**MSURA Board Meeting Minutes**

**November 6, 2013**

The meeting of the MSU Retirees Association was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on November 6, 2013 in room 125 Nisbet Building. Past President Patrick Scheetz presided in the absence of President Ron Smith.

Present: Jerry Hull, David Brower, John Forsyth, Etta Abrahams, Patrick Scheetz, Stephanie Barch, Nancy Craig, Bob Wenner, Gordon Williams (guest), Gale Gower.

It was moved by Jerry Hull and seconded by Bob Wenner to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2013 MSURA Board meeting. The motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report: Bob Wenner submitted the treasurer’s report for September/October. It was accepted as submitted. Bob commented that there were a large number of subscriptions sent in, probably because there was a subscription form in the fall newsletter. Al LeBlanc is in touch with those organizations that regularly contribute to the publication of the newsletter.

Nancy Craig raised the issue of knowing when a subscription has run out if you are only getting the online version instead of the print version. John Forsyth said that he will work on that.

Donations must go through the University Development if the donor is to receive the tax incentive. If it comes to MSURA, we are not able to allow the tax deduction, Bob said.

Development/Budget Report: Dave Brower is still working to get an estimate of what retirees donate to the university.

The cost of mailing the newsletter is raising a question about our status as a non-profit organization since we have advertising in the newsletter. Dave is talking to Vickie in Mail Processing to see if this issue can be resolved. The Post Office says that we owe $600.00 in postage. The next mailing is the international edition in January 2014.

President’s Report: Patrick Scheetz gave a report in the absence of Ron Smith. He announced that the Big Ten President’s meeting will be held August 8-10, 2014 in Minnesota. Ron would like two representatives to go since we will be hosting the Big Ten Conference in 2015. Ron asks that interested parties please contact him.

Ron would like a committee formed by the first of the year to plan the 2015 Big Ten Conference. Dave Brower and Etta Abrahams volunteered. Nancy Craig suggested that the minutes from 2005 be reviewed for information since that was the last time we hosted.

Bob Wenner and Dave Brower were appointed by Ron to look into advertising and sponsorships.

Appropriate content for newsletters, e-notices and the webpage was discussed. Gordon Williams distributed a document , Message Communications Practices of the MSU Retirees Association, outlining how communications can be handled. Gordon would appreciate any further suggestions for this document before it goes into the operations manual.

Vice President’s Report: Etta Abrahams has contacted Chris Smith to confirm his presentation at the November 11 membership meeting on the topic of the LENS program. Jon Backus will be the presenter at the December membership meeting.

Etta has been in touch with the Theater Department about having students come to the Annual Luncheon with a skit about the Summer Circle Theater program. We could mention Summer Circle Theater in our newsletter. Gale Gower will contact Kellogg Center for room and menu information for the luncheon.

Past President’s Report: Patrick Scheetz asked for nominations for Volunteer of the Year award. He also asked for nominations for board positions for the next year.

Health Benefits Report: Marilyn Rothert was not able to be at the meeting, but had asked that a brief announcement be put in the newsletter explaining the new vision insurance option being offered.

United Way Report: Bob Wenner gave an update as Darlene Wenner was not able to attend. Bob reported that so far there have been 146 donors, with $33,201 being donated. Patrick Scheetz asked Gordon Williams to put a reminder on e-notices.

Membership Committee Report: Nancy Craig reported that there were 125 tickets requested for the Women’s Volleyball game.

The Lugnuts game outing will be on June 20, 2014. That will not be a Senior Event, but will have fireworks and a flat screen television set give-away. The price of tickets will probably be the same as last year.

The Old Newsboys paper sale will be on December 5, 2013.

MSURA Office Management Report: Gale thanked the Board for help covering the office.

Communications Report: Al LeBlanc was not able to be at the meeting, but Stephanie Barch said that she will see that the subscription form is in the next newsletter.

The deadline for the January 10, 2014 international newsletter is December 13, 2013.

John Forsyth reported that there were 2,800 visits to the website. John is getting member information in a new format from Human Resources. This format lists which addresses and phone numbers are restricted. He asked if we need a new rule for such information. We no longer use members’ alternate addresses since members have not updated us on those. We rely on the contact address provided by Human Resources.

Gordon Williams reported that there are 3,500 members on e-notices and 200 members on Twitter.

Other items: There was discussion about the proposed committee that plans to meet with President Simon. The purpose of the committee, according to Jerry Hull, is to let the President know how much MSURA contributes to the university, not to ask for money. No meeting with the President has been set up at this time. Etta Abrahams and John Forsyth asked to be included when the committee is set up. Others are Dave Brower, Rosemary Pavlik, Jerry Hull and Angie Brown.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45. The next meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2013 in room 125 Nisbet Building.