

APPROVED February 9, 2016

**UW-Madison Retirement Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of December 8, 2015
UW Credit Union, 3500 University Avenue, Community Room**

Board Members Present (14):

Darrell Barth	John Helgeson	Cora Marrett
Pat Carol	Dorothy Klinefelter	Gary Mitchell
Phil Certain	Diane Kravetz	Sarah Potts
Bob Dye	Cherie Krenke	Bill Richner
Barbara Erlenborn	Al Liegel	

Absent (0):

Staff Present: Millard Susman, Ann Wallace

Guests:

The minutes of the October 13, 2015, meeting were approved as submitted.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report—Darrell Barth reported that the statements through November were “as usual.” He has provided the statements and records for the 2014-15 fiscal year to Jerry Lange, Mareda Weiss for audit. **The statements through November were approved as submitted.**

President's Report—President Bob Dye reported on an email from Dick Kratz of the Wisconsin Coalition of Annuitants about the possibility of the use of employee trust funds for purposes other than pensions returning to the Supreme Court for reconsideration. Years ago, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that funds held in trust for the Wisconsin Retirement System could not be diverted for other purposes. Gary Mitchell explained that in a lawsuit brought by Madison Teachers, Inc., regarding Act 21, which expanded the Governor's control over state agency administrative rules, parties argued that this decision should be revisited. A court decision is expected in April.

Executive Director's Report—Executive Director Ann Wallace reported that there was a delay in delivery of November paper copies of *The Sifter*, while the December issue went out on the usual schedule. Progress is being made on getting a UWRA flyer included in materials sent out by UW Health Human Resources to future retirees. Ann has a meeting soon with Anthony Dix, the UW

Health HR Director. New committee chairs include Michele Mickelson and Mary Beth Plane on the Retirement Challenges Committee, Gary Mitchell on the Social Committee, and Esther Olson, co-chairing the Travel Committee with Peggy Daluge. The UWRA brochure has been revised by Ann, Chere Gibson, and Mary Ray, and it is more welcoming to non-UW-Madison retirees and staff.

Committee reports:

Gary Mitchell has agreed to chair the Social Committee. A report dated October 17, 2015, was sent out with the agenda. A number of possible new names have been considered for the committee, including New Ideas Committee and, more recently, the Connections Committee. Jeanne Stublaski, a recent retiree, has joined the committee and is organizing a new East Side breakfast at Elie's Family Restaurant on Monona Drive.

Bob Dye reported for the Membership Committee on a pilot event for schools and colleges that is being developed with the School of Engineering for some time in early 2016, with the purpose of developing preretirement contacts with current employees.

Millard Susman reported that CFMR will hold a December 16 seminar on health insurance regarding the Segal Report, a January seminar on power of attorney, and a February seminar on a behavioral approach to investment and financial decisions. Four new members have volunteered through the November seminar evaluation form to join the committee. They will be invited to the next CFMR meeting. The December 16 seminar has about 160 signed up so far, and attendees will be invited on the evaluation form to volunteer for any UWRA committee (all will be listed). Sandi Haase developed the format, and it is available to other committees.

New Business:

Gary Mitchell reported on his visit to the University Staff Executive Committee meeting. The benefits of emeritus status were discussed. Most post-retirement benefits appear to be available to all retirees. Parking is one exception that is only available to those with emeritus status. The agenda of the next University Staff Congress meeting was discussed.

Ann reported that Frank Boll, a UWRA member and former videographer for WHA, videotaped a program at Capitol Lakes and is willing to do the same for UWRA programs. The videos could be posted on our website and available to all members, particularly those who are unable to attend. Each venue has its own rules on this and permission must be granted by the presenter and others shown. One solution to the need for permission from those taped would be to keep the camera focused only on the speaker and have the speaker repeat all questions. All agreed the idea has merit, and it was further agreed to ask the Communications Committee to look further into the matter.

Phil Certain reported that Hanns Kuttner, spouse of Chancellor Rebecca Blank, had contacted him regarding assisting Troy Reaves, the director of the UW-Madison Oral History Project, in order to make sessions as valuable as possible. There was discussion about identifying three people, one faculty, one university staff, one academic staff, to train as oral historians.

Old Business:

The Travel Committee recommends that UWRA treat members of PLATO the same as we treat University League members for UWRA travel. Currently University League members can sign up for UWRA trips during the last week of registration, after UWRA members have had an opportunity to fill the trip. We do not charge extra to non-members (PLATO charges \$15). There is no downside or great risk to the recommendation, and it will help fill empty spots. **John Helgeson made the motion to approve the Travel Committee recommendation, second by Al Liegel. Motion approved unanimously.**

The board had an extended discussion about committees, committee membership and leadership and the role of the board in relation to the committees. The discussion goes back to the October meeting and concerns raised by the Social Committee about its viability. As previously noted under committee reports, Gary Mitchell has become chair of the committee, and the group has decided to continue and has started to discuss future plans and a possible name change. As noted in the Executive Director's report, three committees have new leadership. The board tries to have at least one board member on each committee. Cora Marrett raised the issue of what is the vision of UWRA, and should we be looking at whether the committees as they now operate fit that vision? In the past, most direction for committees has been generated from within, and the board provides assistance and guidance as needed. The board has been enabling but not directive, trying not to stifle initiative at the committee level. The board's response to the Social Committee report was discussed, and it was concluded that the committee, with its new chair and new members, should be given time to develop its plans. Gary will report back to the board on their progress. It was agreed that the UWRA vision will be a continuing topic of board discussion.

Next meeting—January 12, 2016, at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Richner
Secretary