**MSU Retirees Association Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 6, 2016**

**125 Nisbet Building, Michigan State University**

Present: Marilyn Rothert, Jacque Babcock, Jerry Hull, Liz Thomas, Patrick Scheetz, Chuck Webb, Dan Mackey, Ron Smith, John Forsyth, Etta Abrahams, Al LeBlanc, Rick Vogt, Angela Brown, Trish Horn, Gale Gower, guest Bruce Smith

The meeting was called to order by President Angela Brown at 10:05 a.m.

The minutes of the December 2, 2015 meeting were approved as amended.

President’s Report: Angela reported that the OurImpact Magazine with the article about the new MSURA endowed scholarship will be out soon. The picture of the board is on the cover. Angela commented that the article is a good way to share what MSURA is doing for MSU and the community.

Angela handed out a list of tentative dates for the 2016-2017 board meetings and general membership meetings. Rick Vogt said that it was good to keep membership meetings the second Monday so members can plan appropriately. A special meeting could be planned at another time if the need arose. A suggestion was made to have some fruit at the meetings besides donuts. Ron Smith will bring apples and clementines to the next membership meeting. We are looking for an entertaining speaker for the April 10, 2017 meeting. Please let Etta or Rick know if you have a suggestion.

The possible auction sale of WKAR TV bandwidth was discussed. Angela noted that there is information available on the WKAR website. The second open forum is Monday, January 11, 2016.

Vice President’s Report: Rick Vogt reported that he and Etta Abrahams have met and are building a list of possible speakers for next year. The possibility of field trips was discussed, and also having special events for specific interest groups. He and Etta would like feedback on ideas, such as a tour of the Horticultural Gardens, or the possibility of a trip away from campus.

Past President’s Report: A committee of David Brower, John Forsyth, Rick Vogt, and Patrick Scheetz has met to discuss how to present the change away from the Newsletter subscription charge to donations to MSURA through University Development in the Advancement Office. The change would start in July 2016. All new members would get an email copy of the Newsletter unless they opt. out. Everyone would continue to get a hard copy of the August Newsletter. An article will be in the March/Åpril combined Newsletter to go out to all members, as well as eNotice articles, and an announcement at the Annual Meeting in May 2016. Text for the announcement was discussed. The MSURA Bylaws will need to be rewritten to make the change and voted on at the May annual meeting by the membership. Angie will meet with the group to come up with wording.

Patrick announced that the next Straightline Golf Outing will be September 20, 2016. Please let Patrick know if you are able to volunteer.

Health Benefits Committee: No report.

MSURA Student Endowed Scholarship: Chuck Webb reported that Angela and Patrick worked on the brochure about the scholarship. Angela Brown, Rick Vogt, Patrick Scheetz, Chuck Webb, and Financial Aid representatives will meet to go over procedures. We will be in the regular MSU cycle, and the first scholarship recipient will be chosen this spring for the fall of 2016.

Chuck will bring a tentative proposal for fund raising for the scholarship at the February meeting. The Golf Outing will continue to be one way to raise money for the scholarship.

Angela thanked Chuck for his hard work on setting up the scholarship.

Chuck brought to the Board’s attention a list of some of the many ways MSURA benefits its members and the University: monthly informative membership meetings, the Newsletter, eNotices, facebook pages, the endowed scholarship, the Golf Outing fundraiser, contributions to University services by members, special interest group meetings, Old Newsboys and United Way volunteer work and contributions, website links to important information, advocating for members with Human Resources and the University, ushers at the State of the University presentation, support of the Florida chapter.

Communications:

 Newsletter: Al LeBlanc announced that the deadline for the February Newsletter is Friday, January 8, 2016. The March/April edition (deadline February 5) will be expanded and include choices for the new masthead. Information on the May luncheon will also be in the March/April edition.

 eNotices: Trish Horn reported that she has sent out 2-3 eNotices a month.

 Facebook: Anders Johanson reported there are 198 likes on Facebook.

 IT Retiree Data Base Management: John Forsyth reported that there are 174 members in Florida who need notification about the Florida luncheon/meeting. He will print out addresses and information for office volunteers to help with a mailing to the Florida group.

Membership Committee: No report.

Human Resources: Dan Mackey reported that new deductibles for health coverage started January 1, 2016.

Office Management: Liz Thomas reported that office coverage is good. Coverage starts again Monday, January 11, 2016.

United Way: Darlene Wenner has processed all of the United Way mail that has come into the office so far. Our total collected is $59,539.00, which is about $6,000 more than last year.

Old Newsboys: The Old Newsboys Association of Great Lansing raised $163,308 this year, $3,000 more than last year.

Other Items:

Ron Smith raised the idea of members bringing donations of food items to the November or December membership meetings for distribution to those organization that distribute food to those in need. He saw an article in the Sifter and thought MSURA could do this, too.

Chuck Webb raised the possibility of MSURA members attending an away football game. Ron Smith was appointed to explore this recommendation.

Treasurer’s Report:

David Brower reported that total revenue for December was $7,278.02, including $2,000.00 of underwriting income from MSU Human Resources. Expenses for the month totaled $2,953.51, resulting in an excess of revenues over expenses for December of $4,324.51. MSURA fund balances totaled $44,769.04 as of December 31, 2015, a decrease of $5,862.71 from the beginning of the year. Recall that a large share of the Big Ten Conference revenue ($11,474) was received in the prior fiscal year, while the conference expenses are in this year’s financial statements, which is why expenses this fiscal year exceed revenues. The 2014 Golf Outing raised $5,645.00, which will go to the MSURA Endowment. $2,000.00 of the total raised was a contribution from Straightline, besides the cost of the event, which they covered.

After presenting the December 31, 2015 MSU Retirees Association financial statements, David Brower made a motion that a one-time amount of $2,500 be allocated from MSU Retirees Association fund balance to fund a one-time MSU Retirees Association Scholarship to be awarded for Fall 2016. The criteria used to award this one-time scholarship should follow the same criteria being used to the new MSU Retirees Association Endowed Scholarship, also beginning in the fall of 2016. The motion was seconded by John Forsyth and it passed on an unanimous vote. It was noted that it would be nice if this could be done every year, however, it was the consensus this decision should be left up to the Board to be made on the year-by-year basis. David will prepare a $2,500 check and give it to Chuck Webb, who will advise MSU Advancement about this additional scholarship gift.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.