordinating the mailing.

Our August meeting will be in person in our office.

Dan A passed along information from Amy Shope Jones from Annual Giving. Below is the suggested timeline with logistics for this year:

- Annual Giving will send a direct mail piece in June
- Appeal will come from current Nick Davis WSURA Scholarship recipient
- Fund to be featured on the giving form will be Nick David Scholarship Fund, and likely two of our student emergency relief funds. (We featured our student emergency funds in recent appeals and we have and continue to see strong support for these funds.)
- Planned giving inserts might be included (tbd)
- Donor's most recent giving history will be provided on the donation form, in an effort to emphasize an increased amount
- Lastly, in the fall there may be an opportunity to reach out to our retirees via phone either utilizing students and/or members of the WSURA Board. We can discuss this further in early fall.

President Elect's Report

The August meeting will be a brainstorming session to emerge from COVID with a robust list of activities. The Executive Committee will meet on July 28.

Past President's Report— no report

Secretary's Report — no report

Thank you to members who supply written documents of things they want included in the minutes.

Treasurer's Report

We had one new member this past month: Ron Wukeson.

Sheryl expects to have approximately \$3,076 deposited into the Nick David spendable account.

The \$100 donation to FOL that was approved last month will be paid in the next fiscal year.

Communication Coordinator Report

Mary Kenton reported it was decided at the last executive committee meeting that we will not produce a summer *Extension*. The next edition will come out in the Sept/Oct timeframe.

Activities

Mary Gromosiak lead discussion about going to the Hollywood Casino, possibly in the fall. We also discussed having a picnic and decided to postpone that until next summer and perhaps have it on campus.

Gary Barlow has volunteered to conduct a workshop on Van Gogh. This is timely with the light and visual Van Gogh presentation coming to Columbus soon. More to follow.

Membership Development Report

Judi Engle lead a discussion about some sort of a gift to send to new members. She had explored car decals and book marks. It was the consensus of the group to prepare a bookmark for this purpose. Judi will design and order one.

OCHER Report

Richard Williams reported that STRS investment returns for the first three months of Fiscal Year 2021 have been outstanding — 24.35% — with total investment assets increasing by \$14.8 billion to \$91.8 billion. While such returns are not expected to continue, the combination of good returns and lower usage (cost) by retirees of their health insurance means that the STRS Board is considering a proposal to lower the monthly premium for retirees and their spouses. The proposal, which will be voted on at the June meeting, would reduce the monthly premium for a retiree with 30 years of service by \$15 with a \$40 premium reduction for their spouse. Given the fiscal health of the healthcare fund, Dick expects the proposal to be approved.

Peggy Bott reported that Gretchen Feldman, Healthcare Project Manager for OPERS, provided an update on healthcare changes for 2022. She reported that there will be major changes for Pre-Medicare retirees. OPERS will no longer provide a group plan—instead, eligible retirees will begin receiving a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) to purchase a private plan through Via Benefits or the Obama exchange. The base HRA reimbursement each month will be \$1,200 through 2024. The amount one will actually get is based on your age when you first enrolled in an OPERS Healthcare Program and the

number of years of service credit. This group should pay close attention to their mail from OPERS explaining the details of this plan and what they must do to enroll.

Medicare retirees will once again have the contribution to their HRA account reduced. The base amount will be decreased from \$450 a month to \$350. The actual amount one will receive is again based on your age when you first enrolled in an OPERS healthcare program and the number of years of service credit. We will be informed in September of the amount we will begin receiving in January 2022. The formula for calculating this is on the OPERS web page.

If Medicare retirees want to change their supplemental plan or their drug plan, it would be a good idea to do this before or after the open enrollment period for the Pre-Medicare retirees since both groups will be using Via Benefits. Ms. Feldman said OPERS does monitor the number of calls and wait time on calls to make sure Via Benefits has adequate staffing, but she did not say staffing has been increased.

Scholarships Report

Gerry Alter reported that we have a good pool of candidates. The committee will meet following the board meeting to make their selections. It was the consensus of the board to trust the committee to choose the number of scholarships based on the information that the treasurer reported.

Remembrance Report - no report

Webmaster Report

Robin Suits will place an invitation to membership on the faculty listserv for those retiring in the near future. She will also tease some of our upcoming events.

Alumni Affairs

Dick Williams reported that the annual golf outing and major fundraiser will be held on June 10. The first ever military and veterans golf outing will be August 10.

Community Affairs

Donna Schlagheck reported that the Dayton Peace Award will be awarded to Congressman Tony Hall on January 29, 2022. This will be the 30th anniversary of the awarding of the prize and will occur as the Dayton Council on World Affairs celebrates its 75th anniversary.

Ambassador Hall has confirmed the date. Details will follow.

Friends of the Libraries

Gary Barlow reported that Sue Polanka will be leaving the library in the fall and has accepted a position as Dean of the Library at Appalachian State University in North Carolina, beginning in the fall.

Athletics Council

Dan A and Mary Kenton reported that the council is struggling to fill its leadership positions. The university has hired a new women's basketball coach, Kari Hoffman, from Cedarville College.

The men's baseball team has won the Horizon League tournament and will appear in the NCAA tournament this week.

New Business

Dan A suggested that the next administration think about making the position of Webmaster a board member.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11.30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Whitaker, Interim Secretary