

## **UIRA Board of Directors Meeting**

**October 13, 2020**

**Attending:** Sam Cochran, Chuck Dayton, Ed Dove, Dave Fitzgerald, Diana Harris, Benny Hawkins, Lois Lembke, Pat Mason-Browne, Emil Rinderspacher, Richard Saunders, Billie Townsend

**Not attending:** David Hamilton

### **Call to Order -- Sam Cochran, President**

Sam welcomed those attending today's meeting.

### **Reports from Officers:**

#### **Approval of Minutes**

There was a motion to approve minutes of the September 8, 2020 meeting. Lois so moved; Benny seconded. The motion was approved.

#### **Treasurer – Dave Fitzgerald**

Dave reported September membership income of \$730.00 (\$731.25 with interest). Diana moved to approve the report; Billie seconded. The report was approved. At this point there was general discussion about membership. Lois stated that membership income since July 1 totaled \$1,800. She sends membership reminders in May and September only, and the latter notice is included in the October newsletter. Chuck reported no new membership applications at this time. Sam has requested from HR, but not yet received, USPS mailing addresses for new retirees. He will forward these to Lois when they arrive. Billie suggested membership reminders during UIRA Zoom programs, but Emil noted that Zoom invitations are sent only to members.

#### **Past President – Emil Rinderspacher**

Emil reported that the UI Center for Advancement's donor solicitation packets have listed the UIRA endowed scholarship fund, but it is not clear whether the listing is part of a customized packet only. Sam will follow up with the Center and will ask also how UIRA participates in donor acknowledgement. The Center sends an annual report to Dave. Two \$1,000 scholarships are awarded each year.

## **President – Sam Cochran**

Sam reported that Penni Ryan will again coordinate the Travel Photography Contest, with Larry Mendenhall and Tim Schoon continuing as judges and Hills Bank and Trust Co. sponsoring the honoraria and prizes. Penni has recommended streamlining the process by limiting the number of contest submissions to three: one photo in one or more of three travel categories. Current rules allow for up to nine submissions, three per category. Sam will verify recommended changes with Penni and solicit feedback from the Board, so that Lois can include any revised policy in the November newsletter. The contest deadline is flexible since there is no April Luncheon.

## **Reports from Committees**

### **Gray Hawk – Diana Harris**

Diana has receipts (\$7.22) for Dave; he will decide how best to submit them. Diana would like to have any UIRA program recordings for reference in compiling the newsletter.

### **Membership – Lois Lembke**

We currently have 645 members representing 508 households. There are no new October members to date. Lois sent out 609 reminder emails, with 9 being returned as spam. (The 9 were successfully sent via the UI.) As of Friday, October 16, she estimates purging 105 unpaid memberships. HR did not provide new retiree emails this year. Chuck noted that a UIRA membership form used to be included in retiree materials, with up to a year's grace period for payment of dues. Emil responded that without new retiree emails UIRA could not send out the membership forms.

### **Program – Emil Rinderspacher**

Upcoming programs include Lauren Lessing, director of the UI Stanley Museum of Art, on October 16 at 10 am; Liz Tovar, interim associate vice president for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, on Tuesday, October 27 at 1 pm (Billie will moderate). Also, there will have a November 5 presentation on SHIP. It is scheduled to take place before the UI benefits enrollment program (TBD), which HR will make available on UTube. Lora Felger, a Health Alliance representative, will participate either in the UI program or separately. Sam will look into arranging a Q&A Zoom session afterward. December programs include a meeting with Bruce Harreld, UI President. Billie will contact Dr. Jorge Salinas, UI Hospitals & Clinics Epidemiologist, for a possible December program on Covid-19. Emil will arrange to record UIRA programs. The next Program Committee meeting is scheduled for October 27.

## **Funded Retirement and Insurance Committee (FRIC) – Richard Saunders**

Richard reported a UI benefits open enrollment period of October 22-November 13 for active employees. In response to a question from Dave, he said that retirees 65 and older and enrolled in Medicare are treated as a separate group because they are located all over the country, where not all health plans are available.

### **Old Business**

Sam gave a NEON update. He, Lois, Emil, and Kay Barron will continue to meet. He thanked Lois for updating the membership email template. This incremental approach has included boilerplate email and program/events functions. Sam is hoping to transition to an increased NEON usage this year. Lois recommended setting up Gray Hawk distribution in the new communication module before moving it from the listserv. She observed that a dues solicitation portal is still in the future. Dave has received and returned the NEON tax exemption paperwork.

### **New Business**

Looking ahead to the UIRA calendar, Emil asked whether the Annual Meeting and election of officers might be pushed back to May. Sue Otto has set up electronic voting in Qualtrics, so that tool is available. The Program Committee will be discussing spring options, including scheduling the Annual Meeting in a Zoom format. Chuck noted that Zoom provides functionality for many Meeting components – election of officers, photo contest results, and annual reports – that could be addressed at any time. Consensus was that the missing Zoom component would be social. Emil will ask the Program Committee to consider how to facilitate social interaction, perhaps through breakout sessions.

### **Adjourn**

Billie moved to adjourn and Benny seconded. The meeting was adjourned.