

WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

October 6, 2021, Board Meeting

Present: Robin Suits, Kathy Morris, Judi Engle, Mary Kenton, Jerry Alter, Dick Williams, Peggy Bott, Gary Barlow, Dan Abrahamowicz, Mary Gromosiak, and Gail Whitaker

Absent: Joyce Howes, Sheryl Provens, Donna Schlagheck and Betty Kangas

Minutes of the September meeting were approved on the motion of Gary Barlow and second of Dan Abrahamowicz.

Presidents Report – Judi Engle

Since we have a key card for the front door of the building, the Executive Committee recommends that we turn in our old keys for the outside doors.

A meeting is scheduled for October 22 from 2-3 PM with President Edwards. Judi and Dick will attend. Judi has prepared a fact sheet to guide their discussion. In addition, the board suggests that they talk about parking permits and let President Edwards know that based on our interaction with OCHER, our organization appears to be one of the most active in the state.

Tyler O-Neal-White visited from the Food Pantry. She informed us that 50-60 people use the Food Pantry each month, mostly international students. There is a limit of two visits a month and only active students may visit the pantry. There is a bin outside their door for donations at 055 Student Union. The pantry is open Wed., Thurs., and Fri. from 9 AM to 4 PM. There is currently a need for plain rice, plain pasta, vegetable products, water, beverages, breakfast items and gluten-free options.

Past President –Dan Abrahamowicz - no report

Secretary's Report –Gail Whitaker - no report

Treasurer's Report –Sheryl Provens - sent in via email

Sheryl communicated that Eric Manishimwe did not accept our \$1,000 scholarship award.

Activities Report – Mary Gromosiak

On November 9 we will tour Carillon Park. The cost is \$9 for over 60 and \$11 for those under 60. Please RSVP by November 4.

Gary Barlow is planning a Van Gogh workshop for February. Seating will be limited.

We have reserved the Berry Room for our Annual Luncheon on May 6.

Betty Kangas has contacted Glen Solomon and he will do a Zoom COVID presentation for our members perhaps during the third week of November. Jerry Alter recommended broadening the program perhaps to include someone from the field of virology, immunology or biochemistry. He suggested contacting Dawn Wooley.

Joyce Howes has contacted the Beavercreek Wetlands about a guided walking tour in fall or spring. Judi will follow up with Joyce.

Historical Preservation – Kathy Morris -no report

Membership – Judi Engle

Judi sent a new member packet to Bob Hickey. Robin is attempting to get a list of recent retirees from HR but has had no response.

OCHER

OPERS - Peggy Bott

Replies to a question on whether or not retirees association members get free parking permits:

- Toledo – free parking permits were eliminated this year. Members may purchase a permit for \$207. Their representative asked the question.
- Ohio University – parking permit are free
- Ohio State – Emeriti faculty get free parking; staff do not
- Kent State – free parking permits for certain lots, retirees can buy a permit for any lot at ¼ of the cost.
- Cleveland – retirees can apply each year for a free parking permit
- Bowling Green – no cost for parking

Three schools have unconditional free parking, three have free parking with conditions, and two do not have any free parking (including Wright State).

Gordon Gaten from OPERS reported that they will continue in their effort to have the General Assembly approve their proposal to freeze COLAs for two years and hope to have this happen next year. However, all members will receive a 3% COLA in 2022.

The expected rate of return on investments has decreased from 7.2 to 6.9. This will increase the unfunded liability but Gordon does not think the increase will make that much of a difference. The lawyer who did the forensic audit for STRS is trying to raise \$75,000 to do an audit on OPERS but there doesn't seem to be much support for this.

STRS – Dick Williams

STRS reported lower 2021 claims experience than projected when plan premiums were approved last year. As a result, STRS staff are recommending a rebate for each enrollee of \$300. The STRS Board will vote of this recommendation at their October 22 meeting.

Because of the strong investment returns in the July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 fiscal year, the funded ratio improved to 87.8%. This is the number that the STRS Board will look at when they consider whether reinstating a COLA is fiscally prudent. The Board will be talking with the actuarial consultant, Cherion, and looking for their recommendation as they consider a COLA change.

Alumni Association – Dick Williams

Approximately 3,000 people attended the Festival of Flight on October 5.

Scholarships – no report

Remembrance – Peggy Bott

Peggy reported that we had several deaths during the fall. They are listed on our web site.

Friends of the Libraries – Gary Barlow

Karen Wilhort has been named Interim Librarian.

The Columbus Museum of Arts will be holding an exhibition “Through Vincent’s Eyes’ from November 12 to February 6. Various Van Gogh paintings as well as other artists’ works will be on loan from other museums.

Community Liaison – Gail Whitaker for Donna Schlagheck

The 2022 Dayton Council on World Affairs 75th anniversary celebration that will also recognize the latest Dayton Peace Prize recipient is scheduled for January 29, 2022, at the Holbrooke Conference Center at WPAFB.

Athletics Council – Dan Abrahamowicz and Mary Kenton

There will be a meeting next, Friday, October 8.

Bylaws & Elections – Gail Whitaker

Gail and Joyce have met and have a list of proposed changes to take to the next Executive Committee meeting. Once they are approved there, the changes/additions to our Bylaws will be presented to the board for approval and will then be voted on by the membership at our Annual Meeting in June.

New Business

After discussion about our Holiday Party following the December meeting, we decided to revisit the subject at the November meeting.

The November meeting will be on Zoom on November 3. The Executive Committee will meet in person on October 27.

Kathy Morris volunteered to make pick-ups and deliveries to the Food Bank. Mary Kenton will work with Kathy to produce a document for our membership explaining their needs and present it at the November meeting.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned on the motion of Dan Abrahamowicz and the second of Mary Kenton.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Whitaker, Secretary

