

UMSL Retirees Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Glen Echo Country Club
October 25, 2023

Attendees: Candi Agnew, Sue Baber, Mimi Duncan, Tom Eyssell, Dave Ganz, Dave Garin, Melissa Hattman, Grace Kennedy, Debbie Kettler, Helene Sherman, Steve Spaner, Mary Bosnick, Alumni Liaison.

Welcome and Call to Order: President Melissa Hattman called the meeting to order at 10:03am.

Minutes from the August 16, 2023 board meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Spaner. As approved by the board, the Retirees Association now has a \$5K CD with the interest rate of 5% for 18 months. Steve suggested we might want to consider purchasing another CD (a lower disbursement and a shorter term) once the holiday luncheon expenses are disbursed. Melissa asked Steve to give an investment status report at the December meeting.

Committee/Association Reports

Membership: Mimi Duncan. The membership letters will be updated in March with a specialized letter to be sent to retirees who have responded positively to the "opt-in" postcard. There was a discussion of an idea to increase donations to the Triton Pantry at this year's holiday luncheon. After a discussion, it was moved that for a donation to the Triton Pantry at the 2023 Holiday Luncheon, one person (by lottery) will receive a free ticket for the 2024 holiday luncheon. The motion was seconded and passed. A name will be pulled at the luncheon. Current board members are excluded from participation.

Planning and Events: Grace Kennedy. Grace gave a quick update on the Fall outing to Defiance Ridge. Although there were a small number of participants, everyone enjoyed the event. However, there were a few people who attended who don't usually attend UMSLRA events—which should be considered a plus. There was a discussion on possible reasons for a smaller than expected turnout even though there were two emails and a Facebook post sent to encourage attendance. Thoughts included: lack of a tour (which would have been cost prohibitive); a provision to carpool could have been helpful. The board was reminded that one-on-one invitations to other retirees can be even more effective than emails and/or Facebook posts.

Mimi asked if we have ever polled the membership for suggested outings. After a discussion, Mimi agreed to email the members of the board for their suggestions. A survey with a short list of ideas will be sent as a separate communication to UMSLRA members. We will have a "watch for a future survey" blurb in the Fall newsletter.

Holiday luncheon update: Debbie Kettler. Debbie noted that the date on the agenda is incorrect (it should be 12/15 **not** 12/16.) Luncheon invitations will go out November 15, a first reminder 11/27, and a final reminder, 12/4. The luncheon will cost \$35 and members who

cannot attend, can make a monetary donation instead. We usually do not have a speaker at this event; however, we will be flexible if the Chancellor decides to attend, and wants to speak. A menu has not been decided.

Communications: Sue Baber. The newsletter will go out November 10. Although it isn't necessary to include information on the 2024 insurance open enrollment period (since the cut-off date is before the publication date) but there will be a reminder on the UMSLRA Facebook page. Sue will include a blurb in the newsletter regarding the future "outing" survey.

Alumni Association: Mary Bosnick. Mary thanked the board members who volunteered for the Alumni Association 5K pre-race registration. There were more than 400 runners and garnered approximately \$25K, pre-expenses. Mary indicated that the Alumni Association's annual audit will take place in a few weeks. She will inform the board if the auditors have any feedback on our affinity arrangement. Melissa thanked Mary for all of her efforts on behalf of the UMSLRA.

Old Business:

Update ROTY nomination form: Helene Sherman. There was an extensive discussion about our nomination form with regard to paid employment and whether or not that disqualifies a nominee. The nomination forms from Mizzou and UMKC were distributed for information purposes as well as a rough draft of a nomination form for our campus. Neither the Columbia nor the Kansas City campuses preclude paid employment post-retirement.

It was moved that the following changes be made to our nomination form.

- The first paragraph be changed to read: The Chancellor's Retiree of the Year Awards focus on the accomplishments of former UMSL employees, and after their retirement. These accomplishments *shall be* ~~involve~~ volunteer service to the University, civic and welfare services, career and professional activities, or other noteworthy accomplishments.
- Under "Criteria for Candidates" *eliminate the third bullet point*: Nominees must be fully retired from UMSL and not in any paid University position since January 1, 2019.
- A list of previous recipients should be added to the form.

The motion passed.

Handling and Processing of checks: Although approximately 66% of renewals are done by credit card, there is a concern about the delay in receiving these checks, as well as updating the master list when checks (and renewals) are mailed to the Alumni Association office and then subsequently forwarded to the Treasurer.

After an overview of the issue, Steve moved that we have the form indicate that the check be mailed to the Treasurer so that it's an expediated process of getting the money into the bank and then respond to the member. This motion was seconded by Dave Ganz. During the discussion, Tom Eyssell suggested that since the Alumni Association has an audit scheduled, we could ask them for their input/advice on best practices on this issue. There was a motion to table this discussion until after hearing from the auditors. This motion passed with one objection.

During the earlier discussion, the President indicated that she had been emailing a copy of any checks to the Treasurer as an effort to address the delay. It was agreed that the practice of emailing copies of checks should stop immediately for security reasons.

New business

Constitution amendments: Tom discussed the various changes from the previous constitution. Most changes are housekeeping changes. Tom thanked Steve for his emailed suggestions. The board made various suggestions and Tom will revise the document to incorporate these suggestions. It was moved to accept the proposed draft as presented with amendments. The motion passed with one member abstaining. After the first of the year, work will start on revising the bylaws,

Next year meeting dates: The 2024 meeting dates are as follows: March 20, May 22, June 14 (board meeting and spring luncheon,)

Adjourn and Lunch: Debbie reminded the members to add 30% on their lunch meal to cover the required tax and gratuity. Melissa announced there will be a performance by the Cornerstone Chorale (conducted by Bruce Vantine) on Sunday, November 5 at 3pm at the First Presbyterian Church-Kirkwood. The meeting ended at 11:44am.

Next meeting: Friday December 15, 2023, 10:00 am, Glen Echo Country Club.

Prepared by Candi Agnew, UMSLRA Secretary