

## ERA Membership Meeting

January 25, 2022

Respectfully submitted by Kim Hachiya, secretary

Approved by Executive Board on Feb. 10, 2022

The UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association general membership met via Zoom on Jan. 25, 2022. Pat Crews, ERA president, called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. Approximately 45 people were on the call. Al Stark opened the meeting room at 11 a.m. and members enjoyed conversation prior to the meeting's opening.

Pat said we are following UNL Chancellor Ronnie Green's request that on-campus in-person meetings be temporarily curtailed due to Covid. The February meeting also will be via Zoom. She said she hoped we can resume in-person activities in March.

The following individuals were remembered during a moment of silence.

Lon Dubois, spouse of Myrna Dubois, UNL Extension Educator

Lee Allen Graham, Department of Chemistry; NU Central Administration IT

Jean McBride, widow of Jack McBride, University Television

JoAnn Kimball, NU Central Administration

Jack Botts, College of Journalism and Mass Communications

Anna Shavers, College of Law.

Pat reminded the group that we have formally established the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association Scholarship through the NU Foundation. We have five years to fully endow the scholarship at \$30,000, although the first scholarship will be awarded in spring 2022 for use in the fall 2022 semester. The scholarship is need based and will be awarded by the UNL Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid to students who have completed at least 28 credit hours. The decision to award to an upper-division student was made because many scholarships are geared toward first-year students but often it's upper division students who may struggle with finances. Pat encouraged members who have a Required Minimum Distribution (RMDs) to take this year from a retirement IRA to consider donating to the scholarship.

Pat expressed hope that we endow the scholarship before the five-year deadline. Kim Hachiya, past president, said we will participate in Glow Big Red, a university-wide fundraising effort coordinated by the NU Foundation. Glow Big Red runs from Noon Feb. 16 to Noon Feb. 17. Jim Griesen has provided a challenge gift match of \$500. To donate, go to [glowbigred.unl.edu](http://glowbigred.unl.edu) and search for UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association Scholarship.

Don Weeks reported that we will tour HuskerVision on March 16 (a Wednesday during Spring Break). The tour will start at 9:15 a.m. Trev Alberts, NU director of Athletics, will welcome the group; we will tour the various facilities afterwards. Free parking is available in the Champions Club parking lot just west of the Stadium. Watch your email for more information.

Pat reminded the group to watch email in early February for the Winter/Spring newsletter. She said the ERA board met in December and outlined goals and priorities for 2022. Among them are increasing the number of applications for Wisherd Awards for service to UNL and to the Community, and Wisherd research/scholarly activity grants.

Pat noted our next meeting will be Feb. 17 and the speakers will be Joe Brownell, director of UNL's Military and Veteran Success Center, and Tom Allison, senior adviser.

Pat introduced the day's speaker, Dr. Marco Barker, who is the first vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion. Dr. Barker joined UNL on April 1, 2019.

He spoke about UNL's ongoing diversity, inclusion and education efforts, and how we can support and be involved.

Barker said UNL's efforts are premised on the idea of "Inclusive Excellence," which he defined as active, intentional and ongoing engagement with diversity; recognition of the importance of the various communities through which individuals connect to each other and to UNL; and that this permeates both curricula and co-curricular experiences.

Alumni and groups like Emeriti and Retirees Association also have roles to play, he said. Among them are specifically supporting diversity and inclusion initiatives and partnerships. Emeriti and Retirees Association members in particular can help lead discussion groups, assist with student and faculty recruitment, invite folks like Barker and others to present to various organization, attend events, and support efforts via scholarships.

Barker recommended people visit their office website at [diversity.unl.edu](http://diversity.unl.edu) for more information.

After Barker's talk, Pat thanked him and noted that in lieu of a speaker's gift, an honorarium will be sent in his name to the UNL Libraries Development Fund.

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