

UMSL RA Board meeting, Oct 11, 2013

Present: Lol Barton, Sharon Davis, Harry Gaffney, Dave Ganz, David Garin, Shirley Martin and Fred Wilke (RSB Committee rep).

Garin mentioned that the four campus RA meeting with UM President Wolfe would be held on Oct 16th.

Garin requested guidance on the charge to members for the upcoming holiday lunch at Glen Echo Country Club on Dec 6. Last year, the price was \$20 and the lunch was subsidized. Barton suggested a lighter meal. Ganz suggested no subsidy and focus on people getting together rather than the meal. Martin agreed that meeting one another was most important. Wilke reminded all that lunch would be the main meal that day for many attendees. Barton asked if we are recruiting new members. Ganz asked if our treasury funds have been increasing or decreasing. Garin mentioned that our major expenses are the holiday lunch including invitations and postage, and the newsletter (postage). Martin asked if we should subsidize the lunch and whether we should ask the development office to pick up some of the cost. Barton requested more information. With no consensus, Garin suggested that we ask Cindy Vantine to suggest possible menus priced below \$20/pp (\$15-18) and to have the board members vote via email ballot.

Garin briefly discussed the issue of nonprofit status. Twenty five years ago we applied to the Internal Revenue Service for an Employer Identification Number (EIN). We received an EIN and were informed that it did not grant tax-exempt status. However, if our normal annual gross receipts were not more than \$5,000, and if we met the requirements of section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code, we were not required to file annual forms. If we become tax-exempt, donations are tax deductible but subsidies are not permitted.

In a written notice, Steve Spaner raised the need for someone to be responsible for membership service. The treasurer handles the financial aspects of membership and the vice president is responsible for membership recruitment. But who is responsible for non-financial aspects of membership such as maintenance of a current membership directory, communication with members (e.g., newsletters) and events for members? Steve Spaner made a written motion that we amend the Constitution to change the duties of the Vice President to include membership services. A lengthy debated ensued. Davis, who as treasurer assumed some of these responsibilities in the past, suggested that the treasurer has a spread sheet with additional information including mailing and emailing addresses making it logical for the treasurer to assume some of these duties. However, Davis suggested that activities and service should be handled by others on the board or in the general membership. If the membership addresses are needed by someone for a mailing, a copy of the spread sheet file can be provided. Eventually Martin made a motion to table, which takes precedence. That motion was passed 5-1.

Several board members suggest that we need to initiate more events. Barton recommended a group (committee?) to deal with activities. Davis has started a group and, in seeking a place to hold the event, learned that the use of on-campus rooms require a charge, typically \$50. Barton pointed out that the use of the foyer of J.C. Penney has been free of cost. Garin suggested that with additional email newsletters to members, it is possible to initiate events in a more timely manner than in the past. The UM system plans to send four emails a year to retirees and will include campus specific information. Davis provided a memo earlier this year that stated we have email addresses for 188 of our 225 members. However, a high percentage of these addresses are not current. Ganz asked if the UM system will share email addresses with us. Davis said, at the least, we need to know who has email and who doesn't.

A motion to amend the Constitution, written by Steve Spaner, was presented. It deals with term limits for Officer positions. UMSL allows longer terms for officers than the other three UM campus retiree organizations. The purpose is to get more members involved, inject new blood and ideas and share the workload. He suggested a maximum of three terms, which would be six years. The motion passed unanimously. Garin will include the amendment in the fall newsletter so that the issue can be presented to the membership at the holiday luncheon.

These minutes were recorded by Garin, in the absence of the Secretary.