

**The Association of the University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting, August 27, 2015
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

- 1. Opening Remarks:** The meeting was called to order by President Diane Vukovich at 10 a.m. Others present were Bob Blankenship, Stu Terrass, Frank Thomas, Velma Pomrenke, Neal Raber, Laura Moss, Carl Lieberman, Loren Hoch, Linda Sugarman, Ed Lasher, Pam Rupert, Rita Klein, Tom Vukovich, Hans Zbinden and Bob Gandee. Absent with notice were Cathy Edwards, Dan Sheffer and June Burton. The minutes of the June 25, 2015 meeting were approved as written.
- 2. Treasurer** Bob Blankenship reports a balance of \$8,492.67 for July, 2015. This compares with a balance of \$8,768.60 for July, 2014. It was moved to accept the report, subject to audit.
- 3. Committee Reports.**
 - A. Programs.** Neal Raber reported on the results of the second annual AUAR Scholarship Fundraiser (July 15) at the Little City Grill in Kent. Twenty two people attended; \$320 was added to the fund.
Tom Vukovich reports that our first monthly luncheon for the new season will have Mel Vye as speaker; updated cost for the luncheon is \$13. A speaker for the March 9, 2016 is yet to be confirmed. Tom listed the coming special events dates:
: Soup and Chili Supper on Friday, Nov.6, 2015; Brunch and Theater on Sunday, Feb.14, 2016; Road Trip on April 29, 2016 (tentative); Lobster and Suds on Friday, May 20, 2016.
 - B. Membership.** Frank Thomas distributed a 10 page listing of our members, divided into active (paid) and inactive (past due) names. This summarizes into 241 active and 109 inactive members.
 - C. Political Action.** Bob Gandee indicated that the next meeting of OCHER in Columbus in the STRS Building will be September 15.
 - D. Benefits.** Linda Sugarman summarized the highlights of changes in Retiree Dependent Insurance. There will be an increase in the cost share of retiree dependent coverage which is still in the planning stage. STRS has announced their 2016 monthly premiums.
Open enrollment with STRS will be November 1, 2015 to November 24th. Linda ended her report on a positive note: "In a USA article on July 7, 2015, Ohio is listed as having Pensions that are among the most solvent in the nation."
 - E. Faculty Senate.** Neal Raber indicated that the Senate did not meet during the summer; the first session will be Thursday, September 3rd.
 - F. University and Community Service / Web Site.** Dan Sheffer indicated that he has posted retirement benefits to the University of Akron Retiree Web site. In addition, Dan had to "make new arrangements for updates to be applied to the web pages because Jeff Seibert was one of the unfortunate souls to lose his job."
 - G. Scholarship.** Carl Lieberman noted that one of his concerns is in keeping track of the money in our Scholarship fund. His contact was Carin Luli, who (like Jeff Seibert, above) has lost her position as Director of Development-Fund Raising. President Vukovich will invite Mr. Larry Burns, Vice President for Advancement, to the September 24th board meeting to answer the board's questions concerning endowed scholarships. On the positive side, we received a very meaningful Thank You letter from Abigail Callahan for receiving her \$1200 AUAR Scholarship. Carl will be in contact with

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G. Scholarship.(cont.)

Abigail and with Kimberlee Trowbridge to have them join us at either our October or November Wednesday luncheons.

H. Newsletter. Pam Rupert reported that the Newsletter is a Work-in-Progress, as in previous editions, Ken MacDonald will prepare the Zip-Talk column, Bob Gandee contributes the obituary column.

4. Unfinished Business. We all received the AUAR Executive Board and Support Personnel 2 page updated listing for July 2015 - 2016. We received word that Hank Nettling is not doing too well.

5. New Business. Our entire group of Board members engaged in a lengthy, earnest discussion on the subject of what is happening at the University of Akron. We are all very concerned.

It was decided that President Vukovich and Velma Pomrenke would draft a letter expressing AUAR's concerns. Upon approval by the AUAR board and the general membership present at the September 9 General Membership Meeting, the letter will be sent to The University of Akron Board of Trustees with copies to President Scarborough, Governor John Kasich, Lt. Governor Mary Taylor, Senator Frank LaRose, Senator Tom Sawyer (State Education Committee), Senator Peggy Lehner (Chair, Senate Education Committee), Representative Bill Hayes (Chair, House Education Committee), Chancellor John Carey (Ohio Department of Higher Education), Vinod Gupta (Chair, Ohio Board of Regents), Thomas Humphries (Vice Chair, Ohio Board of Regents), and Dan Ishee (President, The University of Akron Alumni Board).

The Board meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Hans Zbinden, recording secretary.

Next Executive Board Meeting is September 24, 2015. Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium

Minutes (61)

