

**University of Iowa Retirees Association
(UIRA)
Board of Directors**

**November 8, 2022
Zoom Meeting**

Attending: Mike Barron, Deb Cobb, Ed Dove, David Fitzgerald, Lesanne Fliehler, Mike Hovland, Pat Mason-Browne, Billie Townsend, Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash, Vicki Siefers, Carolyn Wanat

Not attending: Maureen McCormick

Guests: Chuck Dayton, Lois Lembke, Sam Cochran, Kellie Digmann

Call to Order – Ed Dove, President

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. Ed introduced and welcomed Kellie Digmann, the new Administrative Service Coordinator (ASC) who is assigned to UIRA on a 25% effort basis.

Reports from Officers

Approval of Minutes

On a motion from Mike Barron, seconded by Billie, the October 11 minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer – David Fitzgerald

The October checking account balance of \$18,618.24 includes \$250.00 in membership income and \$0.74 in interest. Operating expenses total \$315.08: \$225.00 (travel); \$81.18 (NEON); and \$8.90 (*The Gray Hawk* printing). The reserve fund has \$11,778.36.

NEON payment, on a month-to-month basis, is scheduled to continue until after the first of the year.

The mailbox has received additional membership check payments.

David will inquire with Hills Bank and Trust Company about its status as a financial sponsor of the Photo Contest.

President – Ed Dove

Ed asked for updates on subcommittee work (subcommittee **leader**).

- Funded Retirement and Insurance Committee (FRIC): *determine best route to establish influence on decisions that affect retirees (special attention to health benefits, rates, etc.)* [David, Billie, Maureen, Deb]
David was unable to attend the November meeting.
- Operations Manual (OM): *determine best method for establishing UIRA presence.*
Ed distributed draft language and asked the board to review it in preparation for a vote at the December meeting. He will ascertain how board members are elected. Ultimate inclusion in the OM involves a rather lengthy approval process. [Evalyn, Lesanne, Ed, Pat]
- UIRA/UI interaction: *marketing and promoting to the University, prospective retirees, and the community.* [Mike Barron, Mike Hovland, Lesanne, Vicki, Evalyn, Pat, Carolyn]
Vicki and Evalyn served as subcommittee scribes for this wide-ranging subcommittee discussion. The prioritized list:
 - How to interact with the University –
 - How to reach and interact with new retirees –
 - Promote the Food Pantry to UIRA members – Lesanne included a link in the November *Gray Hawk* and will do so again in the December issue. Mike Barron will discuss with Stephanie Beecher, Basic Needs and Care Coordinator, Dean of Students office.
 - Focus on additional events and interest groups –
- Web design: *work with ITS and/or the Office of Strategic Communication (OSC) to redesign UIRA website; implement and test proposed design.* [Lesanne, Phil Klein, Ed, Maureen]
Volunteers (including Lois and Chuck) are invited to meet with Kellie, Ed, and Lesanne.

Reports from Committees

The Gray Hawk – Lesanne Fliehler

Carolyn and Lesanne met with Kellie and thanked her for helping with content deadlines (which probably will vary) and production scheduling.

The December issue will include a call for volunteers for the Flipping for Finals Pancake Breakfast, Monday, December 12, 6:30 – 10:30 a.m., IMU Main Lounge.

Membership – Lois Lembke

There are 614 current members in 484 households. Four new members are included in the November *Gray Hawk*; 3 are scheduled for the December issue.

The Information Technology Services (ITS) Dispatch system is replacing UIRA's listserv in managing membership records. Kellie is scheduling a meeting with Ed, Lois, and Chuck about transferring information.

Kellie will check with ITS about the feasibility of setting up flexible membership renewal and enrollment dates. The consensus is that our membership will "age into the technology" of credit card (instead of check) dues payment. This will mean no longer using a Postal Service (USPS) mailbox for dues collection.

There probably will not be a dues increase this year.

Program Committee – Carolyn Wanat

On October 21 Lauren Lessing gave an update on the opening of the Stanley Museum of Art and provided highlights of the collections. Approximately 40 members attended this Zoom meeting.

There were 38 attendees (10 of whom were spouses or friends) at the October 25 Stanley Museum docent-led highlights tours. Thirty-six have registered for the November 18 tours, with groups led by Amanda Lensing, the Museum's Senior Living Communities Program Coordinator, and two other docents. A special thank-you to Amanda and to Evalyn for accommodating the high demand for these Stanley Museum events.

On November 3 Gary Schwartz, Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) counselor, gave his annual presentation (via Zoom) on issues to consider in selecting insurance plans. There were 59 attendees.

Upcoming events include:

- Annual Insurance Options Q&A Session. Sonatina Fernandes, UI benefits specialist, and Anne Thurston, community and broker liaison with Health Alliance Medical Plans. Thursday, November 10, 2:00 p.m., via Zoom.
- A Conversation with UI President Barbara Wilson (annual state of the University address). Thursday, December 1, 1:00 p.m., via Zoom
- A Conversation with Andre Perry, Director, Hancher Auditorium. Tuesday, December 6, 1:30 p.m., via Zoom.

Several programs are in developmental stages for spring semester. The committee will finalize dates as soon as the spring Senior College course catalog becomes available.

The committee thanks Kellie for her help with sending program reminders and Zoom links. These professional looking reminders include beautiful campus photographs and black and gold highlights. Dispatch is working quite well in sending out communications.

A member has suggested adding UIRA events to the UI Calendar. This can be a way to increase membership while still maintaining an independent identity. Lesanne will investigate.

New Business

The January 2023 board meeting will be hybrid in format, in-person at University Services Building (USB) and via a Zoom link.

There was a general discussion about including the names of deceased members in *The Gray Hawk* and on the UIRA website. Mike Hovland will investigate obtaining the relevant information from the University.

The University of Iowa's Center for Advancement's One Day for Iowa fundraising event is scheduled for March 29, 2023. UIRA will send an email to the membership, and include notices in the February and March issues of *The Gray Hawk* (Carolyn writing the blurbs), with a link to the UIRA scholarship account.

As a means of increasing awareness, *The Gray Hawk* will announce the UI-supported fundraising campaign for the United Way of Johnson and Washington Counties.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Next meeting – December 13, 2022 at 1:00 p.m., via Zoom