

UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association Board of Directors

Sept. 14, 2023

234 Louise Pound Hall

Minutes submitted by Kim Hachiya, association secretary, October 10, 2023, and approved (as corrected/submitted) October 10, 2023

**Attendance:** Pat Crews, Linda Major, Earl Hawkey, Kim Hachiya, Don Weeks, Gary Heusel, Roshan Pajnigar, Alice Henneman, Nancy Mitchell, Tom McFarland, Jim Griesen

**Visitor:**

Maegan Stevens Liska, AVC for Global Affairs, spoke to the board to talk about synergies and collaborations we might explore. Among Global Affairs duties are managing study abroad opportunities, helping international students with visa compliance issues, etc. Once located in various campus buildings, they were able to pull all their units together into Pound Hall, thanks to a gift from the Howard Buffett Foundation.

Dr. Griesen asked about “Lincoln Friends of Foreign students” and is something like that still viable or operating? Maegan said they do have a “dinner in a Nebraska Home” program. ERA would like to be involved in that.

Alice suggested maybe some sort of presence about Global Strategy in our newsletter along the lines of “How many things about UNL Global Strategy do you know?”

Linda wondered about whether Global Strategies would prefer “high touch vs. light touch” activities? Would working with English as a second or learned language be useful?

Maegan said informal links with international students do create memories and are useful for the students.

(As an aside, we noted that the previous director, Josh Davis, is the chief of staff for Chancellor Bennett)

**Memory Moments:** (Since August 10, 2023)

**Larry Bitney**, Agricultural Economics

**M. Jane Stewart**, Business Education

**Todd Georgi**, Biology

**John Gross**, NE Unions

**Alan Moeller**, IANR

**June Splichal**, Chemistry

**Tom Slocum**, University Communication/Photography Services

**Barbara Duncan**, Nebraska Union

**Jessica Kennedy-Matthews**, Alumni Association, Sheldon Art Museum

**Joanne Rice**, widow of Duane Rice, Extension, and Extension

As our bylaws require the reading of Memory Moments names at our luncheons, we will collect the sadly long list since May to read at the September meeting.

**The minutes of the August Board meeting were approved as submitted.**

**Treasurer’s Report:** Earl Hawkey

Checking balance is down due to several reimbursements for travel.

We paid out our Wisherd fund grants.

**Committee/Activities Report**

**Awards:** Pat Crews said the Wisherd award recipients were announced in the newsletter. They are Julie Johnson, for outstanding service to community, and Jake Kirkland, for outstanding service to UNL. These will be formally presented in person at the December meeting, which is the meeting with UNL Chancellor Rodney Bennett. Both nominees were pleased by the recognition. Alice suggested we include their photos with the chancellor in the newsletter in Winter 2024. We may want to change our bylaws/policies to indicate that the award will be made in the recipient's names to our scholarship fund. The foundation does have rules about how these are dispersed. We decided to indicate that the awards will be sent in their names to the scholarship fund.

**Benefits:** Roshan Pajngar said she and Debbie Hendricks met with Brian Schlichting, who is Assistant Vice President and Director of Benefits in the Office of Business and Finance at Central Administration. He did not know of anything they might be able to add to our ERA benefits. Roshan is looking to see about possibility of parking for all members and perhaps access to the EAP. She will review the documents. Don Weeks said we do not get a list from CA of their retirees. We will follow up to see if that can occur. Linda noted that she uses a list from CA of all university employees who have died to augment the lists we develop from personal knowledge or newspaper obituaries.

**Bylaws/Policies:** Jim Griesen; no needed report.

**Campus Engagement:** Linda reported for Rita Kean that she works with Andrew Brown in SLICE (Student Leadership, Involvement and Community Engagement) to look for volunteer opportunities.

**Digital Communications:** Linda reported for Alfred Stark) with event registrations as of Sept. 9:  
Sip & Learn 47  
Fall Coffee 28  
Luncheon Meeting 69 (47 ordered meals; 3 attending for first time)  
He said he will note on nametags who is a first-time attendee. He noted that meeting will again be on Zoom; Bruce Mitchell will help with camera operations.

**Educational Activities/OLLI/Tours: Nancy Mitchell**

Linda, reporting about OLLI, said she met with OLLI Director Bob Michl. Currently, we are sharing our databases. Of OLLI's 1,400 members, 6 percent belong to both ERA and OLLI. Of our 500 members, about 7 percent belong to OLLI. We think the "very involved in ERA" are also OLLI members. There is potential for collaboration.

Nancy reported the fall tour is concurrent with the October meeting at Carolyn Pope Edwards Hall. We talked about future tour opportunities including the new Go Big athletics center, Pinnacle Bank Arena for a "behind the scenes," new Engineering complex. There was a lot of good feedback on the May 2023 behind the scenes at Lied and perhaps that might be offered in 2024 in collaboration with OLLI.

**Membership:** Donald Weeks asked how calling and welcoming new members has gone. Nancy reported she called and left messages. She wondered if having the president send a welcome email would be appropriate. Roshan said the ones she talked to are appreciative. Don praised Marilyn Fenton's efforts on our behalf. New members will be noted at the September meeting. Roshan asked will we continue the calling? Don said "we don't want to be a pest but perhaps if we contacted new members as they join every six months. Linda thinks touching base with new members periodically was helpful.

**Oral History:** Linda, reporting for Doug Jose, said he has recorded with Colleen Jones and Terry Riordan.

**Publications:** Alice Henneman We thanked and praised Alice for the newsletter. Alice thanked the board for its contributions to the newsletter. As a result of the survey, we added more info on UNL Happenings: Dairy Store, lobbyist, book suggestions. The newsletter was sent to the chancellor, VCs, and Deans with a headnote that said: learn how our 400 members contribute to UNL. She said about 70% did open the email. Those who receive the email get it as both a PDF and URL on the first go round; the second bump is just the URL. She asked for ideas for the February 2024 newsletter. She wants to continue the book suggestions lists. Ideas included an update on the Quilt Museum. She also sent out a list of dates/deadlines, etc. Linda suggested asking the deans if they have ideas. Alice will be leaving her position as editor after the February edition. She has done a great job in revitalizing the newsletter. She is soliciting names for a new editor.

**Scholarships:** Earl Hawkey there is \$750 pending to the scholarship fund. He is hoping the donations pick up as we get closer to the end of the year. The inaugural recipient is Grace Nguyen, who is a sophomore from Lincoln (Pius X graduate) enrolled in the Explore Center as a pre-med. Perhaps do a story in the newsletter and invite her to a meeting in the Spring.

**Social Events:** Jane Zatechka and Jim Griesen Jim reported the coffee chat at Wilderness Ridge will be Sept 26.

#### **Old Business/Announcements**

- Amount donated to the scholarship in honor of Ronnie Green. We agreed on \$250
- Meeting with new and returning administrators: Linda (deferred to another meeting)
  - Combine with Fall Coffee
  - Collaborate with Faculty Affairs

#### **New Business**

- Nominations for 2024
  - Vice President/President-Elect (Larry is suggesting we invite Pam Edwards, formerly assistant director at Dining Services in Housing as president elect; Gary and Rita have accepted another term for at large members.
  - Campus Engagement: ?
  - Publications: ?
  - At-Large Board of Director seats (Rita Kean and Gary Heusel have both agreed to serve a second term)
- ERA Volunteer Job Responsibilities Template – review and discuss
- Assist with registration desk at September meeting and meeting minutes (Pat Crews agreed to do this).
- Reschedule October board meeting to Tuesday, October 10, 1:30 p.m. in person at East Union.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

Fall Coffee – Tuesday, September 26, 9:30 am, on the deck at Wilderness Ridge (1800 Wilderness Woods Place, 68512), reservation requested

Sip and Learn (in collaboration with OLLI) - Thursday, September 28, 4:00 pm, Whispering Winds Vineyards & Tasting Room, 5025 Lindberg St, reservation requested

International Discussion Group – Wednesday, October 4, 3:00 pm, Gere Library - Emeritus Professor of Agronomy Chuck Francis will speak on “Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems: Transformative

Changes Needed in the Future"

2023 OLLI Fall Symposium - Saturday, October 14 - "Misinformation and Conspiracy Theories: Why People Believe them and How to Address Them," reservation required

**ERA Board of Directors 2023 Fall Meeting Schedule:**

Thursday, September 14, 1:30 pm, Louise Pound Hall Room 234

AMENDED TO Tuesday, Oct. 10, East Union

Thursday, November 9, 1:30 pm, location TBA

Thursday, December 14, 11:30 am, location TBA - strategic planning meeting

**2023 Membership Fall Meeting Dates and Speakers:**

**Thursday, September 21** - location: East Campus Union

George Ayoub, Adjunct Professor at Hastings College

Topic: **Conspiracy Theories and Misinformation**

**Tuesday, October 17** - location: Carolyn Pope-Edwards Hall

Sherri Jones, Dean of College of Education & Human Sciences

Topic: **The Future of Public Education**

**Thursday, November 16** - location: East Campus Union

Julia Torquati, Professor Child, Youth & Family Studies

Topic: **Early Childhood Development**

**Tuesday, December 12** - location: Cornhusker Hotel

Meet Chancellor Rodney Bennett

**2023 ERA Executive Committee Fall Meeting Dates**

Thursday, December 1, 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm, Location TBA