

Wright State University Retirees Association Board of Directors Minutes June 7, 2023

Present: Judi Engle, Donna Schlagheck, Mary Kenton, David Garrison, Richard Williams, Barb Bullock, Joyce Howes, Dan Abrahamowicz, Robin Suits, Carolyn Smith, Peggy Bott

Absent: Gary Barlow, Mary Gromosiak, Kathy Morris, Gail Whitaker

President Judi Engle called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. The minutes of the May meeting were approved with corrections.

Officer Reports:

President: Judi Engle

Judi thanked everyone for their help and support during her tenure. The members thanked Judi for her leadership and guidance during the year and particularly for helping find a new space for us and directing the move.

President Elect: Richard Williams—no report

Past President: Dan Abrahamowicz

Dan is arranging a presentation on Medicare from Medicare Simplified, a Medicare consulting company. The Board agreed on dates for the lecture, Sept.11,12, or 13, and also agreed that current employees should be invited.

Treasurer: Carolyn Smith

There is one new member. Carolyn agreed to have treasurer business mail sent to her home address.

Communications: Mary Kenton

Mary reported that she is planning a newsletter for the first of July and would need submissions by June 15. She reminded those who had agreed at a previous meeting to contribute to the newsletter: David Garrison-poetry, Joyce Howes-environmental, Donna Schlagheck-programs for next year.

Committee Reports:

Activities:

- We reviewed the May 5, 2023, Retirees Luncheon and discussed recommendations: Sixty attended and the food was good. Some thought the speaker and the award recipients spoke too long. Judi recommended that in the future we don't have a speaker but instead do something interactive, such as a WSU trivia competition between the tables. We also agreed that board members and their spouses should not be eligible for door prizes.
- For the June 15 Rubin Battino lecture on Wright Brothers, 22 are registered.

Bylaws & Elections:

Joyce Howes and Judi Engle asked that we approve the proposal to change the bylaw on elections from a mailed paper ballot to an email informing members of the slate of officers for 2023/24 that has been approved by the Board. Mary Kenton moved that the proposal be approved and Donna Schlagheck seconded the motion. It was approved by a voice vote.

Historical Preservation: Kathy Morris, absent

Membership Development:

We have one new lifetime member: Steven Sherbet

OCHER: Barb Bullock and Dick Williams

- Dick reported that there is high intrigue going on at the STRS Board. A group of 'reformers' is challenging the traditional members of the Board on their investment strategies. The Board stood 6-5 opposed to major changes, but a seat was up for election and it appeared as though a 'reformer' was going to win. There were allegations that dark money was used to mount a campaign to oust traditional members. Right before the election, Gov. Mike DeWine replaced one of his appointees with someone who was in favor of the traditional investing methods, saying he was concerned that the member he replaced, Steen, was acting as an advocate for a specific investment firm.
- Barb reported that House Concurrent Resolution 6 would overturn the Windfall Elimination Provision. If it passes, it goes to Congress for consideration, but it is unlikely it will pass. (Barb sent a message to the president of OCHER asking why he said the state retirement systems would be devastated, but not Social Security, if WEP is overturned. We'll see what he has to say, if anything.)
- A 1% cost of living increase was approved for STRS, starting on July 1 to be distributed to retirees on their retirement anniversary date.
- OCHER members voted to distribute the OSU Board of Trustees statement of opposition to Senate Bill 83 to all of the members of our retirement organizations, and we encourage retirees to contact their lawmakers with their concerns.
- STRS is replacing Express Scripts with CVS. The coverage will remain the same, and STRS projects they will save \$214 million over 3 years.
- Some STRS facts and figures were shared, including:
- The oldest recipients if 110 years old
- The person receiving benefits the longest has been getting them since 1982 (?), because of a disability.

Scholarships:

- The letter from our new scholarship recipient that the Foundation will send asking for donations was distributed and discussed.
- The 2023-24 scholarship recipients are: John Gray, no WSU connection cited; Logan Macgregor, WSU connection: Lauren Macgregor; Amalia Petreman, WSU connection: David Petreman; and Eric Tomlinson, no WSU connection cited

Remembrance: Peggy Bott

- Peggy announced two retiree deaths. Their obituaries are on the WSURA Obituaries

web page.

Webmaster: Robin Suits, no report

Liaisons:

Alumni Affairs:

Richard Williams announced that they would be having their annual golf outing, which is one of their main fundraisers

Community/International Affairs:

Donna Schlagheck reported that she is proposing the following presentations for the coming year: Lee Hanna would talk about elections and politics, possibly in October; and Liam Anderson, would talk about Ukraine, possibly in November

Friends of the Library: Peggy Bott, no report

Raiders Food Pantry: Kathy Morris - absent

Old Business:

Judi asked if anyone would volunteer to set up a filing system in our new office. No one volunteered so Judi said she would do it since most of the information is on her computer.

New Business: Was discussed under By-laws and Elections

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Bott