
The editor of the UIRA newsletter failed in one major task this year and that was to find a replacement. So, once again he is calling upon a member or members to step up and assume the important task of regularly informing membership of UIRA programs and activities through The Gray Hawk. It should also be stated that our webmaster, the long-time serving and highly-skilled Feather Lacy, has indicated a desire to step aside. Thus, UIRA is seeking volunteers for two positions: Gray Hawk editor and webmaster. Let me or one of the UIRA officers know if you are interested.

Prior to this year, Ann Ford had been editing The Gray Hawk. Her term ended last year. She has been assisting this year. I want to thank her for her service as well as Feather Lacy and Nancy Williams for their proofreading.

This is the first year The Gray Hawk has been delivered almost entirely by email. We monitored closely member reaction and were pleased to find few if any objections. At the outset of the year we still had 30 members who requested paper copies. Those have been mailed first class at a cost of 49 cents apiece ($14.70) plus about $5 for copying (a total of $19.70). That number of 30 lately has dropped to 23. In the past, it cost about $200 a month to distribute what is usually a four-page (two sheets of paper) Gray Hawk. Thus, the savings in money and paper have been significant, and the content tends to be timelier. Paper copies of the first issue, in September, were sent to nearly 200 new retirees with an invitation to join UIRA.

A goal of the next newsletter editor might be to seek more contributions from members.

Meanwhile, the search goes on.

--April 23, 2015