

UNL Emeriti & Retirees Association
Membership Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 14, 2021 – Via Zoom

President, Kim Hachiya, called the meeting to order at 11:30 am.

Memory Moments:

David Skoug - Mathematics and Statistics
Kenneth Schmale – Athletics Event Staff
L. Dennis Smith – University of Nebraska President, Emeritus
C. C. Hudson – Teachers College
Mary Ourecky - International Quilt Museum
Vernon Kuhn – Electrician, Custodial Services

Announcements:

Budget - The Board of Directors have approved the following items:

- Increased to \$100 from \$50 the honorarium provided to UNL Libraries in the name of the speaker at each monthly ERA membership meeting
- A one-time donation of \$500 donated to the UNL Student Pantry to support students in need
- UNL is launching a Teammates program and ERA is making a one-time donation of \$200 to underwrite the cost of background checks for the new mentoring program. Linda Majors and Amy Goodburn will share information:

Amy Goodburn, Associate Vice Chancellor, discussed the First Generation Nebraska pilot program and its connection with students. This initiative was first started in 2002. Currently about 25% of our undergraduates are first generation college students. The program involves several facets: alumni engagement; scholarship programs; Teammates program; college mentoring; and networking with students. Background checks are required for mentors and will be sponsored, in part, by ERA. Linda stated that there will be more detailed information provided to the ERA members in the near future.

Kim indicates that the 2021 Commencement ceremonies for graduate students will be held on May 7 at Pinnacle Bank Arena. The ceremonies on May 8 for undergrads will be held at Memorial Stadium (with a May 9th rain date). The Alumni Association is requesting assistance from ERA members to help greet graduates, parents and friends. Volunteers will need to be tested for COVID - even if they have had vaccinations. Information will be sent out at a later date.

Lloyd Ambrosius: ERA awards. The nomination deadline is May 15 for the three Wisherd awards – Outstanding Community Service; Outstanding Service to UNL; and Outstanding National/International Humanitarian Service. Instructions for making a nomination can be obtained on the ERA website along with descriptions of the awards.

We are resuming Coffee Chats: The next Coffee Chat is scheduled for April 29th. Jim Greisen will be providing details soon. The following Coffee Chat will be held in June at Wilderness Ridge. Jane Zatechka will be providing information regarding that event in the near future.

Pat Crews shared information on the upcoming fall meetings: October – “Impact of Local Philanthropy on Nebraska Communities”, presented by Jeff Yost and Chuck Hibberd. This will be held at the Nebraska East Union followed by a tour of the newly remodeled facilities; November – Paul Read will talk about “Vines and Wines- Nebraska Viticulture” to be held at the Lancaster County Extension Center; and December – Claire Stewart, Director of Libraries, will report on updates of the UNL Library system in her talk at the Lancaster County Extension Center.

Pat Crews introduced the April ERA speaker, Dr. Judy Wu-Smart, IANR Extension and Research Entomologist and Director of the UNL Bee Lab. Her talk was entitled “The Buzz about Bees - Research Updates and Education Efforts Across Nebraska and Beyond”. Her discussion included the following: Pollination Service by Insects; Pollination Service by Bees; Enhancing Habitat for Pollinators; Multiple Factors on Bee Health Declines; Viral Transmission among Bees on Different Landscapes; Integrated Pesticide Management for Bee Keepers; Landscape Enhancement to Reduce Pesticide Drift. She noted that each colony contains 30,000 to 60,000 Bees. This was followed by an extensive discussion of how the die-off of Dr. Wu-Smart’s bee colonies near the ethanol plant near Mead, NE, led to the discovery of a major contamination of the local environment by chemicals washed from the seed coatings of surplus seed corn used for ethanol production.

Kim Hachiya thanked Dr. Wu-Smart for the great talk and adjourned the meeting at 12:40

Respectfully submitted,

Dora Dill, ERA Co-Secretary