

**UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 12, 2020 – Via Zoom**

Present were: Pat Crews, Dora Dill, James Griesen, Kim Hachiya, Earl Hawkey, Chuck Hibberd, Tom Hoegemeyer, Julie Johnson, Jeff Keown, Vi Schroeder, Alfred Stark, Don Weeks, Jane Zatechka

Absent were: John Bernthal , Sue Gildersleeve, Doug Jose, Rita Kean, Linda Major

President, Don Weeks, called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

Memory Moments

Deloris Berg – Student and Family Housing
Judy Riordan – wife of Terry Riordan
Joseph Palensky – Facilities Management
David Routon – Fine Arts
Douglas Amedeo – Geography, School of Natural Resources
Carron Miller – wife of Tice Miller

Approval of Minutes – October 13, 2020 ERA Board Meeting. Pat Crews moved to accept the minutes as modified – seconded by Julie Johnson. The Board unanimously approved.

Budget: Earl Hawkey indicated that we are doing well financially with no significant differences from the last report that was distributed.

Awards: Pat Crews made the announcement of her successor, Lloyd Ambrosius, has accepted the invitation to serve as the Chair of the Awards Committee. Lloyd was a new member of the awards committee and Pat indicated her pleasure that he was willing to step forward to Chair the committee.

OLLI: Rita Kean could not join today's meeting. The OLLI report from Rita reads as follows: OLLI will offer courses via zoom for the third quarter which begins January 21st 2021. Our agreement states that the ERA members may enroll in any Zoom class. Will be forwarding the list of OLLI courses to ERA members. At the end of October, I forwarded an email to Bob Mitchell about the need for instructors to assist with pre-travel locations that OLLI will be sponsoring in 2021. They are Savannah, Georgia and Charleston, South Carolina and others. Bob reported that he heard from one person who is interested in serving as instructor for the course on Savannah, Georgia and Charleston, Carolina. If any of you are interested in any of these, please talk with Rita or Bob.

Membership: Al Stark, brought us up-to-date on membership. In 2020 we had 38 new members in comparison to 11 in the past and 9 the year before that. This can be attributed in large part to Don's work with Bruce Currin in sending out an email to recently retired UNL employees. Don requested that Al send him a list of the summary data in order to share next week with the membership and encourage them to encourage others to join ERA. Vi Schroeder asked if free memberships was provided to all 38 new members. Al indicated that this was correct. Question – Pat Crews asked - if the retirees retired in January, when would they be notified about the free membership into the Association? Don indicated

that they do not automatically receive an invite to join the ERA because we do not have access to a list of UNL retirees. That is why we have to periodically ask Bruce Currin to send out an email to new retirees. He indicated that it would be more desirable if the ERA automatically received the email list from Human resources, but, at present, this is not possible.

Website: Al Stark indicated no new developments.

By-Laws/Policies: Don once more thanked Jim Griesen and Julie Johnson for making the modifications to the ERA Bylaws. Don indicated that he would be sending out to the membership a copy of the new Bylaws as these will be voted on at the November 19th membership meeting. Jim Griesen reminded the Board that the modified Bylaws need to be sent out one week prior to the membership meeting.

Linda Majors who is in charge of our student interactions, was not able to join the meeting today. A report from her was read and reported the following: Linda met with Amy Struthers, who is currently serving as the Executive Vice Chancellor & Coordinator. She has considered a number of options, but has offered the following: portfolio review, writing center, brainstorming for discipline base experiences, writing assistance virtual writing center/one on one/supplemental assistance. These are some of the suggestions that she will be bringing to us. She also indicated that she had met with others to assist with strategic planning. Amy will be at our December Board meeting.

Benefits: Sue Gildersleeve was not at the meeting.

Tours: Al indicated that there was nothing to report.

Coffee Chats: Nothing to report.

Newsletter: Don asked Julie Johnson about planning for the next newsletter. Julie noted that Kim Hachiya had volunteered to write a summary of the presentation of our speakers for the November and December meetings. However, if someone would like to relieve her of either of those duties, please let Julie know. Will need someone to write articles from the presentation for every month in 2021. If no one volunteers, Julie will be contacting individuals to do so. Sometimes the speaker will assist authors in preparing the article.

New Business: Don indicated that he will be making an announcement that our new President-Elect will be Pat Crews and our new Board member is Chuck Hibberd. Don welcomed Chuck to the Zoom meeting. Pat, was asked about potential speakers for 2021. She indicated that she has received many suggestions during this past week. She has already lined up one speaker – Dr. Judy Wu- Smart, who is the Director of the Bee Lab at UNL. She will be speaking about bees in general and will report breaking news on the new killer bees in the Northwest. She will also discuss challenges to honey bee populations. She will be available for any meeting in the spring. Other suggestions for speakers offered by Board members included:

1. Notable Books -Pat Leach, Director of Lincoln City Libraries. Pat has an outstanding presentation in which she talks about the American Library Association book list. She usually reads all the books on the list, and her presentation is a quick synopsis of each book, what she liked or didn't like, and to what kind of reader she would recommend each book.
2. Covid Vaccines – Dr. James Lawler, UNMC

3. Gerrymandering -- UNL Mathematics Professor Emeritus, Dr. Steve Dunbar, and Nebraska Wesleyan Mathematics Professor, Kristin Pfabe.
4. How to Teach Students about the Holocaust -- UNL Professor Ari Kohen's work with Gerald Steinacher on "empathy education".
5. Women's Suffrage Movement -- Lynn Roper. 2020 is the 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th amendment that gave women the right to vote.
6. Impact of Local Philanthropy on Nebraska communities --Jeff Yost, President of Nebraska Community Foundation.
7. Food Bank -- Scott Young, Director of Lincoln Lancaster Area Food Bank
8. Climate Change – Dr. Don Wilhite
9. *Food Safety – Dr. Bob Hutkins, Professor, UNL Food Science and Technology

Other suggestions were to have speakers from the UNL system talking about various research projects, etc. Kim and her husband produce “live and learn” for aging partners. Other suggestions were: Lynn Roper presentation on women suffrage and Scott Young on the food bank. Question was: Do we want to limit ourselves to UNL and the immediate community. Don indicated that outstanding and dynamic speakers will engage our membership regardless if they are from UNL or the community. Vi indicated that she felt that retirees would be interested in what they can do for the community, interested in what is going on at UNL and could broaden our horizons through community interest. Pat stated her appreciation for all the suggestions provided. Tom mentioned the Elders Climate Group and their activities dealing with climate change. Tom suggested that Don Whilhite, David Harwood or former Senator Hars could speak on climate assessment. Tom indicated that this group would like to see the state of Nebraska adopt an Action Plan, relative to positive climate changes. They have been involved in the LES program on increasing of non-carbon fuel sources. Tom would also like to see the ERA get involved in assisting UNL in adopting a climate change policy Don indicated that a speaker relative to climate change would be great.

Retreat: Don indicated that next month the Board meeting will be our usual retreat, IAt the retreat, Don will have a few remarks and then will turn the meeting over to Kim to talk about her plans for the coming year. If there any additional agenda items for that meeting, please let Don know.

Proposals for Development: Don brought asked for discussion of the new feature for our monthly membership meetings, “What’s New on Campus?”. He asked Kim to discuss what she has planned for the coming meeting as there are two potential videos for that meeting. {Kim had heard from Mike Zeleny who was wondering if the ERA would be interested in being a part of the UNL Combined Campaign which is launching tomorrow. Mike asked if the ERA wanted to be a part of this effort. The Chancellor and his wife are co-chairs this year and the Chancellor is interested in demonstrating that the University is really a part of the City of Lincoln’s Combined Campaign (which is comprised of the United Way and CHAD). There is a video that the Chancellor has done which will be shown at the kick-off. We could show this at our meeting on the 19th. Don would ask for comments on this. Not many have

received the UNL packet for the combined campaign. Mike would like our stamp of approval as ERA members. The Chancellor may mention ERA in his speech tomorrow. The consensus of the Board was that we should take part in the Combined Campaign. Kim will let Mike know that they have our endorsement.] Don indicated that at our November 19th ERA meeting we will have a condensed business meeting with the speaker, Dr. Dona Gene Barton, beginning her presentation at 11:45pm.

Don mentioned that Kim, Jeff, Pat and Dora are scheduled to meet with President Carter and Provost Susan Fritz on November 18th. He asked if there were any ideas and/or suggestions that Board members would like for the group to bring up at the meeting on the 18th. This will be ERA's first meeting with President Carter.

Al presented a discussion on our URL's for our Zoom meetings. Don indicated that the main thing that we would need to do, is to ask the speakers if we could share their talk/materials. We would not record the meeting if they objected. It was then discussed as to if we should record our meetings as there is a lot of work involved with this. Al indicated that he would not mind taking care of this, but we need to have another person who should know all of the information required to do the job. Don agreed that we need two persons involved with one working with the webmaster in recording the meetings and archiving them. When we move back to face-to-face meetings, we would need someone to help with the videos. Pat was wondering if recorded meetings would be used much by our members and if it would be worthwhile doing this. Kim also wondered if archived meetings are something that people will watch. Don indicated that this topic will be tabled until the next meeting. If anyone knows of someone with expertise that could assist with this position, please let us know.

Meeting adjourned at 2:33pm

Respectfully submitted.

Dora Dill, ERA Secretary
October 15, 2020