

Submitted to the ERA Board, Nov. 9, 2023, by Kim Hachiya, secretary
(Approved as corrected Nov. 9, 2023)

The UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association met for a regular lunch meeting Oct. 17, 2023, at the Carolyn Pope Edwards Building. Approximately 65 people RSVPed to attend the luncheon and tour of the new building.

Association President Linda Major called the group to order at 11:45 a.m. She thanked Alfred Stark and Bruce Mitchell for simulcasting and recording the meeting.

A moment of silence was held to recognize the following members of the university community who had died since the previous meeting:

Lorraine Amack, Teachers College
Barbara Di Bernard, Women's and Gender Studies
Dorothy Josephine Bernhardt, College of Education and Human Sciences
Dotti Callahan, Extension, Douglas County
Joe Kean, spouse of Rita Kean, Textiles, Merchandising, and Fashion Design
James Hejduk, School of Music
Jonathon O'Brien, College of Business, Management

A donation to the ERA scholarship will be made in honor of their service.

Treasurer Earl Hawkey reported that the ERA Scholarship balance is \$46,389.72. We need to reach \$60,000 to fully endow a second scholarship. He thanked those who have contributed and encouraged others to think of the scholarship when making year-end charitable giving plans.

Linda said she received no new nominations for board officers and members; thus the nominees are elected and will assume duties in January 2024. They are:

President-elect/Vice President – Pam Edwards, University Dining Service
Director – Term ending 2026 -- Gary Heusel, Extension
Director –Term ending 2026 – Rita Kean, Textiles, Merchandising, and Fashion Design

Vice President Larry Dlugosh introduced speaker Sherri Jones, former dean of Education and Human Sciences, and recently appointed interim vice chancellor for research and economic development.

She talked about the challenges and opportunities for higher education, relating that the College of Education and Human Sciences offers examples of the changing landscape for education. Among factors driving change are economics, demographics and technology; social institutions that are changing; public and financial pressures; government and industry needs; declining enrollments. Although there is a softening in public support for higher education, and belief in its value, there is still urgent need for educated employees in the knowledge economy, especially because the scale of change is so large and so rapid.

Linda thanked her for her talk and noted an honorarium of \$100 will be directed to the ERA Scholarship fund.

Afterwards, most toured the new building, which opened in fall 2022.

The next meeting will be November 16 at the Nebraska East Union.