

University of Missouri-St. Louis Retirees Association NEWSLETTER

Volume 31 Fall 2014

~~~~~ Message from the president

Prior to becoming your president, I served a term as the Association's treasurer and a three-year term on the Board several years ago. At that time, I thought that the only two issues in which we were interested were protecting our medical benefits and maintaining our pensions.

I am pleased to report to our members that, since those days, the Board has gone beyond those two agenda items. Board members noticed that they felt that they were operating in a vacuum. Other Association members were not involved in the organization. So the Board made a series of wise decisions. They revised the Constitution and By-laws. First, in the Constitution, they recommended term limits for several offices and clarified roles and responsibilities for officers and board members. Second, in the Bylaws, they recommended the establishment and responsibilities of three new permanent committees: The Planning and Events Committee, The Membership Committee, and The Communications Committee. The Association membership adopted these revisions in the Constitution and By-laws at the last Annual meeting on June 6, 2014.

The charges to three new committees are as follows:

1. "The Planning and Events Committee shall develop, design, plan, and schedule events that foster the educational and social needs of the membership. This committee, among other activities, shall be responsible for the planning and scheduling of the Association luncheons."
2. "The Membership Committee shall recruit and maintain an Association membership directory with current contact information and membership status of all Association members. This committee shall coordinate information, at least annually, with the treasurer to identify the paid status of Association members."
3. "The Communications Committee shall compose, develop, and distribute newsletters and other communications for the Association members. Distribution of communications shall be coordinated with the Membership Committee and the treasurer and utilize any Board-approved form (e.g., digital/electronic, U.S. Postal Service)".

Next is the most important step. We need every Association member to seriously consider signing up for one or more of the three new committees. Please complete the enclosed form and e-mail or mail it to vice president David Ganz. This will insure a more active, visible, and rewarding Association as well as provide experienced and knowledgeable members for service on the Board.

I am looking forward to working with you to help our Association continue to grow and serve UMSL Retirees.

Sandy MacLean
President
UMSL Retirees Association

VOLUNTEER FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE NO. _____ CELL NO. _____

VOLUNTEER FOR THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES (List 1st, 2nd, & 3rd choices)

PLANNING & EVENTS _____ MEMBERSHIP _____ COMMUNICATIONS _____

(Return to David Ganz, ganz@umsl.edu or mail to him at 7229 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63130)

Highlights of Fall Board Meetings, September 5 and October 24, 2014

Reported by Judi Linville

At the first board meeting since the new Bylaws were approved on June 6, members of the board of directors volunteered for the new committees and began discussing their work. Committee membership so far is as follows:

Planning and Events: Lol Barton and Gary Burger, co-chairs.

Membership: Harry Gaffney, Nancy Forbes; Steven Spaner, ex officio.

Communications: Sharon Davis (directory) and Judi Linville (newsletter.)

Additional volunteers from our membership are welcome on each committee. Contact information for the board members is in this newsletter, and the volunteer form on page 1 should be returned to VP David Ganz, who coordinates all of the committees.

Board members discussed ideas for events, such as a future golf tournament and some form of continuing education event such as an emeritus college or institute. Any member who has an idea for activities or who would like to propose an event is encouraged to contact the Planning and Events Committee co-chairs.

As of October 31, the Association has 138 paid members: 124 are life members and 14 are annual members who have renewed by paying their dues for 2014-2015. Additional information about membership is included in this newsletter if you are a former annual member who has not yet renewed. The board hopes you will consider rejoining the Association.

With the new campus Recreation and Wellness Center expected to open in the Fall of 2015, retirees who have been using fitness facilities and attending wellness classes at Mark Twain are curious about what fees and policies will be in place for them when all recreation and fitness programs move to the new building. Board President Sandy MacLean has forwarded a question about whether fees in the new facility for retirees will be the same as those for employed faculty and staff, which is the current policy at UMSL and the other three campuses. We are anticipating an answer soon from the management company that will be in charge of the new center.

Keeping Up with Campus News

All retirees are encouraged to read UMSL Daily, the social media web site with official campus news about faculty, staff, students, and campus events. You can get an app for your smartphone or tablet, or you can subscribe to daily stories by email. Sign up at this web address: <http://blogs.umsl.edu/news/2014/08/26/app-daily/>

Campus news is also covered by The Current, UMSL's independent student news organization, which includes both the weekly print edition and additional web-only content on its web site at www.thecurrent-online.com and you can also follow on Facebook at /TheCurrentStudent/News.

In Memoriam

Since our last newsletter, we have marked the passing of these members of the UMSL community: Barbara J. Sonneborn (Dec. 15) Mary Brunnert (May 27) and Chuck Smith (July 21).

UM System Retirees Leadership Team Meets November 12

Several officers and members of the Board will meet Nov. 12 in Columbia with the 4-campus Leadership Teams and UM President Tim Wolfe. The agenda will include items of interest to the four campuses. An item proposed by the UMSL Board is "Establishing a Uniform UM System Policy to Allow Retirees to Keep their Former Campus Email Address." If you have questions or suggestions for this meeting, please contact Sandy MacLean, David Ganz or Sharon Davis, whose contact information is in this newsletter. This group meets twice a year.

Annual Health Plan Enrollment for Retirees

A recent e-mail from UM Benefits announced that the time to make changes in retiree medical and other insurance plans will be November 3-14. Packets were mailed to current plan members the week of October 20. It is important to note that no action is required unless you want to make changes. Although current employees were required to take certain actions this year, this does not apply to retirees. If we want to keep the plans we are enrolled in already, we do not need to do anything. It appears that there are no changes to the myRetiree health plans, the dental plan, or their premiums for 2015, but there is a slight premium increase to the vision plan. To make any plan changes, the time period to do it is Nov. 3-14. If you have questions, contact the HR Service Center at 573-882-2146 or email HRServiceCenter@umsystem.edu. The latest information and forms can be found at www.umsystem.edu/totalrewards/retirement.

Members Needed for the Nominating Committee

From David Garin

On December 2, at our holiday luncheon, we will solicit members for the Nominating Committee. That committee will meet briefly in 2015 to develop a list of nominees for the June 2015 election. In June, we will be electing members for secretary, treasurer, president-elect, and three board positions. If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee, please contact David Garin, past president and chair of the nominating committee at garin@umsl.edu.

Annual Holiday Luncheon

The 2014 Holiday Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 2, at the Glen Echo Country Club in Normandy, starting at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$20 per person. Please watch your postal mail for an invitation arriving soon, and RSVP while you are thinking about it. Even better, extend a welcome and invite another retiree who has never attended to join us in this annual celebration.

E-Mailing the Newsletter

We emailed this newsletter to all association members of record for whom we have an email address, regardless of dues paid status. E-mail saves your Association the expense of printing and postage, and the newsletter is in a generic portable document format (PDF) file which you may open on any computer in Adobe Reader (free copy can be downloaded at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>) or in Preview on Apple computers. If you cannot open the PDF file and wish to receive a printed copy by mail, please send a request to Judi Linville at judi_linville@yahoo.com with your name and postal address before November 21.

University of Missouri-St. Louis Retirees Association 2014-2015

Website: www.umsf.edu/retirees

(note: all 631 zip codes are St. Louis, MO addresses)

Officers

Sandy MacLean, president
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David Ganz, vice president
(314) 863-3799; ganz@umsf.edu

Ilene Wittels, secretary
(314) 692-2444; igwittel@sbcglobal.net

Steven D. Spaner, treasurer
(636) 433-2511; sspaner@umsf.edu

David L. Garin, past president
(314) 725-5653; garin@umsf.edu

Ex-officio Board Member

Fred Wilke, RSB Committee Rep.
(636) 698-4449; fwilke@charter.net

Members of the Board

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University Events Liaison

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