

Michigan State University Retirees Association Board Meeting

November 7, 2018 10:00 AM

125 Nisbet Building

Attending: Bill Anderson, Jacqueline Babcock, Roger Baldwin, Dave Brower, Angela Brown, John Forsyth, Michael Gardner, Dan Mackey, Pamela Marcis, Bruce Smith, Ron Smith, Liz Thomas, Rick Vogt

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by President Rick Vogt.

The October minutes will be approved at the December meeting along with the November minutes.

President's Report: (Rick Vogt):

After 2018 we will need to reassess participation in the Old Newsboy fundraiser. This is Bruce Smith's last year. Individuals willing to volunteer on December 6 should contact Bruce.

There has been some negative response to AARP's registration process for seminars being offered. Rick talked to AARP and MSURA will take over registration.

Dave Brower reported Burcham Hills is finalizing plans for an addition for additional independent living units which is being called Stone Briar. They have events planned to explain the project and if any Board members would like more information, they should contact Burcham Hills. Burcham Hills hopes to start construction on the first of two buildings of 44 units in 2019, with plans for another building of 44 units sometime in the future.

MSU Benefits Open Enrollment: (Dan Mackey):

October open enrollment went well. The Benefits Fair took place over two days this year instead of three days as in the past but there was a 20% increase in attendance.

The Board thanked Dan for speaking to retirees at the October monthly meeting. Next year we will need a different venue as the Credit Union location was too small for the number attending.

Vice President's Report (Roger Baldwin):

Next Monday's speaker is MSU's women's golf coach. She has developed a winning golf team in golf with high academic standards. The December program is a musical program with a soprano singing classical and Broadway hits.

The group discussed payment for speakers. The genealogy interest group approached the board for a monthly speaker using DNA results to find ancestors. We now have made more than one exception for paying speakers, one last year, the musicians for December, and now this potential speaker. Should we set some guidelines? What is reasonable? If we pay some and not others is that a problem?

It seems to be a reality that many expect payment. MSU personnel generally speak as part of their service to the University. Ron Smith believes this can turn into a slippery slope. Roger Baldwin pointed out the recent survey points out we are not reaching a lot of retirees, so maybe we need different speakers and outreach.

Dave Brower is worried about the financial aspect. Supporting genealogy is just one group and we have to think about finances. We are pretty much at our breaking point. We will be subsidizing our annual meeting. We do have some reserve funds but we have to decide if these funds will go to the scholarship fund or for support and outreach. In future years we might have to think how to raise more money. It is OK to look at paying speakers on a case by case basis but we can't go far enough to give each interest group a budget for something like this.

Jacqie Babcock suggested a mini grant program with an established budget each year and interest groups could apply for resources for a speaker for a special presentation or part of a regular monthly meeting.

Rick Vogt will respond to the genealogy group based on this conversation to say a policy is under review.

Roger thanked Bill Anderson for arranging the campus tree tour in October. A thank you card was signed by the group to be sent to Dr. Frank Telewski.

Roger showed a short Power Point with some preliminary data from the retiree survey. There were 700 responses.

Roger sent around a sign up sheet for volunteers to help set up for monthly meetings.

Past President's Report (Angela Brown):

Angela Brown will be getting together a committee to review scholarship applications.

She has sent an update to the board on planning for senior housing. A speaker will come from the committee in early 2019 to speak to the board.

Treasurer's Report (Dave Brower):

Dave Brower distributed the MSURA October 31, 2018 financial statement. He noted that revenues for the month totaled \$68.41 and expenditures totaled \$733.11, resulting in an excess of expenditures over revenues for October of \$664.70. Fiscal year-to-date revenues totaled \$11,389.69 and expenditures totaled \$4,978.80, resulting in a net increase in assets of \$6,410.89. Recall that all underwriting revenues for the year, totaling \$10,400, have been received and will be needed to cover copy printing, postage and other costs for the remainder of this fiscal year (FY).

As of October 31, 2018 the MSURA Endowment had a balance of \$104,968.16, an increase of \$358.40 over the prior month. The income account had a balance of \$6,419.74, net of \$1,500 scholarship expense charged so far this FY. (Note - \$3,500 in scholarship commitments remaining for the balance of the FY).

We received a refund from one of our scholarships. He is not sure why this occurred or if it is a mistake. Angie will try to check this out.

Dave handed out a draft to send to the Presidential Search Committee reminding that committee of the contributions retirees make to the University and asking for input. A few suggestions were made. Dave will send a second draft for consideration of the board and signature of the President.

Dave handed out an announcement about the Bridge Center of Great Lansing offering bridge lessons in conjunction with the Alzheimer's Association. This will appear as an item in the e-notices with a link.

Dave expects an invoice for the board's liability insurance which will need approval to pay at the December meeting.

Annual Meeting (Pam Marcis):

The committee has selected a combo plate with salmon and beef. Attendees will be asked to pay \$25/person but the actual cost is \$31. There is also a \$500 cost for room set up, microphones, a podium, flowers, and favors. The total cost of the luncheon would be around \$3600. Rick will ask Straightline if they would be willing to cover \$2,000 to help offset costs.

Social Events (Jacqie Babcock and Pam Marcis):

Jacqie is looking at some local events at theatre venues with lunch or dinner. She will send out a list and ask for interest in dates and participation.

Pam is looking more broadly at day trips.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:15 PM.