

Minutes submitted by Pat Crews, acting secretary
UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association Membership meeting
September 21, 2023
Nebraska East Union

A luncheon meeting of the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association convened at 11:45 a.m. September 21, 2023, at the Nebraska East Union. Approximately 68 members and guests RVSPed for the meeting, which also was live-streamed on Zoom.

President Linda Major, President, called the meeting to order. She recognized the following during Memory Moments (Since August 10, 2023):

Larry Bitney, Agricultural Economics
M. Jane Edwards, Business Education
Todd Georgi, Biology
John Gross, NE Unions
Alan Moeller, IANR
June Splichal, Chemistry

A donation honoring university emeriti and retirees who passed away during the past year is made to the ERA Scholarship Fund in recognition of their service.

Earl Hawkey, Treasurer, reported the financials are in good shape.

Alice Henneman, Newsletter Editor and Publications Committee chair, highlighted the extensive website updates made over the summer.

Vicki Highstreet, member of the Program Committee, asked attendees to complete the survey on each of the tables and indicate what types of speakers and get-togethers they would like to see offered in the coming year.

The president of the UNL Faculty Dance Club invited attendees to join their group. Information about the group and upcoming dinner and dance dates are outlined in the yellow brochure on each table.

Peter Levitov, chair of the ERA International Affairs Discussion Group, encouraged attendees to attend the lively discussions held the first Wednesday of each month from September through May. He also encouraged members to register for the upcoming fall symposium slated for October 14, 2023. The symposium is organized annually by OLLI and the Lecture Series of the Unitarian Church of Lincoln. The theme this year is "Misinformation and Conspiracy Theories: Why People Believe Them and How To Address Them." It will be offered both in-person and live-streamed on Zoom.

Nancy Mitchell, chair of the Educational Activities Committee, announced that a tour of the Carolyn Pope Edwards Building would follow the October 17 membership luncheon meeting. She noted that the “Pop-Up Wine Social” was very popular and that registration for it was full. Another one is planned for Spring 2024. Details will be forthcoming via email. She also added a word of encouragement to register for the fall symposium on misinformation and conspiracy theories.

Bob Michl, OLLI Director, noted that OLLI is an affiliate of UNL, and briefly highlighted its mission. He invited attendees to become members and mentioned the recently agreed upon \$10 discount in OLLI membership fees for ERA members.

President-elect Larry Dlugosh introduced George Ayoub, Adjunct Professor at Hastings College and Journalist who filed thousands of columns for the Grand Island Independent and Omaha World-Herald. He delivered an informative talk titled “Navigating the Disinformation Super Highway.”

After George’s talk, Linda announced we will make an honorarium to the ERA scholarship fund in his name.

Meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.