**MSU Retirees Association Board Meeting**

**September 6, 2017**

**10:00 am, 125 Nesbit**

Attending: William Anderson, Jacqueline Babcock, Roger Baldwin, Angela Brown, Dan Chegwidden, John Forsyth, Michael Gardner, Patricia Horn, Al LeBlanc, Dan Mackey, Pam Marcus, Bruce Smith, Ron Smith, Liz Thomas, Rick Vogt

The meeting called to order.

Members not attending the retreat last week were asked to introduce themselves.

Rick passed around a thankyou card from Claire Weessies, one of the scholarship recipients.

Rick passed around a thank you card for board members to sign to be sent to the Credit Union for letting MSURA using the space for our monthly programs.

Financial statements were handed out for those not at the retreat.

Roger Baldwin should be added to the April 26 minutes for the slate of officers as Vice-President. The minutes will stand approved.

**Baldwin research Paper:**

Roger is a Professor of Higher Education with an interest in what keeps people alive and vital over their career. There is very little research on this so he and two graduation students pursued this area and came across several organizations working with retirees.

Key challenges are:

Visibility. Making others aware they exist. This is also related to membership.

Meetings and what they are doing. Generally there is no assessment process to indicate how are they performing? What might they do differently? Boards are mostly volunteer boards so there is no information gathering. It is difficult to improve if this isn’t done.

Finances. Funding tends to be heavily dependent on dues or the institution with which they are affiliated. Other forms of funding include annual fund raising or raising an endowment by reaching out to foundations or other organizations who might value and support their work.

Demographics. There is a big bubble of those about to retire. It’s clear that people do benefit from being engaged and society needs people to be engaged. People live longer and society needs them to be engaged. If we brainstorm we might be able to seek some other financial support from local or national foundations. This needs some thought.

Many organizations support people in their transition and collaborate closely with HR. HR generally helps with financial issues but there are psycho-social issues such as how to use time productively and alternative ways to be engaged, etc.

MSURA will be called on to serve more people if they see us as useful. We might expand what else can we do to be beneficial to a large group of retirees from MSU.

**Agenda**

There was a motion by Bill Anderson and seconded by Angie Brown to approve to the retreat minutes of August 31. Passed unanimously.

**President’s Report:**

Big Ten Conference at Purdue:

Rick Vogt, Roger Baldwin and Bruce Smith attended this conference held at Purdue University. MSU is scheduled to host this conference in 2027.

They keynote speaker was astronaut, Jerry Ross. There was a good crowd at the keynote because they invited other retirees to attend. The sessions were very interactive. Everyone shared what was going on at their institution on the given topic.

Rick’s written report (included) is organized around topics we might look at now or in future years – not necessarily in the next two years. Overall MSU appears to be doing well compared to other Big Ten universities,

The IRS 501(c) designation assigned retiree organizations varies across the Big Ten.  Attendees found this an interesting observation, given our review two years ago of the 501(c) designation assigned to MSURA.

Funding: OSU surveys regularly and they have a high return rate. University of California surveys retirees about the amount of volunteer work they do in the community. They promote the productive involvement of their retirees as equal to an 11th campus and use this as a compelling argument to their state government. Vanguard and Fidelity are underwriters. OSU raised $15,000 selling program ads in their program for the annual meeting.

Marketing and Benefits: MSU does a good job. MSU is looking to expand their capacity for *The Road Next Traveled*. We can use the vehicles that are out there already for various Unions on campus.

Health Care: We are fortunate to have good health care through MSU. Purdue does not. Their organization goes out and negotiates with health insurers. About 3,000 people sign up. Some Universities are Civil Service and have to negotiate with their State government. Vogt handed out an example of Purdue’s website entry on what to do when a spouse or loved one passes. Purdue’s Silver Sneakers are offered free access to exercise venues via their health insurance. Purdue gives information on how to utilize drugs and services to keep health care costs down.

Purdue has an airport and flight simulators. They have 20 or more alumni who are astronauts or ex astronauts.

A number of schools publish recent retirees on their website or in newsletters. This helps efforts to get people to meetings and events, they believe, (OSU in particular). It was felt there might be a concern re: privacy issues.

Purdue created an endowment fund to fund their retirees association. They received $50,000 from the University and an additional $50,000 from members.

They also send letters to surviving spouses.

There was a discussion about Ollie Organizations? These are Life Long Learning Institutes. (One is located in Saginaw Valley and maybe one Big Ten University – either Nebraska or Rutgers?). Funds are no longer available to set up one of these institutes.

The Year Ahead:

Programs are set. Roger has done a great job.

There was discussion about entertainment for the annual meeting in the spring. Due to the length of the meeting, we may not proceed. The planning committee was asked to discuss this issue and come back with a recommendation.

The new AARP programs are starting in Oct. These programs are free to MSURA. If successful this could be continued in the future.

Nov 14, 1-3 pm, MSU Credit Union, Straightline will present a program with similar content to last year.

Mia Washington’s film is close to being completed. MSURA may assist in some way, even, perhaps a premiere on campus.

Burcham Hills: We are hopeful we can arrange for an event at Burcham Hills after first of the year. This is an effort to see if we can reach out to retirees living at Burcham Hills and partner for them to bus people to other events, as well.

We have two new special interest groups – travel and walking.

In an effort to pare down on time needed for board meetings, we are asking for officer and committee reports to be sent ahead of meetings via email. The President will send out a board packet which allows board members to remain connected if they cannot attend a meeting. Report can be discussed at meetings, if needed and will give people time to read materials if we need to vote on an issue.

Rick suggested we might be able to use time saved on reports to invite people to board meetings to discuss what other groups are doing on campus and in the community. Members felt this might not the best use of time. Another suggestion from the board was to hold a vendor meeting that would attract all of the community and MSU retirees. We could have a larger meeting on one topic if it would be useful to our members. Should we have a table at the benefits fair at Breslin in mid Oct. It is too late for this year, but might be an option for next year.

Bill Anderson and Roger Baldwin are interested in a program to help employees transition to retirement. Bill will chair a committee to look at this. We will work with Diane in HR. We have a lot of members who haven’t gone through *The Road Next Traveled*.

We could hold a hospitality event for employment groups on campus.

**Vice President’s Report:**  See Baldwin report above.

**Past President Report:** No Report

**Treasurer’s Report:** The Board approved a preliminary budget in May for the summer. Angie Brown moved and Bill Anderson seconded to approve the budget for next year as submitted by Dave Brower. Passed unanimously.

**Communications Report:**

Newsletter: Al LeBlanc reported Sept 15 is the deadline for the next newsletter of four pages and October 6 is the deadline for an expanded issue. Al brought copies of every newsletter he has edited. He announced he is stepping down after the October issue.

eNotices:

Trish Horn reported the next eNotices will go out September 15 and 29. One eNotice will always be on the Friday before a meeting. There may be some flexibility in-between. The deadline is the Tuesday before.

**Golf Outing Update:**

Mike Gardner sent out assignments for the event last week via email. Jacqie Babcock reported prize items are coming in nicely. The deadline is Friday, Sept. 8.

**Office Management:**

Please sign up to work in the office.

Mike: There was an Employee Assistance meeting in May. The Physicians Group is moving from Olin to Olds Hall. They offer a lot of events.

**Other Announcements:**

Benefits packets for Open Enrollment will be out by October 1. They are still working on some details. There will be information sessions Oct 17, 18, 19 at Breslin Center. Dan Mackey will follow up with Al LeBlanc regarding an announcement in the MSURA newsletter.

There was clarification that there are different tiers of retiree health benefits based on employment date. Those hired July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2010 receive a University contribution for their own health benefit, but not dependents. Employees hired after July 1, 2010 or later no longer receive any health benefit contribution. They can participate but they pay the full premium.

It was reported the drum on the printer has been replaced. It was several years past the replacement date.

The Opera group is disbanding. We are picking up a walking group.

Meeting adjourned 11:53 pm.

**Next Meeting: October 4, 2017, 10AM to 11:30AM, Room 125 Nesbit**

Respectively submitted by Jacqueline Babcock