

APPROVED 10.24.2024 by Kim Hachiya, Secretary
UNL-ERA Board of Directors Meeting
1:30 PM – 3:30 PM. September 19, 2024
Nebraska East Union – Prairie suite

The Board of Directors of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Emeriti and Retirees Association met at 1:30 p.m. Sept. 19, 2024, in the Nebraska East Union.

Attendance: Connie Boehm, Pat Crews, Larry Dlugosh, Pam Edwards, Kim Hachiya, Earl Hawkey, Vicki Highstreet, Julie Johnson, Doug Jose, Rita Kean, Marjorie Kostelnik, Linda Major, Tom McFarland, Nancy Mitchell, Roshan Pajnigar, Don Weeks, Jane Zatechka,

President Dlugosh called the meeting to order with the Memory Moments:

Dan Howard	Art and Art History
Ann Pardy	Wife of Ted Pardy, Biological Sciences
Deborah Sesow	Wife of Bill Sesow, College of Education and Human Sciences
Sybil Gruhl,	wife of John Gruhl, political science
George Reichenbach	College of Dentistry
Rich Hoover	Education and Human Sciences

Larry tossed “Bouquets of recognition” to Kim Hachiya and Earl Hawkey for their reports. It was noted that the late M Colleen Jones, College of Business, received Woman of the Year, posthumously, from Inspire Lincoln

Minutes for the August Board Meeting and September Membership Meeting, submitted by Kim Hachiya, were approved as corrected.

Treasurer’s Report: Earl Hawkey said we need to do a push to the membership in the final quarter to suggests gifts to the Scholarship fund. We did try at the coffee and got \$20 but not a great response. Worth a try but we need a bigger pot. Linda suggested we try to have a challenge grant to get people to commit a certain amount annually over three years. Marjorie Kostelnik said we need to try to figure out how to lift this up in our members’ minds and remind them to give specifically to this fund, and get them into the habit.

Committee/Activities Reports

Awards: Patricia Crews/Marjorie Kostelnik (Rita Kean, Jake Kirkland Jr.) Pat said the committee met and reviewed nominations. They selected a recipient for the outstanding service to UNL award, noting the recipient had the strongest sheaf of supporting documents ever. Will announce it publicly in December at the Chancellor’s luncheon. Recipient is Bob Diffendal. There were no nominees for community service, and no applications for the research grants.

Benefits: Roshan Pajnigar (Tom McFarland) Roshan reported she and Tom met. The want to fix some broken links on the web. She contacted UPC and asked them to allow all retirees to get discounts with their N Cards. Athletics tickets: if retirees have held their tickets for 10 years prior to retirement, you get discounted tickets; emeriti do not have the 10-year rule. Roshan is working to make this equitable.

Oral History: Doug Jose said he enjoys doing the interviews but the logistics of filming and videoing has become an issue. Doug contacted Jamie Wenz at COJMC who sent him to Kristian Anderson at COJMC; Doug is meeting with Kristian to see what they can do. Maybe 1 to 3 shoots per semester using the college's studio, doing two to three interviews at each session. Doug said the last person he interviewed was M. Colleen Jones. Doug is working with Alfred Stark to get them uploaded to the website. We agreed publicizing them in the newsletter would be great, including possibly a bit of text from the interviews. Goal: preserve contributions and history of UNL. Marjorie suggested we try to "institutionalize" this and push viewership. Doug is looking for someone to take this project over in January 2025. We suggested Mary Jane Bruce, formerly with University Communication.

Bylaws/Policies: Jim Griesen/Julie Johnson Julie: No report

Campus Engagement: Vicki Highstreet reported two new folks signed up to be mentors. They also are looking for folks to help with voter registration. Training for this is online. Other opportunities include East Campus gardens, quilt museum, Connect Lincoln – working with Lincoln Homeless Coalition Oct. 16. Engage Lincoln: host school-age students at the Capitol. Homecoming Blood Drive.

Digital Communications: Alfred Stark (Bruce Mitchell) The online payment rollout will be in November.

Educational Activities/OLLI: Nancy Mitchell Fall tour is at the Barkley Center in November; \$10 OLLI discount; October symposium with OLLI (Rural – Urban divide); requires pre-registration.

Program Committee: Pam Edwards/Vicki Highstreet (Stan Campbell, Lyda Snodgrass, Linda Schwarzkopf, John Hibbing, Hugh McDermott) Pam reported Dee Dee Anderson was great and Dee Dee reported enjoying the session. John Hibbing will present on Oct. 17 at the East Union. Larry said Student Life is going to put out a newsletter and they wanted to push to our members; we said we will help publicize the website and tell our members how to receive it.

Publications: Connie Boehm (Charlyne Berens) Connie thanked all persons for contributing. A revised version was sent. Connie is looking for photo images from the last meeting. We can publicize the December meeting in the November newsletter. Alumni will give the Doc Elliott award at the December meeting. Larry will be meeting with Annette Wetzal ASAP. Connie wants pix to publicize folks volunteering.

Memberships: Donald Weeks thanked Vicki and Kim who helped at Service Awards. The pre-retirement seminar will be in April 2025. And, he noted a new crop of members will join in December. Larry: our goal on new members is inviting folks to participate and engage with us.

Scholarships: Earl Hawkey (Already reported)

Social Events: Jane Zatechka/Jim Griesen Jane reported there will be coffee at 9:30 a.m. Oct 8 at Tabitha SAGE building and tour. Sept. 1 event was well attended.

Old Business:

New Business:

Progress Report:

1. **Strategic Planning Goals**

- a. Goal #1: The ERA will cultivate a culture of inclusivity and diversity where individuals of all identities feel a sense of belonging. **Linda Major, Tom McFarland, Jake Kirkland, Nancy Myers**

Linda reported that the committee is a work in progress. They revised the original goal to emphasize belongingness. Goals informed by the feedback from SWOT. 1. Disparity in benefits (including parking) and the immediate shutdown of email when a staff person dies. 2. Sense that we are invisible; work with Marketing to improve that. 3. Work with programming to help develop special interest groups like a lunch group, book groups. We also talked about different venues for meetings that won't require university parking. Hoping that as our website and newsletter moves forward, we help showcase and celebrate diversity. Larry said one benefit of our group is working to assuage loneliness among older folks.

Linda: other challenges are that not everyone has a positive experience on campus and folks maybe don't want to affiliate with a group of people they didn't like.

- b. Goal #5: ~~Mentor~~ **Partner** and connect with pre-retirees and early retirees. (Wording changed to emphasize partnerships). **Vicki Highstreet, Rita Kean, Roshan Pajnigar** Pam said they met with some folks from SLICE and Student Affairs/Student Life to let people know of our existence. VH handed out program cards and calendar. Change the word/concept of "mentor" to a partnership – sharing and respectful listening.

2. **Introduction to SharePoint** – Linda Major and Alfred Stark. Postponed to Oct. 24 board meeting.

Nominations

The Executive Committee of the ERA Board is charged with the nomination of new officers for 2025.

Nominations for Vice President: **Vick Highstreet**

Nominations for Board of Directors: (three-year term)

Roshan Pajnigar

Alice Henneman

Lyda Snodgrass

Jim Lewis

Are there further nominations?

Larry said he will set up a Zoom meeting with the executive committee.

Announcements/Information:

1. Information from Meeting with Student Life Leadership Group – Pam Edwards
2. Two Committees are needed so the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association can be prepared for future events. By the October Board of Directors meeting please have some names ready to recommend for (1) a committee on Sponsorships and (2) a steering

committee to begin the process of planning the 2028 Big Ten Retirees Association Meeting at UNL. Larry will ask some past presidents to help serve on this; he wants to convene an initial group before the end of the year. Suggestion: send an email to the BTRA and ask them what they know about UNL and what they want to know.

Other Matters That Need the Attention of the Board:

It will not be possible to use on-line registration and payment for the October General Membership Meeting. **November is the new target date for rolling out the platform.

Next Board Meeting:

The next Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 24, 2024, from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM.

Adjournment at 2:57 p.m.