

**Minutes submitted by Linda Major on behalf of Kim Hachiya, board secretary
UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association Board Meeting**

April 13, 2023

Attendance: Alice Henneman, Rita Kean, Alfred Stark, Tom McFarland, Larry Dlugosh, Earl Hawkey, Don Weeks, Nancy Mitchell, Pat Crews, Julie Johnson, Doug Jose, Roshan Pajingar, Sue Gildersleeve, Linda Major

Memory Moments: (Since March 9, 2023)

Donna Aksamit, College of Education and Human Sciences

Jeannene Flotree, University Health Center

Joseph (Joe) Pospichal, University Purchasing

Merle Schaal, Accounting

Donald Steinegger, Agronomy and Horticulture

The minutes for the March board and membership meetings were approved with minor corrections from Pat Crews

Treasurer's Report: Earl Hawkey sent the report to the board in advance of the meeting. He reported that the organization is financially healthy as receipts continue to exceed expenditures.

Committee/Activities Report

Awards: Lloyd Ambrosius (unable to attend, no report)

Benefits: Sue Gildersleeve (no report)

Bylaws/Policies: Julie Johnson and Jim Griesen (no report)

Campus Engagement/OLLI: Rita Kean will pick up t-shirts for the seven ERA members participating in the Big Event by serving at the Center for People in Need. Bob Michel, director for OLLI, will provide an article for the ERA next newsletter updating members on plans for the 2023-2024 OLLI program.

Digital Communications: Alfred Stark reported that meeting on campus continues to pose problems with technology. Alfred will investigate locations and identify those least likely to create challenges with recording and broadcasting the meeting. Alfred also agreed to research and recommend recording equipment (projector, audio, and mics) that the ERA could purchase for the Digital Communications Committee. Alfred reminded the board that parking continues to be an issue for retirees especially those responsible for transferring equipment to and from the meeting. OLLI has designated parking spaces during the academic year. Linda agreed to talk with Bob Michl about using their space when OLLI classes aren't in session.

Educational Activities/Tours: Nancy Mitchell reported that the next tour is scheduled for the Lied Center on May 16 from 2-4 pm. Coffee will be available following the tour. Lied staff will be on hand to talk about the upcoming season. Don moved that we purchase cookies for the event. Pat seconded the motion.

Memberships: Donald Weeks reported on the meeting with Chris Tran (Director, UNL Benefits and Risk Management) and Steve Beck (Assistant Vice Chancellor for Human Resources) about automated enrollment for all retirees and emeriti upon their departure from the institution. They were very receptive to the idea and agreed to pursue the suggestion with Mike Zeleny, Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance. VC Zeleny subsequently approved the idea encouraging Don, Chris, and Steve to proceed with implementation.

Oral History: Doug Jose reported completing two interviews as part of the Oral History project,

Lloyd Ambrosius, Professor Emeritus of History, and Jake Kirkland, Emeritus Assistant to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Linda suggested that Doug interview Marjorie Kostelnik, Emeritus Dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences, about her campus experience including the challenges faced by merging two colleges. Doug agreed to prepare an article for the newsletter featuring the latest additions to the Oral History program.

Publications: Alice Henneman provided a summary of the newsletter survey results (see attached) and an overview of google analytics from the ERA website (see attached). Findings will be used to improve the user's experience while visiting the website and/or reading the newsletter.

Scholarships: Earl Hawkey (no report)

Social Events: Jane Zatechka announced that the next coffee chat is scheduled for The Mill on Innovation Campus beginning at 9:30 am on Thursday, April 27.

Old Business/Announcements

- **Membership Management Software:** Linda reported on the meeting with the Alumni Association regarding access to their membership management software. The Alumni Association currently uses the NU Foundation's software which comes with significant restrictions and limitations. The committee does not consider this a viable option at this time and agreed to approach OLLI about a possible partnership.
- **Meeting with Chancellor:** Linda reminded those present that the ERA board is scheduled to meet with Chancellor Ronnie Green on Friday, April 14 at 11:00 am in the Chancellor's Conference Room. Suggested discussion items include the following: How can we be more helpful to the university? What are his plans moving forward? Ideas for increased campus engagement and his willingness to participate in the Oral History program. As a gesture of gratitude for his time and service, the board agreed to donate to the ERA Scholarship Fund.

New Business

- **Automated new emeriti/retiree enrollment:** Don reported on potential issues moving forward with the plan to automatically enroll new retirees (see handout). The challenges are not insurmountable but will require careful planning. Issues to be discussed include:
 - **Missing email address:** what is the best strategy for collecting missing information?
 - Encourage them to visit the website to complete the membership form.
 - How to communicate if a member doesn't have an email address?
 - What, if any, By-law changes are needed?
 - Should we begin communicating with members via text e.g., meeting reminders?
 - Additional support is needed to assist Don with managing excel files.
- **New member recognition:** The board discussed strategies for welcoming new members. Ideas include an ambassador committee, orientation in advance of the general meeting, and a new member luncheon. The executive committee will discuss the option at their next meeting.
- **Meeting with Faculty Affairs – Rita, Pat, Larry, Don, Linda**
 - Dual Career Program
 - International graduate students
- **Website sub-committee of digital communications:** Alice, Linda, Alfred, and Nancy agreed to review and revise the ERA website content as necessary keeping in mind that a new template is scheduled for Fall 2024.

Announcements:

- ERA member Dr. Colleen Jones (Professor Emeritus of Management) will receive the JoAnn Martin Civic Leadership Award, Tuesday, May 2, 11:30 am, at Innovation Campus. Please call 402.474.2345 or go to lcf.org/rsvp to RSVP by April 21, 2023, if you would like to attend.

2023 Membership Meeting Dates and Speakers: Larry

April Tuesday, April 18, 2023, Heath Mello, VP for External Relations, University of Nebraska, Willa Cather Dining Hall

No Programs are scheduled for May, June, July, and August

September Tuesday, September 19, or Thursday, September 21, Lunch with the Chancellor

October Tuesday, October 17, Dean Sherri Jones, CEHS, The Future of Public Education

November Tuesday, November 21, or Thursday, November 23, Julia Torquati, Early Childhood Education

December Tuesday, December 12, or Thursday, December 14, TBA

2023 ERA Board Spring Meeting Dates

Thursday, April 13, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm, Prairie Room B-C, NE East Union

Meeting with Chancellor Ronnie Green – Friday, April 14, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm, 201 Canfield Admin Bldg.

Meeting with President Ted Carter – Date, Time, and Location TBA

2023 ERA Executive Committee Meeting Dates

Thursday, May date, time, and location TBA

Thursday, August 31, 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm, Location TBA

Thursday, December 1, 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm, Location TBA

2023 ERA Strategic Planning Retreat – Thursday, December 7, 11:30 am – 2:00 pm, Location TBA