

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting, February 22, 2018
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

I. Call to order. The Board meeting was called to order on February 22nd by President Neal Raber at 10:00am.

II. Others present included Bob Blankenship, Cathy Edwards, Bob Gandee, John Heminger, Rita Klein, Ed Lasher, Carl Lieberman, Neal Raber, Dan Sheffer, Linda Sugarman.

III. Excused: JoAnn Collier, Ali Hajjafar, Loren Hoch, Pam Rupert, Laura Moss-Spitler, Frank Thomas, Diane Vukovich, Tom Vukovich, Martha Vye, Mel Vye.

IV. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the January 25, 2018 meeting were approved with one correction.

V. Treasure's Report. Bob Blankenship reported that the January balance stands at \$8,414.98 which compares to January 2017 balance of \$5,959.81. We have one open commitment of \$850 for the Road Trip bus. Our newsletter printing charges came through at \$1,299.04.

The February luncheon charges totaled \$340.84. We collected \$406 in reservations and the 50/50 raffle yielded \$31.50.

VI. Corresponding Secretary: Martha Vye sent her report to Neal. She mailed a sympathy card to the family of Robert Higham. She asked for clarification on another card that was discussed at the last meeting. It was clarified: John Olive should receive a "get well" card. Martha will tend to it as soon as she returns.

VII. Committee Reports.

A. Programs. Tom and Diane Vukovich also relayed their reports to Neal. All agreed that the February speaker, Sherry Bevan Walsh was excellent. It was noted that there were a large number of attendees who elected to come for the speaker only. Most felt that it was due to the menu that day which fell on Ash Wednesday. Many were relieved to see two options on the buffet even though only one was listed on the reservation form and felt that we should stick with having two options for each luncheon.

The next luncheon will be March 14th with a Nepal travelogue as topic. Neal reminded the Board that Bob Gandee is scheduled to help Bob Blankenship at

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting, February 22, 2018
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

the sign in table and Diane Vukovich will be selling the 50/50 raffle tickets. He then thanked Rita Klein for assisting Bob this month and Dan Sheffer for handling the raffle.

Special Events: Neal reported that upcoming Special Events include the April 4th Wine Tasting and the April 27th Road Trip. The menu for the wine tasting has not yet been finalized, but he was able to report that the 1st course will be an antipasti and the dessert will be tiramisu. Fliers and reminders are forthcoming.

Neal also reminded the Board that we need to generate ideas for our slate of luncheon speakers for Fall 2018. Rita Klein suggested inviting Bill Considine of Children's Hospital to discuss his new book. The Board agreed that Rita should contact him and see if he is available for a fall luncheon date. Carl Lieberman suggested that November might be a good time to follow up the mid-term elections with a Political Science speaker.

B. Membership. Frank Thomas sent his membership report to Neal with the following: total membership sits at 399; active members (dues up to date) total 372 with this number including the new (free membership) members; 27 inactive members; 58 new members. Frank did not have a report available on scholarship "gift" income at this time.

C. Political Action. Bob Gandee had no report since there has not been a meeting. The next OCHER meeting will be on March 27th.

D. Benefits. Linda Sugarman had no report.

E. Faculty Senate. Ali Hajjafar sent in the following report with Bob Gandee:

Chair Rich in his remarks talked about the committees that have submitted reports for the month of February meeting. He suggested that the administrators form a task force including members from senate for the implementation of 5-star Friday and asked members of the senate to let him know if they are willing to serve on it. He also suggested that the University to reinstate the PhD Program in History.

President Wilson in his remarks mentioned that he has received positive reactions from 5-star Friday and e-sports and there will be a task force to work on the 5-star Friday concept. He said he has asked the State for monies for campus infrastructures, campus artscape replacements, and funds for renovations to ASEC, Buckingham, and Whitby as well as remodeling Crouse and Ayer Hall. He said work is needed to respond to mandates from Columbus to form a consortium with 10 institutions. He said we are talking with other 4-year Universities in the area to form an alliance; we are brainstorming how we can work together and look for administrative overlaps. He said the University anticipates a 29 million dollar deficit next year and this should be worked on. He said probably the 12 million dollar set aside this year and much more from bank account might have to be used. He repeated the information about the outsourcing of

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting, February 22, 2018
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

recruitment and making a contract again for this year. He said the admission office has rejected 800 applicants so far and these students are encouraged to apply for our branch campuses. He said the webpage for e-sports is now active and is encouraged by the response. We are now putting together the program with our new coach Michael Fahey. He talked about summer semester and how it is budgeted. Finally he said starting Feb 12 the search committee would look at applications for Chief Academic Officer. There were a lot of questions regarding his remarks.

The Provost in his remarks talked about 5- star Friday, voluntary retirement, and RTP season that has begun. He said the textbook committee would meet in Columbus next week.

In committee reports, the course proposals brought by CRC were approved. APC submitted a motion regarding posthumous degrees. It was approved with some modification. Honors College brought a proposal to change some requirements (including the change of credits of colloquiums from 2 to 3) of the program. The senate approved the proposal. CCTC and Athletics committees submitted written reports, which did not require vote for approval.

F. University & Community Service/Website. Dan Sheffer reported that the Constitution has been updated on the web with the amendment voted on for the 2nd time at the February luncheon. It has been dated “Spring 2018.” Dan and Janet Mealy are also working on an update to our “Special Events” page.

G. Scholarship. Carl Lieberman reported that we have a balance in our endowment account of \$114,158.52. We have received gifts in January totaling \$85. Carl invited our second scholarship recipient to our spring luncheons but he has had no response from her.

H. Newsletter. Pam Rupert had no report. Ed Lasher reported sending her photos from the February luncheon for the next newsletter.

VIII. Unfinished Business. The Nominating Committee submitted their slate of nominations for the coming year. The nominations are as follows:

- Vice President – Cathy Edwards
- Treasurer - Ted Oravec
- Recording Secretary – Rita Klein
- Corresponding Secretary – Linda Sugarman
- Public Relations Officer - Pamela Rupert
- Members at Large of the Executive Board (3 to be elected)
 - Jo Ann Collier
 - Mel Vye
 - John Heminger
- Faculty Senate Representatives (2 to be elected)
 - Robert Gandee
 - Ali Hajjafar

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting, February 22, 2018
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

These nominations will be sent out to members in March with a notice that other nominations may be made by mail. All nominations must be received by March 15th and voting will take place if necessary around March 22nd.

IX. Adjournment at 10:56am.

**Respectfully submitted:
Rita Klein, Recording Secretary**

**Next Executive Board Meeting:
March 22, 2018.
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**