

UMSL Retirees Association
Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors
Glen Echo Country Club
Wednesday, October 23, 2024

Present: Tom Eyssell, Clark Hickman, Helene Sherman, Sue Baber, Dave Ganz, Mimi Duncan, Debbie Kettler, Cindy Vantine, Connie Jeffries, and Steve Spaner

Absent: Melissa Hattman

Ex-Officio Present: Dave Garin

Ex-Officio Absent: Lol Barton

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Eyssell at 10:03 am.

The Minutes of the August 14, 2024 Board meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer Steve Spaner reported a budget balance of \$14,371. He also reported that we had received the second interest payment on our Certificate of Deposit.

A discussion ensued about the possibility of offering an online payment method for registrants of luncheons. Steve investigated four providers: PayPal, Zelle, Venmo and Zeffy. There were strengths and weaknesses for each vendor, but Steve recommended offering Zelle because it had no fee. Questions were raised about the need for such a vendor as an online option currently exists by paying by credit card in the University's RSVP system (or someone could mail a check). Steve explained that the value of an electronic payment vendor was an almost-immediate transfer of funds. He recommended that the Board adopt the Zelle system.

The Board voiced reservations about adopting another payment system. Debbie Kettler made a motion to reject the idea of offering an electronic payment system through one of these vendors. Mimi Duncan seconded. The motion PASSED 9-1.

Planning & Events.

Thirteen people attended the fall event at Chandler Hill Winery on October 13.

Fifteen people attended the Medicare 101 Breakfast meeting on September 18.

The next Breakfast series meeting will be on Wednesday, November 6th. The topic is "Decluttering."

The first 2025 Breakfast series meeting will be on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 10-12 by Bill Dickens on the topic of "Five Biggest Mistakes in Estate Planning"

The second 2025 Breakfast series will be on Wednesday, April 16, 2025. The Board is asked to email Tom with topics and/or speaker suggestions.

The spring event will be a tour of the St. Louis Holocaust Museum, set for Thursday, March 27, 2025.

The cost is \$10 per person. Cindy Vantine moved that the RA underwrite the admission cost of attendees. Mimi Duncan seconded. The motion PASSED 10-0.

Membership.

Mimi Duncan reported that she and Tom Eyssell addressed the Faculty Senate/University Assembly about the Association and its new membership guidelines.

Mimi gathered information on emeritus faculty from the UMSL website and sent out 70 emails informing them of the Association. She received six replies and gained two new members.

A discussion ensued about efficient ways to contact prospective members. Ideas included multiple hits by emails, a notice in our fall and spring newsletters, personal contacts, a printed piece at our holiday luncheon and annual meeting, and one-on-one outreach with known retirees and imminent retirees.

Nominating Committee.

Helene Sherman reported on behalf of Melissa Hattman. Melissa and Helene have been working this fall in formalizing the nominating process. Ideas include preparing a job description for members and encouraging people, to the extent possible, to consider running for the Board or Officer positions as soon as practical.

Report of the Alumni Association.

Our liaison, Mary Bosnick, will be leaving the University on October 25. Kevin Smith, the associate director of the Alumni Association, will be our new liaison. The Retirees Association remains a “partner” of the Alumni Association, not an “affinity group.” This distinction allows the RA to charge for membership and gives us latitude in how many activities are offered, and when.

On behalf of the Retirees Association, President Eyssell presented Mary Bosnick with a Thank You card and a \$50 gift card in appreciation for her service to the organization.

Old Business.

Mimi Duncan and Mary Bosnick created new dropdown menus and modernized the RA membership application form.

New Business.

The Holiday Luncheon will be on Friday, December 13, 2024 at 11:30 am. Three email invitations and a postcard will be sent. There will be no speaker nor organized “program.” There will, however, be an optional food pantry food donation as well as a book and CD/Vinyl music exchange.

There will be a Board meeting immediately preceding the luncheon, from 10:00-11:30 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.