

**Wright State University Retirees Association
Board Meeting November 5, 2014**

Board Members Present: Abe Bassett, Peggy Bott, Gary Barlow, Marlene Bireley, Donna Curtin, Mary Gromosiak, Elizabeth Harden, Mary Kenton, Leone Low, Gary Pacernick, Jim Sayer, Lew Shupe, Gail Whitaker and Dick Williams

Absent: Rich Johnson and Paul Wolfe

President Jim Sayer called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. No corrections were made to the October 1, 2014 meeting minutes. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes as written: Dick Williams made the motion, Donna seconded -- THE MINUTES WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY A VOICE VOTE,

Officers' Reports

President, Jim Sayer – Jim gave a phonathon progress report based on an email received from Jen Foster, Director of Development, on October 8. Students have been actively calling all retirees who have not yet made a pledge this year to benefit the university scholarship campaign:

- So far, 33 donors have made a commitment (5 of which gave through a credit card)
- Retirees have contributed a total of \$4,555 to a variety of funds (\$425 on credit cards)
- Of the \$4,555, \$835 was allocated to the WSURA Nick Davis Scholarship (\$300 of this is already *in the door*)
- Of the 33 donors, 3 of them gave gifts of \$1,000 (all to other fund designations, but is still a good thing)
- The rest of the donors gave \$100, or less
- If you look at the logistics for the match from our 2 anonymous donors, \$1,855 will be matched (*great news!*)

There are still 2 weeks remaining in the fund drive. Jim and Abe are committed to also making calls-- especially to those they may know on the list. Jim pointed out that Abe's effort to encourage 100% participation by our board members this year was successful, and that fact has been a good selling point when making calls. It is made clear during the calls that any amount donated for our deserving students --is much appreciated!

Vice-President, Dick Williams – Dick gave a planning progress update for our first annual *retirees spring luncheon*. The date will be May 14, 2015 in the Nutter Center's Berry Room. The program segment will be built around the University archives. A presentation by the keynote speaker, University Archivist, Chris Wydman, will include a display of a lot of materials from WSU's history. Interestingly, the archivists plan to show a group of photos which need identified, asking for help with figuring out details of the images. The cost to attend has not yet been determined, but may be in the neighborhood of \$15-\$20 per person. Carol Stevenson suggested we consider subsidizing the cost from our budget to help keep the cost down. Abe asked for a brief write-up to announce the banquet on our web site. Even though it's still early, he feels "putting it out there" now, may help with attendance.

Secretary, Donna Curtin – no report

Treasurer, Gail Whitacre – distributed the October Treasurer's Report showing financial activity and fund balances in the WSURA accounts up to November 4, 2014. The Unallocated General Fund total \$8,476.61, minus October expenses (\$814.57) stands at \$7,662.04. The Dues Fund (including \$250 membership dues collected), stands at \$11,970.95. Gail explained, we have only a few outstanding bills which will be taken care of soon. Abe pointed out all of last year's Treasurer's Reports, to date, are posted on the web site. Carol Stevenson volunteered to send her reports for previous years to Sarah, so they can also be posted and listed as *Archives Treasurer's*

Reports.

Communications, Marlene Bireley - Most of the work on the winter *Extension* has been completed and will be finished up next week. The delay in Printing Services is such that this will be necessary to get it distributed in time to announce the December 14 Raiders basketball game outing and the January dining-out details.

The winners of the Health Fair raffles are: Tamara Stokes, Administrative Assistant to the Associate Provost (food basket); and Renee Aitken, Assistant Vice-President for Education Effectiveness and Institutional Accreditation (Raider tickets and apparel basket). Congrats to both winners!

Past-president, Abe Bassett – Abe said to be sure to check the WSURA web site for events details plus lots of other news, photos and more: see www.wright.edu/retirees-association. He pointed out that the dates and times for 3 upcoming book club meetings are also posted. It is getting more and more popular; and is being offered in conjunction with the Friends of the Library. All are welcome! Peggy Bott is our contact for the club, if anyone has questions.

Also, regarding this week's meeting with the Foundation office- -since 35 people have pledged, but have not yet contributed money, he and Jim will call this group to remind them to pay their pledge. If everyone fulfills their commitment, we will end up with around an additional \$9,700 designated to the Nick Davis Scholarship Fund. More details of the final results will be reported in January and February.

Committees

Activities, Mary Gromosiak – upcoming:

- Our next Board meeting is set for December 3, with the luncheon immediately following at noon, at the Holiday Inn. Two \$1,500 scholarship awards will be presented to two very deserving students, recently selected by the WSURA scholarship committee. The two recipients, and our student office assistant, Sarah, will all be joining us for lunch. As in the past, everyone agreed to give a small donation to buy Sarah a gift.
- This year's annual Christmas Brunch will once again be held at the Listermans' home on Sunday, Dec 7. The cut-off date for RSVP'S to Helen Listerman - is Friday, Nov. 28. Mary will send out an email reminder with the details.
- Dec 14 – WSU vs. Miami game. There will be snacks available in the box. Mary asked if the group would like to have dinner beforehand, but a decision was not made. Bob Wagley will invite the visiting scholars to join us. We will receive 14 complimentary tickets. The RSVP deadline is Monday, Dec 8. All WSURA members will be invited.
- Mary asked for input regarding plans for the January Dining-out Brunch. The possible dates are: Jan 11, 18 or 25. She passed out a list of 3 possible locations for members to select their preference. She will announce the date and location at the December meeting.

By-laws and Elections, Judy Rose - She will soon be notifying those individuals whose terms are up for election in 2015, to find out if they are interested in running again. It's time again to be looking for new board members, and she reminded the group finding the next President-elect, is always a challenge as well as the Secretary position, so please let her know if you have someone in mind.

Historical Preservation, Lew Shupe – He is involved with the process of finalizing Dick William's interview, and two others are pending and may begin over the next two weeks. The videotaped oral interviews last about one hour.

Membership, Gerry Petrak – We have no new members to report. The Health Fair event was very successful. The Athletic Department was exceedingly generous with their contributions for one of the gift baskets; the Bookstore and other campus departments also made contributions for the second baskets mentioned above. Tamarus Stokes and Rene Aitken were the winners. Abe asked for a brief write-up announcing the winners for our web site, and President Sayer thanked Gerry for doing a great job.

Since the membership dues structure is changing, Gerry has asked Sarah to check on purchasing labels to modify our brochures' inserts to reflect the changes; unfortunately, she couldn't find the right size label for the job. Printing Services gave us a quote of 500 printed inserts for \$200. Gerry will shop around for a better price. Abe suggested she check with World Digital Printing.

Gerry commented we had an outstanding visit to the STEM school in October. The concern came up during the tour that they have a short supply of laptops for their students. Gerry suggested we consider donating one to them if we have any extra funds. A decision was not made, but may be considered later.

OCHER, Rich Johnson, Paul Wolfe – no report

Scholarship, Mary Kenton – The selection process for the two students receiving awards has been finalized, so she will have money transferred from the Nick Davis Scholarship fund to have the checks made for the student recipients.

Sunshine, Peggy Bott – Fortunately, there are no deaths to report this month; however, Jim Hughes (a Wright State Founding father) is ill and in isolation. Peggy will send a card to him on our behalf.

Charlie Funderburk suffered a stroke and is in a Yellow Springs nursing home.

Liaisons

Elizabeth Harden, Alumni Foundation– She and Gary Pacernick met with them on Nov 1. They were introduced and spoke to the group about what was going on with WSURA. She said they are a very large and very well organized organization. She noted: numerous reports were given; they have six current events and six upcoming events. She was very impressed with the group. Gary P mentioned 10 alumni gave 1,000,000 to the capital campaign. Jim commented the Foundation has hosted several events across the country for WSU Alum.

Athletic Council, Mary Kenton. Athletics Council met last Friday in the Student Union. The highlights of the meeting were the two Coach's Corner participants: Mike Bradbury, Head Women's Basketball Coach and Billy Donlon, Head Men's Basketball Coach. Coach Bradbury reported that Ivory James was playing in Romania; one of the other two graduates is working locally and the other is in graduate school. He went on to praise his star player, Kim Demmings, who he believes will probably break every major record at Wright State and several in the Horizon League. He expects she will play in Europe. He also predicts Tay'ler Mingo will be drafted into the WNBA. The WSU UD game is scheduled for December 3 at home. Everyone is urged to attend to support these outstanding women.

Coach Donlon also reported on the current activities of last year's graduates: Matt Vest is playing in Germany; Cole Darling is in Hungary; and A. J. Pacher hopes to join their ranks. Miles Dixon is working, and Jerran Young expects to play in Australia after recuperating from shoulder surgery. He went on to comment that he does not think that student athletes should be defined solely by the poor choices they make. This year the team will be playing at a faster pace for at least

the first 13 or 14 games. If it isn't working well by then, he will make adjustments. WSU is picked to finish 5th in the Horizon League. (*Go Team!*)

Friends of the Library, Gary Barlow - Three workshops are planned for December thru March 2015. All workshops will be held 10:30–12:30 in 126 Dunbar Library. Registration is required. For online registration and more details, go to: www.libraries.wright.edu/workshops .

- Holiday Memories, Dec 6. Using Zoom Handy Recorders, provided, will allow participants to create, edit and share audio recordings as they preserve family history
- Picture This! Jan. 17. Learn to scan photos, editing digital photos and digital camera basics. Receive free software for photo editing, as well as tips on long term storage
- Mobile Mania: How to use your mobile devices. Learn quick tips and tricks, and free apps for your iPad, iPhone, Android, Windows tablets and e-Readers,

International, Bob Wagley - The October reception went very well, but more support is needed. He is concerned, and is having trouble getting people involved. He commented one of the scholars from the Netherlands has been here since April. She worked on campus and made income, and was concerned about paying her income tax. Bob asked a church friend for help—and he did, free of charge. More help is needed for other students, and he is not sure how to proceed from here. Abe commented that the receptions Bob has been holding were *very* nice, and commended Bob for doing a fine job.

Unfinished Business – Following up with the previous discussion to not mail out *the Extension* to all retirees in January, Marlene reported it will cost at least \$1,000 to send out 1,200 newsletters to everyone. She believes it is no longer a cost-effective publication. She distributed a proposed letter of explanation to the non-members—which will include a membership form. The letter also encouraged everyone to use the WSURA website to stay informed of our activities.

CAROL STEVENSON MADE A MOTION TO SEND OUT THE LETTER TO THE NON-MEMBERS ANNOUNCING THE *EXTENSION* WILL ONLY BE MAILED TO WSURA MEMBERS BEGINNING JANUARY 2015; JIM SAYER SECONDED. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE.

NEW BUSINESS - none

Guest Speaker - Bill Rickert, Assistant Provost. Jim introduced Bill Rickert, and *commented* he had been the Faculty Union/Teamsters' "point" man since day one. Dr. Rickert gave an interesting and energetic talk on the history of the WSU Faculty Union, followed by a question and answer session. The faculty unionized in 1998-- the third group of WSU employees to unionize, preceded by Physical Plant and the FOP.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Next meeting: 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, December 3 in the Millett Hall Conference Room. Our holiday luncheon will follow at noon across the street at the Holiday Inn. (Please note: Dec 10 was the original plan—but, since it is *finals week* for our two scholarship recipients, we're back to Dec 3)

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Curtin
WSURA Board Secretary

Nov. 18, 2014

