

**UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association Board of Directors
Minutes submitted and approved as corrected Feb. 8, 2024, by Kim Hachiya**

The UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association Board of Directors met at 1:30 p.m. Jan. 18, 2024, at the Nebraska East Union.

Attendance: Pat Crews, Larry Dlugosh, Pam Edwards, Jim Griesen, Kim Hachiya, Earl Hawkey, Vicki Highstreet, Tom McFarland, Roshan Pajnigar, Alfred Stark, Don Weeks, Jane Zatechka

President Larry Dlugosh welcomed us to the meeting and read the names of those whose deaths became known to us since Dec. 14, 2023.

Memory Moments: (Since December 14, 2023)

Quentin Faulkner,	School of Music
Marvin Frey,	Veterinary Sciences
Steve Gaines,	Nebraska Public Television
Roy F. Keller,	Computer Science/College of Engineering
Rick Konecky,	(spouse of Joan Latta) Libraries
Doug Metzger,	UNL/NET
Tracy L. Oehlerking,	Custodial Services
Maribeth Stodola,	UNL Administrative Assistant
George Tuck,	College of Journalism
Steven E. Tucker,	Ag. Technology
Richard Voeltz,	University Libraries
Kristin Peterson Wulser,	spouse of Kurt Wulser, Chemistry

Approval of minutes was deferred to the February meeting as Secretary Kim Hachiya sent them to the wrong listserv and they were not received by the group. She apologized for this mistake.

Ann Briggs, Communications Specialist – Nebraska Water Center, presented on software options for membership and event management. She explained the following options and their pros/cons:

- A. NURamp: a UNL site that has an events section; it cannot accept money/payments. Free for university affiliates. Allows event registration and member management.
- B. Cvent: UNL's preferred online software for event management. You can collect funds through Cvent (cvent.com). There's a cost to use the site. University has good support for Cvent. Cvent is the online processor for Cvent. She's not sure whether it needs to be linked to a specific account. She's unsure if we would be able to get our own site or would need to be connected to a specific department. She thinks Cvent's customer service isn't fabulous.
- C. Eventbrite: free membership tools but it does take a percentage of the collected fees; the fee depends on the size of the event and number of folks served. People are often familiar with Eventbrite as lots of organizations use it and it's been used for a long time. We would set up a "bank account" with EventBrite who then remits collected fees to the organization.

Both NURamp, and Cvent allow membership management and event registration. We are hoping to learn how to pay for things online.

Problem: retired staff have no access to any UNL software like NURamp or Cvent; this curtails who among ERA can have access to the back-end. Faculty do have access.

- D. Constant Contact: has event management; has a way for users to pay per event but we would need need to purchase a license for the software. Has built-in templates. Allows you to “tag” and segment folks on the back end. Users find it fairly seamless because it’s commonly used. She thinks they have good customer service and onboarding.
- E. Zeffy: it’s like Eventbrite but it’s free for 501C3. Allows ability to build in a donation. They do not take a cut of the fees but users can choose to support both Zeffy and/or the organization. It’s easy on the back end and is template-based. But the organizations using it must be a 501C3. We are not and are unsure if the university has that designation and if we would qualify under the university’s umbrella.

Jim Griesen noted that several of the B1G associations are 501C3. Earl noted that there are tax reporting and other ramifications if we secured that status.

Larry said he talked with Earl about our needs overall and if we could find a single package that would help with member management and fees collection.

Action: Larry suggested setting up a small committee with Earl, Don, Al, Kim and Larry to look into it. Remember to keep the end-users (our members) top of mind. Al suggested we look into short-term contracts and to be sure whatever we choose would manage everything all at once.

Treasurer’s Report: Earl Hawkey

We spent more last year than we took in. But in 2022 we spent less than we took in. So over the 2 years it balanced out. Why? We spent folks to the B1G meetings ins 2023. He noted that we lose money on luncheon meetings because folks no-show but register for a lunch, which we then give away. (Note: if we had a pre-pay option, no-shows would already be billed.)

Committee/Activities Reports

Awards: Patricia Crews/Marjorie Kostelnik (Rita Kean, Jake Kirkland Jr.)

The Newsletter that recently went out has a call for nominations for Wisherd awards. Pat will send follow up reminders. Kay Walters has resigned from the committee.

Benefits: Roshan Pajnigar reminded us to use your N Cards. She asked that if she makes changes online, who needs to OK changes to the website. Larry said he’s not sure she needs “permission” to make editorial changes but if it’s a new benefit, the board should be informed and approve it. To make changes online, contact Al Stark. For newsletter, contact Connie Boehm, new newsletter editor.

Larry praised the newsletter that debuted this morning. It’s very informative but it’s also long. He wants a way to push folks to the website where we can plunk in fresh news and information.

Bylaws/Policies: Jim Griesen/Julie Johnson They have some cleanup to do but will get the one change in the bylaws to Al.

Campus Engagement: Vicki Highstreet reported she met with Andrew Brown from SLICE (Student Leadership, Involvement and Community Engagement) about opportunities for members to volunteer. She said HuskerVote Coalition will be a big emphasis for SLICE this year

with pop-up voter registration tables for student voter registration and they would like volunteers. They have to be trained to learn how to do voter registration. Time frames are 1-2 hours a time. They will also need election observers in May and November who monitor for accessibility, ease of use, etc. And SLICE will partner with Civic Nebraska to give tours, visit senators, observe at the Legislature. Vicki will put together a form that will list opportunities for involvement and Andrew will contact people. Larry suggested we announce at the next general membership meeting; he suggested we do a brief video we can put on the web. We also can do slides for the background powerpoint.

Coat drive reminder has gone out to the members.

Digital Communications: Alfred Stark (Bruce Mitchell) People are reporting NOT getting emails. Some of this may be they are getting caught in spam filters; AI will check for back-end problems.

Educational Activities/OLLI: Larry reported for Nancy Mitchell. They have met and have a number of activities coming up. May 21, Lied Center tour; Kiewit Engineering facility – we will have a tour of that when it opens. Other ideas are: Barkley, Sheldon, Dairy Store, Devaney Center, Go Big, Davis Global Center at UNMC. We talked about transportation issues to UNMC or even UNK. We decided that we could let our members solve their transportation issues among themselves. Larry needs to touch base with OLLI/Bob Michl about transportation and about renewing the MOU.

Program Committee: Pam Edwards/Vicki Highstreet (Stan Campbell, Lyda Snodgrass, Linda Schwarzkopf, John Hibbing, Hugh McDermott) Programs for this semester are set. March meeting is March 21. The committee has locked programs on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

For the fall: September, Tentatively with Chancellor Bennett; Oct 10—John Hibbing, poli sci, polarization and 2024 election; Nov. 14: tentatively Barkley Center; Tentatively Dec. 12, DeeDee Anderson, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Jan 2025: Ideas but none confirmed Trev Alberts/NIL; something on AI; E Sports with Ahmann Green; CB3 Lab

They will change the luncheon menu beginning in February.

Program Committee will take over the Registration/Welcome at the meetings.

Goal is to always meet at East Union.

Note: 71 people are registered for the next meeting.

Publications: Connie Boehm (Charlyne Berens) No report

Memberships: Donald Weeks noted the Newsletter listed the new members; membership growth will have consequences. Don has contacted new members about the retirement webinar that AROHE is sponsoring. He also sent notice of the AROHE seminar to UNL Human Resources to try to send it to pre-retirees. He contacted Sue Barnes, the executive director of AROHE, and she said the seminars will be available on line afterwards.

Scholarships: Earl Hawkey We had a number of donations that came in in late December. We crossed the \$60,000 mark. Our new goal is \$90,000.

Social Events: Jane Zatechka/Jim Griesen. They sponsored a coffee the previous Tuesday. About 30 attended. Bagels and Joe reserved tables for us and it was a nice event. Jane and Jim are looking for another coffee shop location. Sometimes there are speakers, sometimes not.

Old Business/Announcements

- Update Constitution/Bylaws and Policies and Procedures to include Program Committee: Jim Griesen/Julie Johnson
- Standing Committee information – Larry Dlugosh
 - The purpose of each standing committee is described on the ERA Website along with a list of current committee members.
 - The goal is to have 3-5 members serve on each Standing Committee as a way to engage members in the activities of the ERA.
 - Larry is working on filling out memberships on the committees

New Business

- ERA Goals and Action Plans
 - Identify Leaders for each goal and assemble action planning teams
- Goals:
1. Increase the diversity of the ERA membership to reflect UNL programs, disciplines, race, gender, and national origin.
 2. Implement an electronic dues and registration payment system.
 3. By the Spring 2027, achieve the \$90,000 to provide more needs-based scholarships
 4. Distinguish a “brand” for ERA that will assist in promotion of the organization
 5. Mentor and connect with pre-retirees and early retirees
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- - Glow Big Red: Kim Hachiya reported that Glow is Feb. 14-15 and there are incentives. She will talk about it at the upcoming luncheon and manage communications with members.
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 - AROHE Retirement Seminar – Beginning January 30, 2024 – Don Weeks (discussed above)
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 - BIG retirees assn is having an online February meeting. Among items are software member management; Larry notes he gets a lot of information from Wisconsin’s group.

Pam: why is officer changeover on Calendar year vs academic year? It’s in the bylaws. It does cause delays when you’re trying to contact folks during shut down but we also would have the same problems during a summer changeover.

Adjourned at 3:10 p.m. Larry will not be around in February. Next board meeting is Feb. 8

2024 Membership Meeting Dates and Speakers: Pam Edwards

- January Tuesday, January 23, 2024, location: Nebraska East Union
Frances Hayes, Director of Communications and Public Relations - The Water for
Food Global Institute. Topic: Ensuring Food And Water Security For All
- February Tuesday, February 20, 2024, location: Nebraska East Union
Heather Rasmussen, Ph.D., RDN, LMNT, associate professor, director,
Professional Studies in Dietetics Graduate Program
Topic: Nutrition and Brain Health
- March Thursday, March 21, 2024: location: Nebraska East Union
Speaker: Tyler White, Ph.D., associate professor of practice, director, National
Security Program, UNL Political Science, Director - National Security Program
Topic: Global Affairs at a Crossroads - The Future of Freedom
- April Tuesday, April 16, 2024: location: Nebraska East Union
Chancellor Jeffery Gold, University of Nebraska Medical Center –
Topic: The Impact of UNMC

No Programs are held in May, June, July, and August

September

Tentatively Sept. 19: Luncheon meeting with Chancellor Bennett

October

October 10: John Hibbing, political science

November

In process

December

In process

Looking into: Global Food and Water Security, Place Matters data (emphasis Senior Citizens),
Citizen Awareness of Cybersecurity, and Population Trends in America (The migration of
citizens)