**MSURA BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

September 3, 2014

125 Nisbet Building

Present: Liz Thomas, Joe Cousins, Marilyn Rothert, John Forsyth, Angela Brown, Brenda Spackman, Patrick Scheetz, Nancy Craig, Al LeBlanc, David Brower, Louise Selanders, Ron Smith, Jerry Hull, and Gale Gower.

A picture of the Board was taken by Mary Lou Gifford before the board meeting started.

The meeting was called to order by President Patrick Scheetz at 10:10 a.m.

Minutes: A motion was made by Dave Brower and seconded by Angela Brown to accept the minutes from the August 13, 2014 meeting. The motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report: Dave Brower reported that MSURA has received a donation of $2,000 from MSU Human Resources and he has expressed our appreciation to Human Resources. He is in the process of preparing the August financial statements.

Dave is working to get all mail for the MSU Retirees Association to come to the office address at Nisbet Building instead of to the P.O. Box. He will continue to check the P.O. box since the contract goes through the end of the year. The correct address is: MSU Retirees Association, Suite 22 Nisbet Building, 1407 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823-5239.

Dave has researched the tax exempt status of MSURA, and he has found that under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code, the MSURA is a 501 (c ) (5), not a (c )(3) organization. A (c )(5) provides services to its members, in this case the MSU retirees. He is researching the term, ‘advertising revenues’.

Dave reported that the audit has been completed by Joe Lessard and Larry Cole. Bob Wenner is awaiting receipt of the report.

Dave contacted Monique Dozier, Assistant Vice President of University Advancement and learned that MSU retirees contributed $6,243,657.95 in gifts and pledges to MSU during this past year. Over the last five years, 2,444 retirees have committed $22,275,116.88 in donations and pledges to the University.

Budget and Finance: MSURA has a budget of approximately $20,000 for this year, with $30,000 in our account, Dave Brower reported.

Dave is preparing a draft budget for the 2015 Big Ten Retirees Association meeting which will take place at Michigan State University on August 14–16, 2015.

Proposed Policy on Announcing or Advertising MSU Research Studies: Al LeBlanc has been looking into requests MSURA gets to advertise research and non-MSU events. It was felt that more discussion was needed on this topic, and a motion to table the proposal was made by Dave Brower, seconded by Marilyn Rothert, and passed. A committee of Al LeBlanc, Anders Johanson and Gordon Williams will look into procedures for posting such items in MSURA newsletters, via eNotices and on the MSURA Facebook page.

Access to E-Resources via MSU Main Library by MSU Retirees: Angela Brown contacted Clifford Haka about MSU retirees accessing MSU Main Library eResources. Margot Kielhorn contacted Gordon Williams as a representative of the MSURA Board and requested an investigation into this matter. According to Cliff Haka, Director of MSU Libraries, MSU faculty emeriti have off-campus access to library eResources, but retired staff *do not* have this access. However, anyone who comes into the MSU Main Library can access all information, including eResources. Also, anyone with a Michigan driver’s license can go to the State of Michigan library and access information there. Angela will write an article for the newsletter about these policies, which unfortunately, will not be changing sign because of legally binding licensing agreements.

President’s Report: Patrick Scheetz made a motion to appoint Angela Brown as chairperson of the planning committee of the 2015 Big Ten Retiree Associations meeting to take place at MSU next summer. The motion was moved by John Forsyth and seconded by Ron Smith. The motion passed.

A photo contest among MSU retirees was discussed. Dave Brower will see what other university retirees are already doing.

MSURA must stay out of public campaigns and ballot proposal discussions according to research reported by President Scheetz. A question was posed by a Board member about the MSURA Board supporting a political candidate. The Michigan Campaign Finance Act prohibits organizations who accept public resources from representing, assisting, or opposing public campaigns or ballot proposals, or influencing members. The University encourages all University employees to vote and to become involved in the political process, provided they keep their partisan political activities separate from their work at Michigan State University, and this includes the MSU Retirees Association.

Vice President’s Report: Angela Brown is working to fill the open program dates for this year.

Human Resources Report: There was no report.

Past President’s Report: There was no report.

Health Benefits Committee Report: Marilyn Rothert reported that the next committee meeting will be September 16 at 1:00 p.m. in 125 Nisbet.

Membership Committee Report: There was no report.

Development Fund Report: There was no report.

Newsletter Report: Al LeBlanc reported that the deadline for the fall extended edition of the newsletter is September 19. The deadline for the following four-page edition is October 10.

IT Retiree Database Management: John Forsyth has rewritten the program for preparing newsletter address labels. This will permit a significant reduction in the number of data elements required in the MSU Retirees Database.

eNotices Operations: There was no report.

Interest Group News: Joe Cousins was appointed by President Scheetz to monitor and assist activities of the Interest Groups of the MSU Retirees Association. Joe and Patrick will be further discussing this assignment.

Website: There was no report.

Facebook Operations: Anders Johanson reported to Patrick Scheetz that the articles “What I did in Retirement” have increased hits on our Facebook site. Anders encouraged further efforts to get more MSU retirees to respond.

Office Management: Liz Thomas was welcomed to the Board as the new office manager. She encouraged members to sign up for office coverage duty.

United Way: There was no report.

Other Items: John Forsyth contacted Renee Zientek from the Service-Learning Center and Civic Engagement Center about how retirees may become more involved in area outreach activities. It was suggested that perhaps Renee could speak for five or ten minutes at a future Board meeting.

Dave Brower and Nancy Craig will work on a survey of MSU retirees about what members are doing in their communities.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Submitted by,

Gale Gower

Secretary, Board of Directors

MSU Retirees Association