

[FINAL Approved by the Board Jan. 12, 2023](#)

Emeriti and Retirees Association Meeting

Nebraska East Union

Dec. 15, 2022

Submitted by Kim Hachiya, secretary

President Pat Crews called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m. Approximately 62 people were in attendance.

The following were recognized during Memory Moments:

Vera Jones, widow of Lee Jones, Chemistry and NU Provost

Deborah Gilg, Law College

Michael J. McConnell, University Police

A donation in honor of UNL Emeriti and Retirees who passed away during the past academic year is made to the Emeriti & Retirees Scholarship Fund each June in honor of their service.

Treasurer Earl Hawkey updated on the scholarship (more than \$32,000 has been raised). Table fliers gave information on how to donate to the fund.

Pat: announced that the board had met the previous week to plan for 2023 and noted we have several speakers already lined up. She noted this is her last meeting as president. She thanked the members for their flexibility and support and also thanked and acknowledged board members. She noted handouts listing Board accomplishments for 2022.

Pat noted the incoming officers and board members:

Incoming President for 2023 – Linda Major

President-elect/Vice President – Larry Dlugosh

Secretary, Kim Hachiya

Treasurer, Earl Hawkey

Directors – Term ending 2023 -- Gary Heusel and Rita Kean

Directors –Term ending 2024 – Roshan Pajnigar and David Wilson

Directors–Term ending 2025 – Tom McFarland and Nancy Mitchell

Standing Committee Chairs – Alfred Stark, Don Weeks, Sue Gildersleeve, Jane Zatechka, Jim Griesen, Julie Johnson and Alice Henneman

Linda Major introduced Jacob Schlange, assistant director of Experiential Learning and Global Initiatives for the University Honors Program.

Jacob's presentation was on racial and equity issues in US cities, including Lincoln and Omaha, due to "redlining," which were racial restrictive covenants and codes that both limited who could live in particular neighborhoods and limited lending. These covenants were in effect in the 20th century until being outlawed in the 1970s, although their effects are still being felt.

Neighborhoods were described as hazardous, declining, still desirable or highly desirable. On maps, the more negative neighborhoods were defined by "red lines." This limited lending for mortgages, and more insidiously and blatantly, covenants often expressly stated homes were not to be sold or rented to people who were not "Caucasian," which included Blacks, Asians, Latinx,

people from Southern Europe. Covenants also sometimes restricted along religious grounds, too, typically against Jewish people but also against Catholics.

Among the take-aways:

1. Racism is not regional nor limited to “the South.”
2. Approximately 3 percent of Lincoln was redlined as “hazardous,” 51 percent as “definitely declining,” 24 percent as “still desirable” and 22 percent as “desirable.” The “hazardous” and “declining” neighborhoods were mostly near downtown and just east of the UNL campus.
3. Cities often built roads (such as interstates) or put industrial parks into redlined areas because land was cheap and these were seen as ways to “clear out and clean up” these neighborhoods.
4. Maps of Lincoln’s most impoverished contemporary neighborhoods nearly mirror redlining maps from the 1930s. Nationally, 75 percent of redlined neighborhoods are still economically struggling. Restrictions on home ownership continue the cycle of poverty.
5. Other effects are environmental (lack of trees, parks, siting homes in flood plains or on former dump/hazardous waste sites); educational disparities; financial disparities (lack of home ownership or high rates of absentee landlords); health disparities and lower life expectancies (lack of access to health facilities).
6. Jacob said there are positives as awareness is growing; Lincoln’s new comprehensive plan centers on equity and inclusion as priority goals.
7. Jacob shared his email address, jschlange@unl.edu, and said he was willing to chat with others about this ongoing research project.

Pat thanked Jacob and said an honorarium of \$100 will be sent in his name to the ERA Scholarship Fund in appreciation and recognition for his interesting and insightful presentation. Pat noted that the Jan. 19 meeting will feature Dr. Laurie Bellows, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

She passed the gavel to Linda Major, who wished each of us a peaceful holiday season and adjourned the meeting.