**MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING**

**DECEMBER 2, 2015**

**ROOM 125 NISBET BUILDING**

Present: Marilyn Rothert, John Forsyth, Angela Brown, Rick Vogt, Chuck Webb, Michael Gardner, Ron Smith, Etta Abrahams, Liz Thomas, Dave Brower, Dan Mackey, Jerry Hull, Louise Selanders, Nancy Craig, Al LeBlanc, Patrick Scheetz, Gale Gower

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Angela Brown.

The minutes from the November 4, 2015 meeting were approved.

President’s Report:

Scott McMillan Update: Angela reported that Scotty is steadily improving. She will keep in touch with his wife, Nina, to see how he is doing. Several MSURA members are assisting Nina to get to the hospital.

Introduction of Daniel Mackey: Daniel will be the new liaison with MSU Human Resources. He manages retirement programs and leave projects for Human Resources.

Treasurer’s Report:

David Brower reported that $5,645 was raised from MSURA’s first Golf Outing. MSURA received a contribution of $2,000 from Straightline, above what they had pledged for the Golf Outing. MSURA will stay with the Lyman Sheets Insurance Agency for MSURA insurance for Directors and Officers for the coming year. The premium is $819.00.

Health Benefits Committee:

There was a meeting with Lynette Budenaers about concerns over the Clinical Center Pharmacy. There will be no changes to the parking arrangements at the Clinical Center since the parking lot currently meets code. They are looking at purchasing smaller wheel chairs for patrons. Hours for the Pharmacy will not change, although Olin has hours 8-12 on Saturdays during regular school sessions. Rick Vogt suggested an article be written for the Newsletter to let members know what the discussions have been. Angela suggested that the manager of the Pharmacy be interviewed for the article. Lynette expressed her appreciation for MSURA’s interest in improving service, and Marilyn asked that any concerns about the Clinical Center or Pharmacy be forwarded to her for future interaction with the Clinical Center.

Communications:

Al LeBlanc introduced Cheryl Pell, who is retired from the School of Journalism. She volunteered to work on the designs for the new masthead for the Newsletter. Al made a motion to create a budget of $100.00 for the rest of this fiscal year to be used for CLIPART and other artwork for the Newsletter. John Forsyth seconded the motion and it passed. Al now sends everything to Cheryl for formatting. Al asked that information for the January Newsletter be to him by December 6, 2015.

President’s Report: MSURA Bylaw and Articles Amendments:

Rick Vogt and Angela have investigated our status as an organization. MSURA is listed by the IRS as a 501(c)(5) organization, which applies to labor organizations. We are not a 501(c)(7), which applies to social organizations. The bylaws incorrectly state that we are a 501(c)(7) and must be changed by a vote of the membership at the annual meeting in May, 2016 to reflect the correct 501(c)(5) status. 501(c)(5) organizations do not pay income tax, but may pay sales tax. Donations are not tax deductible. Donations to MSURA are deductible if they are sent to MSU Advancement instead of directly to MSURA.

Dave Brower made a motion to recommend to the membership at the May 2016 membership meeting that the bylaws be amended to correct the tax designation to list MSURA as a 501(c)(5). Patrick Scheetz seconded the motion, and it passed.

Dave suggested that members be informed of the change before the May meeting so they understand what is being changed and why. It was suggested that two pages in the March Newsletter be devoted to this information.

President’s Report: Dues or No Dues:

Question: what type of financial support does MSURA get? All MSU retirees are members of MSURA. There are no dues, although members can support the organization with Newsletter subscriptions and donations, and there are several underwriters. It was expressed by several members that donating to an organization makes members feel more ownership in the organization. When donations are made to MSURA by members through MSU Advancement, those donors get a charitable deduction. It was felt that MSURA does not need to solicit more sponsors.

Dave Brower made a motion to recommend to the membership that MSURA will no longer have a subscription fee for the Newsletter, and that all future solicitations from members be directed as charitable solicitations, starting July 2016, the new fiscal year. These solicitations would be separate from the MSURA Scholarship fund. Included in the motion would be a fund of up to $3,500 for direct mail solicitations. Rick Vogt seconded the motion, and it passed.

Angela proposed that a small group composed of David Brower, John Forsyth, Rick Vogt and Patrick Scheetz be appointed to decide how to present the changes to the membership at the May Annual meeting. They will report back to the MSURA Board at the January 2016 meeting.

Other Items:

The Old Newsboys sale of newspapers will be held December 5.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.