

**UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, October 13, 2020 – Via Zoom**

**Present were:** John Bernthal, Pat Crews, Dora Dill, James Griesen, Kim Hachiya, Earl Hawkey, Tom Hoegemeyer, Julie Johnson, Doug Jose, Rita Kean, Jeff Keown, Alfred Stark, Don Weeks, Jane Zatechka

**Absent were:** Sue Gildersleeve, Linda Major, Kay Rockwell, Vi Schroeder

President, Don Weeks, called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

**Memory Moments**

Loren Bonneau – Educational Administrator

Shirley Honvlez –

Joyce Hall – Lancaster County Extension

Ramona Hill – Ag Finance and personnel

Lisa Jasa – Agriculture Communications

Stanley Jensen – Plant Pathology

Lynn Peterson – Nebraska Extension

Robert Hull – Television

Jay Holman – Communication Technology

**Approval of Minutes** - September 24, 2020 ERA Board Meeting. John Bernthal moved to accept the minutes – seconded by Rita Kean. The Board unanimously approved.

**Awards:** Don thanked Pat Crews for the great awards presentation conducted with the assistance of Chancellor Green at our last membership meeting. Pat reported that Don Forsythe has submitted a final report on his Wisherd research grant – but his book is yet to be published. It was asked if reports from Wisherd research grants might be published in the newsletter. Pat indicated that some would not be appropriate for the newsletter and her suggestion would be to not publish them in the newsletter.

**Budget:** Earl Hawkey indicated that we are doing well financially with no significant differences from the last report that was distributed. Disbursements for Wisherd awards have not yet been made, but will be finalized yet this month.

**OLLI:** Rita Kean: Don has signed a new agreement with OLLI that will begin January 2021. Any member will be able to participate in an OLLI program without paying an OLLI membership fee. The only activities in which ERA members cannot participate for free are the interest groups.

**Membership:** Don indicated that he contacted Bruce Currin by email regarding mailing of an invitation to retirees to join ERA, but has not yet heard back from him. Al Stark reported for the 2019-20 academic year, 27 new members had joined along with seven people this academic year for a total of 34. Don indicated that our membership recruitment has been slower this present year than in the past. ERA members were encouraged to assist in obtaining new members. Julie Johnson indicated that a list of new members will be put into the newsletter. Al will follow up with Bruce Currin to determine if a list of

new retirees can be obtained. Kim Hachiya indicated that we should contact the UAAD and UNOPA groups to let them know that their retirees are welcome in ERA. The Executive Senior Vice Chancellor's office maintains the list of retirees. Judy Walker will be contacted to determine if we can have access to such a list.

**Website:** Al Stark indicated no new developments.

**By-Laws/Policies:** Jim Griesen and Julie Johnson will be meeting on Monday to discuss potential changes. They will bring any proposed changes to the Board during its November meeting.

**Benefits:** Sue Gildersleeve was not available for comment.

**Tours:** Kay Rockwell has requested to retire from the Board. Al is co-chair of the tours committee and will continue with this responsibility. He indicated that he may wish to step down from his role as membership chair. Al indicated that a new membership chair would have to be someone who is familiar with excel spreadsheets. Al would be able to pick up more responsibilities in regard to tours if someone else would pick up the membership chair duties. Al will make a list of responsibilities for the membership chair and tour chair. John Comer has compiled a list of duties for various ERA officers and Don will send this document to Al. Filling the Membership Chair will be on the agenda for next month.

**Coffee Chats:** Jane Zatechka indicated that Coffee Chats are on hold until we can meet face-to-face.

**Newsletter:** Don congratulated Julie, Doug and Charlene on producing an outstanding fall newsletter. Julie indicated that her primary job is to assemble and edit and not to write the articles. For writing articles, she would greatly appreciate receiving assistance from members of the ERA Board. It was suggested that we could produce an article about the East Campus Union for the Spring newsletter. For the November and December meeting, Kim indicated we could potentially hire a student intern to assist in writing articles. The PRSAR group is always looking for these types of opportunities. Julie Indicated that she does not like the added responsibilities associated with supervision of student writers. Again, it was suggested that more board members could write articles. Don volunteered to send out a sign-up list for Board members to sign up for writing responsibilities.

**Brochures:** Don indicated that he has plenty of brochures to distribute to prospective new members.

**New Business:** Kim indicated that we are all set for the rest of the year. Pat Crews will be setting set up the speaker list for meetings for next year. Board members were encouraged to make suggestions to Pat. Don suggested that we add a "What's new at UNL?" segment to our monthly membership meeting. This idea was favorably received and it was decided to move forward. Kim suggested that for the October membership meeting we show a recent video hosted by Vice Chancellor Mike Boehm on three new changes on East Campus. Don asked her to proceed with this item.

**Zoom or Webinar:** Al led discussions of whether ERA meetings should continue using Zoom or webinar formats for our membership meetings. UNL's license is paid for from student fees and the ERA may not be able to continue using the University's license from Zoom. At the present time, we have at least two board members with Zoom Pro Licenses which can be used to host ERA meetings with no license issues or additional costs, so we will use ERA members' accounts. It was mentioned that ERA needs to find out if its speakers are comfortable with having their presentations recorded during our Zoom meetings. If so, it was suggested that such recordings could be put on the website with a link.

**UNL Policies:** Don indicated that he has not had the time to ask for a modification of University policies on termination of email accounts of faculty members who have recently deceased so that close relatives/partners can have access to the content of those accounts.

**Proposals for Development:** “What’s New on Campus?” As a follow up to earlier discussions in the meeting, Don made a formal request that we establish a “What’s New on Campus?” segment tour monthly membership meetings. These segments would consist of videos of new buildings, facilities or activities on the UNL campus that our membership (especially those living at a distance) may not be aware of. A Board member would have to be in charge of this. There are many videos available – CY Thompson (Dinsdale); East Campus Union, New Engineering portion; new Scarlet Hotel. Some of these can be viewed on the UNL media hub. Don and Kim will recruit someone to take charge of this project.

Kay Rockwell is retiring from the Board and we also will need a new Chair for Membership. If Pat Crews is elected as the new President-elect, we will need someone to take over Pat’s responsibilities as Awards Committee Chair. In this regard, Don reminded Board members that at the October 20<sup>th</sup> he will formally call for nominations from the floor in addition to those already in place for Pat Crews as President-elect and Chuck Hibberd as a new Board of Directors member. If none are received, Pat and Chuck will automatically assume their new positions in January, 2021.

Don reported that he had received an email from Linda Majors indicating that she will be meeting with Amy Struthers to discuss new ideas relative to our interactions with UNL students.

As the last item of the meeting, Kim did a screen share of the video showing improvements to East Campus that will be shown as the “What’s New on Campus?” segment at the October membership meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:33pm

Respectfully submitted.

Dora Dill, ERA Secretary  
October 15, 2020