

MSU Retirees Association Board Meeting

December 6, 2017

10:00 AM, 125 Nesbit

Attending: Etta Abraham, William Anderson, Jacqueline Babcock, Roger Baldwin, Dave Brower, John Forsyth, Trish Horn, Dan Mackey, Pam Marcis, Bruce Smith, Ron Smith, Liz Thomas, Rick Vogt

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.

Rick stated the board photo would not be taken as quite a few people couldn't attend today. He also urged board members to send reports in advance for the board packet so all board members can keep up with board business, even if they are not able to attend a meeting.

Minutes: Bruce Smith moved and John Forsyth seconded to approve the minutes from the November meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

President Report (Rick Vogt):

Rick met with Sharon Butler, MSU HR Vice President to update her on what MSURA has done in the past year. The meeting went well. There are no changes expected in health care unless something happens at the Federal level with the Affordable Care Act legislation. She will be speaking at the annual meeting of retirees in Florida. This gathering goes back to 1982. Speakers have included Presidents John Hannah and Walter Adams. In 1992 Keith Groty became involved and HR has participated since then.

Dan Mackey has attended the luncheons in Florida in the past. He said it is more difficult now to provide information on benefits to this group because open enrollment for benefits now takes place in the fall, not in the spring, when the meeting takes place in Florida.

MSU HR has rolled out a new service to employees called "Alex" which is an interactive online based tool for exploring health benefits coverage. This may be something offered to retirees in the future.

Some MSU employees are beginning to retire who have different retirement benefits than retirees who were employed prior to 2002. Employees hired after 2002 do not have spouse healthcare benefits paid by the University. They are offered an option to purchase healthcare benefits through MSU at its group rates. The retiree is responsible for 100% of the cost for their spouse. This is a point of clarification. Some people thought they had to purchase their spouse's healthcare insurance on the open market. MSU's offer is an alternative to doing so.

Historically MSURA has completed a mailing to Florida retirees with a permanent FL address. Liz will do this again this year. People spending a shorter time in FLA should be encouraged to attend via the newsletter. We will follow what we have done in the past with a letter and information in the newsletter.

Newsletter Editor: Rick has spoken to several candidates and is meeting with a strong prospect today.

AARP Presentation: The speaker did not show up at the last session on fraud prevention. A make-up date is scheduled for Thursday, February 14, 2018, 10 AM at Meridian Senior Center, 2125 Kinawa Dr, Okemos. This will be announced once the link to register online is available in January.

December's AARP program on Medicare 101 takes place on Tuesday, December 12, 2017, 10 AM at IM Sports East.

Straightline presented information on financial planning, Tuesday, November 14th, 1-3 pm. It was well attended and there was good feedback from attendees. Thank you to Steve and Beth Mosshart for organizing this again. It was a quality program.

Scholarships: Rick will call a special meeting to focus on fundraising going forward which will include the decision whether or not to continue with a golf tournament. This will take place after the holidays. It was suggested we hold a mid-year retreat, perhaps in February. We also now have the funds for two scholarships and there is a need to discuss criteria and whether we will continue at \$2500/year or go with less/scholarship and offer more scholarships. It was suggested we ask someone from the Admissions Office to attend for this discussion.

Monthly Membership Meetings: Rick asked for two people to sign up each month for the membership meeting to arrive early to make sure the door is unlocked, etc. A sign-up sheet was passed around.

Vice President's Report (Roger Baldwin): Teresa Irish will be the speaker at the monthly meeting on December 11. She needs three tables for memorabilia. She will likely have books for sale based on the letters written by her father while serving in WWII. We are paying her a smaller speaker fee because of this accommodation.

Bill Anderson and Roger have met re: the membership survey. They are working on this and the orientation program.

Past President's Report (Rick Vogt for Angela Brown): Angie and Rick met. Angie is looking at some more social events to offer active members.

Treasurers Report (Dave Brower): Revenues for November totaled \$538.91 and expenditures totaled \$4,642.20 resulting in a net decrease in assets of \$4,103.29. Included in expenditures is a charge from the golf course of \$4,235.98 for costs for the golf outing. All revenues and expenses for the September golf outing are finalized and recorded.

Year-to-date, revenues totaled \$16,464.63 and expenditures totaled \$11,553.19, resulting in a net increase in assets of \$4,911.44.

The MSU Retirees Association Endowment balance on 11/30/17 was \$92,582.60, an increase of \$733.40 over the prior month. I sent another \$5,000 over to Advancement from Straightline, so the endowment balance will be approaching \$98,000 at the end of December.

Dave reported that Hospitality and Food Service has reached out to MSURA to see if retirees might want to work part time. Last year MSU decided if you work on campus after retiring you do not need to pay

for parking, reversing a previous policy that retirees would be charged the monthly fee if they were working. It is not just residence halls who need employees. Dave would like to get this information out. He has a few passes for people to eat for free in the dorms. The decision was made to give the passes out at next week's meeting via a drawing.

Most felt this was a great idea. There is a link through HR for positions on campus available to retirees. HR has a separate employment site. HR's website is careers.msu.edu – special section for temps and on call. We will alert people to review possible tax issues. Trish Horn will include this in the e-notices.

It was moved to accept the Treasurer's report as modified (two lines were mixed up; Dave will change in the filed report). The motion passed unanimously.

Communications Report (Rick Vogt and Trish Horn):

Newsletter: The deadline is December 8. Historically this issue has been four pages, but we might go to eight pages for the January 2018 issue. We could include an article on the hospitality jobs if Dave can have it ready with a short timeline.

E-notices will be published on Friday, December 8. Dave will send something short to Trish to include on Hospitality and Food Service hiring.

Office Management (Liz Thomas): The MSURA office needs coverage for January –April. A calendar was passed around for sign up.

Membership/Special Interest Groups (Pam Marcis): The annual meeting committee will meet mid-January. Meals cost about \$23. We also pay for scholarship recipients and their families which increases the cost. We want to keep the price to a maximum of \$25.

No report for special interest groups.

United Way (Rick Vogt for Darlene Wenner): \$44,000 has come in this year so far.

Old News Boys (Bruce Smith): The event takes place tomorrow morning. Call Bruce at his home number if you can participate.

Meeting Adjourned 11:27 pm.

Minutes Submitted by Jacqueline Babcock

NEXT MEETING: January 3, 2018, 10 AM, 125 Nesbit Bldg.