**MSURA BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

March 4, 2015

125 Nisbet Building, Michigan state University, East Lansing, Michigan

Present: Patrick Scheetz, Trish Horn, Rick Vogt, Louise Selanders, Ron Smith, Liz Thomas, Jerry Hull, Etta Abrahams, Al LeBlanc, John Forsyth, David Brower, Nancy Craig, Marilyn Rothert, Darlene Wenner, Angela Brown, Gale Gower

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Patrick Scheetz.

Approval of February 4 Minutes: David Brower moved that the February 4, 2015 minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Ron Smith. The motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report/Budget and Finance: David Brower passed out the January financial statement. He is working with a committee to construct a budget for 2015-2016. The committee is looking at who and what MSURA is, and how it can work with the University for support. The committee will bring the discussion to a future board meeting.

The budget for the Big Ten Conference will depend on how many attendees there are. David is anticipating at least forty attending. That will probably mean a budget of $10,000-$12,000. There is a meeting of the Big Ten Conference Committee on April 23.

President’s Report:

* MSURA Student Scholarship Endowment Agreement: Chuck Webb introduced a draft agreement that had been drawn up by the committee as authorized at the February MSURA board meeting. The draft endowment agreement is intended establish a scholarship in 2015 to support students who demonstrate financial need, academic excellence, leadership, and parent/grandparent MSU employment/retirement. A motion was made by Etta Abraham and seconded by John Forsyth to accept the endowment agreement with the omission of the words “and appreciation” in Section 4 (c). The motion passed. Chuck will send out a letter immediately to MSURA members to ask if they would like to contribute, and a second letter on April 15. How much is donated up front will determine how soon the scholarship can go be granted. There must be $50,000 in the scholarship fund before distributions can be made. There are already two anonymous people who have pledged $25,000.
* Survey of MSU Retirees: Louise Selanders is chairing the survey committee. Members include: Jim Gallagher, Rick Vogt, Angela Brown and Trish Horn.
* Development of Retirees Manual for use by new MSU retirees: Rick Vogt has volunteered to write a new retirees manual and is seeking committee members. Etta Abrahams has volunteered to proofread the final version. The intent of the manual is to make links to relevant MSU resources as well as other relevant resources for new retirees.
* Annual Luncheon: plans are coming along. The committee meets again April 15. Reservation forms will be available at the March membership meeting, on line, will be in the April newsletter.

Vice President’s Report:

* The Big Ten Conference will be held August 14-16, 2015. A tentative program of speakers and events is being set up, including programs on retiree health issues and finances, among other topics. Joel Mabus will provide the entertainment at the banquet. Nancy Craig and John Forsyth will send out reminders to attendees in April, and will send out the application form in June. Rick Vogt will help put a booklet together for attendees. The MSURA president and vice president will represent MSURA at the conference. Committee members will have their meals paid. The committee is looking for gift items for attendees, and does have some items already. Ron Smith would appreciate any help getting such donations.
* Future MSURA Speakers: Etta Abrahams and Angela Brown have been lining up speakers for next year’s membership programs. So far scheduled are John Revitte and Pauline Addams, Renee Rivard in November, and June Youatt. Etta Abrahams and Angela Brown are also looking for retirees with interesting stories to present at some of the membership meetings next year. A trip to the new nursing building is also a possibility.

Human Resources Report: There was no report.

Past President’s Report: Ron Smith is scheduled to meet with members of his Awards Committee and select this year’s Volunteer of the Year. Their recommendation will come before the Board at next month’s meeting.

Health Benefits Committee Report: Marilyn Rothert reported that Blue Cross/Blue Shield TruHearing will give MSU retirees a break on the cost of hearing aids. Marilyn has requested that anyone using the service give her feedback.

Membership Committee Report: Nancy Craig reported that the Lugnuts game is June 19, 2015. Cost is $11.00.

Nominations Committee Report: There is no chair for this committee at this time. Members are needed to fill several positions, including vice president and newsletter editor.

Communications Reports:

* Newsletter Report: Al LeBlanc is looking for a new newsletter editor. Other available positions include an Underwriting Manager. Al has written a description for this position. This person would place new ads in the newsletter. Currently Al sends a copy of the newsletter to every sponsor with a note of appreciation. Al is also looking for a publications assistant to proofread the newsletter.
* IT Retiree Database Management: John Forsyth indicated there are no problems.
* MSU Alert System: Rick Vogt reported that individuals can self manage if they want to be on the system, and how to be alerted: text or voice mail or email. MSU email cannot be used; the individual would need to create a new user ID.
* eNotice Operations: Trish Horn reported that the correct date for the March 16 speakers meeting had been posted.
* Interest Group News: There was no report.
* Website/Facebook: Anders Johanson reported to Patrick Scheetz that there are 176 “likes” on facebook.

Office Management: Liz Thomas reported that things are in good shape for office coverage. Rick Vogt will be inputting updates to the database while Liz away.

United Way: Darlene Wenner reported that there were 241 donors this year (234 last year), with total donations of $63,098. Last year’s donations totaled $59,856.

 Old Newsboys: There was no report.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30.