

## **Dates to Remember, March 5, 2025 Board Meeting**

- March 10, 1:30 pm, memb'p meeting, WKAR and the State of Public Media, Shawn Turner
- March 13, 2 pm, Financial Planning Seminar with StraightLine, Mike Bisaro and Team, via Zoom
- March 14, 11 am, Lunch at Brody
- April 9, 10 am, **next board meeting**
- April 11, 11 am, Lunch at Brody
- April 14, 1:30 pm, memb'p meeting, MSU Police Canine Division, Sgt. Mike Cantrell

## **MSURA Board Meeting Minutes: March 5, 2025, 10 am**

In attendance: Dave Brower, Bob Patterson, Bruce Smith, Liz Thomas, Bill Anderson, Chris DeFouw, Cheryl Pell, Dan Mackey, Rick Vogt, Bill Humphrey, John Forsyth, Mike Gardner, Kate Wight, Angie Brown, Madison Dugan

**Called to Order:** 10:07 am

**Item(s) Requiring Discussion and a Vote** No decisions required a vote

**Guest: Madison Dugan, Senior Director of Development**

Madison shared information about: the value of many of the scholarships being granted to students (\$3,000 / \$5,000); giving days on which we might reach out to our members (such as Give Green Day and Giving Tuesday). She will send a link and a QR code to D. Brower that we may use for future fund-raising efforts.

## **Review/Approve Minutes of February 5, 2025 Meeting**

Motion to approve minutes was made by R. Vogt and seconded by J. Forsyth; minutes were approved.

## **President's Report (Dave Brower)**

- The **slate of Officers and Directors** remains with openings (e.g.: Vice President). D. Brower stressed the urgent need to establish a line of succession, particularly for officer positions such that the vice president would serve one or two years before taking on the role of president.
- **Lisa Parker, Senior Director, Alumni Engagement**, will attend our meeting on April 9, 2025.
- D. Brower shared a **draft of his proposal that requests MSU staff support** for some of its many functions. Focus is on administrative tasks, technology, and communications (e-Notices and the newsletter). D. Brower will incorporate revisions to the proposal based on the discussion that followed.
- Pending resolution of MSURA leadership issues and staff support from MSU, D. Brower will request that we defer **hosting the 2027 BTRA Annual Meeting** for two or three years beyond 2027. Given the complexity of hosting the meeting – housing, content development, communications, registration, budget – might one of the new Big 10 members be in a better position to host in 2027?
- The three new members are: the University of California, LA; the University of Southern California; and the University of Washington. Side note: UCLARA has three full time staff members supporting a retiree group of over 19,000 retirees. MSURA has over 7,500 members.

### **Vice-President's Report (Angie Brown)**

- All is set for the March monthly meeting. Shawn Turner, General Manager WKAR will discuss WKAR and the state of public media.
- M. Gardner suggested that we include a representative from the Employee Assistance Program in a future membership meeting program. This group offers many services that may assist retirees.
- **Shirts for Retirees:** The committee has talked with Foresight Group, another possible partner for the retiree shirts. With Foresight as our partner we would benefit in two very important ways: we would not have to pre-order; licensing would not be an issue, as they are already licensed to handle Spartan logos. Additionally: they are positioned to be more flexible with ordering time-lines; they will handle shipping. The committee will resolve pricing, shirt style(s) and logos / statements. They will present an order form at the April meeting.

### **Treasurer's Report (Bill Humphrey)**

No report.

Underwriting fees from the MSU Health Team have been received.

### **MSU Human Resources (Dan Mackey),**

- Results from the RFI meetings in February are under review.
- A big thank you to all who sat in on with the RFI meetings.
- Vennie Gore has been named the EVP for Administration. Donna Donovan has been named Interim Associate Vice President for Human Resources.

### **Annual Meeting, May 7, 2025, MSU University Club (Pam Marcis, Liz Thomas)**

- D. Brower will contact our guests. B. Smith will contact those selected to receive our scholarships.
- J. Forsyth will designate menu choices on the name tags. [Salads topped with chicken (C), salmon (S), or plant-based (P)]
- Tables will again be reserved for invited guests.
- Registration form will be included in e-Notices and the April / May newsletter
- StraightLine has contributed \$2,500.

### **Scholarship Committee\*\* (Bruce Smith)**

- To get the word out regarding the scholarships, B. Smith has notified all employee groups about requirements for the scholarship.
- B. Smith has calculated that we would need to raise about \$50,000 to provide \$3,000 scholarships.
- The committee will study / discuss further and make a recommendation in the future.

### **Volunteer of the Year Award\*\*, Nominations (Bill Anderson)**

The committee will meet on April 1 at 2 pm to select the Volunteer of the Year.

### **Membership\*\* (Jacqie Babcock) / Volunteers\*\* and Interest Groups\*\* (Chris DeFouw)**

See attached reports.

**Events Committee\*\* (Chris DeFouw, Bill Anderson, Jacqie Babcock, Pam Marcis)**

- **The Wharton Center** offers two-hour tours, usually with 12 to 15 people, on an ongoing basis.
- **CPR & AED Skills\*\***, scheduled for April 16, 2025, 2 to 4 pm is at maximum capacity (40).
- **Carillon Event**, more planning will occur during March.
- **Bus Trip\*\***, summer 2025, planning with Diana Priebe continues.

**Retiree Lunch on Campus (Mike Gardner)**

Lunch at Brody will take place on March 14, 2025 and April 11, 2025, at 11 am.

**Communications/Underwriters (Cheryl Pell, Rick Vogt, Jacqie Babcock)**

- Deadline for the April / May newsletter is Friday, March 7.
- C. Pell again appealed to us for names of retirees whose stories can be highlighted in the Spotlight article of the newsletter.
- Underwriting revenues from Personify Health and Humana are pending.

**Office Management (Liz Thomas)** Nothing to report

**MSURA Technology, website, Facebook (John Forsyth, Cheryl Pell, Bruce Smith, Rick Vogt) NTR**

**Other Items**

As interest in our membership meetings and special event meetings grows we may need to consider other options for meeting venues that allow for more attendees. Possibilities mentioned include: People's Church; MSUFCU (other than the Community Room of the Farm Lane branch); campus (where parking is a concern).

**Next Meeting: April 9, 2025, 10:00 a.m.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:34 am.

\*\* See additional information in attachment.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Wight  
MSURA Secretary

March 31, 2025

## **Report Submitted by Bruce Smith**

### **Scholarships Report**

I confirmed the members of the committee that will review the scholarship applications. Additionally, I forwarded that information to Ben Brown in admissions. I anticipate Ben will gather the application information and forward it to the committee in the next couple of weeks.

My plan after selecting the scholarship awards is for the committee to discuss a long-term direction for scholarship amounts and number of scholarships. We have worked on promoting the applications early this year. I wanted to see our yield on the applications submitted this year to help inform that discussion. I had a long conversation with Ben Brown in general and on this topic with a list of questions. I intend on sharing that with the committee as background for that discussion. Also, I did some math and for every \$100 we increase the four scholarships we will need to raise about \$9000 for the endowment. To raise the amount to \$3000 each that would be near \$50,000. My target is for the committee to arrive at a reasoned recommendation that I can bring to the April board meeting.

## **Report Submitted by Bill Anderson**

### **Nominations are Open for the MSURA Volunteer of the Year Award**

Due Date: March 28, 2025

The MSURA annually recognizes a Volunteer of the Year. This award goes to an individual (or individuals) who have made significant contributions to the goals and activities supported by the Association. Anyone from the MSURA may submit a nomination. If you know of a deserving retiree, please complete a nomination form (<https://retirees.msu.edu/awards>).

Award criteria include the individual's work toward enhancing the overall goals of the MSURA as well as enhancing the quality of university life for students, faculty, staff, alumni, retirees, or other members of the MSU community. The nominee need not be a member of MSURA, and individuals who have previously received the Award are eligible. Nominations must be received by March 28, 2025, and the award will be announced at the MSURA Annual Luncheon in May 7, 2025.

A committee of 3-4 MSURA individuals will be formed to review the applicants. The winner's name will be kept confidential until the announcement at the MSURA Annual Luncheon. The Award will include a framed certificate, and a \$100 gift certificate to the MSU Kellogg Center State Room.

Please return completed nominations to Bill Anderson at [Ander113@msu.edu](mailto:Ander113@msu.edu)

## **Report Submitted by Jackie Babcock**

### **Membership Report**

Since I emailed retirees as of December 2024 I have had no responses. Ironically, there were no non-deliverable messages either.

## **Report Submitted by Chris DeFouw**

### **Volunteer Report**

Gail Gower and Jeanette Robertson will be assisting at the March 10 Membership Meeting.

### **Special Interest Groups Report**

Have contacted the Special Interest Group leaders regarding having a representative at a table during registration at the May 7 Annual Luncheon. Request for response is March 31. So far 2 have responded yes and 1 maybe. Offered to have flyers made, response is requested by March 7, 1 group has responded.

### **Special Events Report (Jacqie Babcock, Pam Marcis, Ralph Pyle, Chris DeFouw)**

#### **Upcoming Scheduled:**

April 16, 2025 Saving Lives by Learning CPR & AED Skills, Bill Anderson, currently 39 people are registered including 4 MSUFCU reserved slots. There are 9 people on the waitlist.

July 11, 2025 MSU Planetarium, Pink Floyd "Dark Side of Moon" and short Star Talk, Chris DeFouw

August 15, 2025 Lugnuts Game and Dinner, Dave Brower

#### **Removed from Schedule:**

March 2025 MSU Football Building Tour, Chris DeFouw, unable to make contact to schedule

#### **To be Scheduled:**

May/June 2025 Bus trip to Detroit, Jacqie Babcock & Pam Marcis

July 9, 2025 Volunteer Thank You prior to Carillon Concert, Jacqie Babcock & Dave Brower

July 9, 2025 Carillon Concert, Jacqie Babcock

#### **Completed:**

July 10, 2024 Brunch at Newman Lofts

August 16, 2024 Lugnuts Game, Dave Brower

September 10, 2024 Michigan Capitol Tour, Pam Marcis

October 18, 2024 Homecoming Parade, Bill Anderson

December 8, 2024 Williamston Theatre & Dinner @ Zynda's, Jacqie Babcock

December 2024 Safe Place Gift Collection, Bill Anderson

December 17, 2024 Wrap Party, Bill Anderson

January 23, 2025 Wharton Center Tour, Dave Brower

## **Report Submitted by Bill Anderson**

### **Special Events: Saving Lives by Learning CPR and AED Skills**

Wednesday, April 16th, 2025, 2:00-4:00 pm

Event Update

1. The event is titled: "Saving Lives by Learning CPR and AED Skills"
2. It will be held Wednesday, April 16th, 2025 2:00-4:00 pm, MSUFCU Community Room (Farm Lane and Mt. Hope Road), Social time will be 1:30-2:00 before the event. The session will run from 2:00-4:00 pm. Refreshments will be cookies, bottled water, and coffee.

3. The lead presenter is Mike Garland, former head basketball coach at Cleveland State University and assistant head coach to Tom Izzo from 2007-2022. He will be assisted by trained instructors.

4. MSURA will need to provide a computer, LCD projector, and microphones.

5. We may need to move tables to provide space for 40 CPR mannequins. Some mannequins may be used on table tops for those unable to kneel on the floor.

6. I will introduce Mr. Garland and his assistants.

7. At the end of the session, Dave Brower will present Mr. Garland with a \$200.00 check donation to the Champions of the Heart Foundation.

Program Description: At this session, participants will learn how to recognize a sudden cardiac arrest, how to perform CPR, and how to use an AED (automatic electronic defibrillator). The session will begin with a brief presentation by Mr. Garland. Following the presentation, participants will be assigned a mannequin and instructor to learn how to perform CPR. This is a hands-on session with no recording or Zoom coverage. Mr. Garland will also demonstrate how to use an AED (automatic electronic defibrillator).

We have 40 people preregistered for this session (35 MSURA and 5 members from the MSUFCU). Participants must be preregistered to attend.

IMPORTANT: If any preregistered participants are unable to attend please contact Chris DeFouw at [defouw@msu.edu](mailto:defouw@msu.edu) as early as possible. We have a waiting list of people wanting to attend. We will remind those preregistered at our Monday, March 10 MSURA meeting.

### **Report Submitted by Jackie Babcock**

#### **Special Events**

I spoke with Diana Priebe about the status of research into a spring bus trip before I left for Florida and emailed recently to ask for an update and have not heard back. I think this may delay plans to early summer.