

UMSL Retirees Association

Board Meeting Minutes

13 December 2017

Glen Echo Country Club

Present: Debbie Kettler, Dave Ganz, Chuck Korr, Lol Barton, Zuleyma Tang-Martinez, Mark Burkholder, Clark Hickman, Wendell Smith, David Garin, Joe Martinich, Hal Harris. **Absent:** Steve Spaner.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Steve Spaner provided a written report in his absence.

The RA balance on 6 June 2017 was \$6,607.43. Since that time, we have received \$1,655 in membership payments. Payments were made to Steve Spaner for office supplies (\$115.68), to Wendell Smith for winery tour refreshments (\$19.81) and to Steve Spaner for the Mt. Pleasant winery tour (\$87.98).

The ending balance, as of 13 December 2017 was \$8,039.97. Expenses for the holiday luncheon at Glen Echo have not yet been paid out of this balance.

Steve Spaner reports that there are 387 retirees listed in our directory and that there are 154 lifetime members. Forty-two annual members paid in 2017-2018, while 138 members listed in our directory have not paid. Fifty-three members have died.

Administrative Support Change

Cindy Vantine is retiring as of 31 December 2017. Replacing her is Kathy Falcon, deputy to Jim Hertel in Human Resources.

Webpage

Lol Barton wants to put on our website an inventory of things we have done, including a write-up on the fall winery tour. Wendell Smith agreed to write up a short description of the winery tour.

Activities and Advertising

Zuleyma Tang-Martinez volunteered to assist Wendell Smith in development of activities.

The next RA event will be a guided tour of the Civil Rights Exhibit at the Missouri Historical Society on either the 30th or 31st of January, or 1 February 2018 (date to be confirmed). The tour will be led by Gwen Moore, curator of the exhibit. Originally, it was planned to incorporate a lunch at the Museum's restaurant, but the status of Bixby's is unknown at this time. Any lunch arrangements, as part of the tour, will depend on the availability of the restaurant, or a viable alternative nearby.

Wendell Smith reported that 15 people attended with fall winery tour, and expressed disappointment over the low number. The Board consensus was that this, as well as previous programs, have all been successful, and not to be discouraged by the numbers of any one particular program.

Wendell Smith brought up our mailing lists consist of two lists that don't always match. The list provided by HR does not include Extension people housed on the UMSL campus, nor adjuncts who, in many cases, only worked for UMSL and at a near full-time load over many years. If possible, we need to work toward a merge-purge into a 3rd accurate list.

Nominating Committee

The following members agreed to be part of the Nominating Committee:

Wendell Smith
Zuleyma Tang-Martinez
Lol Barton, Chair

Communications

Wendell Smith proposed that the RA should have a Facebook page. Clark Hickman agreed to set one up [Note: this was completed on 13 December 2017). Those members who had Facebook accounts were asked to add their Facebook friends who were UMSL retirees to the RA page.

Debbie Kettler asked if we should send post-card reminders to the membership for upcoming events. Or, is there a way to efficiently blast a text? The consensus was that a post-card would be prohibitively expensive, but that we should continue to think of all avenues available to us to advertise our upcoming activities.

Announcements

Joe Martinich talked about the meeting of the Board of Curators the previous week. During their meeting, the Curators voted to change the assumed investment rate of the pension plan from 7.75% to 7.2% translating to an increased unfunded liability of \$250 million. We are currently 88% funded and with the new assumed investment rate, we will be about 83% funded. Joe felt that this was a wise move on the part of the Curators, and an indication of very conservative projections and planning.

Chuck Korr reported on the system meeting of representatives of the four campuses' retirees associations. President Choi is forming a state-wide speaker's bureau consisting of experts among the campuses who want to meet with citizen groups in their area of specialty. He also brought up President Choi's views on whether or not Columbia is the "flagship" campus of the system. At the meeting of the joint RA representatives meeting, he clearly stated that there was no "flagship" in the system—that each campus was a viable, stand-alone entity within the system. However, two weeks later, when meeting with Mizzou RA officers, he referred to Mizzou as "the flagship campus."

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Clark J. Hickman, secretary