

FINAL Approved by the Board Nov. 10, 2022

Minutes UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association Board Meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

Submitted by Kim Hachiya, association secretary

The UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association Board met via Zoom beginning at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 11. Those in attendance were Lloyd Ambrosius, Pat Crews, Sue Gildersleeve, Kim Hachiya, Earl Hawkey, Julie Johnson, Rita Kean, Linda Major, Al Stark, and Jane Zatechka.

Memory Moments: (Since September 20, 2022)

Gertrude "Trudy" Burge, Journalism and Mass Communication

Richard "Dick" Dam, Biochemistry and Nutrition

Lavon Sumption, Animal Science and Nebraska Extension

Roger Welsch, English

Jon Nelson, Art and Art History

Carla Buhler, Libraries, wife of Steve Buhler, English

Minutes of the September board and membership meetings were approved as submitted and distributed.

Earl Hawkey distributed a Treasurer's Report; there were no questions.

Committee/Activities Reports

Awards (Lloyd Ambrosius), No activity to report

Benefits (Sue Gildersleeve), Sue said suggestions made at a previous board meeting about bookstore discounts, and how to sign up for parking at NIC were added to the benefits document on the website. Pat thanked Sue and Al for these revisions.

Bylaws/Policies (Jim Griesen, absent), Julie Johnson said the committee had nothing to report.

Kim suggested having a Program Committee to help come up with ideas, deal with caterers and venues, and helping out at the luncheons to ease the tasks assigned to the President elect. Linda said that might be helpful in for the President Elect with programming, luncheon day organization, brainstorming and getting more people involved. Julie said she and Jim would look into this.

The question was posed: do we need to have a statement/guidelines for what we will communicate to the membership? (discussion deferred to later in the meeting)

Campus Engagement/OLLI (Rita Kean), Rita stated she had been in touch with Laurie Bellows (Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs) about Honors programs, and Rita did send the information that our members can help with coat drives, sober tailgates, university conduct board, catering volunteer, etc. Pat was struck by the number of opportunities that are available.

We talked about somehow letting membership know of opportunities and letting them select what interests them. Linda suggested resurrecting the website with volunteer opportunities, duties and time commitments, and contacts. Part of Student Affairs 5-year plan is to increase engagement students in recovery; Sober Tailgate is tied to UNL's efforts for students in recovery (there's about 300). Linda said someone in Student Affairs can populate and format the information and then we can post. Honors is interested in a "fellows in residence" person who can help critique writing, help with grad school applications. Rita wants to be sure that emeriti volunteers understand what's involved and the commitment they would be making.

Digital Communications (Al Stark), deferred to new business He is still looking for someone to assist him with this, especially in terms of helping post things in a timely manner.

Educational Activities (Nancy Mitchell/Don Weeks), Nancy and Don were absent so no report other than reminder there is a tour of The Scarlet Hotel on Oct. 12.

Publications (Alice Henneman), she sent a report but was unable to attend the meeting. Pat thanked her for her written report.

Membership (Don Weeks), no report

Scholarships (Earl Hawkey/Jim Griesen), Earl still needs access to our foundation accounts; he will follow up.

Social Events (Jane Zatecha/Jim Griesen) Jane said the Wilderness Ridge coffee attracted about 50 people. She suggested we do it again in the spring as people seem to enjoy the locale. Al asked if we needed pre-printed nametags for social events. We decided that someone should bring sheets of blanks and a sharpie and let people make their own. Al said he could bring some.

Old Business/Announcements

Nominee for Vice President/President-elect –Larry Dlugosh- Nominee
Nominees for additional Directors per change in bylaws

2023 –1. Gary Heusel-Nominee 2. Rita Kean (replaced M. Norby) -Continuing

2024—2. Roshan Pajnigar- Nominee 2. Dave Wilson - Continuing

2025—1. Nancy Mitchell – Nominee 2. Tom McFarland - Nominee

Pat has received no additional nominees by the Oct 10 deadline. Nominees stand unopposed and are our new directors. Pat will invite Larry to our November board meeting and all directors will be invited to the retreat.

New Business

Brainstorming ideas for speakers for spring 2023 luncheon meetings. Linda Major and a small ad hoc program committee generated a list. That group was interested in in-house as well as community presenters, and in having student groups entertain. Rita suggested there be an ERA-sponsored reception for new deans/administrators. Pat asked Jane Z to see if we could invite new deans, administrators for just an informal meeting. We also talked about meeting with the student president and other student leaders. Pat noted there's less pressure to have the entire semester outlined by December than in the past when we sent "save the date" cards, but having speakers and date commitments are helpful. Linda will talk with Larry D. about the list and suggest that they pursue the Early Childhood Education topic for January.

Discussion of establishing a policy concerning from which UNL units or local organizations information and appeals may be distributed to members via ERA's email Listserv.

We engaged in a robust discussion of whether we needed a policy, to whom it would be limited (internal vs. external groups? Student focused? Volunteer or fundraising? Informational?) We don't want to flood folks' inboxes. Pat located a place the Policies and Procedures in regarding who has access to the database and said that most uses need to be approved by the board or executive board for a one-time use. Pat said maybe that's just the best way to handle requests. Pat asked Julie and Jim to look at it, and suggested they pull in others as necessary and report back in November.

Report on meeting with Chris Tran, Director, Benefits & Risk Management, and Steve Beck, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Human Resources

Pat Crews and Don Weeks met with them in September. They are planning a pre-retirement in-person meeting in February or March 2023 and will allow the ERA president to present. Beck suggested we become involved with the Chancellor's Service Awards to hand out info, welcome, etc. He also offered several ideas for the website update. When the board meets in the spring with the Chancellor, we could suggest doing this. Tran offered to see if the list could be provided to membership chair monthly. He would need to get approval from the Chancellor and Mike Zeleny. Legal has no issues with this. So they are looking at a mechanism. Tran said they realized recently that they had no way to communicate with all retirees to let them know of benefits changes as they had never asked for email addresses. They were receptive and had given thought to ways they can help us. Tran suggested that because our website says "emeriti" it doesn't seem inviting to retirees. He suggested we rebrand ourselves to be welcoming to retirees.

Suggestions and discussion of URL for "rebranding" the ERA website

Al Stark said we need to make sure the homepage is welcoming. Using the URL of ERA is not an option for us. We discussed using Emeritiandretirees.unl.edu. Some suggested just using retirees but others felt dropping emeriti might cause offense. Al noted it's the content people are after, not really the URL. Al will touch base with University Communication and see if they have recommendations. Board approved changing the URL to emeritiandretirees.unl.edu (the old address will work and redirect for at least 2 years)

Discussion of volunteer opportunities –If you have any ideas get back to Rita.

Update on ERA membership Meetings – Linda Major will send out one last pitch for Oct. 18 meeting (right now 54 have registered) Linda thanked Al for sending out the link to Margaret Jacobs' presentation; she noted that two who worked on the NET documentary several years ago want to touch base with Margaret.

2022 Membership Meeting Dates and Speakers

Tuesday, October 18 – President Ted Carter, Great Plains Room, Nebraska East Union

November 15 –Chancellor Ronnie Green, NU Foundation and Nebraska Alumni Association. Location: International Quilt Museum

Thursday, December 15 – Jacob Schlange, Asst. Director of Experiential Learning & Global Initiatives, University Honors Program. History of Redline Policies from a National, State, and Local Perspective. Location: Nebraska East Union

ERA Board Meeting Dates in 2022

Nov. 10, Thursday, 1:30 pm – Board Meeting --In-Person, Steinhart Room, Wick Ctr.

Dec.1, Thursday, 1:30 pm – EXEC. Board Meeting – Via Zoom

Dec. 8, Thursday, 11:30 am -1:30 pm – Board Retreat --In-Person, Garden Room, East Union

Meeting adjourned 2:51 p.m