**MSU Retirees Association Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 3, 2016**

**125 Nisbet Building, Michigan State University**

Present: John Forsyth, Nancy Craig, Bruce Smith, Marilyn Rothert, Patrick Scheetz, Dan Mackey, Michael Gardner, Jerry Hull, Ron Smith, Liz Thomas, Rick Vogt, Etta Abrahams, Al LeBlanc, David Brower, Trish Horn, Angela Brown, Gale Gower

The meeting was called to order by President Angela Brown at 10:00 a.m.

The minutes of the January 6, 2016 MSURA board meeting were approved.

President’s Report:

 Endowed Student Scholarship Brochure Printing: The brochure for the MSURA Endowed Scholarship is ready to go to print. The printing of the brochure is our responsibility, and Al LeBlanc will help with the printing, with Angela Brown assisting him. We will print a nominal number to distribute. John Forsyth and Anders Johanson will put a link to the brochure on the MSURA website.

 New Member MSURA Brochure: We are in need of more new member brochures. Nancy Craig and Angela Brown will be in charge of updating the current brochure before printing.

 Board Vacancies: Angela Brown will contact current board members to see if they wish to continue in their current positions. Angela asked board members to help her identify names of members who might serve on the board. Dan Mackey can get us a list of new retirees from the Provost’s Office. Elections for the new board will be held at the May luncheon. There will be a paragraph in the Newsletter to let members know of possible open positions on the board.

 Mail Items: Please put relevant notes, surveys, and other information in Angela’s mailbox.

 There is a link on the MSURA web of MSU discounts for members to see.

Vice President’s Report:

Rick Vogt will meet with Etta Abrahams to discuss speakers for the MSURA membership meetings for 2016-2017. Two field trips for this year include a tour of WKAR on February 29 at 3:00 p.m., and a tour of the Bott Nursing Building on April 25 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. These events will be listed on eNotices, facebook and the MSURA website. Etta said ideas for next year include a trip to the School of Business business startup incubator, and music for the May 2017 luncheon.

A discussion of the treats for the membership meetings concluded that not much fruit was taken. Al LeBlanc will provide carrot sticks.

Treasurer’s Report:

David Brower handed out a draft of the January 31, 2016 MSURA financial statement. The statement is “draft” because of an adjustment put through that reduced revenue and MSURA agency account balance by $1,625. Dave will be meeting with Advancement Fund staff this Friday, February 5, to get this entry reversed and restore the $1,625 relating to the Golf Outing. The draft statement as prepared DOES NOT include this entry so the balances should be correct. Dave will confirm this at next month’s Board meeting.

Dave has not yet written the $2,500 check for the special scholarship approved at our January meeting. He is waiting for instructions from Advancement and Chuck Web on how they want this handled. He is also requesting that all MSURA Endowment ledgers be sent to him from inception and going forward so that he can verify the balance each month.

 Past President’s Report:

 MSURA Funding Proposal: Patrick Scheetz reported that the committee reviewing the funding for MSURA recommended that the subscription fee be suspended and MSURA move to donations. The donations would be processed through MSU, which will give donating members a tax incentive. Those members who would like a hard copy of the Newsletter could fill out a form and send it in. Otherwise, the newsletter will be available on line. Angela Brown noted that there is no bylaw to have a subscription fee, so no vote by the members to change the bylaws is necessary in order to make this change. Patrick Scheetz made a motion to move MSURA from subscriptions to donations subject to annual review at the July board meeting. Rick Vogt seconded the motion, and it carried. There will be an article in the Newsletter to explain the change.

Angela noted that the membership does have to vote to amend the MSURA bylaws to change the MSURA status to a 501(c) 7 organization from a 501(c) 5 to make MSURA compliant with U.S. Internal Revenue regulations.

MSURA/Straightline Golf Outing Planning: September 20, 2016 is the date for the next golf outing. Mike Gardner has volunteered to head the planning committee. Nancy Craig will head up the Silent Auction. Dave Brower will be in charge of the budget. A brochure will be drafted, and there will be a meeting for volunteers later this month. Names for underwriters are needed.

There is a bowling interest group forming.

Patrick Scheetz suggested that we highlight one of the retiree benefits we receive in each Newsletter.

MSURA Student Scholarship: There will be a report at the next meeting.

MSURA Trip: Ron Smith investigated the possibility of a MSURA trip to an away football game. Because of limited tickets at the Notre Dame game, and long travel time to other games, it was decided that there were too many challenges with an away game trip at this time. Ron will do a member survey to see if there is interest in an overnight trip for a football game in 2017. Angela thanked Ron for his work on this proposal.

Communications:

 Newsletter: Al LeBlanc reported that the new masthead designs will all be included in the next Newsletter so members can give their feedback. The Board will then choose a new masthead.

 eNotices: A new eNotice will be out tomorrow, Trish Horn reported.

 IT Retiree Database: John Forsyth printed labels for the next Newsletter. There are 450 paid subscriptions, a reduction of 200 from last year.

 Website Review: Anders Johansen does all of the updates on the website. He is making some changes to add information to the website. There is now a search button from any page.

Membership Committee: Nancy Craig reported that the next Lugnuts outing will be June 24, 2016. The cost of the ticket is $11.00.

Human Resources: There was no report.

Office Management: We need coverage for the office, Liz Thomas reported. Liz and a committee are working on the May Membership luncheon. The reservation form has been created and will be in the Newsletter and on line. Invitations to select guests will be mailed March 24.

Other Items: Ron Smith and Rick Vogt will investigate if we need more space for our membership meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.