

Emeriti and Retiree Association
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 2, 2021

Members in attendance: Kim Hachiya, Pat Crews, Earl Hawkey, Linda Major, Doug, Al Stark, Jane Zatechka, Lloyd Ambrosius, Julie Johnson, Rita Kean, Jim Griesen, Sue Gildersleeve

President Kim Hachiya called the meeting to order at 1:31 pm

Memory Moments (since Aug. 5, 2021):

James Ray, spouse of Reshell Ray, Student Affairs

Margaret Griesen, spouse of James Griesen, Student Affairs

Linda Tesch, Ag Economics

Howard Norland, Department of English

Approval of minutes:

Rita Kean moved approval of the minutes from the August 5, 2021 Board of Directors meeting

Reports:

Awards Committee: Lloyd Ambrosius – As previously reported, the Awards Committee selected Alan Moeller to receive the Wisherd Award for Outstanding Community Service and Charlene Behrens to receive the Wisherd Award for Outstanding Service to UNL. They will be recognized at the annual meeting.

Membership Committee: Al Stark announced that 11 new members joined the Association during this calendar year; 40 new members joined in 2020

Student Engagement Committee: Linda Major and Kim Hachiya reported no new updates. Linda is scheduled to meet with Lauren Gayer, Student Affairs communications director in mid-September to discuss updates to the webpage describing volunteer opportunities.

OLLI: Rita Kean received promotional information from Bob **Michl** regarding the Fall Symposium, “The Fragile Future of Democracy,” scheduled for October 23 from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm at the East Campus Union. Panelists include UNL Professor of Political Science, John Hibbing, Department of State representative, Patricia Davis, and UNL Emeritus Professor, David Forsythe. The cost is \$15:00.

General Meetings: Pat Crews confirmed the upcoming meeting schedule for the fall semester including the September 23 annual meeting which will be held via zoom.

Tours: Al Stark reported that no new campus tours are scheduled at this time.

Social Committee: Jim Griesen announced that the September Coffee Chat is cancelled due to COVID.

Nominating Committee: On behalf of the Nomination Committee Kim Hachiya reported that Monica Norby and Dave Wilson have been approached about membership on the ERA Board of Directors.

Budget Committee: Earl Hawkey submitted the financials for review and reported that the organization is well resourced. Recent expenditures include a contribution to the Dan Shattil memorial plaque to hang in the DN Hall of Fame. Pat Crews will send Julie Johnson information about the Hall of Fame to be included with a photograph in the January newsletter.

Old Business: Kim Hachiya

1. Sept. 23 meeting status:
 1. The annual meeting will be conducted by Zoom. There was some confusion about the invitations. After discussion, it was recommended that the Foundation send the invitation with a reminder to follow from the Board the morning of the event. Remarks will be provided by Kim Hachiya (ERA), Chancellor Green (UNL), Shelly Zaborowski (Alumni Association), and ?? (NU Foundation)
 2. Award presentations will be pre recorded and shared virtually during the event. Lloyd Ambrosius volunteered to draft a summary of the award for each nominee. It was agreed that members prefer recording the award presentation in person with remarks by the recipient to follow. It is yet to be decided as to who will present the award. Al Stark volunteered to help coordinate the recording. Lloyd will send award summaries to Julie Johnson for publication in an upcoming newsletter.
2. Status of Regent Pillen's anti-CRT resolution: The resolution was defeated 5-3. Thank you to all who contacted their representative to voice their opinions.
3. Dora Dill has resigned from the board. Linda Major agreed to serve as board secretary for the remainder of her term.
4. Kim Hachiya asked members to ignore any spam emails that might be sent in her name.

New Business

1. Memorial contributions: Pat Crews
 1. A proposed plan for honoring members who have passed away during the calendar year was discussed. Pat reviewed similar policies from like organizations and suggested that we consider a similar practice. *"It avoids the awkward situation of deciding whether or not to honor some deceased members and not others with a contribution to the individual's designated charity. That fraught situation is the reason the ERA board decided to continue its practice of only sending a sympathy card from the*

organization, leaving monetary contributions to individual members. This solution honors the passing of ERA members with something more than merely a condolence card.”

2. It was suggested that the Board authorize a memorial donation in the amount of \$500 to the library or a student fund such as the student emergency fund. Given that the Association makes donations on an ad hoc basis to funds supporting students such as the Husker Pantry and the student financial assistance fund, it was agreed to send future memorial contributions to the UNL library fund.
- 3. Pat Crews moved to make an annual \$500 contribution to the UNL library fund, each spring, in honor of the ERA members who passed away. Motion Approved**

2. Annual Student Scholarship: Pat Crews

- a. Pat recently learned that MSU retirees established an endowed student scholarship and suggested that the Board of Directors consider a similar fund. *“In 2015, the MSURA Endowed Student Scholarship was established for the children and grandchildren of MSU retirees or current employees. In 2016 they awarded their first scholarship. Since then they have granted 14 scholarships of \$2,500 each and endowed two annual scholarships. The MSU group is trying to raise another \$60,000 which would yield \$2500 interest annually.”*
- b. Pat added that although we support UNL students in ad hoc ways through our contributions to the Student Emergency Fund, she thinks it would be a good idea to consider formalizing ways of supporting UNL students annually-- whether it is by student scholarships or some other avenue.
- c. A scholarship can be started with any amount, but the organization must be able to raise the minimum amount within 5 years (\$30,000).
- d. Jim Griesen and Earl Hawkey (chair) agreed to work together to develop the scholarship criteria. The Board may be able to seed the fund with cash on hand. It was suggested that we consider connecting a donation appeal to the annual membership renewal as part of a larger campaign to reach the required amount. The Board will consider whether or not to begin awarding the scholarship sooner rather than later.

3. Newsletter: Julie Johnson

- a. The quarterly newsletter will be sent this weekend and will include one member profile. Please encourage members to watch their email for meeting updates as the COVID situation requires us to be flexible. Future decisions about in-person meetings will be discussed at the October meeting.

4. Engagement: Kim Hachiya and Linda Major (see above)

5. Social Committee: Jim Griesen and Jane Zatechka canceled the September coffee

6. New board member recruitment: Kim Hachiya (see above)

7. Updates: Kim Hachiya

- Annual conference for retirees - Kim encouraged those who are available to register and participate in sessions scheduled for this year's virtual conference.
- Due to anticipated absences, it was agreed to combine the Executive Committee meeting with the Board meeting on October 5 at 1:30 pm. The meeting will be held via Zoom.

8. Fall Calendar:

August

- UNL resumed classes August 23; mask mandate went into effect Aug. 25

September

- Full Board meeting: Thursday Sept. 2 (in lieu of the Sept. 9 meeting, which will not occur)
- Sept. 23: General Membership meeting via Zoom

October

- Board meeting (combined with Executive meeting) by Zoom – October 5
- UNL Fall Break: Oct. 18 and 19
- General Membership Meeting: Tuesday, Oct. 19 at Nebraska East Union; speakers are: Chuck Hibberd, UNL, and Jeff Yost, Nebraska Community foundation. The slate of new board members and officers will be announced at the October meeting.

November

- Executive Committee meeting: Thursday Nov. 4
- Full Board meeting: Thursday Nov. 11
- General Membership meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 16, Lancaster County Extension Office at Cherry Creek. The speaker is Paul Read, Nebraska Wines and Vines. The meeting will include election of the new board members and officers. Members will toast our 60 years of existence and celebrate with cupcakes. Le Quartier will cater.

December

- Executive Committee meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 7
- Full Board (planning retreat) Tuesday Dec. 14
- General Membership meeting: Thursday, Dec. 16, East Campus Union. The speaker is Claire Stewart, University Libraries. A tour of the new Dinsdale Family Learning Commons may be arranged following the meeting for those interested.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Major, Board Secretary