

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## UNIVERSITY OF IOWA RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION

April 24, 2014

- It has been my pleasure to serve as your President this past academic year. I have worked with a dedicated Board and other members. I have learned even more about this University and of the faculty and staff that have been such an important part of the operations of our Association.
- The UIRA has a purpose and that is to facilitate support of the University of Iowa by retired faculty and staff members and their spouses and domestic partners. The Association promotes the interests and welfare of those retirees. We enjoy participation by all groups.
- The UIRA is entering our 20<sup>th</sup> year. I am going to recognize those individuals who are so important to our past, present and future.
- We have a history. I acknowledge those Past Presidents that are in attendance: Kathy Belgium, Karole Fuller, Sara Wolfson, Dick Stevenson, Penny Hall, Jean Hood, Ken Kuntz, Eleanor Anstey, and Nancy Williams.
- The present: I thank and will recognize our Board members; please stand as I call your name.
  - Elected
    - Nancy Williams, Immediate Past-President; Ken Starck, President-Elect; Nancy Ross, Secretary; Kris Canfield, Treasurer; Ken Kuntz, Past-President and EFC President; Rick Borchard, FRIC (Insurance); Pam Willard; Dick Johns and Katharine Bjorndal, Membership; Gene Spaziani and Nancy Lynch, Directors-at-Large.
  - Appointed
    - Ann Ford, Editor
    - Ken Yerington is our Archivist and Feather Lacy is Webmaster
  - Volunteers. The Association depends on volunteers. Without their time and energy, nothing happens. We officers call on you to participate in various ways. In fact, we are currently searching for an Archivist and Editor. If you have interest, let us know.
- The future: Ken Starck is my successor as President. Others will be those elected at the conclusion of the business meeting.

- I make special mention of the UIRA programs this year. They were exceptional. Ken Starck and Nancy Lynch and committee managed the design and implementation of the programs. Ken will include more details in his report. Of particular note was the reception initiated by us, but sponsored by President Mason for the UIRA. One of her important comments as she addressed the attendees was the important role of retirees to the University.
- Below are the important projects that we undertook this past year. Many are ongoing.
  - Discounts on software. This is still being pursued by Pam Willard.
  - Tags for free parking for retired staff. I made inquiries and found not much support. It was suggested that the request go through the Staff Council.
  - All-electronic distribution of the Gray Hawk Newsletter. The Board has temporarily postponed this for further discussion. There is the disadvantage of some members not having computer access. But the advantages are two-fold: 1) Considerably less cost and 2) More latitude with graphics, size, photos, color and other media.
  - A combining of the UIRA and the Emeritus Faculty Council. Both groups have expressed interest in pursuing this. It has not yet been resolved.
  - Electronic-online membership management. This is being pursued by Dick Johns, Membership Chair.
  - Recruitment of new members. We contacted recent and impending retirees at various venues and also mailed Newsletters and membership applications to new retirees.
  - Surveys of our members are being designed by Gene Spaziani. These will be sent out soon. It is very important that you respond to the surveys; we are your organization and we need your input.
- Formation of special interest groups. Phil Klein has ideas on how to organize and institute this project and has volunteered to help the Board pursue this most interesting activity.
- The Travel Photo Competition was initiated by Ken Starck with great success.
- Ken Starck has spearheaded the recruitment of an intern. We have enlisted a quality and energetic student who will enhance many of our activities.

- Nancy Williams and Ken Starck attended the Big Ten Retirees Association Annual meeting in Ann Arbor MI last summer. Ken and our upcoming President-Elect meeting in Ann Arbor last summer. Ken and our upcoming President-Elect will attend this year, followed by the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education. Both meetings are in Minneapolis in August. These are a great forum for sharing ideas and networking with similar organizations in companion universities.
- Those who follow me with their own reports will expand on past and future events and activities.
- Finally, I thank all of you for attending this luncheon meeting and for your participation in our Association.

Rick Walton, President

University of Iowa Retiree's Association