

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting, June 22, 2017
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

I. Call to order. The Board meeting was called to order on June 22nd by President Diane Vukovich at 10:01am.

A. Others present included Bob Blankenship, Bob Gandee, Ali Hajjafar, John Heminger, Loren Hoch, Rita Klein, Ed Lasher, Carl Lieberman, Laura Moss-Spitler, Neal Raber, Pam Rupert, Dan Sheffer, Linda Sugarman, Frank Thomas, Martha Vye, and Tom Vukovich.

B. Excused: Cathy Edwards, Velma Pomrenke

II. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the May 25th meeting were approved as mailed.

III. Treasure's Report. Bob Blankenship reported the May 2017 balance of \$8,475.46. Last year's May balance was \$5,988.14 indicating that our operating funds are satisfactory.

IV. Corresponding Secretary. Martha Vye mailed three cards the past month. A congratulatory card went to John Zipp for receiving the Collective Congress Marilyn Sternberg Award. Two get well cards were sent to Bud Marsden and Tim Norfolk who were recently hospitalized.

V. Committee Reports.

A. Programs. Tom Vukovich reported that the fall luncheon speakers are set as reported previously. He, Diane and Neal Raber met with Leva Balcus to set the menus for the coming year. While the lunch cost itself will remain the same, it was noted that AUAR will need to start covering \$75 of the room charge each month (half). They are waiting now for the formal confirmation of arrangements in writing.

Speaker arrangements were discussed in detail. Three luncheons in the spring still need to be settled. Tom distributed a detailed list of all the steps and arrangements to be handled each month for setting up the arrangements and the duties on the day of the luncheon.

Ed Lasher discussed the option of using a retirement community sponsored luncheon. After some discussion it was decided that this might be best used as a "service" provided by AUAR, publicizing an event that retirees might be interested in attending. Ed will bring more information to the next meeting.

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Dan Sheffer will set up the speaker for March.

Special Events: Tom is still searching for a site to hold Lobster and Suds 2017. Neal Raber noted that he had found a possible site. They will check it out.

B. Membership. Frank Thomas reported that membership renewals have gone out via email. Hard mail notices will go out in August. We currently have 340 active members.

Linda Sugarman suggested getting a list of those who are retiring during the “phase down” window to make sure they are included in our membership drive.

C. Political Action. Bob Gandee reported on coverage for the OCHER meetings for next year as he will only be able to attend one of them. He still needs someone to cover the March meeting for him.

D. Benefits. Linda Sugarman reported that STRS announced the health insurance premiums for 2018. Most premiums are remaining the same as 2017. No announcements have been made yet concerning co-payments, deductibles, etc.

Linda also reported that some Retiree Dependents are still having trouble with payments due to the insurance errors a few months ago. All issues have not yet been rectified.

The University of Akron budget showed transfers for support of Retiree Dependent medical insurance and Retiree life insurance. Also included on the same line was administrative consulting fees not supported by departmental contribution. Since the amount was not broken down specifically, we do not know the exact amount related to the retiree items.

E. Faculty Senate. There was no Senate meeting in June.

Bob Gandee reported that the University Council Committee on Institutional Advancement is proceeding with their project on student scholarships. They are now collecting information for all Colleges.

F. University & Community Service/Website. Dan Sheffer reported that he is gathering information now to have the web updated by July 1.

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G. Scholarship. Carl Lieberman presented a motion to award two \$2000 scholarships, one each to the following students:

Jonathon Masters, a junior accounting major

Brook Kendra, a senior education major (English)

The vote was unanimous to award these two students a \$2000 scholarship for the 2017-2018 year. Carl will request acknowledgement statements from each of these students and invite them to attend one of our luncheons next year.

Carl also reported working with June Burton to clarify the criteria for the scholarship to include rotating colleges. More discussion followed concerning the wording in the "Funding Arrangements" section. Concerns surrounded the percentage noted for the annual distribution as well as the use of funds from the principle. It was decided to have Carl contact Kim Cole to discuss the wording of those changes.

Loren Hoch moved that no awards should be taken out of the principle. Neal Raber seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

H. Newsletter. Pam Rupert reported that she will interview John Bee for the fall newsletter. John currently is in Italy and so the interview will be delayed until after he returns on July 20th.

Discussion followed concerning retiree Leona Ferris who is turning 100 years old. Suggestions included writing a human interest story about her on the occasion of this milestone.

Pam's publishing deadline is set for August 15th.

VI. Unfinished Business. The amendment of the AUAR bylaws was again discussed. Ed Lasher presented a hard copy of suggested changes to wording to all members on the Board. Ed moved that the following amendment be presented to the AUAR membership for adoption:

The Association of University of Akron Retirees (AUAR) Associate Members who were former employees of The University of Akron for a minimum of 5 years, may hold office in the AUAR and may be members of the AUAR Board.

The motion passed unanimously and will be presented to the general membership at two meetings next year for final approval.

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VII. New Business. Lynn Smolen approached Diane about distributing information about a tour to China among our members. Diane noted that the trip was sponsored by a travel agency. It was decided against disseminating this information since it was not directly connected to an educational entity.

Ali Hajjafar suggested that the Board consider establishing a life-time membership.

Diane called Neal forward and officially turned over the leadership of AUAR into his hands. Neal presented Diane with a framed Certificate of Appreciation.

VIII. Adjournment at 11:26am.

Respectfully submitted:
Rita Klein, Recording Secretary

**Next Executive Board Meeting:
August 24, 2017.
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**