

Dates to Remember, October 8, 2025 Board Meeting

- October 10, 11 am to 1 pm, Friday, Lunch at Brody
- October 10, 6 – 7:30 pm, Homecoming Parade followed with dinner (pizza and pop) at Coral Gables
- October 14, TUESDAY, 1:30 – 3 pm, Memb’p Meeting, with MSU staff and MSU Health Care Pharmacy; topics include: changes to health insurance; employee assistance; services offered by the pharmacy.
- October 14, Tuesday, contact Williamston theater, 517-655-7469, if interested, to request tickets for “A Sherlock Carol”
- November 5, 10 am, Board Meeting
- November 10, 1:30 – 3 pm, Monday, Memb’p Meeting, Technology Scams, MSUFCU
- November 14, 11 am to 1 pm, Friday, Lunch at Brody
- November 15, 11:30 am, Saturday, lunch prior to play, Williamston
- November 15, 2 pm, Williamston Theater, “A Sherlock Carol”

MSURA Board Meeting Minutes: October 8, 2025, 10 am

In attendance: Dave Brower, Jacqie Babcock, Angie Brown, Sandy Buike, Jennifer Decker, John Forsyth, Mike Gardner, Bill Humphrey, Dan Mackey, Bob Patterson, Cheryl Pell, Jeanette Robertson, Bruce Smith, Lori Strom, Liz Thomas, Rick Vogt, Kate Wight

Called to Order: 10:00 am

Item(s) Requiring Discussion and a Vote : No items were introduced that required discussion and a vote.

Review/Approve Minutes of September 3, 2025 Board Meeting

Motion to approve minutes was made by J. Robertson and seconded by M. Gardner; minutes were approved with change to an item under Follow-up Actions: J. Decker, not A. Brown, confirmed Robyn Fralick as speaker for April 2026 meeting.

President’s Report (Dave Brower)

- **Business Cards Available:** New business cards were distributed.
- **Update Eat-At-State Meal Passes:** Two passes are available for meeting on October 14.
- **MSU Project on Healthy Aging & Digital Leisure (with A. Brown, S. Buike, and B. Smith):** D. Brower will draft a letter of support for the project. The project and its offerings will become more clear at some time in the future.

Vice-President’s Report (Sandy Buike, Angie Brown)

- **2025-26 Program Update**:** Membership meeting programs are confirmed through annual meeting in May.
- **October 14, 2025 Monthly Meeting Details:** Representatives from MSU HR and Employee Assistance will share information about changes to health care benefits and services offered, respectively; Mary Passage from MSU Health Care Pharmacy will share information about services offered to seniors. This meeting will be available via Zoom, which will be facilitated by R. Vogt and J. Forsyth. J. Robertson has recruited several volunteers to assist.

- **Big 10 2027 Conference Planning Update:** Immediate objective is to find a venue that can offer guest rooms, a large conference room, and breakout rooms. D. Brower and J. Decker will get feedback from the Alumni Office during an upcoming meeting. After bids are obtained, a final decision may be made in December. Should the FEA be involved in planning the event? Also – the January Big 10 meeting will be via Zoom.
- **Name Tags Update:** Each board member now has a name tag; name tags are also available for volunteers. All name tags will be collected after each event.

Treasurer’s Report (Bob Patterson, Bill Humphrey)

- **FY 2024-25 Financial Audit Report Acceptance (with Brower):** Eric Crawford completed the audit as required. We will follow up on his three recommendations. B. Patterson and J. Forsyth will discuss how best to accomplish backing up our financial records. R. Vogt moved to accept the report; it was seconded by M. Gardner. The audit report was accepted.
- **9/30/2025 Financial Report Approval**:** B. Patterson presented the September 2025 financial statement. A motion to approve the report was made by J. Babcock; R. Vogt seconded the motion. Report was approved.
- **D & O Insurance Renewal Approval (Brower):** Our insurance is up for renewal. B. Smith moved to continue insurance coverage with D & O; M. Gardner seconded the motion. Motion was approved.
- Along with sharing the current **budget for FY2025-26**, approved during the September board meeting, a discussion ensued about how best to cover upcoming needs, particularly the Big 10 2027 Conference. Several questions require more thinking, inquiries, and discussion. Should we request additional financial support from some existing underwriters and/or find new financial sponsors? Should we increase the number of underwriters? OR should we ask new sponsors to help defray the costs associated with the Big 10 Conference? Out of five meals that will be provided (three lunches and two dinners) should we request that entities giving their support sponsor a particular meal? New sponsors mentioned include: TIAA; Delta Dental; Fidelity; Burcham Hills; Newman Lofts. D. Mackey offered to take this back to HR for their input.

Events Report (Jennifer Decker, Rick Vogt, Bill Anderson, Chris DeFouw)

- **Update 2025-26 Event Planning:** There are no new events. Future possibilities include: Burcham Hills wine tasting; tour/presentation at the Wharton Center; bus trip to Detroit.
- **Homecoming Parade and Party Update (with Brower):** The theme is “Spartans will tame the Bruins.” Anyone wanting a seat on the float should notify R. Vogt. Many have volunteered to walk and distribute candy. Dinner will follow at Coral Gables. The menu will include a variety of pizzas, salad, and soft drinks.
- D. Brower will get a list of dates that will include a fireworks display for the 2026 Lugnuts’ season, and a date will be selected.

MSU Human Resources (Dan Mackey)

Volunteers for Open Enrollment, 10/21/2025: The Benefits Fair held during Open Enrollment is scheduled for 11 am to 6 pm. Thank you to those volunteering to help at the Benefits Fair.

MSURA College / Age Alive Update: (Bruce Smith, Lori Strom)

Several ideas, country-wide, are being explored. Investigations are ongoing with several organizations: FEA; Prime Time; the Provost.

Annual Meeting, May 5, 2026, MSU University Club (Pam Marcis, Liz Thomas, Dave Brower)

The new Athletic Director, J. Batt, has been contacted and confirmed as keynote speaker.

Scholarship Committee (Bruce Smith)

The application has been updated and the application process will be online. The increase from \$2,500 to \$3,000 for the 2026-27 school year will be announced in the November – December newsletter.

Volunteer of the Year Award and Nominations (Bill Anderson) Nothing new to report

Membership (Jacqie Babcock)

J. Babcock will send out letters to new retirees.

Volunteer (Jeanette Robertson, Chris DeFouw)

J. Robertson is recruiting more volunteers for **Open Enrollment on 10/21/2025**. D. Brower, A. Brown, C. DeFouw, B. Humphrey, and B. Smith have volunteered.

Interest Groups (Chris DeFouw)** See report following minutes

Retiree Lunch on Campus (Mike Gardner)

Lunch at Brody will take place on October 10, 2025, at 11 am; lunches will continue the second Friday of each month, from 11 am to 1 pm. Dates: October 10, November 14, December 12.

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

- R. Vogt reminded those who are the primary contact for membership meeting speakers that a head and shoulders photo is required, approximately three months prior to their presentation, for announcing their presentation in the newsletter.
- All of the board will be asked to proofread future editions of the newsletter, and reply with corrections as soon as possible.
- Underwriting revenues have been received from all seven underwriters, totaling \$17,300. Thank you, J. Babcock, for pursuing and accomplishing this. MSUFCU, MSU HR, MSU Advancement, StraightLine, Personify Health, Humana, and MSU Health have all paid.

Office Management (Liz Thomas) Nothing new to report

- Remember: L. Thomas will be retiring as Office Manager at the end of the 2025-2026 year.
- **Office Access Update:** Everyone who has requested access to the office has access.
- **Access to MSURA Email:** L. Thomas forwards emails to appropriate person when follow-up is necessary

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

- Microsoft support on Windows 10 ends on 10-14-2025; a computer with Windows 11 is in the office.
- J. Forsyth has a thumb-drive that includes all website activity.
- Website update: Nothing new to report; stay tuned.

Other Items

- **Updated MSURA Brochure (Pell):** C. Pell will update the photos and aim to have new brochures by the end of June 2026.
- **MSURA shirts (Brown):** A. Brown will pursue and report back in November.

S. Buike moved to adjourn the meeting; J. Decker seconded. Motion approved.
Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

Next Board Meeting: November 5, 2025, 10:00 am

** See additional information in the following pages.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Wight
MSURA Secretary

October 10, 2025

Proposed 2025-26 MSURA Monthly Speakers

MONTH	PROGRAM	SPEAKER(S)	MSURA CONTACT	
2025				
8-Sep	Senior Nutrition	Abby Richey	Lori Strom	Confirmed
14-Oct	MSU HR Benefits Update/Emp. Assistance	Dan Mackey	Rick Vogt	Confirmed
	MSU Pharmacy	Mary Passage		
10-Nov	Technology Scams	Jamie Smathers	Angela Brown	Confirmed
8-Dec	Locomotive PM 1225	William Struck	Bill Anderson	Confirmed
2026				
12-Jan	MSU Dairy Barn Initiative	Barry Bradford	Sandra Buike	Confirmed
9-Feb	MSU Library Collections	Leslie McRoberts	Angela Brown	Confirmed
9-Mar	MSU Campus Sustainability	Laura Young	Dave Brower	Confirmed
13-Apr	MSU Women's Basketball Head Coach	Robyn Fralick	Jennifer Decker	Confirmed
5-May	Annual Meeting	Athletic AD, J Batt	Jennifer Decker	Confirmed

Report submitted by Bob Patterson, Financial Report

September 2025 revenues totaled \$7,885.26, primarily from \$5,600 in newsletter underwriting from supporting partners Humana and MSU Health Care. All seven underwriting supporters have now funded their FY2025-26 commitments.

Expenditures for September totaled \$2,636.85, which is mostly comprised of \$1,095 for newsletter postage, and \$1,282 for program supplies. This resulted in a surplus for the month of \$5,248.41.

At the MSURA Board meeting on September 3, 2025, the FY25-26 expense budget was changed, reducing newsletter postage from \$7,000 to \$4,900 to reflect mail folding efficiencies. The supply and special events expense budget lines were increased by \$2,100 to allow for increased programmatic support. No change in total expense budget as a result.

As stated in the notes for September 2025 the MSURA Endowment has a balance of \$221,144.16, an increase of \$3,140 due to several gift donations. The related income account has a balance of \$3,362.70, an increase of \$3,048 in September due to the FY25-26 Q1 investment income credit.

Report submitted by Chris DeFouw, Interest Group

The Walking Group had a table at the September 8 Membership Meeting. Interest was limited. A member approached me at the same meeting wanting information regarding the Travel Group, provided them with contact information. A member called me regarding: 1) Reconnecting with the Military History Study Group, provided her with contact information; and 2) Starting a new Special Interest Group on Health. Requested she send me an email with specifics to present to the Board. So far, have not received an email. Made photocopies of page 8 of the August-September 2025 Newsletter and will have them available at the October 14 Membership Meeting and possibly at the October 21 Benefits Fair. Have been trying to connect with Rosemary Pavlik regarding yarn at MSURA Office without success. Will continue to try to contact her.