**MSURA Board Meeting Minutes**

**January 9, 2013**

**The meeting of the MSU Retirees Association was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on January 9, 2012 in room 125 Nisbet Building.**

**Present: Sharon Butler, Stephanie Barch, Dave Brower, Nancy Craig, John Forsyth, Gale Gower, Jerry Hull, Al LeBlanc, Rosemary Pavlik, Marilyn Rothert, Patrick Scheetz, Ron Smith, Joan Smith, Brenda Spackman, Bob Wenner, Darlene Wenner and Gordon Williams**

**The minutes of the December 2012 MSURA Board meeting were approved as prepared by Gale Gower.**

**Human Resources Update: Sharon Butler outlined a number of significant leadership changes at the University which include Dr. Posten’s return to the Dean’s position effective immediately, the leaving of Provost Wilcox and the retirement of Dr. Gift. Sharon mentioned that Human Resources staff is busy interpreting the Affordable Care Act and a University-wide committee has been appointed to look into the effect of the provision that requires health-care benefits be offered to those who work 30 hours per week. The law goes into effect January 1, 2014. There is nothing in the legislation that affects the offering of health care benefits for retirees.**

**Treasurer’s Report: Bob Wenner presented the MSURA Financial Statement for November/December 2012, which still does not show the return of $4500 from the Development Fund which was incorrectly posted three months ago. The donor list problem has supposedly solved and should be coming to Dave Brower electronically each month. We expect printing costs to be slightly under budgeted amounts for the remainder of the year.**

**United Way Report: Darlene Wenner indicated that $50, 345 had been collected as of year-end. Some additional amounts are in hand. A small increase over last year’s employee contributions is expected.**

**President’s Report: Ron Smith indicated he does not intend to run for President of MSURA in the upcoming year and encouraged current Board Members to consider running. A Nominations committee has been appointed and is working to find candidates to fill vacancies on the Board, including the Vice President and Secretary positions. A committee is working on details of the Annual Meeting. After discussing costs of the luncheon, the price for the upcoming luncheon was set at $22 per plate. This cost assumes a reasonable contribution from the MSURA Treasury since the cost of the meal, 18% gratuity, 6 %sales tax exceed $21 per plate. Set-up costs, speaker’s meal and other office supply costs are not covered by the luncheon cost.**

**Vice President’s Report: Rosemary reported that 67 people attended the December speaker’s program despite the last minute speaker change. She asked for suggestions for additional monthly program speakers and indicated a number of individuals that she is contacting regarding the April program which still is not filled. The mailing to retirees who reside in Florida for all or part of the year has gone out. That program will be held in March. Rosemary reported that she is working on having another tour of the MSU Recycling Center because she heard from so many people who were unable to attend the tour last fall. She is also trying to arrange a tour of the Broad Museum for MSURA. After discussion, it was decided that the experiment of having name tags prepared for retirees who come to the monthly meeting was not working well and so a return to the previous name tag system will be used. Beginning next month, those attending the monthly speaker meetings will simply write out a name tag for themselves upon checking in at the program.**

**Past President’s Report: Patrick Scheetz received approval to finalize details of an additional information meeting to be held at the MSUFCU – Farm Lane Branch on January 28th. The meeting will bring in speakers from Straight Line, an employee benefit service of MSU provided to all employees and retirees. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 allowed employers to select an appropriate financial service firm to help employees (and retirees) manage their retirement accounts, if they want such assistance, since most employees don’t have the time and/or inclination to actually manage their accounts. Rather, the employee makes certain decisions at a point in time, saves money according to that decision and forgets about their retirement until a much later date. The meeting will briefly review the services available to employees and will primarily discuss the upcoming federal and state issues affecting the economy and retirement planning.**

**A number of retirees were distressed to hear of the demise of Evening College, as we have known it. These complaints focused on two issues; Evening College was a wonderful community resource for retirees who often took classes, especially in areas new to them and many retired faculty/staff taught in the Evening College. MSURA believes these enrichment, non-credit classes are not available elsewhere in the community. Additionally, expert, renowned and brilliant faculty and staff who taught in Evening College during their retirement may be disenfranchised and the decision the “change” Evening College was rather arbitrary and without community input. John Forsyth as liaison to the Faculty Emeriti group will bring up this matter and report back to MSURA. Patrick and others on the Board will try to talk with those involved in decision to change Evening College to try to find out what is behind the decision. In the meantime, a letter of protest from MSURA will be put on hold.**

**Health Benefits Committee Report: No Report since the committee has not met.**

**Membership Committee: No Report since the committee has not met.**

**Office Management: Gale Gower passed around an Office Volunteer schedule. Gale will schedule an Annual Meeting committee.**

**Communications Reports: Al LeBlanc reported that the last newsletter only cost $866 to print. The deadline for the next newsletter is tomorrow. Stan Hecker will be filling in as editor for that issue.**

**John Forsyth reported that the download problems of the last month have now been solved. MSURA has not yet received the computer promised by Craig Gunn, but he and Gale will try to find out what is going on in that regard. A new problem seems to have developed relative to retiree directory information. In the new system, there doesn’t seem to be any way for retirees to get an address or phone number for other retirees, since the printed directory was discontinued and the new system does not carry that information on the web. Additionally, the web does not indicate the department or major administrative unit from which the individual retired. MSURA has received a number of requests for such information both from retirees and from MSU departments.**

**Gordon Williams mentioned that 3400 individuals are receiving E-notices and that the E-Notice really came in handy during December when the change in monthly speaker needed to be announced at the last minute.**

**Old Newsboys Report: Brenda Spackman was pleased to report that the 2012 Old Newsboy’s goal was surpassed. Old Newsboys received a number of grants and so far this year they have supplied 6000 pairs of shoes and boots for needy children.**

**The meeting adjourned at 11:30. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 6, 2013**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Joan Smith, Secretary**