

MSU Retirees Association Board Meeting

November 8, 2017

10:00 AM, 125 Nesbit

Attending: Etta Abraham, Bill Anderson, Jacqueline Babcock, David Brower, Angela Brown, John Forsyth, Michael Gardner, Dan Mackey, Pam Marcus, Bruce Smith, Liz Thomas, Rick Vogt
The meeting called to order at 10:01 AM.

It was moved by Bill Anderson and seconded John Forsyth to approve to the minutes of October 4, 2017 with two changes (remove title of Dr. for Bruce Smith and correct date of next meeting to November 8). Motion passed unanimously with these two changes.

President's Report (Rick Vogt):

Communications: Rick has now gone through an entire cycle of producing the newsletter. His observations are that we seem to ask for money and volunteers a lot. We also limited content previously due to page limitations. He is working with Dave Brower and printers to see if we go to a larger newsletter can we include messages we want members to have such as Spartan Spotlight, What's new, etc. These articles should attract readers. We want our members to read the newsletter. He has reviewed other B1G newsletters and we may want to take some of their tips. Additional articles will give a more balanced look at who we are. The cost isn't that great as we have more and more people going electronic so there aren't that many printed. The cost up to 16 pages is pretty minimal.

Jacqie Babcock mentioned this also has a potential impact on underwriting. We have not increased underwriting except for the three expanded issues. We also don't want to go overboard with advertising, but the additions of the College of Music and the Broad Contemporary Art Museum are MSU oriented.

There are three potential newsletter editors all who have experience. One is a journalism professor.

AARP Programming: The first AARP program had about 16 people and went very well. November is on fraud prevention. AARP is running ads on TV on this issue. Pam Marcis felt some new people came to this event so it is good outreach. Straightline is presenting in November as well. The Lugnut event is scheduled for June.

MSU Senior Housing Evaluation: The surveys are out and focus groups are taking place this month. There was an MSU retiree who was concerned about how the survey was put together. Bill Anderson felt there were some problems, as well. Rick feels it would be good to have them as a monthly speaker sometime. Dave Brower said the Burcham Hills board met last night and they are close to moving ahead with a new project, as well. Marketing plans are in

development. Fees are still being determined. There would be 40 units in a tower in the \$200-250,000 range with some underground parking. The Board hasn't voted to go ahead and there will need to be some presales to make it feasible.

Notes at Monthly Membership Meetings: A member asked for minutes for the programs. Do we want to do this? The feeling is this is "social" and we do not need to have minutes. There is a description afterwards on the website. Options for the future we discussed: Livestream video – YouTube? The University has a license for Zoom. It was suggested this is just one person and the complications regarding permissions, etc. would need to be researched before going to this format.

Rick informed the group he will be sending out an E-mail asking for volunteers to help with set up.

Library Privileges: A retiree e-mailed asking about privileges of using MSU Library e-books. Calls like these are referred to the direct source, the Library, but with an ID, retirees do have privileges at the MSU Library. We can also access e-books through the State of MI Library. Dan pointed out Library information is on the HR website for retirees.

Vice President's Report (Given by Rick Vogt on behalf of Roger Baldwin): The speaker for November is from Veterinary Medicine on research on animals that also has potential for human beings.

Past President Report: No Report.

Treasurer's Report (Dave Brower): Dave has paid for liability insurance for board members. He has completed paperwork for criminal insurance. Most of MSURA funds are in MSU accounts. There is some program reimbursement. We do not have checks in place such as two people to sign any checks. This process could place undue hardship, however, as we are a group of retirees and we do a lot of traveling and many are gone for extended periods of time. This type of insurance is expensive. He will get a price back, but we will have to look at the balance of risk and value and we don't need over complexity in meeting our commitments, either. Dave is keeping account records downstairs.

A board member asked how close we are to the \$100,000 scholarship goal. Dave responded the only solicitation we've done for the scholarship after the golf outing is in the newsletter. A separate mailing would not be cost effective. We could maybe mark benchmarks – such as every \$5,000 or when we are close to \$100,000 and can offer two scholarships. Jacqie suggested something in e-notices close to Giving Tuesday might be appropriate. Other organizations will be participating.

October 2017 revenues totaled \$492.62 and expenditures totaled \$1,983.47, resulting in a decrease in assets for the month of \$1,490.85. Included in expenditures is the D&O annual

insurance cost of \$825. We have not been billed by the golf course for the cost of the September golf outing. Dave will contact them to try and finalize the billing.

For the 2017-18 fiscal year-to-date through the four months ending October 31, 2017, revenues total \$15,925.72 and expenditures total \$6,910.99, resulting in an increase in assets of \$\$, 9,014.73. Again, this statement does not yet reflect the cost of the golf outing.

As of October 31, 2017, the MSU Retirees Association Endowment balance was \$91,849.20, an increase of \$978.40 over the prior month.

e-Notices: The next e-Notices will go out October 20th and November 10th. Information is due the Friday before. Please send to Trish Horn.

Golf Outing Update (Rick Vogt for Patrick Scheetz): Straightline is interested in participating and looking at a fundraiser, but not a golf outing. The feeling is September is a bit late for a golf event. No one has agreed to Chair the effort since Patrick Scheetz has resigned. We could resurrect in the future or could turn it into a social event with less effort on fundraising. We also don't have people who like "sales". We want to respect comfort levels in tasks. We recognize much of our success is due to Patrick's sales efforts and especially Straightline underwriting the event and bringing in big donors.

Fundraising options are limited, especially with his group – other than a mass mailing. We need more social events and connections. If we had more active members perhaps we could do a silent auction and maybe a dinner/dance, etc.

We need a broader discussion on fundraising and what are goals are after we have funded two scholarships. We need a separate meeting. Many expressed that fund raising should be secondary to service to retirees, but we also recognize we do need funds to operate. Rick will send out some meeting dates through January to discuss the golf outing and fundraising and talk about other areas we could help fund that would serve our members. When we reach \$100,000 in the scholarship fund maybe we can look at where we want to go?

Military History Group (Rick Vogt for Al LeBlanc and Patrick Scheetz): The special event Friday held on October 13th, on the *Mounument Men* was successful.

Office Management: Liz appreciates individuals stepping up to cover the office mornings. We do receive phone calls and it is important to check mail during this time period because United Fund donations are being returned. She sent a calendar around with open dates into January.

Announcements:

Dan Mackey acknowledged there was an issue with mailing open enrollment packets. There are still phone calls. If a packet arrived late they will be told they have until the end of November as a grace period.

David Brower reported he has sent complaints to the Clinical Center about parking and the East door not being open. With ice and snow it will be a problem. Dave has a person to contact if anyone is interested.

Pam Marcis reported she received one special interest form and sent their interests to the two groups indicated. The Scrapbooking SIG is disbanding due to the busy schedule of the coordinator. The knitting group will provide some door prize items for the Annual meeting in may.

Rick acknowledged in his experience with the walking group, that it is hard to hold a group together and have members commit to attend on any given day.

United Way: United Way packets will be prepared on November 29 and 30. Please call Darlene if you can help.

Old News Boys: Bruce Smith reported the number of people volunteering is smaller this year, but he will do the best that can be done. Rick Vogt has freed his day to work the event. Dave Brower asked for locations needing coverage and he will assist. The date is December 7. Pam suggested a service oriented fraternity or sorority might help?

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Next Meeting: December 6, 2017, 10AM, Room 125 Nesbit

Respectively submitted by Jacqueline Babcock.