

ERA Board Meeting Minutes, 4/08/2021
(Zoom)

1:30 PM President Kim H called the meeting to order.

Present: Kim Hachiya, Earl Hawkey, Al Stark, Rita Kean, Sue Gildersleeve, Pat Crews, Julie Johnson, Lloyd Ambrosius, Jane Zatechka, Don Weeks, Jim Griesen, Linda Major, Tom Hoegemeyer

1. Memory Moments: Doug Skoug, Mathematics and Statistics; Kenneth Schmale, Athletic Event Staff; L. Dennis Smith, U of N System President; C. Cale Hudson, Teachers College; Mary Ourecky, International Quilt Center; Vernon Kuehn, Electrician, Facilities Management

2. Jim Griesen reported there will be Zoom coffee chats in April and May. Jane Simac and Rita Weeks have lined up Mike Boehm (speaking on precision Ag) for April, Kim Todd (backyard farmer) for May. They also are planning on saving some time for small group discussions among attendees.

3. Pat Crews suggested that we use some of the accumulated funds in our treasury to increase the dollar value of speaker honorariums for 2021. Pat made the suggestion into a motion, second by Sue G., Passed.

4. Discussion concerning making a cash donation to the Student Pantry as there were ongoing needs for personal care items. Don Weeks moved that we donate \$300 to the pantry. Julie Johnson seconded, Passed.

5. Discussion concerning ERA meetings this Fall. Pat Crews noted the following plans:

October, the weekend of Fall break, we will meet at the Nebraska East Union, Jeff Yost and Chuck Hibberd will speak on the impact of philanthropy on local communities. For those interested we may be able to do a tour of new library.

November 16: again at Nebraska East Union, Paul Read will speak on wines and vines in Nebraska

December 16: probably at Lancaster Co. Extension Center, Claire Stewart, dean of libraries, will speak on the new vision for libraries.

Pat and Al Stark noted that we may need to make reservations for meal planning. They will investigate.

Kim Hachiya noted that the September meeting has always been hosted by the UofN Foundation. We will need to find out from them if they are planning to do this in 2021. Kim also noted that this may be the 60th anniversary the founding of the Emeriti Association. Don Weeks was going to follow up on the organization's history.

6. Discussion concerning whether or not we should record our meetings on a permanent basis. Al suggested we needed to investigate what kind of equipment that we need, who would record (students???), and storage of recordings. And, as we go into a post-Covid future, do we do hybrid meetings, in person and Zoom or other electronic format?

7. Discussion of ERA participation in mentoring for student, led by Linda Major. She noted the East Campus pantry needed many items for students. UN-L (Jesse ?) has a vision for needs, job descriptions for mentors.

Amy Goodburn wants help for a university “Teammates” program, and suggests a formal partnership with ERA. The target is 10 ERA partners, and there are about 40 students who have been part of the Teammates earlier in their education.

Amy would like to identify donor money for the background checks, identify students, as Mentors don’t know Mentees and vice-versa. She wondered how they will find interested retirees, and Linda suggested ERA will identify them—plant seeds in our Newsletters, announce opportunities at meetings. We will need to coordinate job descriptions and expectations: What is time commitment—weekly, monthly, quarterly? What is expectation of meetings—visit on-line, face-to-face, annual commitment? There are students who are experienced “Teammates” and other who are new to the concept.

Teammates is planning to pilot this type of program at UN-L, UN-O, UN-K, and South Dakota State U. They have a template, and matching system. Linda and Amy will write up a proposal/brochure. The goal is a September launch.

Pat Crews move ERA fund up to 5 background checks, or half of cost for 10. This would be \$200 total, and we would let them divide the funds as they wish. Don Weeks seconded. In discussion, Julie J. noted that we may have some Teammates volunteers in ERA, but not many.

Passed.

It was also suggested that we may need to adopt a global strategy: Provide ERA or faculty host and mentoring for international students, Emeriti could spend time with international grad students, meeting with Lorrie Fellows to maintain web page, access to keep it up.

8. Discussion concerning ERA members keeping @unl.edu email addresses. Don Weeks reported that he has contacted Mike Zeleny multiple times without response.

9. Kim is looking for an opportunity to meet with Ronnie Green, either as a Board, or perhaps, a sub-group of the board.

10. Kim noted that 2021 is the 60th Anniversary of the Emeriti , now ERA, group at UN-L. It would be worthwhile to search for the History of the organization, what is was/is, how it was started. Suggested that Maud Wishert had started keeping records, but no one knows how extensive they might be. Julie Johnson suggested that we should search the basement of the Alumni Center, as there were indeterminate numbers of boxes and files.

Don Weeks noted he has a list of officers from the 1980’s and 1990’.s. Apparently the organization has stagnated until Irv Omtvedt revitalized/reconstituted it. Kim noted that it was founded to help retirees, as being a faculty/staff member wasn’t well remunerated for many years in the past. Earl Hawkey will investigate records in the basement.

Also, it was suggested that we need to interview Irv and Martin Massengale concerning their memories of the organization.

11. Kim led discussion of when, as we move from Covid restrictions, can we hold an outside event? Don suggested that June may be an opportunity for our coffee chat to meet on the patio at Wilderness Ridge.

12. Kim reported that she did participate in the “pre-retirement” meeting at UN-L. Discussion followed concerning opportunities to connect with retirees from our sister institutions—Don noted that according to our bylaws, they are eligible for membership in ERA. Conversations with Susan Fritz confirmed that UNMC has a similar organization. Many state universities have system-wide emeriti organizations, and it may be worth having conversations with representative from other campuses.

13. Lloyd Ambrosius reported that there were no applications for our grant, the next deadline is May 15th, and he will talk about availability at the April full membership meeting.

There was no other business. Kim adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully,

Tom Hoegemeyer, Assistant Secretary