

ERA Board Meeting  
Meeting Minute – Tuesday, December 14, 2021

**Present:** Monica Norby, Vi Schoeder, Dave Wilson, Doug Jose, Rita Kean, Lloyd Ambrosius, Earl Hawkey, Kim Hachiya, Linda Major, Al Stark, Julie Johnson, Pat Crews, Jim Griesen, Tom Hoegemeyer, Sue Gildersleeve, Don Weeks, Jane Zatechka

**Memory Minutes:**

Joan “Pedie” Bryant, widow of Don “Fox” Bryant, Athletics  
Frederick Luebke, History  
Phil Bom, husband of Carol Bom, formerly Landscape/Business Services  
Joan Wadlow, Political Sciences, Academic Affairs

**Approval of Minutes:** Approved as corrected

**Committee Activities/Reports:**

*Awards:* Llyod Ambrosius

The call for nominations for service awards and the application for research, scholarly and creative activity awards will be made in early spring. The deadline is May 2022. No further report.

*Budget:* Earl Hawkey

Earl distributed the current financial report. The organization is financially healthy with a year-end balance of approximately \$3500 anticipated.

*OLLI:* Rita Kean

Rita announced that the new OLLI catalog will be available shortly. It will be posted on the OLLI website, [Osher Lifelong Learning Institute | Nebraska \(unl.edu\)](https://ollilifelearning.unl.edu/).

*Membership:* Al Stark

Al reported that the organization has approximately 450 members including lifetime members. Bruce Currin, UNL AVC of Human Resources, has been very helpful in identifying and communicating with retirees.

Kim spoke at the pre-retiree employee meeting and encouraged them to consider membership. Retirees from sister campuses are eligible for membership, although few, if any, take advantage of the opportunity. Personal invites seem to work best for recruiting new members.

*Website,:* Al Stark

Al distributed a job description for a volunteer to assist with the website and other web-based programs. Please send suggested names to Kim Hachiya, Pat Crews or Al Stark.

*Bylaws, Policies:* Julie Johnson and Jim Griesen

Jim and Julie reported no further updates on policies. They will review existing policies and make suggestions for consideration in January.

*ERA/Student interactions:* Vi Schoeder and Linda Major

Vi and Linda met with Lauren Gayer, Director of Communications for Student Affairs, about the ERA volunteer webpage. The current webpage is unavailable while the information is updated. In the interim, Vi will canvas the campus for volunteer opportunities to help populate the site.

*Benefits:* Don Weeks, Kim Hachiya

Don and Kim suggested that we revisit the conversation with the Chancellor's office about access to the deceased spouse/partner's email account. This continues to be an unresolved issue.

*Tours, Coffee Chats:* Don Weeks, Jane Zatechka and Jim Griesen

Don and Al reminded the Board of the Husker Vision tour scheduled for March. Trev Albert will meet with those participating. Future tours will be coordinated by Nancy Mitchell who has agreed to join the ERA Board of Directors.

Jane and Jim suggested that coffee chats will return once the mask mandate is relaxed. The chat hosted at Wilderness Ridge was very successful and planners should consider repeating this in the spring. In the interim, the committee will explore whether to host zoom coffee chats while the community continues to struggle with COVID rates.

*Newsletter:* Julie Johnson

Julie will step down from her newsletter responsibilities following the spring issue. Options for replacing Julie with a new coordinator include recruiting a volunteer (Dave Wilson suggested) or asking a faculty member to sponsor a student intern. Charlene Behrens was approached but declined. She will continue as the newsletter editor. Tom Hoegemeyer and Linda Major will submit profile information for the next issue.

The following members have volunteered to take notes from upcoming presentations by speakers invited to ERA general meetings. The assignments are below:

December – Pat Crews  
January – Kim Hachiya  
February – Jim Griesen  
March – Sue Gildersleeve  
April – Linda Major

### **Retreat**

*Brief review of the past year:* Kim Hachiya

Kim highlighted activities and events from the 2021 calendar year.

- We kept the organization going throughout the pandemic using zoom to support committee meetings, general meetings and presentations, coffee chats and other activities.
- Thanks to Pat Crews, the monthly meetings featured a successful line up of speakers.
- The Board established and partially funded a scholarship, the UNL ERA Scholarship Fund

- Documents have been completed and signed. A \$1,000 contribution was made for the 2022-2023 academic year that will allow the scholarship to be awarded prior to the next academic year.
- Earl committed \$5,000 to establish the fund and approximately another \$5,000 has been added since.
- Future fundraising efforts
  - Participate in Glow Big Red
  - Announce at the December general meeting
  - Email announcement to organization (see attached)
- The organization celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- The Board agreed to eliminate the executive committee meeting with the understanding that the President may convene the group when needed.

*Plans for the coming year and discussions: Pat Crews*

Pat thanked Kim for her leadership during the past year acknowledging that it was a difficult task during the pandemic.

*Retreat Topics:*

1. Recruit volunteer(s) to help with simulcast of the general membership meeting.
  1. Support needed for AI.
    1. Jim volunteered to monitor the chatbox at the December meeting
    2. Multiple volunteers are needed (2-3 people).
    3. Kim suggested contacting the J-school to assist with the technology.
    4. AI distributed a job description for audio video volunteers who would assist with hybrid or recorded meetings.
  - b. AI queried members about their preferred method of viewing the meeting remotely – recorded or live Zoom.
    1. Approximately 15-20 members took advantage of the live Zoom offered for the November meeting.
    2. For the spring semester board agreed to offer the meetings in a recorded format since recording is a much simpler solution and more feasible given the limited number of persons who are experienced and trained to assist AI with the technical coordination
      1. December meeting will be available via Zoom.
      2. Starting in January recorded meetings will be posted on the ERA website for viewing afterwards. The organization will be able to track number of members who view the recording.
  
2. Recruit volunteer(s) to help with online meeting reservations and check-ins and membership database management.
  - . AI prefers to continue with his website responsibilities
  - a. A membership chair is needed to replace AI. Chair responsibilities include managing the database, maintaining contact with HR to recruit new members and sending annual reminders to pay membership dues. The chair communicates with Earl about membership status.
    1. The chair can be appointed from the Board as opposed to elected. Pat will appoint the next chair.

2. Don Weeks volunteered to assume responsibilities of membership chair. He will continue to coordinate the tours.
  
3. Update on the scholarship – see above
  
4. Newsletter editor recruitment – see above
  
5. Organization secretary recruitment
  - . Kim Hachiya agreed to replace Linda Major as organization secretary. Historically, the secretary's position is responsible for the registration table. It was suggested that we consider sharing the responsibility among board members. All agreed and a sign-up sheet was circulated for the upcoming calendar year (see below).
  
6. How do we respond as a group to things like the Governor's comments regarding UNL's Equity efforts? When is the line crossed that might nudge us off a neutrality position?
  - . Organization by-laws say that we are to educate and inform our membership but not necessarily to take a stance.
    - a. It was noted that the Board is lacking diversity which makes it difficult to offer a consensus opinion. We agreed to review the membership list to identify retirees of color who may be interested in becoming more involved in the organization.
    - b. Don suggested that we expand the board to include members of color and consider offering co-chair positions to new members as they are identified.
    - c. The Board should consider adding a committee focused on diversity, equity and inclusion.
  
7. Brainstorm ideas for program topics (see below)
  - . Linda presented a possible list of program ideas. Members provided additional suggestions including the following:
    1. Lied Center/Kimball/Westbrook renovation
    2. Physics Department multimillion-dollar NSF grant to advance subatomic physics at CERN's Large Hadron Collider
    - a. Lloyd offered to contact Margaret Jacobs and Monica offered to help contact David Harwood.
    - b. It was suggested that we connect a tour of the new Scarlet Hotel and the Innovation Campus Makerspace to an upcoming coffee chat.
    - c. Members discussed whether to host a May general meeting. The decision to host a May meeting/presentation based on speaker availability.

### **2022 General Meeting Registration Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet**

January – Tom Hoegemeyer, Doug Jose

February – Monica Norby, Lloyd Ambrosius

March – Sue Gildersleeve, Jane Zatechka

April – Monica Norby, Vi Schroeder

October – Don Weeks, Rita Kean

November – Vi Schroeder, Kim Hachiya

December – Linda Major, Earl Hawkey

### **ERA Program Ideas (2022)**

Diversity and Inclusion – VC Marco Barker (confirmed for January 25, 2022)

Genoa Indian School Digital Reconciliation Project – Margaret Jacobs

History of Redlining and long-term implications (local, state, and federal) – Jacob Schlange

University Honors Program After-School Clubs – panel of Honors Program students and Patrice McMahon

Antarctic Drilling Project/Glaciers – David Harwood

Expedition 396 – Irina Filina

Unity Commons/International and Retired Living

Innovation Campus Scarlet Hotel/tour of Makerspace

New administrators meet and greet e.g., EVC and VC for Business and Finance

President Carter

Military and Veteran Success Center; panel discussion

Water for Food/Experiential Learning (student panel)

(Drafted and sent to the organization by Jim Griesen on December 16, 2021)

**At the December 15<sup>th</sup> luncheon meeting of the Emeriti and Retirees Association it was reported that the Board of Directors recently voted to establish an ERA Scholarship Fund at the University of Nebraska Foundation. Several other BIG 10 retiree associations annually award one or more scholarships, and in September Vice President Pat Crews proposed that we do the same. President Kim Hachiya then asked Earl Hawkey and Jim Griesen to propose a plan for an annual scholarship award, and their plan received Board approval in November with the following provisions:**

- **A \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded annually to a UNL undergraduate student who has successfully completed 27 credit-hours.**
- **The recipient must have unmet financial need.**
- **The UNL Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid will administer the scholarship.**

To fund this \$1,000 annual award the Board established a new account at the NU Foundation and transferred in \$1,000 from the Association's general fund account. The new scholarship account was established as an endowment fund under development. The ERA must grow the account corpus to \$30,000 within five years. Until that goal is reached current year contributions will be used to fund the scholarship, and the first award will be given in March of 2022 for use during the 2022-23 academic year.

The ERA Board is requesting all members to consider including the ERA Scholarship Fund in their charitable giving. And to encourage donations, Treasurer Earl Hawkey has offered to personally match all contributions up to maximum of \$5,000. The NU Foundation fund number for our new scholarship account is 01157580, and there are three easy ways in which you can help build our scholarship endowment:

- To donate online click on this link: <https://nufoundation.org/fund/01157580/>
- To donate by check please complete the attached "Gift Form" and mail it with your check to the Lincoln office address printed on the form.
- To make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), contact your IRA plan administrator to arrange a direct transfer of funds, and then also complete and mail the attached "Notice of QCD Distribution" to the NU Foundation. NOTE: anyone desiring to make a QCD to satisfy a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for the 2021 tax year should act as soon as possible in order that the distribution check will be dated on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>.

The members of the Board are excited to be launching this new UNL ERA Scholarship program, and we hope you will consider joining us in making contributions to build our new scholarship endowment account at the NU Foundation. For years and decades to come we will be helping students with unmet financial need continue their college education at UNL. Best wishes for a most enjoyable holiday season and for a happy and healthy new year.