

**UMSL Retiree Association
Board Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by the RA President, Chuck Korr. Members present: Chuck Korr, Debbie Kettler, Cindy Vantine, Steve Spaner, Lol Barton, Hal Harris, Joe Martinich, Wendell Smith, Mark Burkholder, Dave Ganz, Clark Hickman. Members absent: Zuleyma Tang-Martinez

Minutes

The minutes from the June 6, 2017 Board Meeting and General Meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Spaner presented the Treasurer's Report that indicated a balance as of August 15, 2017 of \$7,422.43. He also reported that there were 370 total members in the directory; 52 members had died (since records began) and that there are now 146 lifetime members. Of the directory listings, 144 are not paid. The Treasurer's Report was accepted on a motion by Wendell Smith.

Webpage

Lol Barton brought the Board up to date on the latest webpage developments. He is investigating adding new pictures, and Wendell Smith suggested the possibility of including a group picture of the Board and officers. Lol asked the group to examine the webpage and offer suggestions (note: the URL is umsl.edu/retirees)

There was general discussion as to how to manage the webpage when Lol Barton rotates off the Board. One idea was to establish a "webmaster" position within the Board. Cindy Vantine stated that the RA page is actually a subset of the University Events webpage. No decisions were reached.

Committee Appointments

The following members agreed to be appointed to the following committees:

Membership: Hal Harris, chair and Mark Burkholder

Planning & Events: Wendell Smith, chair and Joe Martinich

Communications: Zuleyma Tang-Martinez, chair and Dave Ganz. (NOTE: The appointment of Zuleyma Tang-Martinez as chair is tentative as she was not present to accept.)

Newsletter

Chuck Korr and Dave Ganz will consult on producing the newsletter; Lol Barton can continue to assist. Usually, we produce 2-3 newsletters per year.

Advertising/Publicity and Membership Recruitment

(Note: The topic of advertising and recruitment came up several times throughout the meeting in terms of advertising the activities of the RA as well as effective ways by which we could recruit members. For ease of reading, and to keep these thoughts focused, they are consolidated into this section.)

1. Discussions were held as to the best, and most efficient, ways to get names of those qualified for membership in the RA. Cindy Vantine suggested that Advancement Services (formerly Development) is the best way to get members since the UM System will not share UMSL retiree names.

2. Dave Ganz volunteered to try to get a list of those on pensions as they would qualify for membership. This would also serve as a publicity tool for the RA events.
3. Can we get the names of those retiring from James Hertel, director of campus HR?
4. Events publicity:
 - a. Events can be immediately added to the RA webpage, although it is recognized that few visit this webpage.
 - b. Events can be publicized by the RA newsletter (done by Chuck Korr with help by Lol Barton), a week to 10 days out from an event.
 - c. Wendell Smith mentioned that many members informed him at the June general meeting that they were unaware of upcoming events. Wendell asked that we identify effective ways to make sure members are informed, including newsletters and up-to-date email mailing lists.
 - d. Wendell Smith proposed printing real-estate type yard signs that said “UMSL Retiree Association Event” with an arrow to guide people to an event. He also mentioned that this would be a subtle form of advertising that we exist and are conducting events.

Events

1. Dave Ganz reported that former Chancellor Blanche Touhill is confirmed to present a program on “UMSL: The First 50 Years in Pictures” on Friday, September 29, 2017 in the new Anheuser Busch Hall. The program time will be 10:30 am to 12:00 noon. The RA will conduct a tour of the building, for those interested, afterwards. Dave Ganz is working with Wendell Smith on room arrangements and AV and informally organizing a self-hosted lunch afterwards. The Board approved funding refreshments for this event.
2. Fall Wine Tour. The dates for this event are not confirmed, but the Board recommended that it be held the first week of November, 2017. The tentative plans are for attendees to meet at the Weldon Springs Conservation Center (formally called the Weldon Spring Site Interpretive Center) at 7295 Highway 94 South in St. Charles for a brief tour and to coordinate ride-arrangements to the wineries.

Lunch, on your own, will be held at the Montelle Winery, 201 Montelle Drive in Augusta. After that, the group will proceed to Sugar Creek Winery, 125 Boone Country Lane in Defiance for a behind-the-scenes tour. A \$4/person charge will include a wine glass and a few samples.

This event will need pre-registration.

3. Holiday Luncheon. The Board asked Cindy Vantine to secure Glen Echo Country Club as the venue once again and tentatively selected the date of Wednesday, December 13 pending confirmation of Glen Echo’s availability. The Board also approved raising the fee to \$25 (from \$20) to cover increased costs.
4. Civil Rights Exhibit at the Missouri History Museum, with lunch afterward at Meriweather’s, the restaurant located in the museum. Chuck Korr will coordinate this. It was suggested that Gwen Packnett and Malaika Horne be asked to provide comments and a personalized tour of this exhibit. The Board recommended a tentative date as the second week of January, 2018.
5. The Board also brainstormed possible future events:

- a. Debbie Kettler suggested a tour of Bissinger Chocolate Factory, and volunteered to develop the idea. Dave Ganz volunteered to assist her. Tentative timeframe: Early March, 2018.
- b. Orchid Show at Missouri Botanical Garden and Tram Tour.
- c. Behind the scenes at the Fox, with lunch afterward at Sweetie Pie's Upper Crust.
- d. MUNY tour for 100th Anniversary
- e. Tour of the Eagleton Center
- f. Eagle Watching/Pere Marquette
- g. (Note: This idea was not brought up in the Board meeting, but was mentioned to Clark Hickman at a luncheon following the meeting by Charles Schmitz, former dean of the College of Education. It is included here as a suggestion from a retiree for inclusion and as a space-holder.) A program on the state of the University's Pension Program. With news of a shrinking UM workforce, coupled with record retirements on January 1, what kind of stress does this put on the retirement program? What is the financial vitality of the pension program? How does it work? What are short- and long-term forecasts? "In other words, should I be worried?"

Retirement of Cindy Vantine

Cindy Vantine, an ex-officio member of the board and director of UMSL Event Services, announced her retirement as of December 31, 2017. She also announced that Amanda Willends will be replacing her. However, it is not clear how much interaction Amanda will have with the RA Board. Toward this end, Chuck Korr will meet, first, with Bob Samples early in the semester to assess this. If needed, he will also visit with the Provost and Chancellor to inform them of the critical role Cindy has played in the past, with the goal of securing Amanda's assistance going forward.

Support Structure on Campus

A general discussion occurred around the question of whether or not the Retiree Association has a role in campus troubles? How involved do we think retirees want to be with the campus and each other? How do we connect with (especially new) retirees? No conclusions were drawn, but this is a topic raised.

Emeritus Status

There appears to be different understandings among retirees of different departments about the benefits of the "Emeritus" designation. It was pointed out that those with the designation are no longer listed in the Commencement program. Some are listed in the campus directory, if they request it. Others understand that they are entitled to keep their UMSL email account and receive parking privileges. No conclusions were drawn from these observations, but the implied confusion suggests a clarification is in order in the future.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Clark J. Hickman, secretary