

The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting Friday, June 26, 2025 Minutes
Held in person and Zoom

I. **Call to Order:** The Board meeting was called to order on June 26, 2025 by President Harvey Sterns at 10:03 am.

II. **Welcome and Announcements**

Members attending: Doug Hausknecht, Bob Huff, Richard Milford, Dan Sheffer, Richard Steiner, Tom Vukovich, Mary Verstraete, Martha Vye, Mel Vye, George Haritos, Ali Hajjafar, Harvey Sterns, Kathy DuBose, Tom Nichols, Linda Sugarman, Rita Klein

Zoom: Carl Leiberman

Excused: Diane Vukovich

Richard Steiner welcomed everyone to his first meeting as President.

III. **Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes from May were presented for approval.

Dan Sheffer motioned to approve; Ali Hajjafar seconded. The minutes were approved without correction.

IV. **Treasurer's Report :**

May 2025

UA Account income: Membership dues	\$ 15.00
Bus Trip, L&S proceeds	161.55
Total income	<u>\$ 176.55</u>

UA Account expenses: AUAR Road Trip	
Parking Lot rental	\$ 50.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 50.00</u>

	UA Account	Petty Cash	Totals
Initial Balance	\$11879.01	\$300.68	\$12179.69
Income	\$176.55	\$0.00	\$176.55
Expenses	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Final Balance	\$12005.56	\$300.68	\$12306.24*

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Final Balance			
May 2024	\$12754.80	\$152.48	\$12907.28*

* These include dues payments for future years.

Richard Milford moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Harvey Sterns seconded. The motion passed.

- V. Corresponding Secretary:** Linda Sugarman reported that she sent a condolence card to Mary Jo MacCracken on the death of her husband. Mary Jo responded with a Thank you card. Linda also sent a Birthday card to June Burton, one of the original members of AUAR.

VI. Committee Reports:

- A. Programs:** Tom Vukovich reported the agenda for the fall lunches is being set up. Jon Miller will be presenting September 17th. He is the co-author, with Dave Leiberth of the Bicentennial book for Akron. October 15th's speaker will be the new Provost for UA, Dr. Gwen Price.

Mary Verstraete volunteered to discuss her completion of a bucket list item – visiting all 50 states, for the November 19th meeting.

November will also include the Soup and Chili Dinner.

- B. Membership:** Mel Vye reported that he, Richard Steiner, Tom and Diane? Vukovich met with Lynne Dewyre in Development to discuss their support of AUAR. He stated it was a positive meeting and things should be looking better in the future.

Dan and Mel met to send out e-mails to members about renewals and donations and to life members regarding donating to scholarships.

We need to get a list of new retirees at least quarterly and Lynne will coordinate with HR to get the lists and to have HR hand out our brochure when new retirees do their checkout meeting.

Tom Vukovich mentioned that donors are not receiving information about their scholarships and fewer scholarship recipients are sending out thank you notes to the donors.

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- C. Political Action:** Dan Sheffer reported that STRS has a new Executive Director – Dr. Stephen Toole. STRS has approved a 1.5% COLA and healthcare benefits Details are posted on the STRS website. Signup for healthcare will be in October.

Dan also reported that Darien Torrence of OPERS will start sending our a similar report to the one Jerry Newsome does for STRS.

The Ohio budget bill passed the Senate. This includes a new provision for STRS and how Board members are elected/appointed, taking away many elected members. The **Board/Senate?** is pushing to move from Defined Benefits to Defined Contributions and this will start with new retirees.

Harvey suggested giving a presentation to current employees with STRS to let them know what is going on.

- D. Benefits:** Linda Sugarman had no report.

- E. Faculty Senate:** Doug Hausknecht had no report.

- F. University & Community Services/Website:** Dan Sheffer talked to Lynne about several things including the fact that there is a directory of e-mail addresses of all retirees on the AUAR website that anyone can take. She will remove it. A “Donate to Scholarship” button will also be added.

Mary Verstraete reminded Richard to submit President’s letter for the website.

- G. Scholarship:** Rita Klein reported that she had e-mailed Kim Cole about the importance for the Scholarship Committee to follow the directions listed in our scholarship. \$2300 was supposed to be given out to three students, but one student maxed out at \$1400 and the other two at \$2000. Our scholarship specifically states a 3.0 GPA in order to get the money to students who do not receive a lot of money.

Rita will contact the students to attend a Fall Luncheon.

- H. Newsletter:** Martha reported that the newsletter is coming along and Diane Lazzerini has agreed to continue to do the memorials. **The deadline for the newsletter is August 15th.**

- VII. Old Business:** The By-Laws Committee met. Linda presented a marked-up copy with potential changes. When they are finished, they will bring it to the Board for approval and then the membership will need to vote on it at a membership meeting/Luncheon.

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George reported that the election of new officers is complete. A unanimous vote was received for Douglas Hausknecht and Harvey Sterns to continue as our representatives to the Faculty Senate. The results have formally been submitted to the Senate and Mary will scan the report into the June 2025 minutes folder.

It was suggested and approved that the election process needs to start earlier in 2026.

- VIII. **New Business:** The process for thanking out “Helpers” was discussed. Rita will bring a list from last year to the August meeting and the Board will settle on a list for this past year. They will receive a Thank You note and will be invited to join us at one of our Luncheons.

Richard presented Harvey a Thank You card, including a gift card, in thanks for his two years as President.

- IX. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 11:14am.

Respectfully Submitted: Mary C. Verstraete, Recording Secretary

The next meeting is scheduled for August 28, 2025 at 10:00 am in the Infocision Board Room.

Board meeting Dates for 2025-2026

- Thursday, August 28, 2025, at 10 a.m.
- Thursday, September 25, 2025, at 10 a.m.
- Thursday, October 23, 2025, at 10 a.m.
- Thursday, December 4, 2025, at 10 a.m. (November’s meeting falls on Thanksgiving; so, we move it to the first Thursday in Dec.)
- Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 10 a.m.
- Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 10 a.m.
- Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 10 a.m.
- Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 10 a.m.
- Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 10 a.m.
- Thursday, June 25, 2026, at 10 a.m.